

Rodeo, still the roughest sport

By Sid Miller
Spilyay Publisher Emeritus

Rodeo is a rough sport, one of the roughest sports in the world in any man's book. Rodeo is a sport where the competitor can choose where and when he wants to compete, and has no one to answer to. But he must pay his own expenses wherever he goes.

There have been many, many top cowboys all down through the years, greats like Yakama Kunutt, Jackson Sundown in the early days. Bronc riders like Jerry Ambler, Casey Tibbs, Larry Mahan, Doug Brown, and the first black cowboy I knew was Felix Cooper. They were all great champions in their day.

Years ago a cowboy didn't make half as many shows as the modern day cowboy does. And in the early days they didn't specialize in any one event like today's cowboys do. They believed an all-around cowboy should be able to participate in all events.

As the saying goes, "There wasn't a horse that couldn't be rode, and there wasn't a cowboy that couldn't be thrown." Years ago travel was crude and the cowboy made as many rodeos as he could, mainly in his part of the country.

Discipline was just as strict in the early years because a cowboy had to keep himself in top physical condition and things were no different than they are today as there was always broken bones to sideline a cowboy for a while.

The rodeo equipment has improved considerably as compared to the days of the old-timers. In the saddle bronc they used a saddle and buck rein, but in the bareback they used a loose rope. Just a plain rope with a loop on the end to pull it tight. The same type of rope was used in the bull-riding event also.

The timed events were pretty much the same as they are today. The calf ropers never used a slack rope as they do today, because their horses were trained to keep the slack out of the rope at all times.

In the wild cow milking they used the Calgary special, where they had all the cows at one end of the arena and the ropers at the other end, and when the whistle blew there was action all over the arena as cows and cowboys were running in all directions.

Today the rough stock equipment has improved considerably where the bareback rider uses a bareback riggin, and it has a hand holt and it is cinched securely down on a horse. The rules are that a rider cannot touch the horse with his free hand and must start the horse with his feet above the points of the horse's shoulders, and continuously spur throughout the ride.

The bull riders now have a special braided flat rope with a hand holt for a better grip. The event is as rough as it will ever be and injuries are expected. Like the eight-time world champion bull rider Don Gay said, "It's not if you get hurt, it's when you get hurt," because the bull riding event is the roughest of sports.

So, if you want to be a real cowboy, it's not all peaches and cream like some cowboys make it look. A person has to train for the sport like everything else. Good physical condition is a must, where cowboys need all the strength they can get. A lot of young cowboys are always saying, "I had just a couple of seconds to go when I got bucked off." The reason for that is he was in no physical condition to be competing.

I can remember back when I was just a "Cute Little Tyke," I used to watch a guy condition himself to compete in rodeos. He would say a guy has to be in good condition if he wants to rodeo. Road work, pushups, weights and hand grips to name a few of the phases he went through getting in shape. He always gave good advice about rodeo participation and later on in years I was glad to paid attention to what he said.

Yep! A guy can't just do a few knee bends and flex his arms and expect to be ready to compete. It really takes conditioning all the time in order to be accountable in the rodeo arena. If some individuals know how serious a young cowboy is about keeping himself in good shape, they are more than willing to be sponsors for the competitor. Young cowboys should pay close attention to what advisors have to say.

There are a lot of young up coming cowboys who could be top contenders if they would pay attention to what is said. When a person is trying to give advice they shy away and don't want to listen, "they think they know it all."

Rodeo life can be very interesting and can be enjoyable if one goes at it seriously.

But like any other sport it all comes to an end and some have a lot to show of their accomplishments.

A lot of cowboys end up with the title of, "A broken down, washed up bronc rider."

Yep! Later on in years it catches up with some guys!

Toe Ness

An old timer was watching the tender foot make his debut in bronc riding. Afterward he walked up to him and said, "Son, some riders are good, and some are lousy, but you're both - good and lousy!" Yikes.

Spilyay Speaks

Letters to the Editor

To Cece

Congratulations to Cece Whitewolfe, who has created a cancer survivors "medicine bag" that was given recently to 310 patients and survivors at the American Indian/Alaska Native National Cancer Survivors' Conference in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico.

In each medicine bag was a small "lap" blanket, hats, thermometer, pill container, notebook and calendar.

A call for quilts was sent by Cece in September of 2002. The call created a national quilting guild comprised of local chapters throughout Indian Country. Next year's goal is for 500 lap quilts at the next National Cancer Survivor's Conference in May 2004.

