

Hey Neighbor



For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

Bronc Riding Better Than Working For Dollar A Day, Claims Oldest Flint Hills Rodeo Director

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Following his dad's footsteps and the objective set as a teenager, Peacock hitchhiked to Kansas in 1948, soon moved in with the Emmett Roberts rodeo family, and rodeo, horses and cattle became his life. He's a Gold Card Member of the Rodeo Cowboy's Association and is proud of the Number 401 gold buckle he wears signifying that membership.

"I've operated Ribeye Order Buying for 37 years, along with running cattle on leased pastures, but rodeo and horses have always been my main interest," contended Peacock. A past four-term president of the Flint Hills Rodeo Association, he's been a director since 1968. "I'm older than anybody on the board, twice as old as most.

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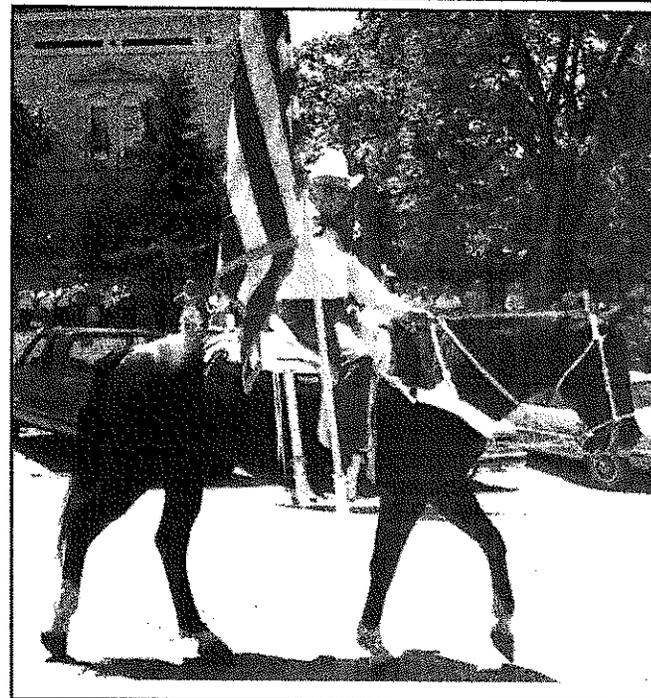
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While he never drew Jesse James, Peacock is anxious to tell his ties to the 1961 Bronc of the Year. "I got him in Fort Pierre, South Dakota, for my (then) father-in-law Walter Plugge's rodeo string in Nebraska, and Mr. Roberts then bought the palomino for \$300. That was the most he'd ever paid for a bronc.

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With his rodeo work slowed, Peacock went to work for Crofoot's Feedlot. "It was kind of like when I started working for Mr. Roberts. I was the gate opener in the beginning and ended up being in charge," Peacock evaluated. "Also, like with the Roberts, the Crofoots, E.C., Girdner, Jay and his son Terry, were like family to me and lifelong friends."

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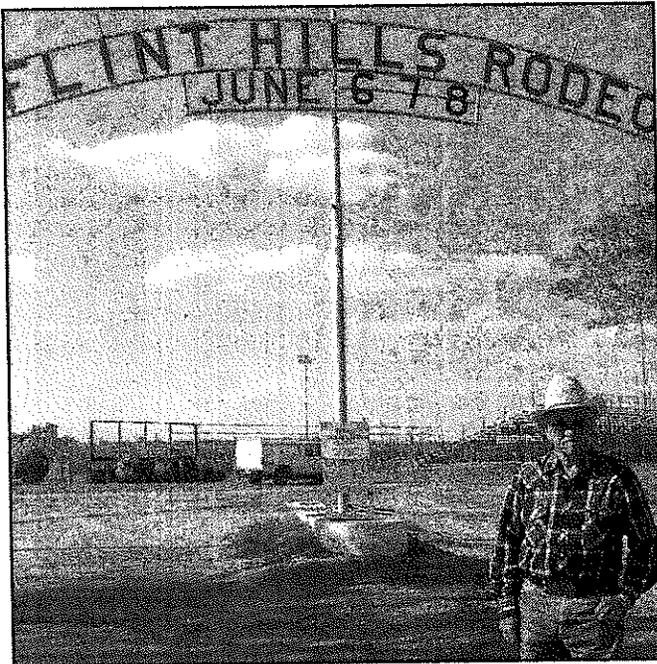
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Rodeo

