



Billy O'Neal



Born July 9, 1941 in Wise County, Rhome, Texas.

A talented actor and stuntman, Billy has appeared on many television shows and motion pictures. He has appeared on such shows as: "Baja Oklahoma" (filmed in Fort Worth, was a truck driver), "Texasville" (filmed in Archer City, Texas), "Walker, Texas Ranger", "Dallas Reunion" (filmed in Dallas), "Holiday in Your Heart", "Still Holding on the Legend of Cadillac Jack and Ponder", "Holiday Productions" (stand-in stuntman), and

"Shadows on the Wall" (filmed in Mineral Wells, Colorado City and Dallas). His motion pictures include: "The Honkers", "JFK" (filmed in Dallas), and "Recoil". Billy's skills range far beyond the screen. He is a talent at team roping, riding horses, team penning and bull riding as well as wagon driving.

"Gee, I'd like to do that." Most people only think about it, laugh about it, forget about it, and go on with their 371 lives. Not Billy O'Neal of Graham, Texas. Since 1971, when he hired out to ride bulls and do cowboy stunts for the motion picture "The Honkers" filming at the time in Carlsbad, New Mexico.



Billy said, “I’d been coming to Graham for years.” This was after spending most of his life in Wise County and in 1998 moved to Graham.

He had ridden bulls and bareback broncs in rodeos at Graham back in the days when rodeo was still a big sport in Graham.

He started riding bulls and bareback horses in high school rodeos when he was 13 years old and continued competitive riding for about 23 years.

Journeying out to Carlsbad with some other cowboys, Harry Doyle hired O’Neal for the job in “The Honkers” movie and he was hooked on show business.



BILLY O'NEAL ON BULL 18
AT JUSTIN RODEO 07/04/1965

“The Honkers” starred James Coburn, Slim Pickens and Jim Davis. O’Neal continued to knock around the rodeo circuit in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico until about 1980 when age, as it always does with rodeo riders, forced him to give up the hard rides; so he started team roping. ‘I’m too old to do the rodeo again,’ said O’Neal. “I still cowboy and team rope. I don’t ride bulls, that’s for the young kids.”

In years past, he has accumulated a long list of celebrity friends such as Ben Johnson, Johnny Crawford and Buck Taylor.

One of his interesting stories was his tale of sharing a sack of Red Man chewing tobacco with Johnson and Richard Farnsworth. After they all got a chew, Johnson laughed and brought O'Neal back the empty tobacco sack.

The rodeo years were not without rewards and O'Neal has 25 buckles for his hard knocks. Those hard knocks have led to broken ribs, collarbone and other aches.

He also has a display of his rodeo gear in the Gene Autry Museum in Gene Autry, Oklahoma and participates in the annual event at Gene Autry.

In meeting and working with celebrities, O'Neal has found most of them to be down-to-earth people. He worked on the movie "Cadillac Jack" that starred country and western recording artist Clint Black.

O'Neal has worked in several episodes of "Walker, Texas Ranger" that stars Chuck Norris and Clarence Gilyard. He has also appeared in commercials for Dodge trucks and Southwest Airlines and has been in the Ben Johnson Pro-Celebrity Rodeo, The Dean Smith Pro-Celebrity Rodeo and The Round-Up for Autism to Bobby Norris Celebrity Rodeo.