



Application For Bob and Wayne Alexander Induction Into Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame

Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame

A division of Boot Hill Museum, Inc. of Dodge City, Kansas
A 501(c)(3) Not For Profit Corporation

The Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame Committee requests nominations of living or deceased individuals for consideration for induction into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Any organization or individual may nominate a qualified person for consideration. The Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame Committee meets annually to evaluate and determine inductees.

Nomination forms may be requested through Boot Hill Museum, Inc., Front Street, Dodge City, Kansas 67801. Forms must be received by June 1, for induction consideration for that calendar year. Individuals or organizations nominating a person(s) are requested to submit supplementary supporting information. Any materials submitted will be stored within the Boot Hill Museum, Inc. files and will not be returned to the nominating individuals or organizations.

Nominated inductees will be evaluated and selected by a majority vote of the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame Committee. No more than one award from each category will be inducted annually.

The induction ceremony will take place at Boot Hill Museum, Inc., in Dodge City, at the date and time to be announced each year. The Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame Awards will be presented to the honoree, or to a designated representative on the deceased's behalf.

Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame Criteria for Inductees

Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame inductee will be selected after the evaluation of the following:

1. Significant contributions to the western heritage lifestyle, past or present, and to the preservation of the cowboy culture in Kansas.
2. Personifies the cowboy ideals of integrity, honesty, and self-sufficiency.
3. Achievement of state-wide historic significance.
4. Native and/or resident of Kansas.

Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductees will be honored in the following five categories:

Working Cowboy

The Working Cowboy or Cowgirl is an individual whose primary lifetime occupation is in the cattle industry or related field. They earn a paycheck for a job well done, as a feed yard cowboy, a ranch hand/foreman, a horse trainer or related job.

Rodeo Cowboy

The Rodeo Cowboy or Cowgirl participates or contributes to the sport of rodeo. Rodeo participants, rodeo clowns, announcers, producers, promoters, stock contractors or similar, that have excelled in competition or advancement of the sport will be considered for Rodeo Cowboy.

Rancher/Cattleman

The Rancher/Cattleman is the proprietor of a business that directly relates to the ranching/livestock industry. This individual has excelled in the production and stewardship of cattle, horses, or sheep on our native range lands or feed yards of Kansas.

Cowboy Historian

The Historian is an individual that serves as a guardian of the authentic story of the American/Kansas Cowboy. Their efforts have been directed towards recording, preserving and sharing the Kansas Cowboy's history and history of the Old West. This individual may be an author, curator, storyteller, researcher, scholar or educator.

Cowboy Entertainer/Artist

The Cowboy Entertainer/Artist is an individual or group, male or female that promotes the cowboy lifestyle through their art or craft. These may include singer/songwriter, artist/craftsman, painter/sculpture, saddle/boot maker, performer, producer, TV/movie personality or other related activities.

Application Procedure

Please send the following with each document clearly identified with the nominee's name.

- ✓ A completed nomination form
- ✓ Letters of nomination
- ✓ A detailed biography
- ✓ Copies of supporting material i.e. newspaper clippings, magazine articles, awards or photos. Each piece of supporting material must be clearly marked with the name of the nominee. Copies are recommended. All original material sent will be considered a donation and will be held in the files at Boot Hill Museum.

Send to:
The Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame
Boot Hill Museum, Inc.
Front Street
Dodge City, KS 67801

Applications maybe sent electronically to info@boothill.org
Boot Hill Museum is not responsible for undelivered mail. To assure the delivery, please request a return receipt for postal or email. Applications must be received by June 1 to be considered for the current calendar year. Applications received after the deadline will be filed and considered for the following year. Applicants not selected may be considered for subsequent years.

Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame

Boot Hill Museum, Inc.
Front Street
Dodge City, KS 67801
620.227.8188 FAX 620.227.7673
info@boothill.org www.boothill.org

Nomination Form

Biographical Information

Name: **Bob and Wayne Alexander**

Name of representatives: Tom Alexander (Bob's son), Nancy Sharp (Wayne's daughter)

Address: Bob and Wayne Alexander
400 Sunset Drive
Council Grove KS 66846

Phone Number: Tom Alexander 620-787-2254 bravesmom55@yahoo.com
Nancy Alexander Sharp 785-273-7999 nesharp11@yahoo.com

Living Male

Birth Dates: Bob Alexander, September 17, 1920, Wayne Alexander, September 1, 1923

Birth Place: Alexander Ranch, Council Grove, Kansas

Parent's Names: O.E. Bud and Maude Alexander

Spouse's Name: Bob: Georgina 73 Years Wayne: Irena (divorced)

Children: Bob: Barbara Lerner, Tom Alexander, Vicky Martin, Jeff Alexander

Wayne: Connie Alexander, Nancy Sharp, Sandy Cameron, Rick Alexander

Current Occupation: Retired, but Still Enthused COWBOYS

Indicate the category you feel best fits the nominee. The committee will make the final determination and reserves the right to choose another category.

X Working Cowboy X Rodeo Cowboy X Rancher/Cattleman

____ Cowboy Historian ____ Cowboy Entertainer/Artist

Member of the following western historic, civic, or rodeo organizations:

Bob:

Charter Member Council Grove FFA Chapter
United Methodist Church:
American Quarter Horse Association
Morris County 4-H Club Leader
Morris County 4-H Foundation
Morris County Fair Work
Morris County Farm Bureau
Kansas Livestock Association
Santa Fe Trail Riders Saddle Club, President
Southwest Cowboy Association
Old Timers Rodeo Association

Wayne:

Mo-Kan Ironworkers Union
St. Rose Catholic Church .
American Quarter Horse Association
Old Timers Rodeo Association
Rodeo Cowboys Association
United Rodeo Association
International Professional Rodeo Assn
Ak-Sar-Ben Race Meet, Omaha, Nebr.
Woodlands Downs, Kansas City, Kan.
Prairie Meadows, Des Moines, Iowa
Remington Park, Oklahoma City, Okla

Awards/Accomplishments:

Bob:

Champion Calf Roper Eskridge Labor Day
Champion Ribbon Roping Eskridge
First Place Calf Roping Council Grove
Countryman's Fourth of July Calf Roping
Wild Cow Milking Winner, Council Grove
Herington Wild Cow Milking Winner
Old Timers Rodeo Finals, Las Vegas, Nev.
Old Timers Calf Roping Yearend Top Five
Morris County Ranch Rodeo Team Winner

Wayne:

All Around Cowboy, Eskridge Rodeo
Steer Wrestling Winner 28 rodeos
Working Ranch Cowboys Winner
Calf Roping Winner 49 rodeos
URA Standings Two Events 10 Years
Cassoday Team Roping Champion
IPRA Yearend Calf Roping Top Ten
Three Winners Woodlands, Remington
Champions Ak-Sar-Ben, Prairie Meado

*Many, Many More Rodeo, Jackpot Awards
Judge Amateur Rodeos Throughout the Midwest*

Individual/organization submitting this nomination:

Name: Frank J. Buchman

Relationship to nominees: Lifetime Friend, Admirer, Friends Of Their Dad And Family

Address: 232 Kansas Highway 177
Alta Vista, Kansas 66834
785-499-6894
bb_ranch@hotmail.com

Number of pages in application including the nomination form 67

May 16, 2014

Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame

Re: Bob and Wayne Alexander

Dear Sirs;

Two brothers, Bob and Wayne Alexander of Council Grove, KS were top hands on a horse. They would ride and help other ranchers from Bazaar to Volland.

Their expertise in handling cattle was sought after by many ranchers.

Bob and Wayne would start out in the spring with a young colt and by fall the horses would be very well broke.

Those were the days when we still had screw worms and still allowed to use DDT. Cattle had to be gathered several times during the grazing season.

A friendly pair of cowboys to say the least; they could catch a critter regardless of the size of the beast.

