



Corky Morris

Saddle Broncs

By: El Deano



Corky Morris grew up in Quitaque, Texas and went to school there until he was a freshman, about age 14. He played basketball while he was in school and enjoyed the sport until he went to work on a horse ranch at Palo Duro Park in August of 1944. His parents came to the Quitaque area around the year 1910. His dad was born in Anson, Texas and his mother came from Georgia. Corkey was born July 4, 1930 in Quitaque to Buddy and Leona Morris.

Corky got the desire to ride saddle broncs when the Texas Kid came through Quitaque around 1938 with a Wild West Show. The Kid only had about two bulls but the show was mainly bucking horses. Those bucking horses really fascinated Corky and he started having the urge to get on some horses probably around seven or eight years old. It wasn't too many years later that he got the job at Palo Duro Park and went to breaking horses for the ranch. He left Palo Duro and went to the J Ace Ranch which was the John Adair estate that Goodnight and John Adair had put together.

In 1947, there was a local rodeo there in Clarendon and Corky entered it. "I figured if I could ride those big old range horses I could surely ride the rodeo horses". He fell off of both horses and



figured he was through. He had a friend named Bruce Wise who worked for a ranch in Arizona at the time who decided to come back home for awhile.

In August, after they got through branding at the ranch, they always gave the cowboys ten days off. His friend Bruce decided that during that ten days off they would get in a few rodeos. Corky didn't really want to because of the prior experience at Clarendon but gave in and they got entered up in a few. Corky rode both horses in their first rodeo but he still wasn't sold on going on to some more shows.

The next spring Bruce convinced Corky to go again and at the first one Corky won one go-round and placed in the average. From that point they traveled together and found out they could make more riding broncs than they could working. "We made at least one show a week and sometimes more. Corky tried barebacks and got on one bull but in his words: saddle broncs were the only thing that I could really do well".

Uncle Sam had other plans for the pair as Corky was drafted in February of 1951 and went to Korea. Bruce was also in the reserves, went to Korea and was killed in action April 10, 1951. Corky got out of the service the 20th of February 1953.

When he got back to the states he started rodeoing again but was married and decided to just rodeo on the weekends and continued until 1959. He and his wife had a daughter born January 4, 1954 and he just didn't have the same desire after his friend Bruce wasn't there to travel with him.

"My most memorable win was when I won my first go-round. A guy by the name of Lavell Chisum was working for the contractor and he had this horse named 'Who'd O Thought It'. Corky drew him and Chisum said the horse was impossible to ride. "I knew I was going to get on him but kind of hinted I might turn him out." Chisum said. "O, you might ride him-give him a try." Corky said, "The clown piled up a big mound of dirt real close to the chute to show the crowd where I'd land and I determined to ride him-did and won the go. That horse went for many a year without being ridden-maybe never."

His biggest wreck came at a Goat Mayo show at Henrietta where he drew a little and old horse called Comanche Bay. "When the whistle blew you could pull up on him right hard and he would quit bucking. I did and turned around and looked for the pickup man and he bucked, threw me hard, and his hoof tore my shirt off

under a Levi jacket. That hurt for several days.” Actually his biggest wreck came in a team roping! “The horse reversed and got me wrapped in the rope and it was across my face and chin-would still be there except for Buzzy Kaul cutting the rope. The horse also kicked me on the leg as I was down. I do a bit of team roping but nothing beats hearing that whistle blow on top of a big ole saddle bronc.”

Corky worked for the Continental Telephone Company until February, 1986 and spent some years at Dimmit, Texas and he and this writer both knew ole Ben Scott.

He and his wife Wanda had their fiftieth wedding anniversary February, 2001. They enjoy their retirement and living in Barksdale, Texas.