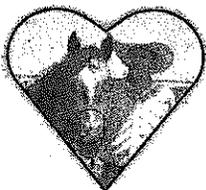


Hey Neighbor



For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

Producing Bucking Horses Tough Task

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Certainly, that's the case with Don Reno at Haskell, Okla.

"I rode saddle broncs for about 20 years, and I just couldn't get it out of my system. So I started buying mares to raise a string of my own broncs," said Reno, owner of Round Knife Rodeo Company.

Only in his sixth year of production, Reno has been successful and had 25 head of bucking horses at Council Grove recently for the bronc riding event of the Working Ranch Cowboy's Association-sanctioned ranch rodeo.

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inisced Reno, who is a saddle maker in addition to his ranching operation.

"That's the reason for the name of our company. A round knife is an important tool for saddle makers," Reno clarified.

From his high school bronc riding, Reno went to the amateur circles and on into Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association competition. "I rode broncs in the PRCA for 13 years," he related. "I went to the Prairie Circuit Finals for nine years."

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who noted, "I won some day money there, but I never was able to make it to the short go."

Seldom did Reno get bucked off during his professional career, "But if you go enough, it's going to happen," admitted Reno, who finished the ride on 90 percent of the broncs he mounted.

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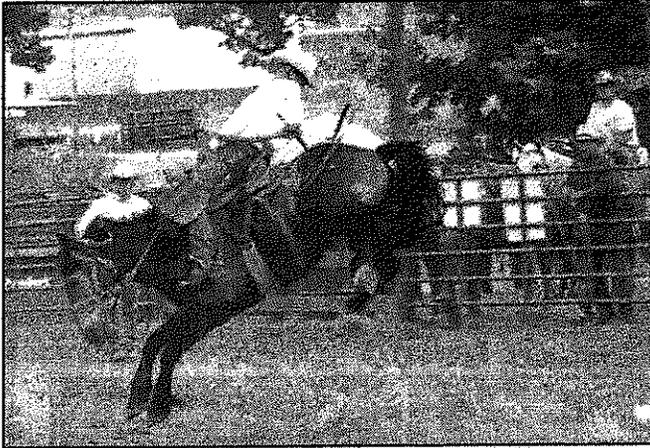
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Some broodmares are used as bucking horses at rodeos in the off-season. "There are a number of our mares that we will buck after we wean their foals late in the summer," Reno added.

"It's a gamble and a guessing game if a mare will be a producer of bucking horses. Sometimes mares just don't pass ability to their offspring," Reno detailed. "Certain mares will work better with one stud than another, so we'll change studs before we cull a mare for not producing."

"If we do have a mare who raises top bucking horses consistently, we will keep her the rest of her life, be-

cause they're not easily replaced," Reno insisted.

All of Reno's broncs are bred naturally. "Artificial insemination hasn't worked as well for bucking horses as it has in the rodeo bull business, but embryo transfer is being done some with broncs," Reno critiqued. "It's still in early stages; that

might be the future deal."

Although only a limited number of horses have been produced by embryo transfer at this time, Reno has found that about 70 to 75 percent prove to be successful bucking out of the chute.

The horses are started bucking with a dummy at ages two and three. "We will put a live rider on them once in the fall of their three-year-old year, and then we will start hauling them lightly as four-year-olds," Reno elaborated.

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While one might question if ranch rodeos, where cowboys are allowed to hold a night latch (handhold) on a ranch saddle, might be hard on bucking horses; Reno explained that is not the case.

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Having made over 150 stock saddles in his career, Reno tabulated, "It takes about 40 working hours to make a saddle from start to finish."

However, one can't just call him up, order a saddle and expect to get it a week later. "This is a slow process," he contended. "After I get an order, it takes 12 weeks to get the tree, and then I have a waiting list."

Many of the saddles are made for steer ropers. "I started making saddles for some of the cowboys around home," Reno stated. "They liked them and spread the word."