Because Bob and Wayne Alexander were true cowboys and served their communities well, I would like to nominate them for the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Errol "Cheese" Marten

I would be proud to nominate
Bob & Wayne Alexander for Kansas
Cowboy Hall of Fame. They have
known me longer, but as long as I
have known them they have been
Cowboys that I always respected
and looked up to. Both were great
Ranch Cowboys and also in the Arena.
My dad said back in the days they
were the guys you had to beat. They
were exceptional good hands and always
had a smile and a great laugh to
them. "What Great Guys"

Jim Widan

May 18, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I certainly believe that Bob and Wayne Alexander deserve the honor of induction into the Cowboy Hall of Fame. They are both the genuine old-time cowboys whom I've known and watched work, all of my life.

As they grew up, their father, Bud Alexander, was in the grazing business. He leased a lot of pastures which he would then sublease to Texas cattlemen. One year my dad leased him a pasture east of Council Grove. The cattle were driven to Kamisky to the Missouri Pacific yards to be shipped. My dad helped drive the cattle and I went along on a horse. I was young so I just rode drag on the eight mile drive. That's the first time I really remember Bob and Wayne, as they were there helping their dad drive the cattle. As an eight year old kid, I admired them for the fact that they were friendly to a kid and that they liked the horse that I was riding.

In later times I would drive my dad's cattle from south of Council Grove to the Missouri Pacific west yards in Council Grove. Bob and Wayne were always there helping along with other people.

They were both excellent ropers if you needed an animal caught in the pasture as well as in an arena. I've watched them rope in rodeos. I believe that there are ropers that can rope in a pasture and do a good job and maybe not be able to do the same in the arena because it is two different types of roping. Bob and Wayne were experts at both types of roping.

As they became older, Bob took over the business when their father passed away. Wayne became a steel worker, but he kept on roping in arenas. When he retired he returned to the area and went back to driving cattle.

Both Bob and Wayne always have a smile on their face and are always courteous and friendly. Either one is an individual whom I am always glad to meet and visit with.

For all the above reasons I believe they are certainly qualified—actually they are above qualified—to be in the Hall of Fame. Also I'm proud to call both of them my friends for over 70 years.

Respectfully submitted,

FJ Revere



Council Grove, KS

5/21/14

Officials:

Bob Alexander would be a worthy addition to the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame. Although his home area, near Council Grove, was too far away from Cassoday for me to witness Bob in action in the pastures of the Flint Hills, I did get to see him compete in many area rodeos. I particularly recall, as a young boy, seeing him rope at Countryman's Rodeo.

From 1938 to 1968, Wilber Countryman hosted a big open-to-the-world rodeo at his ranch a few miles southwest of Cassoday. The large arena, covered with buffalo grass, was located in the midst of a section pasture, about a quarter mile from his house and barn. Wilber was a roper, and calf roping was the premier event at his rodeo. Sometimes as many as 75 ropers from Oklahoma, Kansas, and beyond would be entered. I don't have results in my head after all these years, but I do know that Bob held his own in these competitions.

In addition to calf roping, Bob was an excellent ribbon roper and wild cow milker. Here his experience as a top pasture cowboy stood him in good stead, for while many of the Oklahoma calf ropers threw the same loop at calves, yearlings, and cows, Bob had a special knack for catching older cattle. Many times I have seen him roll out a sidearm loop that would go up along the side of one of Wilber's cows, then curl around so that her head went right into it. He was a master at this kind of catch.

Bake Blosser often mugged the cow for Bob to milk. Bob told me that once the cow he had caught stuck her head down dragged Bake's hand along the buffalo-grass sod so that it burned the skin off his knuckles. Afterwards when Bake complained, Bob told him he'd better put some medicine on his hand. Bob then pulled out a bottle of whiskey and poured it over the wound. It was, he told me, the loudest he'd ever heard a grown man scream and yell.

Bob spent his life in the Flint Hills, looking after cattle and training horses. He is a credit to the cowboy profession and as good a hand as one could hope to find. I strongly support his induction into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,
Jim Hoy
Emporia

2455 Hwy. 177
Council Grove, Kansas 66846
May 19, 2014

Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame
500 West Wyatt Earp Blvd.
Dodge City, Kansas 67801

To Whom It May Concern:

I consider it an honor to write this letter of recommendation for Bobby and Wayne Alexander's nomination to the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame. Both brothers are very deserving of this recognition and it gives me great joy to share with you some of my memories of time spent with them.

