

# Iron bull provides wild rides

They come to Toni's Lounge in Sandy nightly to ride the bulls — jumping and kicking animals with names like Hurricane, High Noon, Typhoon, Twister and Rattler. These are real rodeo personalities built into iron monsters.

The nastiness is programmed at a control panel with switches and dials for tough as an urban cowboy wants his bull to buck. One selection even sets a daring rider up for a date with Oscar, a bull that's never been ridden in simulated rodeo and only once recently in real rodeo.

"There's only one way to get off that baby," challenged the man at the controls. "You can take the coward's way off, or the man's way."

"I ain't afraid to hit the dust!" belted the urban cowboy.

"At least there ain't no cow pattys down there," the barker agreed.

Lloyd Carroll and partner Don Hayward, both of Sandy, got the idea to bring the mechanical bucking bull here during trips to carnivals and fairs where they sell a styrofoam piece they market.

"We saw one at a fair in California and just knew we had to have one here," Carroll recalled.

That was one month and \$20,000 ago. Now the partners are selling rides for \$2 to any and all comers — as long as they'll sign a waiver of liability and agree to ride three times or until they fall.

The bull may be hard iron, but the fall is relatively soft onto cushions. Each time the rider lasts out his ride, the controller sets the next ride for more difficult jumps and tougher twists.

There's even all-all-riders rodeo competition for men Wednesdays and for women Thursdays. You pay your money and take your chances.

The restaurant and lounge has taken to the new attraction by capitalizing on the theme. Toni's now offers bull chips, bull ears and bull burgers.

Later, the owners of the iron monster hope to take their show on the road to rodeos and county fairs. They even hope to set up a sort of youth rodeo in Sandy where kids could ride all day for one reduced rate.

For now, it's 5 o'clock would-be cowboys and a couple of one-time rodeo busters who climb aboard.



#### PICTURED:

Top, left — Doug Neisz rides tall.

Top, right — Co-owner Don Hayward sets the controls.

Bottom, left — Eugene Halvorson hangs on for dear life.

Center, right — Kenneth Peck braces for unplanned "dismount."

Lower, right — Marilyn Leathers shows gals can ride well, too.

photos by  
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