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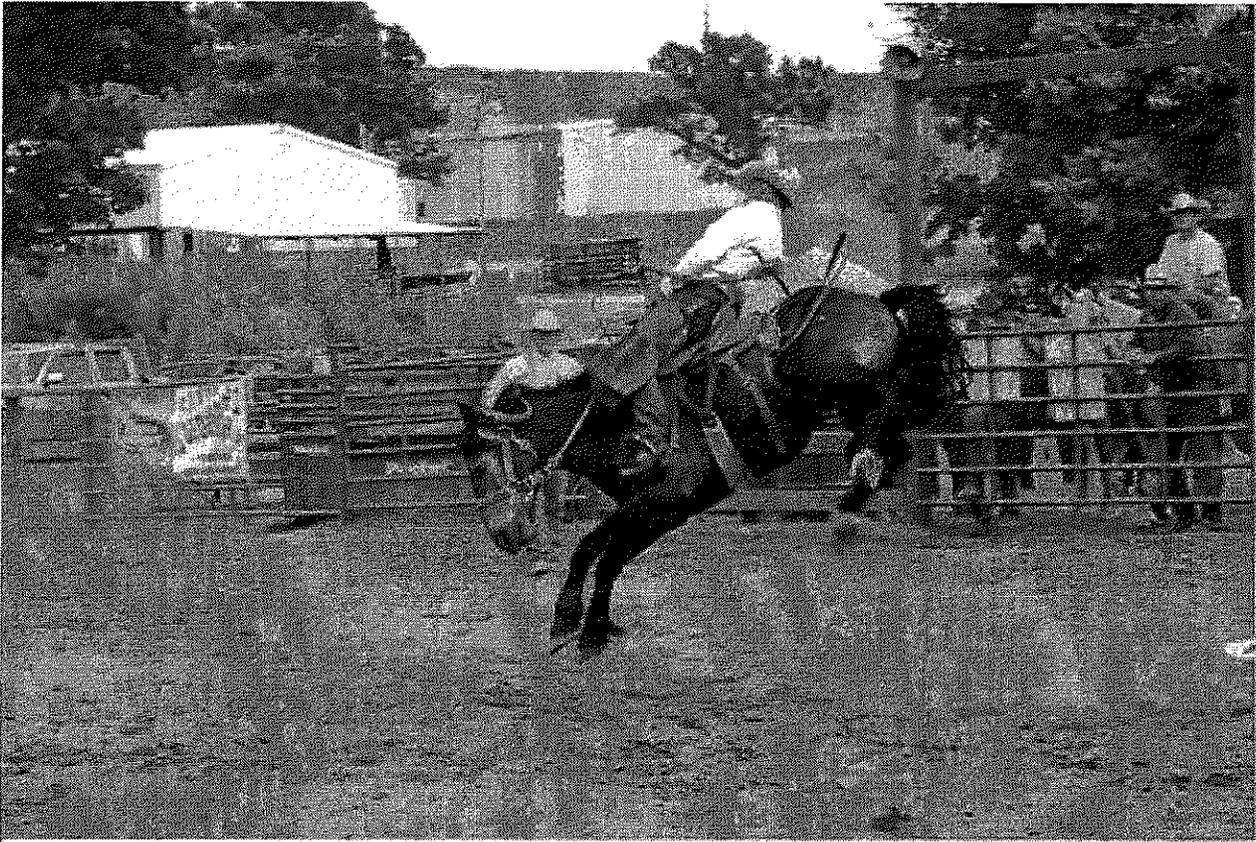
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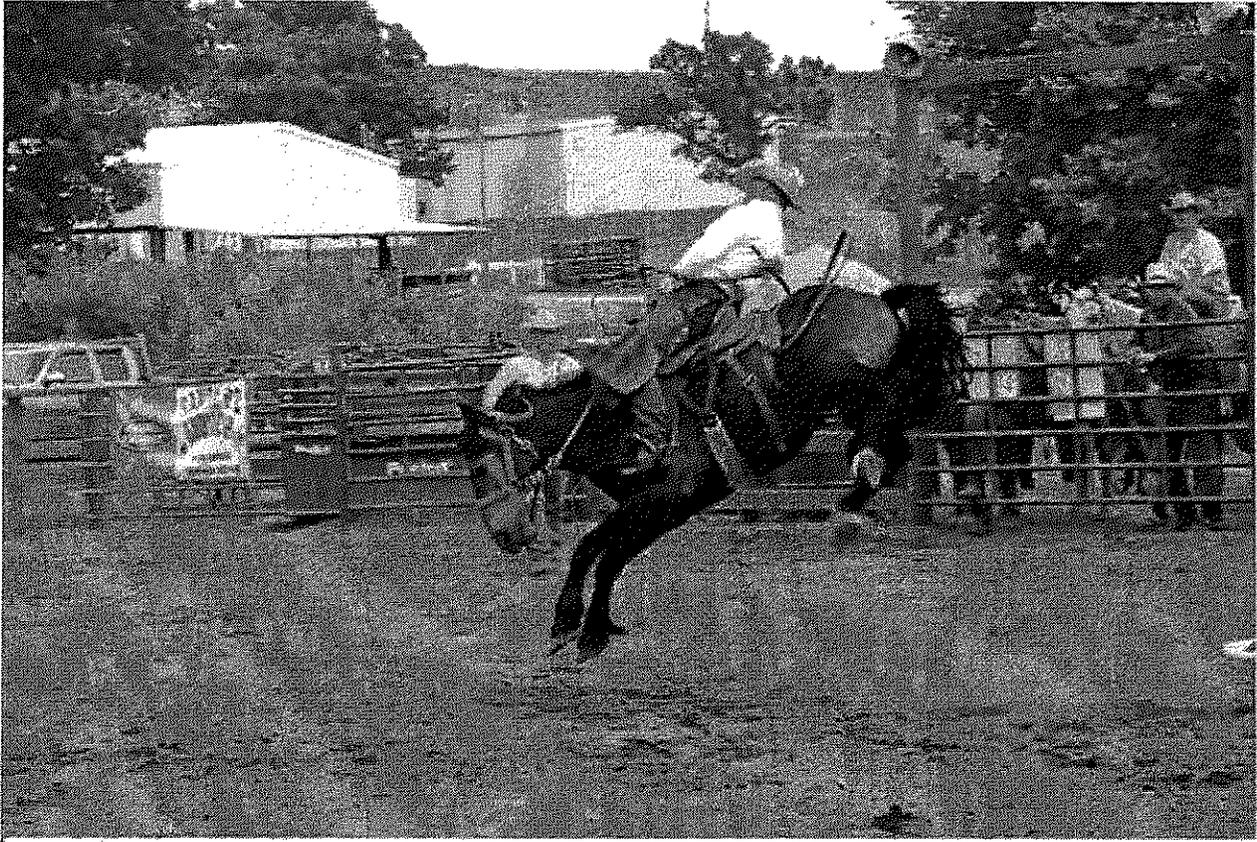
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"agpress2@Agpress.com" <agpress2@agpress.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2007 7:36 PM
Attach: Ranch Rodeo - Don Reno's Bronc.jpg
Subject: Emailing: Ranch Rodeo - Don Reno's Bronc