I first met Bobby in the early seventies. It wasn't at a rodeo, horse show or cattle drive however, it was at a funeral visitation. My wife's uncle, whom I had never met, was the deceased and Bobby was one of the pallbearers. Little did I know at that time that a decade later I'd be living in the Council Grove area and trading help with Bobby. I did not become friends with Wayne until he retired and moved back to Council Grove to live. It was great getting to know him also as many of Bobby's stories included his brother Wayne.

When Bobby and Wayne were growing up and were young adults there was no need to look for activities and hobbies to fill your free time with, there was no free time. They were up and going from sun up, and sometimes earlier, until sundown. Most of those day were spent on the back of a horse. Being on a horse was not work for Bobby and he rode until well into his eighties. In his life Bobby rode and handled more cattle than Wayne, but Wayne traded and worked with more horses than Bobby.

In 1980 I was hired to manage the Mashed O Ranch south of Council Grove. At this time Bobby was already approaching the age where many people are thinking about retiring, but not Bobby. Throughout the eighties and nineties we became good friends and traded lots of help. It was always a fun day working with Bobby around. The stories he shared were real cowboy stories. Before the era of horse trailer they would leave home in the dark and ride several hours to be in the pasture and ready to gather cattle when the sun did come up.

These two brothers' lives were consumed with grass, cattle, horses, rodeo, horse racing and anything to do with ranching. They knew it all and were willing to share their sage advice. You would have to look long and hard to find anyone as dedicated to the ranching heritage as Bobby and Wayne. I hope this letter of nomination helps put these two men on the list of honorees in the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,


Larry D. Johnson

Just a few remembrances of
Bob and Wayne Alexander's cowboy
events.

Bob Alexander always had a smite
on his face and did not allow
difficult situations upset him.

Once while ~~of~~ in the gathering
cattle process, some broke away
from the herd. Cowboys just don't
let them escape!! Rope the critter
and tie it down. Roped the
critter, reached for the piggins'
string, and none was there -
what now ??? Look a rein from
the ~~best~~ bridle, used it as a
substitute, and finished the task.
Bob's comment was "he's tied,
but may not stay." This happened
in Byron Moore's pasture along
Highway in Morris County. →
over

I did not know Wayne & Bob
in their days - roping contests.

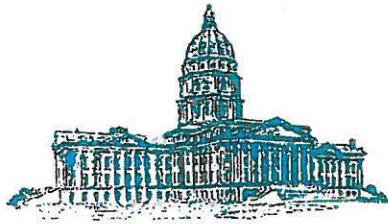
They competed in calf roping
tie ~~down~~ ^{down} contests and were
excellent ropers - always friendly.

A comment on the side - one
of the last horses Bob rode was a
daughter of Doc A Quece

Jack Gieswein
Wilsey, Kansas

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
300 SW 10TH AVE.
TOPEKA, KS 66612
1-800-432-3924
tom.moxley@house.ks.gov



1852 SOUTH 200 ROAD
COUNCIL GROVE, KS 66846
620-787-2277
tmoxley@tctelco.net

TOM MOXLEY
REPRESENTATIVE, 58TH DISTRICT

22 May 2014

Reference: Bobby and Wayne Alexander
Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame Nominees

As has been said often about our true ranch top hands, "They weren't really professional cowboys, they just did it for a living." But Bobby and Wayne were both top hands out on the Flint Hills range and made more than a few bucks in the arena.

As with many of the grand people of my younger days, I don't remember not riding a horse and I don't remember not knowing Bobby and Wayne. They were a regular part of area cattle gatherings. You see, every gathering, whether ten head or a thousand head is subject to having a few cattle escape through a fence or over a pen. So ranchers needed a cowboy on the crew that was able to catch these outlaws. That is where Bobby and Wayne could show their stuff. Versatile is a word that comes to mind. They could do it all. Ride, rope, treat, gather, and tell a story or two, which in true cowboy fashion, only got better with time.

The Flint Hills is one of the few places on earth where a cowboy can make a living by being a caretaker of cattle out on the range and at the same time be an independent business person. Bobby looked after area pastures and cattle his entire life. And did it as a self-employed cowboy. In my mind that makes him a professional cowboy.

