



ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS

HALL OF FAME



Judy Ford

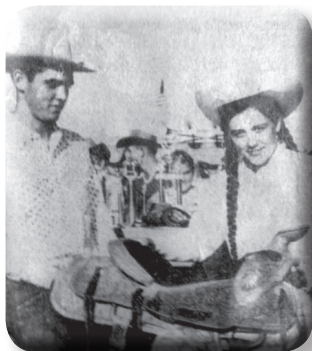


Judy Ford's life epitomizes a determined and fearless nine year-old girl setting her sights on becoming a "Champion Junior Cowgirl." Horse care and rodeos were her life... practicing hours and hours every week. Judy entered every rodeo she could, every summer and traveled with her grandparents all over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

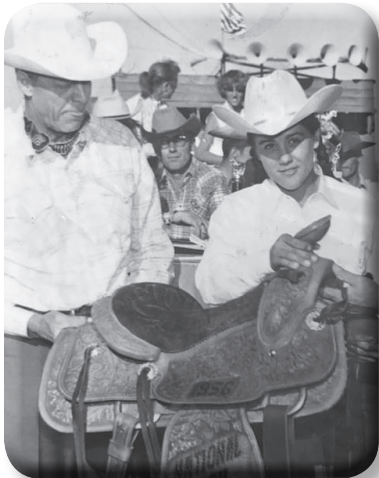


They couldn't give her the "All-Around Cowboy" award because she was not a cowboy. They couldn't give her the "All-Around Cowgirl" award because she hadn't entered the cowgirl events. She was blazing the trail for girls roping events. In 1992, 26 years later, the SWTS Rodeo Association finally recognized 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



• 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



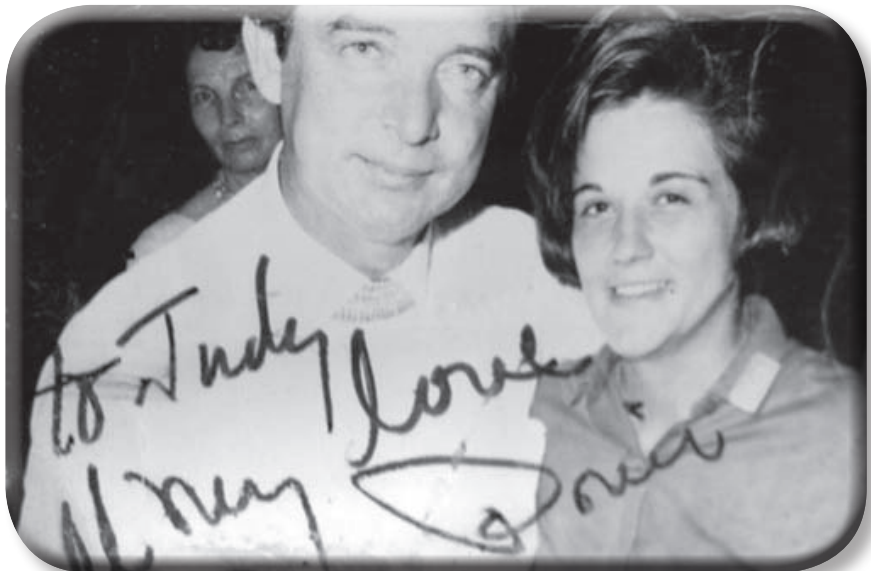


ALL AROUND CHAMP

NATIONAL FINALS RENO NEV.



1950 1950 1950



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 large and the entertainment was of high quality. An estimated 750 spectators were present. The event was a success and the money raised will be used for the benefit of the Legion.

Junior Calf Roping was the main attraction. The cowboy, Hank Thompson, was the winner. He was shown by the cowgirl, who showed him how it should be done. The crowd was large and the event was a success.