

ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS HALL OF FAME

Tim Lamberson



I was not a very successful rodeo cowboy but had fun and met a lot of good people. My biggest contribution to Rodeo was that I was able to help Larry Mahan become an All-Around Champion. My entry fees went into his pockets as added money. Larry wasn't the only champion that I helped. Another contribution that I made was as a crowd pleaser for the wrecks that I was in. Due to my talent, I did not fill my permit and get a card.

In 1968, at the age of 19, I got on my first bull in Jenks, Oklahoma with the help of Kent Tibbits. The next week in Nowata, OK I got on my first bareback horse with the help of Kent Tibbits and Gary Parli. Using Gary's chaps, spurs and Charlie Beal riggin, I rode the horse and got off on the pick-up man.

During the summer, I worked the labor list and mounted out bulls and bareback horses for \$5.00. Late that summer I won my first check near St Louis. Gary Payne and Jess Gatlin bareback riders from OSU were there to witness my achievement. The next year, I placed at a few and won one bareback and one bull riding.

In 1970, I went to Tucson Arizona with my friend Dink Stephens where Joe Masengale helped get us hired as extras in the western movie DIRTY DINGUS MAGEE. Joe was a bareback rider from Oklahoma and had been working in the movies since he got out of the USMC. Most of the wranglers and stunt men were RCA



cowboys. Anytime Dink or I would wander down to Tucson we would get on whatever film was working. While in Tucson I learned to fit harness and drive teams from Paddy Ryan, Bob Askin and Billy Keene. The Bonanza people had me go with the 2nd unit to the White Mountain Apache Reservation to double two of the actors. In the morning, I was a young kid and, in the afternoon, I was an old man.

Casey Tibbs took me along on his trip to Tokyo in 1973. My hero, Clyde Vamvoras went on a previous trip to Japan with Casey, so I was excited to go over there. That trip was quite an experience. The spectators liked to watch us drink whiskey, which we did every day. One of the bareback horses kicked me in the knee and I had to go back to California and get tendon and ligament splices. That is when I took up photography. At Salinas I was able to take pictures of John Davis making the first qualified ride on Oscar.

That's some of my experiences of trying to be a rodeo cowboy.