I cannot think of more deserving individuals to be inducted into the this Hall of Fame. The Alexander boys are the epitome of the Kansas Cowboy.

Sincerely,

Tom Moxley

5/22/14

Officials:

I would like to submit a nomination for Bobby and Wayne Alexander for induction into the Kansas Cowboy Hall Of Fame.

Bobby- Working Cowboy

Bobby spent his life taking care of cows in the winter and watching after stockers in the summer. He provided day help all over the flint hills. The man had patience when working with cattle, which is not as common today with the busy nature of life.

Wayne- Rodeo Cowboy

Wayne loved horses and talking about them. He was into the rodeo scene. Wayne was always telling stories about the ropings in the good ol days. Both men lived to be cowboys and to enjoy and take care of the flint hills.

Dan Wainwright
Council Grove, KS

Bob and Wayne Alexander
are sons of the late
Mr and Mrs O. E. Alexander.

They spent years
in contracting cattle
for grazing in the
Flint Hills and
surrounding areas.

They also attended
Rodeos and competed
in Roping at which
they were talented.

I remember them
with pleasure when
we were neighbors
in the years
gone by.

W. P. Kirkminder

DV M

We trained thoroughbred
race horses for Wayne, he really
enjoyed going to the races to
watch his horses run with his
friends.

He liked to buy and trade
horses. If they didn't turn out to
be a runner he always said maybe
they would make a superior horse out
of them. We trained 4 horses
for him from 1992 to 1997 they
all turned out to be winners,
one of them won 6 races for him.
He has been a good friend.

Bob looked after alot of cattle.
Come time to round up cattle they
never got to touch you Bob to gather,
the wilder they were the better he
liked it. He really liked it when
he had to take his rope down and
rope a few.

Bob is a friend to every one
rich or poor he got along with
everyone. He is an honest cowboy.
He wasn't always drinking and
cussing, he was easy going person.
He is one of the true cowboys.

He is one of the cowboys I
looked up to growing up. Its been
an honor to be his friend

Dennis Ford

Bobby and Wayne Alexander's Nomination for Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame

By Gordon Morrison

Bud and Maude Alexander were growing their family of three boys at the north edge of Council Grove, Kansas in the 1920's and 1930's. They were ranch people who handled thousands of cattle who were coming into the state to graze the lush pastures of the Flint Hills.

Their three sons were Bobby, Wayne and Jim. Bob and Wayne's interest and love was working with cattle and horses while young Jim's interest was in flying, buying and selling Piper Cub airplanes.

Growing up on the Alexander ranch, their corrals were always full of cattle going or coming so the Bobby and Wayne and their friends spent much time working cattle. Their interest naturally evolved into rodeo and soon Bobby and Wayne were making a name for themselves in the rodeo world.

Wayne's attitude was to catch the calf quickly, throw him and win the fast rodeo money. When he did catch, he would win but he often missed and came up empty handed. Bobby on the other hand, often caught his calf but his time was slow. They both competed often at the area rodeos.

I believe Bobby still lives northeast of Council Grove on old Highway 4, running a herd of cows and calves. Wayne on the other hand isn't very well and spends his time in a nursing home in Council Grove.

They both have made an impact in the rodeo world and in handling thousands of cattle coming into Kansas to graze the Flint Hills. Their vocation has been to receive the cattle, put them out on grass and then care for them for the owners. They checked the cattle, doctored them when necessary, counted them and then gathered them when the grazing season was over and shipped them out.

These two fine family men are most worthy of being Kansas Cowboy Hall of Famers. They have spent hours daily in the saddle, working with cattle.

K's Cowboy Hall of Fame

RE Robert Harry 'Bobbie' Alexander
Richard Wayne 'Wayne' Alexander

I have know Bobbie + Wayne all of my life
I have ridden with Bobbie. Bobbie has
looked after cattle for other people most of
his working life. Thousands of cattle on
Thousands of acres of grass. He has worked
very hard to take good care of the cattle
trusted to him & to keep the owner happy.
Bobbie was a great tie down calf ropers & went
to lead ropers & shodas, he played to win, he used this
skill in looking after the cattle in his care.
Bobbie cared a great deal about his family & took
good care of them.

