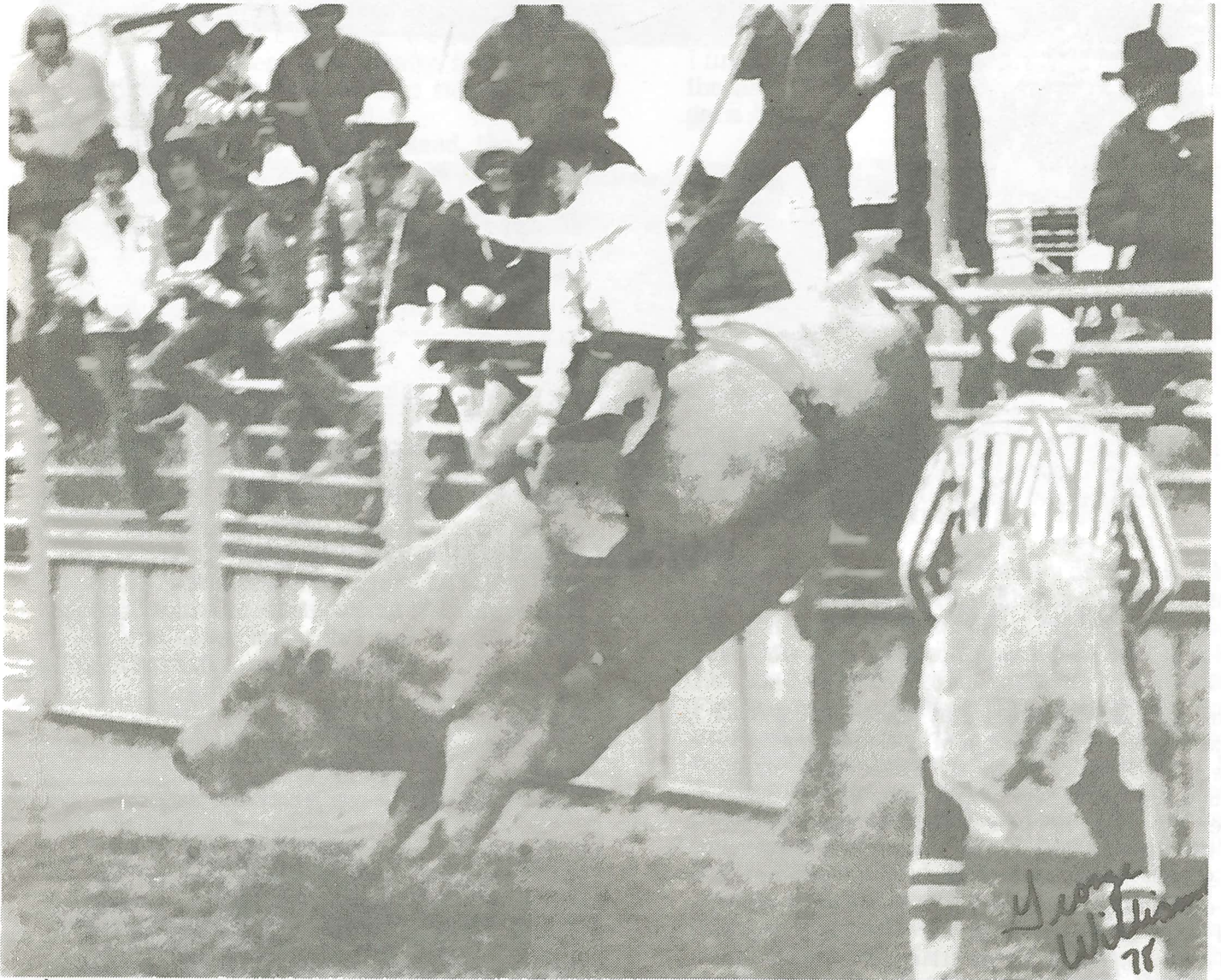


RODEO - THE DANGEROUS SPORT

BY KIRK WILLIAMS

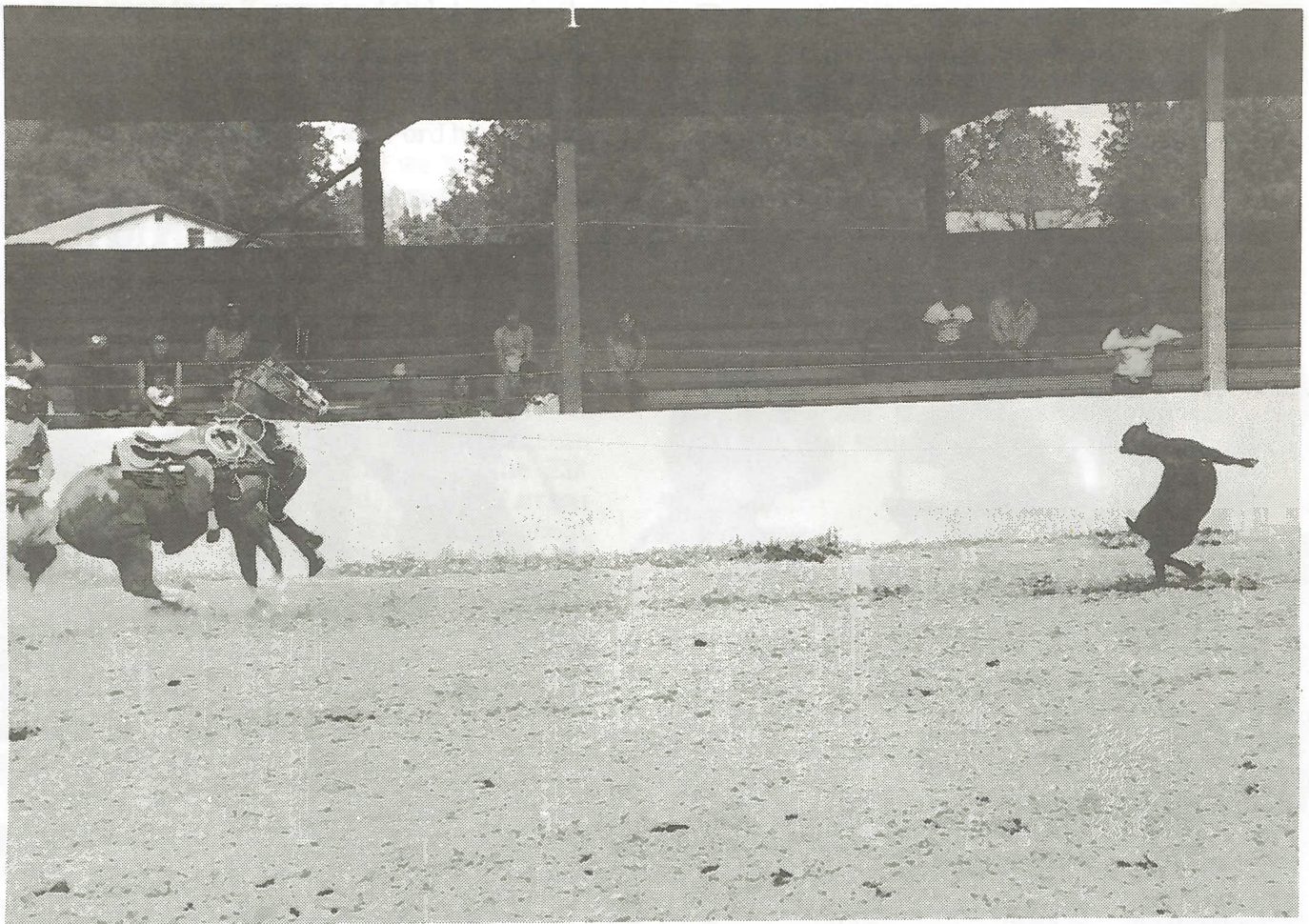


KIRK WILLIAMS ON MELLOW YELLOW

In the U.S.A. the sport of rodeoing is growing to be a top attraction. More and more people are watching and participating in this fast paced sport.

My photo story is about high school rodeo. This is the training arena for future cowboy stars. I have taken pictures of the rodeo at the height of action.

The future participants do well in their endeavor to enter this dangerous sport. It takes nerve to go out and ride a bull or bronc that might kick the rider in the head. Even ropers have it rough because of the treachery involved. Rodeoing is a great American sport for the courageous.