Cece, you accepted the challenge to take care your fellow human beings, thank you for caring.

Your Sis Whoops

Baseball camp

To the Editor,

I would like to express my appreciation to Austin Greene, Andy Leonard and the staff at the Community Center for helping me make the Baseball Clinic, held on May 17-18, such a huge success. Without all of their help and support which included ordering of equipment, t-shirts (Andy designed and were great) to advertising of the camp, hauling equipment in and out, having the fields in great shape, to being there in case the presenters needed anything it never would have gone so smoothly.

Another thank-you to Sandra Greene and her helpers for the great job they did on feeding everyone, and to all of the parents and coaches who helped with the camp. And of course thank-you to the Diabetes Grant Committee who funded the camp and emphasize family involvement for preventing diabetes. The Warm Springs youth had a great time learning to work as a team, and came for the "love of the game." Sincerely,
Carolyn L. Harvey, community wellness coordinator

Left to suffer

To the people who lost someone. I wish you still were here, to help me through the day. But now it's so clear that you're gone away. I have nothing but the painful memories of the time we spent together. Praying that maybe one of these days God will take me away from this bad weather and then I remember how life was when you were alive.

You knew your time was coming and that's why you always told me, "It would be all right," but I am not. Because my heart is aching with pain. Too much hurt and every time I think of you my eyes fill with tears of rain. But I cannot cry because it kills me inside and it destroys my pride. And now I feel all alone and lost without you, not knowing if we can live on. It seems we are all slowly dying and our families are the ones that are doing all the crying. And now it's clear that we are the ones left to suffer with the fear of being alone forever.

So may God rest your soul and take away your pain... forever, and can you please ask God why are the ones left to suffer.

By Twell T.

Apology

I apologize for my wrong doing on May 9, 2003. I know what I did was wrong. What I did should not have happened. I am sorry for this happening in front of my daughter.

Vernon Sampson

Wrong doings

To whom this may concern:

I am sorry for my actions and my wrong-doings that I did, and to Jodell. We had already had our little talk about this situation and again I am sorry for my wrongful actions, and thank you Jodell for all your help when I needed a helping hand, thanks a lot. Ok. Sincerely,
Evans Spino Jr.

Great job

Congratulations to granddaughter Melinda Faye Polk, Class of 2003, Taholah High School. What an awesome year for you. We are so very proud of you and all the wonderful accomplishments you have achieved. Always keep that positive attitude and anything in life is possible.

Now, on to college and making the best of life for yourself and making us even prouder. We love you, and happy 18th birthday on June 17.

From Evelyn, uncles Johnny, Chris and Willie, aunts April and Mice, and Adrian.

Speaking up

I would like to make a comment on some people's attitude, here in the community.

People who have a "high" status should be leading by example, not using it as a leverage to get "their way or the high-way."

I think it's pretty sad when they have to "use" their status, instead of abiding by the rules like everybody else has to. (Also "expecting" special treatment for themselves and their family.)

It's unfair to us "normal" folks who have to follow the rules.

They ruin it for the people who they represent, and also ruin it for the people who are their equals.

Rules and policies are made for a reason, and one of them "is to be followed."

The people who "allow" the rules to be broken make it harder on us who try to follow them (and speak up about it.)

Letting the people "think" they're getting away with it is also the same as not speaking up and standing up to the rules being broken. (Or saying "if you can get away with them so be it.")

Teresa Avalos

An Apology

I would like to apologize to my mother, grandparents and the Warm Springs Police Department for my actions on May 9, 2003.

J.D. Sohapp

Birthday and other wishes...

Does anybody recognize this birthday boy of May 30, 1956? All our birthday wishes to you, from your honey Lucy of 14 years.



I love you very much. I thank you for being there for me.

Your boys, Trent Stephon, Tirus, Tyreal, Frisky, Katie Mae and Homely.

Silas W. and family, Douglas W., Peggy W. and family, George W. and family, Jack W. and family, Isaac W. and family, Leander W. and family, Mary D. and family, Robert and Marella Sam and family, Nellie, Pati, Cassi and Darrin Sam.

Alberta and family, Bird and Edge, Shula and Marcy Sam (across the miles) Tweed-dit Sam, Sadie and Woody Picard Sr. and family, Tracy and Taw and family, Warner, Josie W. and family, Aunties Charlette, Liza and Neda.

Uncle Lamont, Maria Lopez and family, Mona Lopez and family, Thomas R. Williams.



