



## Jody Reeves, Sr

Bull Rider



Provided by  
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Jody worked at Blackwell Pear Burner Company, which was the place where my grandfather worked, and he was a bull rider. Bull riders were the sports heroes of the day since television was just getting started and people had not discovered football, basketball and baseball. Our lives

were concerned with what we came in contact with. Rodeos and high school football were our source of entertainment.

In the 1940's and early 50's, Jack, John and Bob Blandford started putting on rodeos. First they had calf roping, then graduated to a complete rodeo performance. In the roping herd was a little bull calf, red in color and a little heavier, more muscular and harder to handle than the rest of the calves. To rope and tie him down was a feat in itself, and rather good training for the roper and his horse. Most of the time the calf wound up not being tied down.

As time went by, the calf became too big to rope and some of the youngsters attempted to ride him. We tried anything that was big enough and it was not at all uncommon to be bucked off . . . even on some pretty tame calves. This particular calf was a booger to ride.

The Blandford's let him grow a little more and placed him in the bucking herd and named him "Booger Red". Booger Red did



not disappoint them as he bucked off each and every rider that attempted to ride him. This went on for years and then one day Jody Reeves climbed aboard and when the whistle blew he was still there. This was a ride that thrilled everyone there and especially a young aspiring bull rider. The ride can be equated to Freckles Brown's ride on Tornado. Booger Red's explosion out of the chute claimed most of the riders and if that didn't get them, his spinning did.

Jody accepted the congratulations of the other riders and fans, but the manner in which he accepted fame was like part of Rudyard Kipling's poem If. "If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters the same . . ." Jody did just that and was the same man the following day that he was the day before. He always took time to talk to the young cowboys. I'm sure that jody did not realize the positive impact he had on a young would-be bull rider. To be like Jody Reeves was the same as a Cal Ripken, Troy Aikman, etc.

Jody passed away the first week of September 1995. To his family and close friends, there is a fan that will always remember the ride on Booger Red and just as important, the thrill of talking to him.

Thanks, Jody