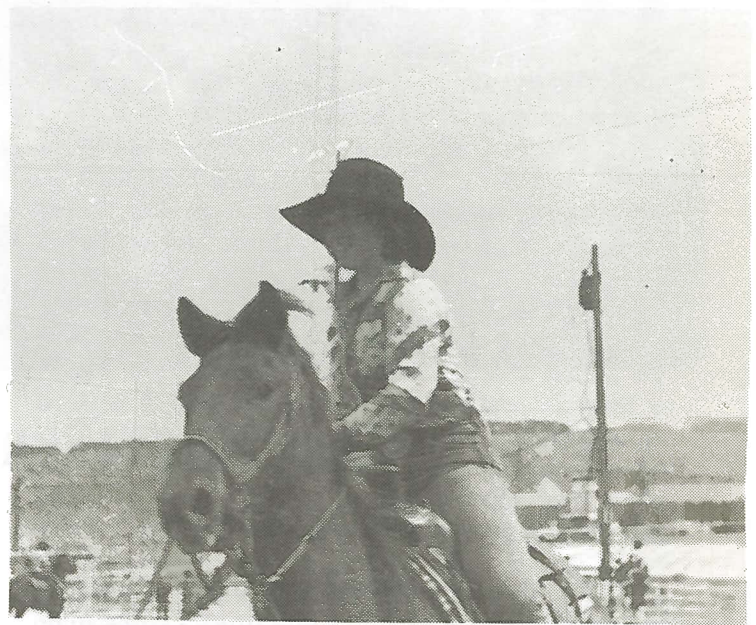


MIKE LAZOR GETTING OFF IN A HURRY

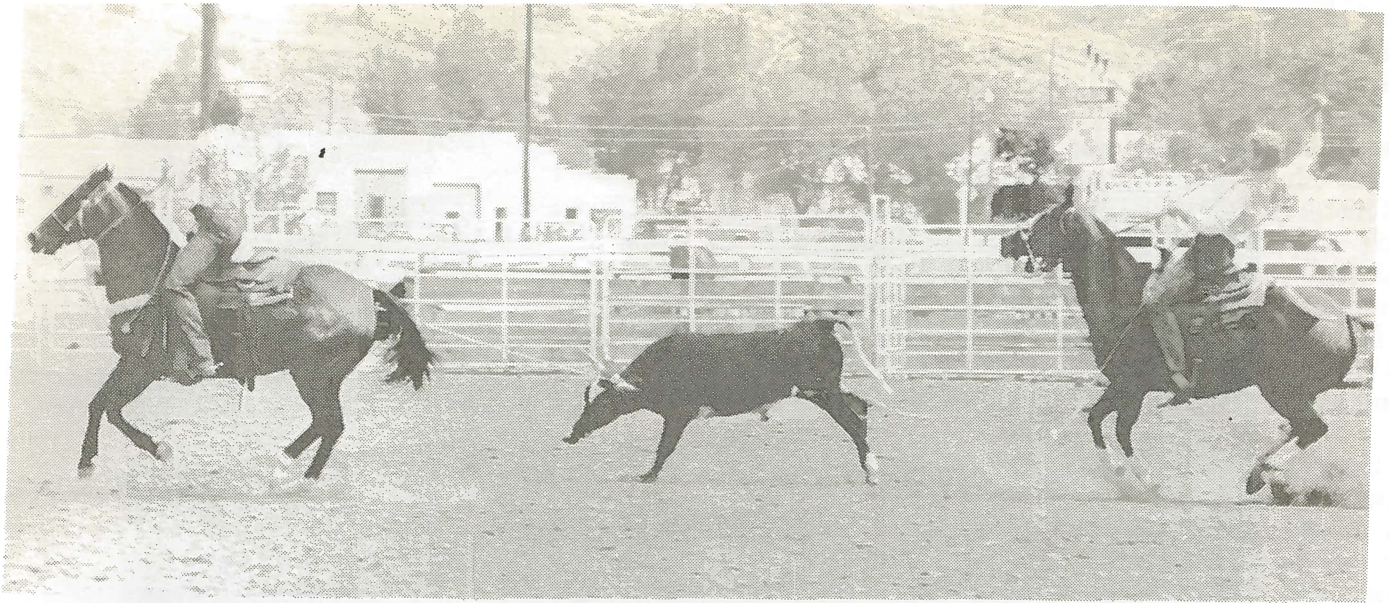
CALF ROPING

Calf roping is an event that takes a great deal of skill. The event consists of one man trying to rope a calf out of a chute. There is a string around the calf's neck while he is in the chute. When the chute is opened, the calf runs 10 feet before the string around his neck is broken. When this string is broken, it releases a pin in the chute which releases the rope across the box. If a roper breaks the rope across the box before the calf's rope breaks the string, 10 seconds are added to the roper's time. When he is out of the box, he ropes the calf. If he missed his first loop and he is carrying two ropes, he can use his other rope. But if he is only carrying one rope, he only gets one loop. When the calf has been roped, the cowboy gets off the right or left side of the horse and ties any three legs of the calf with a short piece of string called a pigeon string.

