



PHOTO BY DEVERE HELFRICH

Jim Bickers riding Billy Be Damned at 1948 Sisters Rodeo.

## Photo sparks memory of 'outlaw horse'

The photo on page 2 of *The Nugget* in the March 27 edition sparked a memory for the Goodwin family of Sisters. The photo depicted saddle bronc rider Jim Bickers coming off of a horse named Billy Be Damned during the 1948 Sisters Rodeo.

An alert reader thought that horse once belonged to Ted Goodwin. His son Jim confirmed it.

"With the picture blown up, it was easy for Dad to recognize his old mount," Jim Goodwin reported. "Dad was hoping the left side of Billy's face would have been visible because there was an L7 brand on his jaw. Dad said some horses which were branded on the jaw became 'foolish about the head,' but that was not the case with Billy Be Damned.

"Here's the story as best as Dad could recall it: A classmate owed a third party \$18 and gave Dad Billy Be Damned, and Dad made some arrangement to pay the third party the \$18. Dad was working on the Melvin Weberg ranch in Suplee for \$1.50 a day at the time. It was 1939. Dad always claimed it took

three guys to 'ear him down' while Dad got on him. That story was confirmed years later at a branding at Jim Wood's Aspen Valley Ranch when Les Robertson, who was a young boy at the time, said he witnessed the exhibition. Dad rode Billy from Prineville to Suplee to get him out to Weberg's ranch (75 miles). Eventually, Billy calmed down enough to let Dad get on him without assistance, but as Dad put it 'he was just a wild horse,' having literally been rounded up in the wild.

"Dad left Billy and all his tack with his dad when he went to The University of Oregon in 1940. His dad promptly sold Billy Be Damned and the tack, ostensibly to the local rodeo stock contractor who was well known in the Upper Country as the guy who would buy 'outlaw horses.'"

Apparently, Billy Be Damned continued to be an outlaw — one that was hard to stick to, inside the arena and out.

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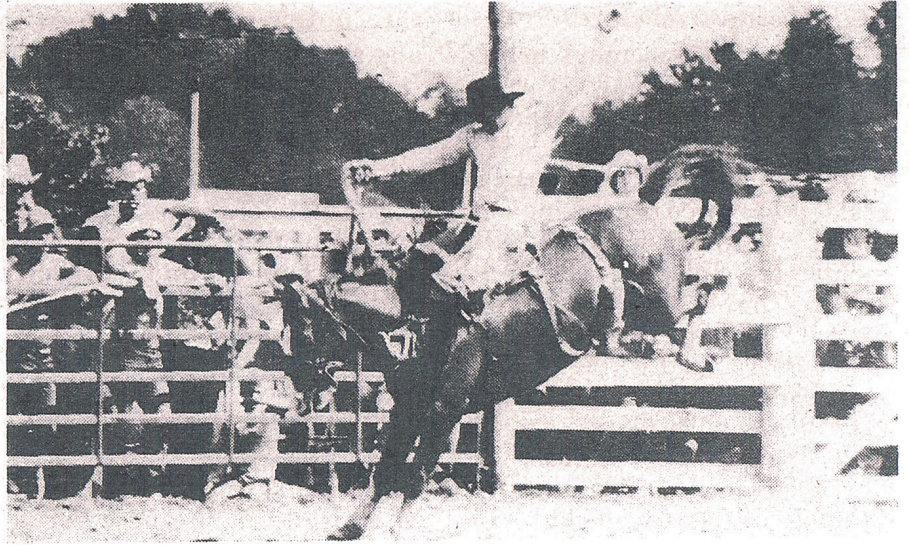
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### NUGGET FLASHBACK

4 Wednesday, June 25, 1980, *The Nugget*, Sisters, Oregon



Championship form

Dan Dailey, reigning International Rodeo Association (IRA) all-around and saddle bronc champion showed his saddle bronc form during a Washington rodeo earlier this year.

Dailey won all-around honors and the trophy saddle at a week ago last Sunday's "Biggest Little Show in the World." He won IRA all-around champion honors in 1976, 78 and 79 and saddle bronc championships in 76 and 79. (Submitted photo)

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