Happy birthday to our girls Tasha and Tonya. We love you, Mom, Dad, George, Lance, Leanna, Jackson and Tiny.

I would like to wish my son Marvin Lee Arquette a happy 31st birthday on May 31. We love you very much and hope to see you this summer. From your loving mom and dad, Jeanine and Tommy Kalama.

Happy birthday to our bro Marvin, from Greg, Chips and Timothy.

Happy birthday to Brown Wyena, Blondie Herrera, and Romone Thomas. From Tommy, Jeanine, Marvin, Greg, Chips, Tim.

Happy birthday to Nikka. I said I was going to put a picture in the paper but... lucky for you I couldn't find one... but hope you have a very good day. Love from Jeanine Kalama and family.

To my niece Ikie, happy birthday June 6. Love you, Auntie Jeanine, Tommy, Greg, Chips and Tim.

Happy birthday to my older sis Ernie, have fun, okay?

Happy first birthday May 20 Cory Lee Stwyer Jr.



Love from, Mom and Dad, Niah and Antoine.

Happy

29th birthday to my baby Cory Lee Stwyer Sr. Love always, your soon to be wife, Vanessa.

Happy birthday to our daddy Cory Stwyer Sr. Love, your kids, Cory Jr., Shaniah, Antoine.

Happy 7th birthday to our princess Shaniah Rae Scott. Love, Mom, Dad and Cory.

Happy birthday to our big mean sister Shaniah. Love always, Antoine and Cory Jr.

(More wishes on page 6)

Polk graduating from Tahola High School

Hi, my name is Melinda Faye Polk. My mother is Jessica Polk of Warm Springs, my father is Terry James of Taholah, Wash., and my grandmother is Evelyn Polk-Capoeman also of Taholah. I'm a senior graduating this year at the Taholah High School. I will be graduating with a 3.67 grade point average or higher. I'm proud to say that I have made Merit Roll all year, and was recognized in the President's Education Awards program.

I was also chosen to attend the North West Indian Youth Conference this year in Seattle. I went on behalf of Quinault and Warm Springs, because I will always know where I'm from.

When I first got to Taholah I felt odd because I wasn't in Warm Springs and going to Madras High School. But then when I started at Taholah High School, I was put in a handpicked class called the ASB/Leadership Class. When I was put in this



Melinda Faye Polk

leadership class I was glad, because they took a chance and let me be a part of it.

After that, school went good. I was a yearbook editor, then Student of the Month twice. I got involved in sports. Toward the end of the year I was voted Senior Prom Queen of Taholah High School.

I felt bad because I had to leave my mom, brother, friends and family in Warm Springs. But I'm glad everyone supported me. I thank you all because with-

out you, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish all the things I did at Taholah.

Something that has inspired me is my sister Samantha Marie Frank. She passed away about eight years ago. She was supposed to be here with me to graduate and then go to college. So all the stuff I did in high school and the stuff I will be doing in the future I'll be doing for her, because she never got that chance.

After high school I plan on going to college. I plan on studying tribal management and business, so I can come back and help my tribe. I want to make sure everyone gets the same opportunities that I did.

I will be graduating on June 2 at 7 p.m. at the Taholah school gymnasium. All friends and family are invited.

Congratulations to all the other senior graduates of the class of 2003.

Melinda Faye Polk

To Neda

Congratulations to Neda Rose Sam "Baby Cakes," our 2003 graduate from Chemawa Indian High School, Salem, on Friday, May 16. We are all proud of you and keep making good decisions in life and best wish for the future.



Love, all your family: Dad and Mom, Robert and Marella Sam Sr., Grandpa, Grandma, Harvey and Eliza Jim, Grandpa and Grandma, Jim and Neda Welsey family, Grandma Charlotte Shike family, Grandma Naomie "Jane" Van Pelt, Grandma, Grandpa, Lamont and Pat Brown, Grandma Mary Danzuka and boys, Tracy and Natalia Sam and kids, Woody and Sadie Picard Sr. and boys, Elsie, Robert Jr., Jealeah and Thomas Sam, Levi and Pearl Van Pelt and family, Chet Van Pelt Jr. and boys, Tiger and Tates Van Pelt family, Lillie Van Pelt and family, Wolfman and Farrell and kids, Jamie and Maria Lopez family, Thomas and Lucy and boys, Jose and Julie Sandavol, Mona Lopez and kids, Evelyn Gilbert and boys.