Bobbie was riding pasture before pickup & horse trailer
he left home on a horse before light & got home after dark.
Bobbie was a good neighbor & expected them to be
the same. He would help anybody who needed help on
day labor.

When I lost my father Bobbie became a 2nd
father to me

Wayne Alexander grew up on a horse, but left the ranch to go into the work place. He did a lot of horse buying & trading. He also spent as much time as he could in the pasture. He tried to always keep horses.

Both men need to be in the K's Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Ben King

2010 CHAUTAUGUA

COUNCIL GROUP Ks 66846

620-767-5944

CEL 785-806-8060

Dad, O.E. "Bud" Alexander, and mother Maude raised us boys during the Depression in the 1920's and 1930's on the farmstead just north of Council Grove that is still in the family today. In high school Bob and Wayne played trumpet and trombone in the band. A trip to the barn would find the horses and mules in the corral, all staring through the west fence bars toward the house, with ears perked, a rapt audience as horn practice commenced in the upstairs rooms of the house. Almost before we could walk, all of us boys were taught starting out how to sit a horse so that we could help with the additional family business of working and shipping cattle. Bob served in the National Guard and Wayne in the Air Corp, but both before and after the war, they loved competing in little saddle club rodeos (much like a city boy's pick up baseball game, but with a lot more grit.) Sunday mornings were for church-going, especially in Maude Alexander's house. Then after Sunday dinner, Bud and Maude would load up in the old Ford, and off down the driveway they went to see neighbors. Almost before they were around the bend, Bob and Wayne, Louie Peterson, Bake Blosser, the Kirkemindes and lots of other local boys would hit the pens south of the barn. Bud had the chutes set up for working cattle - vaccinating and branding, particularly. These were near to perfect for a bunch of boys who were hungry for steer riding, calf roping, and once, even trying to ride an unbroken mule. The mule won, upon dumping his rider in the horse tank. I was just a kid, too young and inexperienced for such shenanigans, so most of my involvement was manning my perch in the dusty hay mow above all the fray. Best seat in the house. From that loft I'd watch these Sunday afternoon cowboys pull any animal they could get their hands on that didn't know anything at all about a bridle and bit into the corral. The holding pen fed into the chutes, which Dad had made out of hedge posts. The Sunday cowboys would load the steer (sometimes a bull if they thought he wouldn't kill 'em), work the cinch rope around him, mount up and open the gate. Off they'd go, with that huge animal bucking the minute he saw daylight. It was just pure, Sunday afternoon cowboy rodeo fun. Of course, dry spells in the flint hills meant hard landings. Jim Kirkeminde had a stellar career as an auctioneer. Jim come out one Sunday for the goin's on. They put him on a steer that promptly bucked him off onto a good size rock. That was enough for Jim, which was a good thing for the auction world. Interesting that everyone thought they were all foolin' Bud and Maude with these secret capers, but come to find out later on that the folks were wise to 'em. Not much was said unless someone got boogered up OR they found out someone was riding the milk cow. THAT was trouble. 'Course everybody was gone home by the time milking came around in the evening and I had to go back to the house with an empty milk bucket. Come Mondays, Bob, Wayne and the rest of the local boys had to go back to serious work, either moving cattle from rail yards to the pastures or, in the fall, back from pastures and the summer grasses to the railroads bound for markets in Omaha, Chicago, Kansas City. There was also always hunting down strays - not just ours, but any neighbors. The ability to ride a horse, herd, rope, doctor sick cattle - all of it was integral to the way of life that dominated the countryside around Council Grove. The war years changed many, many things. Wayne was an Air Corp pilot during the war. Upon discharge from the Corp in Denver, Wayne brought home the finest piece of horse flesh I think I've ever seen. Beautiful quarter horse stud called Dynamite. I have experienced acceleration from 700 horse power airplanes that would set you back in your seat. But I have yet to ever experience a more exhilarating ride than mounted on that horse bareback, hanging on to a hank of mane for dear life, as Dynamite flew across the full length of the top of that pasture hill. Growing up with brothers Bob and Wayne during those depression years on the farm ranch gave us the assurance of having something to eat, a horse to ride, and the opportunity to grow up guided by the values learned during those formative years. We were blessed.

