



# ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS

## HALL OF FAME



## Judy Ford

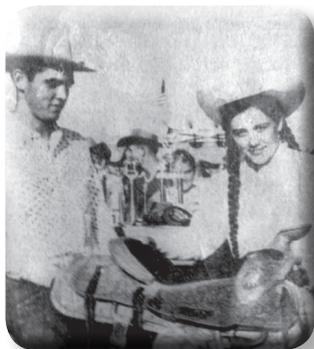


Judy Ford's life epitomizes a determined and fearless nine year-old girl setting her sights on becoming a "Champion Junior Cowgirl." Horse care and rodeos were her life... practicing hours and hours every week. Judy entered every rodeo she could, every summer and traveled with her grandparents all over the the US.

In 1953, at age 13, she was the first cowgirl to enter AJRA boys roping events. In 1954 she won her first (but not only) Bob Crosby World's Most Typical Junior Cowgirl title. Judy wasn't aware that her young, successful rodeo career was being tracked and graded by a committee of national Bob Crosby Award traveling judges. This committee was judging thousands of junior rodeo contestants against each other all over the country. The cowboys and cowgirls were being judged on four main areas: Moral Character (60%), Rodeo Ability (20%), Horsemanship (10%) and Dress (10%). She won the prestigious award at 14.

In 1955 she became the first girl to ever win the Bob Crosby World's Most Typical Junior Cowgirl two years in a row. She won custom-made saddles for each title and they were presented to Judy at the Fort Worth Rodeo.

In 1956 she won the All-Around Cowgirl National High School Rodeo in Reno, Nevada and that same year, in the AJRA finals in El Paso, she won All-Around Cowgirl. Judy



was on fire. She won or placed in almost every rodeo she entered. She competed with girls and boys. She competed in every event they would let her enter. One summer she won 7 saddles competing in boys AJRA events. On the 4th of July in 1956 in Rocksprings, Texas she was highly discouraged to enter the 16 and under boys calf tie down...she signed up anyway and beat every single boy. (I have heard there were at least 60 boys entered (?)) Some arenas would pay her entry fee because she could draw such

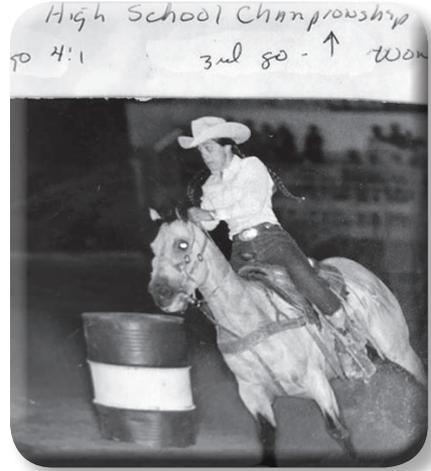
an impressive crowd. Everybody wanted to see Judy Ford, especially when she was winning a roping event riding a buffalo!

Unfortunately, the boys weren't keen on girls winning "their" saddles. The rodeo officials ultimately changed the rules restricting girls from entering boys-only events.

In 1960, at 20, Judy started the first cowgirl training school in Texas; the *Texas Cowgirl Training School*, in Abilene, Texas; for ambitious cowgirls 10 to 20 years old. In 1966 she opened a second location in Cache, Oklahoma.

In 1964 and 1965, as a student at SWTX (now Texas State University) she won "All-Around Cowgirl" at the all-college rodeo. In 1966 the campus rodeo club voted to let her enter the men's roping events at the all-college rodeo.

Judy accumulated 96 points; the closest male competitor had about 56 points. Being a pioneering woman competing in men-only events cost her the title at the rodeo. This upset was the basis for a story I read about "The Girl Without a Country."



They couldn't give her the "All-Around Cowboy" award because she was not a cowboy. They couldn't give her the "All-Around Cowgirl" award because she hadn't entered the cowgirl events. She was blazing the trail for girls roping events. In 1992, 26 years later, the SWTS Rodeo Association finally recognized Judy as the winner and presented her with a long over-due trophy proclaiming her "All-Around Champion Cowboy of 1966."

Judy continued her education at SWTX

(Texas State University) as a single mom of two boys and participated in rodeos as time permitted. She received her degree and became a teacher, coach and eventually the first female athletic director in the State of Texas. She fought her whole life for women's rights in sports. Eventually she teamed up with Kay Don, Women's Athletic Director for Texas A&M University, to work on the passage of the Title IX statute. Title IX changed the history of girls sports.

In 1983-1992 she was inducted into the "Texas High School Rodeo Hall of Fame" in Seguin, Texas.

Judy is an honest, softhearted, and well-respected woman, cowgirl, teacher and coach. She has a fun personality and is an amazing spiritual friend. She has never met a stranger and win or lose, she would shake her competitor's hand. In 1954 when All-Around RCA saddle bronc champ, Casey Tibbs was at the Fort Worth Rodeo to give her a saddle, he told Carey Crutcher, "I hope Judy doesn't enter saddle bronc riding or I'll never win another one!"

To quote Walt Garrison as stated in the book on file, "Judy Ford is a heck of a cowgirl. It is not often anyone can accomplish so much in such a short time. It just shows what hard work and dedication can produce."

She was undoubtedly a phenomenal cowgirl and definitely an outstanding pioneer for women in the rodeo arena.