Meanwhile, the horse is backing up to keep the rope tight. When the cowboy is done tying the calf, he gets back on his horse, and the calf has six seconds to try to get up. If he is able to get up, the roper is disqualified.



NANCY BLASINGAME READY FOR HER EVENT.



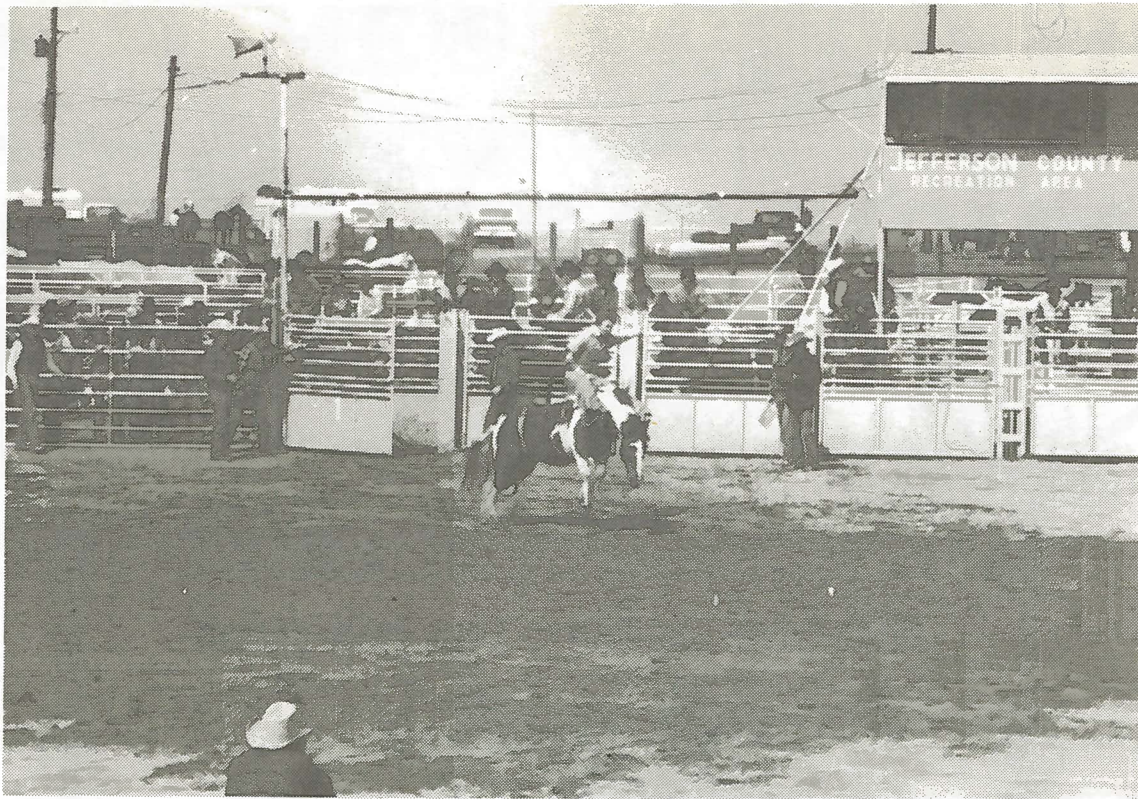
MIKE LAZOR AND RUSTY ROSE TEAM ROPING

TEAM ROPING

Team roping is done with two people, each on horseback. They both set in boxes or stalls, one on each side of the chute. A barrier is strung across the front opening of the left hand box. The barrier is usually a piece of twine or rope. The chute and box are flush with each other, so when the cowboy breaks the barrier, he comes to the end of the box too early. The animal is usually given a ten foot head start. When a cowboy breaks a barrier, ten seconds is added to his

