

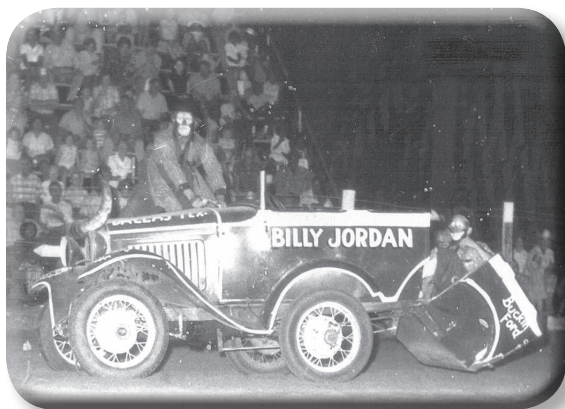


ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS

HALL OF FAME

Billy Jordan

ACACHOF Director



Billy Wayne Jordan, was born September 22, 1936, in Victoria, Texas, Victoria County. His mother was Zela Temperance Wilkerson and his father was George Waymon Jordan. Both parents came to Texas in 1913. His mother's family came to Irene, Texas

and his father's family came to Munger, Texas. Two years later, his father's family moved to Irene, Texas and his mother moved to Malone, Texas.

Billy's father was a preacher, farmer and oilfield driller. After his parents married, they moved to the coast where his father became a tool pusher and ran a crew out in the bay off Port O'Connor, Texas.

In the 1930's the depression hit. That was when things really got bad. Then World War II broke out and his father went to Houston to work in the shipyard. At the age of six years old, Billy's grandfather died. They went home to the funeral and never went back to Houston. His grandmother had moved to Dawson, so this was now home.

Billy Jordan was born 9/22/36 at Victoria, Texas-He is married to Shirley Ann Robinson. Here are some of the producers he worked for during the years he rodeoed:



Rudy Vela, Sloan Williams, Donald Chapman, Frank Harris, Roland Reid, Lloyd Woodley, Logan Huffman, Harry Knight, Neal Gay, Wayne Barrett; Others: Bradford Ivey, Bob Jenkins, The Ratjen Bros., 77Ranch-Don Mckee, to name a few. He worked rodeos over much of Central, East, Southeast, South, and West Texas; Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and a few points in between. He has worked shows with the following: Norman (Antelope) Lester, Bill Garcia, Johnny Clark, Billy Don Glass, Thurston Hambrick, Keith Anderson, Dennis Taylor, Skipper Voss, J. G. Crouch, and others.

“I have rode bulls and bareback horses in competition with many great people in my life, and have worked many rodeos. That’s something that no one can take away from me! Thanks a lot to all of the greats and the not so greats. If I have left anyone out, I apologize.” His life story is as follows:

When my father came to Texas he rented the Sam Norris and Connor farms at Munger, Texas. Two years later he rented the little Mama Phillips farm at Stansell, Texas (all near Hubbard, Texas). Four years later father bought a big farm down the road toward Hubbard. Everyone knew Hubbard as “Rocky Hill” then.

During my early years everyone living on farms had milk and beef cows, hogs, chickens, and other fowl or livestock. Coming out of the depression people had to raise their own edibles to survive, and all had gardens. At the age of eight years old was when I started my bullfighting. We had an old milk cow that would put my mother on the fence- I would get a stick, call her bluff and the old cow would always back off. I thought this very funny to see my mother up on the fence, because she was a small person.

As the years went by and the times got better our cattle herd grew and I got more and more into cattle. Farming was all right, but I didn’t like it because my interest was cows and horses, however my father wouldn’t let me have a horse. He said a horse would eat enough hay and feed that five cows could eat.

At the age of ten my father took our family to a rodeo at Hubbard. After seeing the rodeo, I decided that I wanted to be a rodeo cowboy. That was when I started to get into real trouble as I started to riding my dad’s hogs, cows, and feedlot calves. I got a whipping at least once a day for riding those animals.

The next year, I borrowed a little paint mare from Mr. Charlie Moser (who was our neighbor) so I could ride in the parade and grand entry; that would get you into the rodeo free. My dad had made up his mind not to take the family back to the rodeo and so I

had to figure a way to get in free-rodeo was in my blood even at the age of ten years old.

My father didn't want any of his children being involved in sports or any school activities because he needed us to work on the farm. My older brother Charles Edward (deceased) started playing football in High School and soon my father found out and made him quit. My brother quit school as a result of that incident.

The next year 1950, I wanted to play football and talked it over with my father. He didn't want me to quit school so he said okay so long as I did all of the farm chores, and worked the fields as needed. Boy, was I asking for it--but i wouldn't change a thing looking back now. He also told me that if I came home hurt that would be the finish of that. He told me," Boy, when you was born, I looked over in the bassinet, kicked the bottom, told you to get out boy, lets go to work", and I have been going ever since.

During my high school days I would slip off to Mt. Calm, Texas as Bill Dunlap had a small rodeo arena there and held Saturday night rodeos. Later in my rodeo career we called these 'Punkin Rollins'. This was where I met Buck Wilson who was a bullrider.

I lived with my grandmother in Dawson, Texas because she was in bad health and that is where I met Bill and Pinky Baker who were both bullriders. Bill was getting ready to ship off to the Korean war and gave me his bullrope and spurs--and "I had it made".

During those years, if you were an athlete in high school and made money rodeoing or in any sports you were considered a professional--so if you did that it would make your school and you ineligible for U. I. L. sports. Therefore I kept my rodeoing very quiet so the coach would not know what I was doing.

I had an old Buick that my father had given me to drive--Buck Wilson didn't have a car so he would pay my entrance fees and off we would go various rodeos. We went to Mesquite during it's earlier days when it looked like a pigpen. If a steer or bull ran through the fence they would cover the hole with a sheet of tin and just keep the show going. That was when Marvin and Donnie Gay were little toots.

My junior and senior years in high school I would go with Buck Wilson to Dublin, DeLeon, Mesquite, and other rodeos. I would never enter a rodeo close to home as I was afraid the school or coach might hear about it and we would all be ineligible for U. I. L.

Hubbard High School had a tremendous football team during those years (they had always had good teams) and we went to

Regional my senior year. About this time my sister Juanita married William R. (Buddy) Quaid from Houston, a cousin to Gene Autry, who later had two sons, Randy and Dennis Quaid-two great movie stars.

After high school I went to Houston, got into SRA and rodeoed all over that area for several years. That was where I met some of the greats of rodeo like Jack Ward, Scooter Pizzitola, Maurice Champion, Ed Cole, Jack Elliot and others.

My clown acts were: Bucking Ford (29 and 30 model), Exploding Outhouse, Hat Cleaning Act, Duck and Dog, Baseball Bat-Coke Bottle-Ball Balancing Act, Steer Milking Act, Trick Mule (38" Tail), Exploding Camera.

Thanks to everyone who helped me along the way.

Sincerely yours, Billy Jordan