Jim Alexander

Old Homestead Ranch
Council Grove, KS
John D. Cosgrove David M. Cosgrove

May 20, 2014

To the Selection Committee for the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame;

We would like to endorse Wayne Alexander and Robert "Bobby" Alexander for consideration into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame. Our farming headquarters is located directly to the north of the pastureland where the Alexander brothers have much of their livestock. Throughout the years they have helped us whenever our cattle strayed into their pastures. Both men are outstanding neighbors and examples of great cowboys; they are excellent horsemen. We feel they have always run their ranch with a passion for their work!

Thank you for considering Wayne Alexander and Robert "Bobby" Alexander for the honor!

John Cosgrove
Dave Cosgrove

I'm writing this letter of recommendation for Robert Alexander for induction into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame. As a youth, I spent my summers with him taking care of grass cattle, riding horses, putting up hay for the horses and his cows; and roping calves in the evening. I fell love with the cowboy life because of him and ended up moving back to the Flint Hills of Kansas so I could follow in his footsteps. Because of the influence my Grandpa had on my life, I'm back in the Flint Hills. I've worked on feedlots and ranches around the Flint Hills area and have succeeded because of what he taught me. I am lucky to have taken over 1,500 acres of grass, which is a small portion of what he had taken care of for the last 60+ years, to help carry on the tradition. Some of my best moments are talking with him about rodeos that he competed in and hearing stories of gathering cattle. My oldest son also has a love for agriculture and is currently pursuing an agricultural degree. He built a strong foundation of cowboy traditions that continues to influence me and my family today.

Jimmy Lerner
Council Grove

I helped the Alexanders check cattle
on grass. Doctor foot rot & in the
fall at end of grass season I helped
ship them.

D. J. Matile
Elmdale KS

May 14th, 20014

Every kid dreams of being a cowboy. I was no different, until I went to my first "horse wreck". When I was a kid my old dad was into horses big time. At one time we had 5. Having that many, dad needed "guidance", help with training, shoeing, and anything else a "want to be" horse owner needed to know. Bobby and Wayne Alexander were the "go to" boys. While I remember little of those days as far as what went on, I remember one thing, the Alexander brothers were always grinning. If they had a bad day, you never knew it. Horses were never my thing, but the friendship my dad forged with Wayne and Bobby endures to this day. Whenever I meet them they always know me by name. While I took a different path as far as horses are concerned, the Alexander brothers never questioned my friendship. The term, "my heroes have always been cowboys" was coined for the way I feel about Bobby and Wayne Alexander.

C.B. Smith
Council Grove, Kansas

The Alexander Brothers Champion Cowboys In The Flint Hills And Every Rodeo Arena

Biggest smiles and best ropers are the way everybody thinks of the Alexander boys at Council Grove.

Actually, it's probably a flip whether big brother Bob or little brother Wayne are first reflected for never missing with their lariat or always knowing whoever they meet with a giant grin and congenial conversation soon leading to cattle and horses.

They're cowboys. Always have been; it's in their genes. Their dad, O.E. Bud Alexander was a cowboy, put his sons horseback before they could walk, and that's all they've ever been.

Well, actually a whole lot more, and though their cowboy lives have had slightly different trails at certain points, they've always excelled in the given field: cowboy. That's been in the pasture where they looked after cattle for their entire lifetimes for many miles around, and in the rodeo arenas throughout the country.

Somebody said, and then another in the before light cowboy coffee crowd agreed, and then another and another: "If a critter needed to be roped, the Alexander brothers were sure the best ones to call."

Then, still another cowboy in the neighboring booth piped in, "If you ever wanted a team roping partner, that wouldn't miss on either end, just ask one of the Alexander boys. But, then you'd best not miss, because if you do, they won't say anything, but they like to win and have the record to show they can."