time. When the cowboy clears the box, he starts roping. The man with the barrier usually ropes the head. The man on the right hand side goes for the heels. The ropers get three loops. This means that if the header misses, he can try only one more time to catch, same with the heeler, only three loops combined. Times usually run between 8 and 10 seconds. Eight is darn fast in anybody's book.

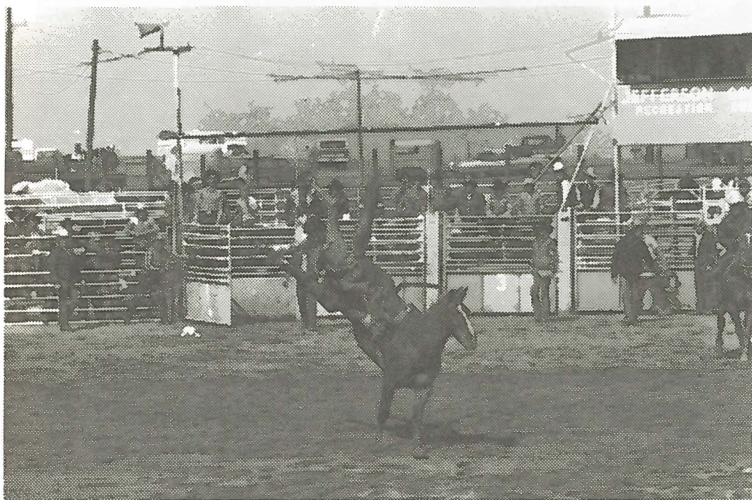




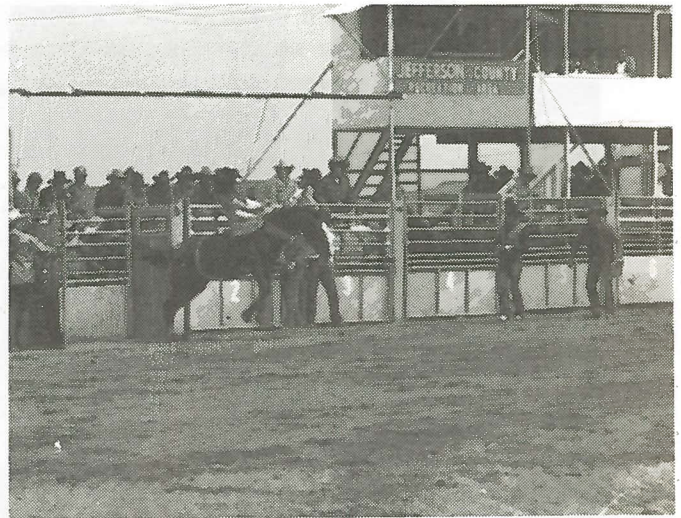
MARK BANGS ON WAR PAINT

BAREBACK RIDING

In bareback, you must ride for eight seconds. A competitor is given a reride if the animal fails to perform or the rider hits the gate of the chute. Among the great bucking horses of this dangerous event were Midnight and Five Minutes 'til Midnight.