**TEXAS COWGIRL TRAINING SCHOOL**

ROUTE 5, BOX 585, ABILENE, TEXAS  
CIRCLE 4-J RANCH

**JUDY FORD STEGER, INSTRUCTOR**

Classes offered for **GIRLS ONLY**  
from 10 to 20 years of age

ALL OF JUDY'S CHAMPION HORSES  
ARE HERE FOR SCHOOL USE

|                  |                        |                              |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. BARREL RACING | 4. TEEDOWN Calf ROPING | 7. COW CUTTING               |
| 2. POLE BENDING  | 5. BREAKAWAY ROPING    | 8. WEEBEN PLEASURE           |
| 3. FLAG RACING   | 6. BROWN ROPING        | 9. CARE OF HORSE & EQUIPMENT |

CHOICE OF ANY THREE OR COMBINATION OF ANY THREE OF THE ABOVE LISTINGS

School will open June 1, 1960. Fee for sixty (60) day course will be \$300.00. This includes board and room for student and horse if you have your own horse, or board and room plus horse and gear if you do not have a horse. Only a limited number of students will be accepted. If you write or call please do not come.

Classes will be from 8:30 to 9:30 mornings, and 5:30 to 9:30 evenings. At least half of this time will be in the arena and will be non-fee business. This is not for those who are just interested in posing the tin-a-weeny. Abilene has these good referees and all have summer classes that could be attended and our instructors with the Cowgirl Training. Course will be 12:00, and girls will have adult supervision at all times.

No Sunday training. There are Junior and Amateur Rodeos every weekend, and students may ride in them as spectators if they wish. We have top horses for the top students. Students must have written consent from parents and we are NOT RESPONSIBLE in case of accident.

Fee must be paid in advance, and the sixty days may be used in any of the 1960 year. Those who are off to school should get started in early June.

Circle 4-J is located 7 miles South of Abilene, Texas, with the "Silver Rambler" 35 miles North with swimming and sailing in beautiful, peaceful, private surroundings.

At Stud...  
BUD BEAN & HULL-BROTHER to Jessie James.....Fee \$350.00.  
We will give \$300.00 each for colts from approved sources.

**4 CIRCLE 4 J RANCH**  
OWNED BY BUD BEAN & HULL BROTHERS  
ROUTE 5, BOX 585 • ABILENE, TEXAS

THE WESTERN HORSE



© Judy Ford, Abilene, Tex., and Cecil Richardson, Abilene, were the champion ribbon ropers of the 15 and under and 16 and over age divisions respectively of the AJRA finals rodeo. Photo by McDonald  
Tina - Cecil - 9-3-56  
Mina - 10-10-57



• Champions at the Texas High School Championship Rodeo at Hallettsville, Tex., June 20-23 were, back row, left to right: Kenneth Burkholder, San Antonio, all-around cowboy; Gladys Brown, Orange, tie in girls' cutting horse contest; Roann Daugherty, Houston, tie for girls' cutting horse contest; Pam Hendren, Corpus Christi, queen; Jerry Fleishmann, Baytown, steer wrestling; Johnny Oliver, sportsmanship trophy; Linda Merriott, Stamford, barrel race and winner of CQHP trophy for best performing horse; Judy Ford, Abilene, girls' breakaway roping. Front row, left to right: Bobby McQueen, Victoria, boys' breakaway roping; Doyle Lindsey, Cresson, boys' cutting horse contest; Dale Carroll, Houston, calf roping; Mickey Winslow, Magnolia, all-around cowboy; Bobby Rudasill, Bryan, bareback riding. Photo by Cath





ALL AROUND CHAMP

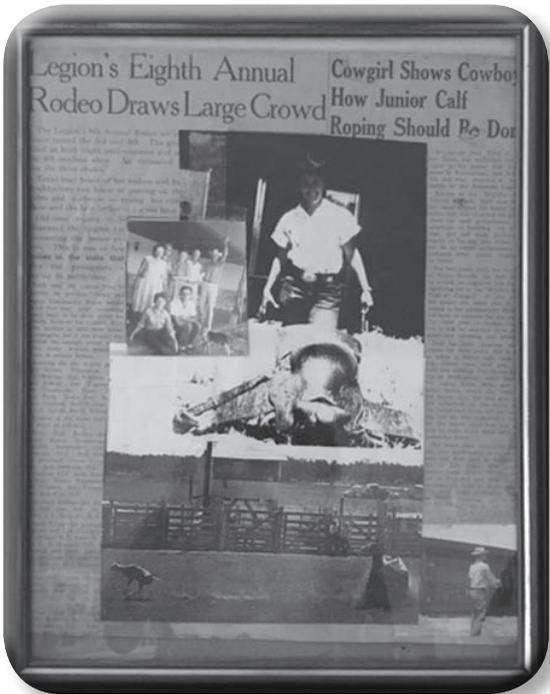
NATIONAL FINALS RENO NEV.



to Judy Love  
All my love  
Judy



HANK  
Thompson m



Legion's Eighth Annual Rodeo Draws Large Crowd  
Cowgirl Shows Cowboy How Junior Calf Roping Should Be Done

The Legion's 8th Annual Rodeo was held at the 3rd and 4th. The crowd was the largest ever and the event was a success. All classes were won by the boys. The prize money was \$100.00. The boys were very happy and the girls were very proud. The boys were very happy and the girls were very proud. The boys were very happy and the girls were very proud.