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Ranch Rodeo - Don Reno's Bronc

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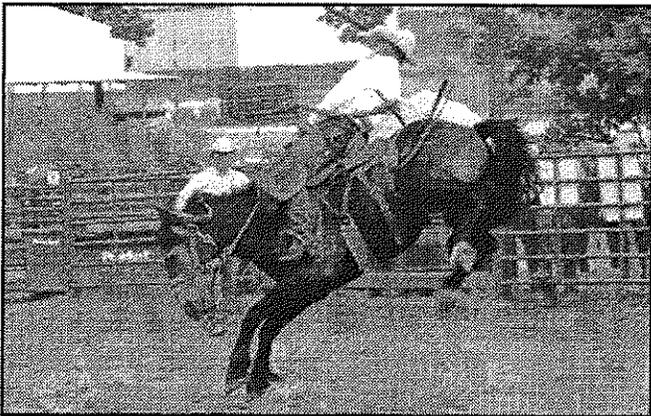
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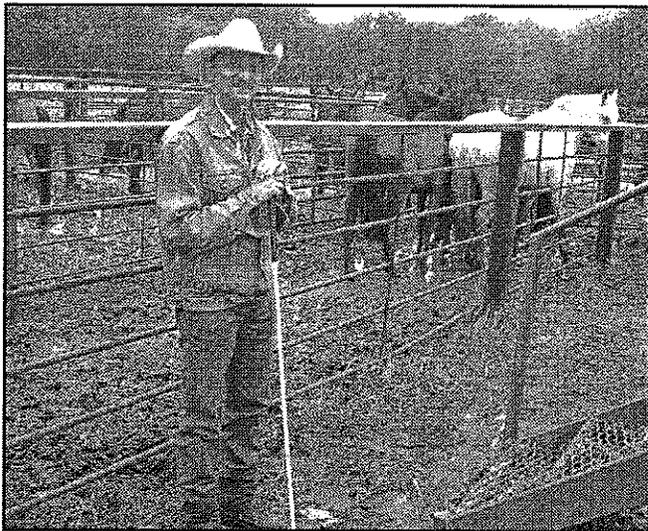
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With a wife, two grown children and several grandchildren, Reno concluded, "They're the ones I'm working on now."



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