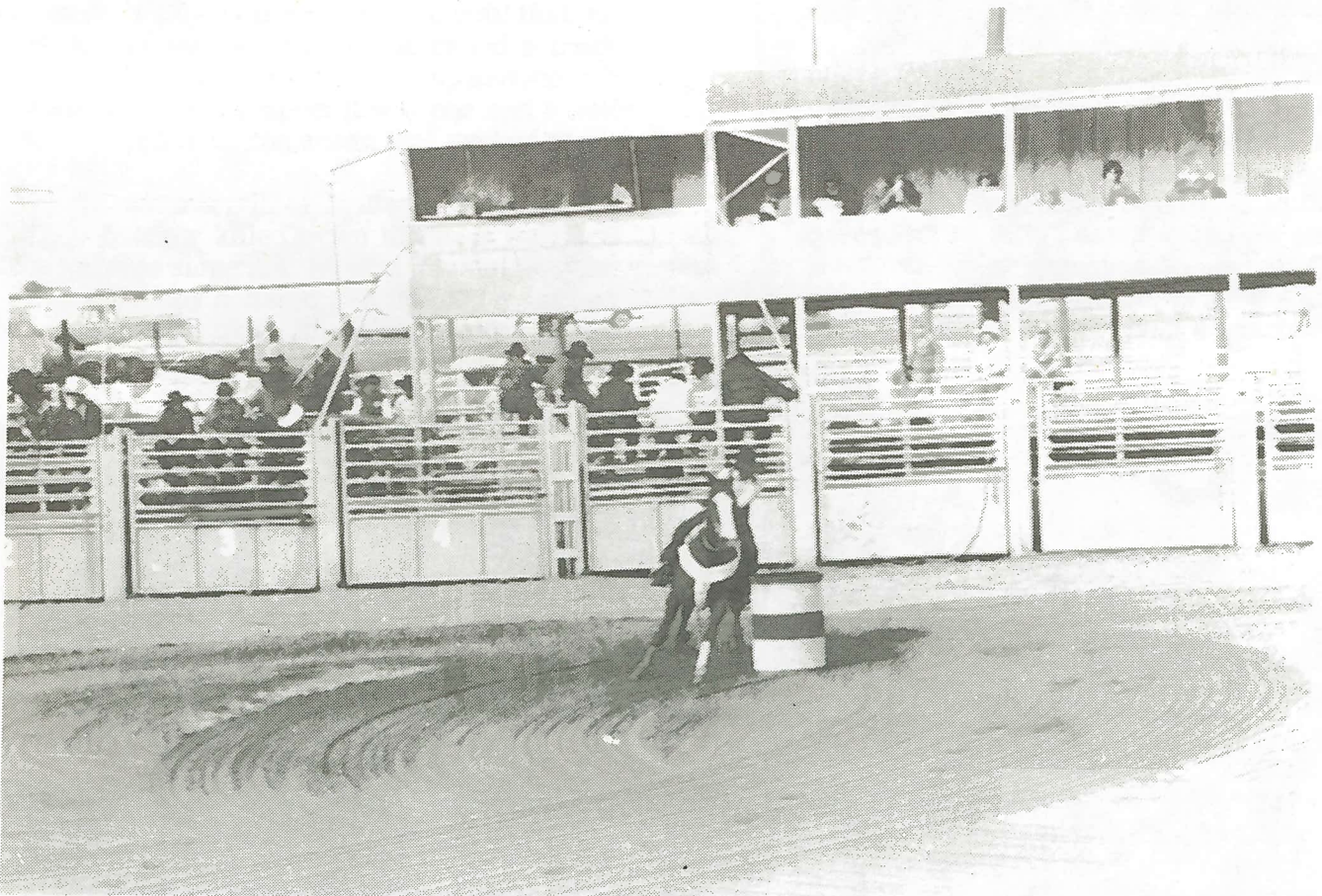
STAY WITH HIM



HANG IN THERE COWBOY

Bareback riding is also done with one hand with a suitcase type handle on leather like rig. A rider can "d.q." on this event if the touches with the free hand or uses locked spurs.

BARREL RACING



PAM VANDEVENDER CIRCLES THE BARRELS.

The most popular event for girls is running the barrels. It is done by quickly turning around three barrels set in a clover leaf pattern. For every barrel knocked down, there is a penalty. Disqualification is caused by breaking the