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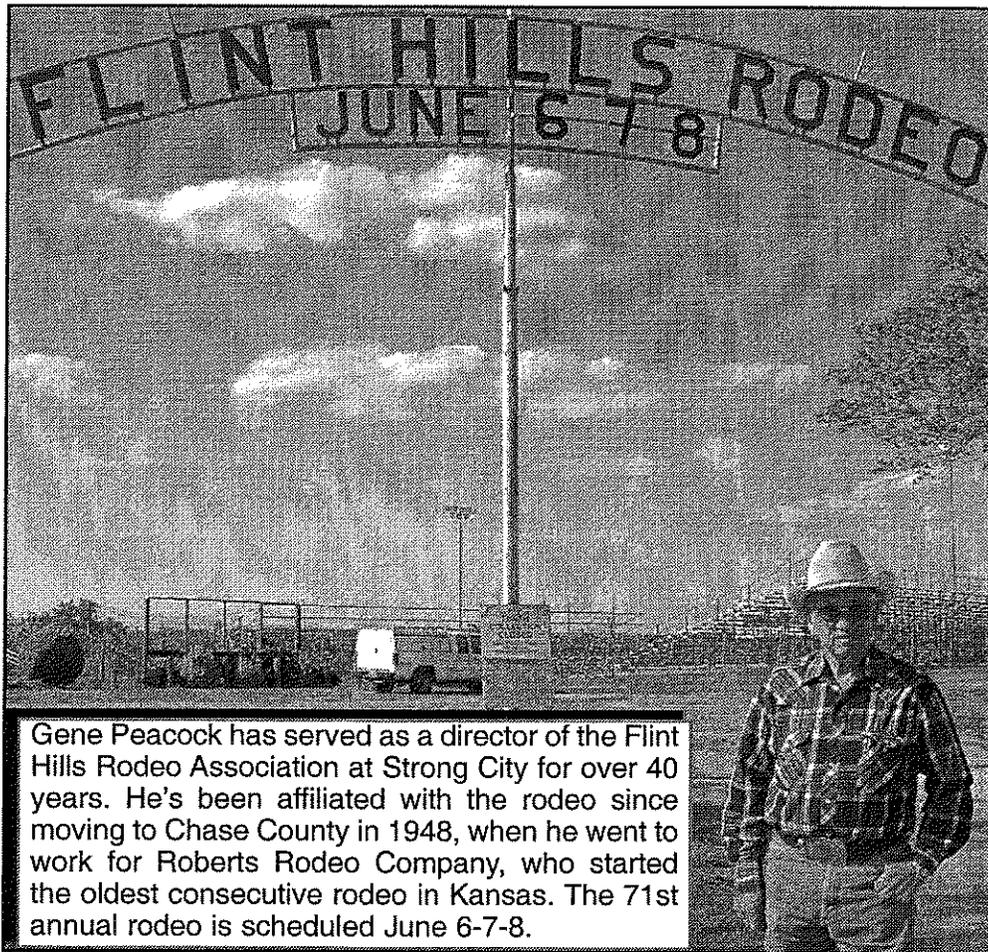
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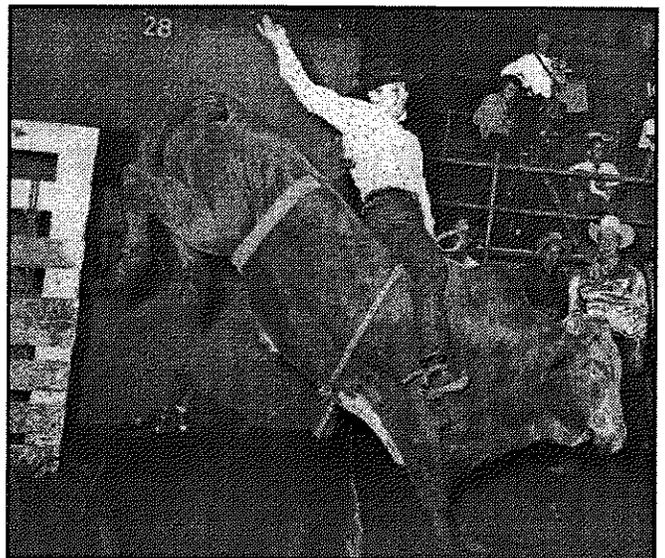
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It's been 60 years since Gene Peacock of Chase County rode bull No. 28 of the Gene Autry rodeo string during the sixth performance of the annual five-week Rodeo Cowboys Association competition at Madison Square Garden in New York. Peacock competed in that rodeo for five years, as well in the two-week Boston Garden Rodeo, which followed it.