



# ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS

## HALL OF FAME

## Bill Rivers

Bull Rider, Rodeo Clown, Animal Trainer



For over 41 years, BR Lightning Ranch and Movieland Animals owner Bill Rivers has trained animals for shows and movies.

The story of Bandera's newest national treasure started long before two years ago when the California resident of 36 years drove into Bandera and decided to stay. It began with his childhood. His father Jonny Rivers ran a Wild West show, "Jonny Rivers Golden Horse Troop" and also toured fairs and other venues in the

1950s with diving mules - that still highlight the BR Lightning Ranch Rodeos.

Rivers began his own animal-oriented career as a bull-fighting rodeo clown. When the owner of the Movieland Wild Animal Show became his father-in-law, Rivers' animal training career began. Ever wonder where the kangaroo that Granny "fist fought" with on the "Beverly Hillbillies" came from? Or the ostrich that Candice Bergen met on the "Murphy Brown" show? Well, now you know.

Rivers welcomes people to visit the BR Lightning Ranch, at 818 FM 1283 in Pipe Creek, and see the animals.