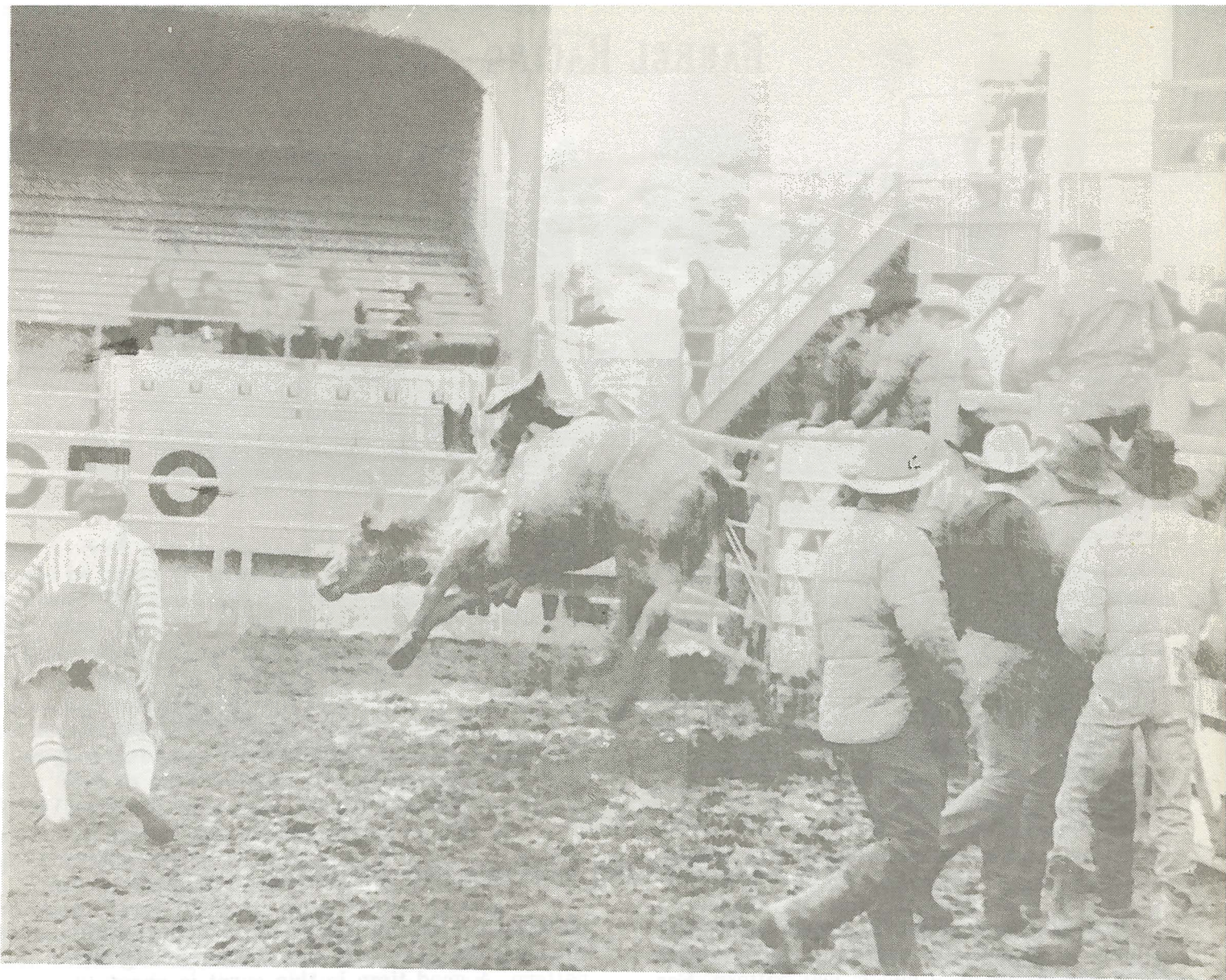
pattern, or crossing the initial time line while rounding the barrels or before completing the pattern. A good time in this event is about 18 seconds. The cowgirls also compete in goat tying and pole bending events.

SADDLE BRONC RIDING

Saddle Bronc is done with a special-made saddle that does not have a horn. The rider hangs on to a loose rop that is tied to a halter, and a rider can be disqualified by touching with a free hand or blowing a stirrup or using locked spurs or losing the rope from your hand.



TRY HIM COWBOY



KIRK WILLIAMS ON A WILD ONE

BULL RIDING

Bull riding is done with a grass rope. A rider can only hold with one hand. A touch disqualifies the rider. The spurs can't be locked in the event which makes it the most dangerous event in the rodeo.

Rodeo takes skill and quick thinking by the cowhand, but in some events the part of the well trained horse is equally important. Even the response of the rodeo stock helps the competitor since they get points too by how challenging their animal makes the event.

Rodeo is a tough competitive sport and one of the fastest growing athletic events in the country today. It started with necessity and grew to a great form of entertainment.



I would like to thank George Williams for some great shots of the rodeo.