"Yeh, you'd better get one of them to be your partner though, or they'll team up together and take it all themselves," inserted a fellow in overalls on a stool at the counter, as several impatient Quarter Horses stomped in the half-dozen stock trailers outside, knowing there was still lots of cattle pasture work to do before their day's work was done.

As if the conversation might seem like it's getting a bit deep, still another from the third booth across the room toted: "If you don't want to mug a wild cow, don't get those Alexander brothers to be your header. They don't miss, and they expect you to get that cow mugged the second they get her dallied. It might not look like it, but they can sure run that milk bottle, and have won more wild cow milking's than anybody in the state."

As if it couldn't seem to get any deeper, one plumb in booth spouted: "Well the ranch rodeo teams those Alexanders were on always took the prizes, too."

While honest consensus is the same of anybody who's been around Bob and Wayne, the always-outgoing cowboys themselves are still quite humble when it comes to talking about their feats with a rope.

"I've never done too much, but I've been lucky. I always had a good time, met a lot of great people. I've sure enjoyed it," said Bob, now 93, but still generally referred to as Bobby.

"I've had a lot of good horses, did win some, but I've missed a fair share and lost when it seemed like a cinch to take home the pot. It's been a lot of fun, truly been a great life," added, Wayne, now 90, younger brother, although not really littler, comparatively.

Though horses, cattle and the cowboy life are what they're best widely known, family is truly first of importance.

"We were lucky that Dad was a cowboy and gave us the opportunity to follow in his line of work," Bob said.

"Lucky, that Mom put up with it all, too, and that our little brother Jimmy liked airplanes better than roping, or he'd probably have been the one beating us. He could rope, but he liked airplanes. That may have given Mom some relief," Wayne asserted.

Well, the best way to tell the most accurate Alexander cowboy brothers' story is to let them tell it the way it really was.

"Dad would leave home on horseback at 3 (o'clock) in the morning and not be back until after dark," Bob remembered. "He looked after 10,000 acres south of town on the county line, now the Mashed O Ranch."

The next day, Bud Alexander would go the opposite directions from his ranch headquarters still there right behind the reservoir dam at the north edge of Council Grove, where his great grandson, aptly named Bobby, lives now.

In the northern Morris County pasture were more of the 3,500-plus cattle Bud custom grazed every summer for itinerant owners.

Obviously, the Alexander boys came by their profession naturally. They grew up on horses, and long before teenage years were called into helping with the dad's vast cattle operations, and it didn't take a second ask for them to go along. They admitted begging to help all of the time.

"Those old steers would come in on trains from Texas, and we'd have to help drive them to the Flint Hills pastures over a wild area," Bob recalled.

A mixed menagerie of Herefords, crossbreds, typically with Longhorn and quite apparent Brahman influence, mostly with rugged horns that had been tipped, the steers were all for full season grazing from late April to October, Wayne continued.

"Those steers would be two or three-years-old, weighing around 400 pounds. They were nothing but running gears when we turned 'em out, yet those big ole steers really put on the pounds when we opened the gates to that lush Flint Hills grass," Bob insisted.

"By the end of July, some of 'em would be weighing 800 pounds, and we'd have to start gathering them to load back on trains for shipment to packing plants in Kansas City," Wayne related. "We had to check pastures every few days, so you can see, we rode our horses a lot, and that made them better all of the time."

There weren't any trucks to haul horses or cattle in those days, nearly eight decades, that's 80 years, ago. "When we went somewhere we rode horseback, and we would have to start out early to get there preferably before the sun was peeking through out of the East," Bob inserted.

Our horses were really broke in those days, because we'd ride them all day, every day for weeks at a time," Wayne added. "A horse has to be ridden to know anything. It's a long process. Wet saddle blankets made good horses, and I've had some good ones, but it took lots of time."

One particular group of cattle sticks out in Bob's memory from 193, thereabouts. "We got in 300 bulls to graze. All kinds and ages, everything anybody could imagine was in that bunch of old bulls. They were a real chore even for us then, when we thought we really were cowboys and could do about anything," he said.

"We had good horses, but it was a real challenge before we got those bulls loaded back on the train," Bob added.

It was about that time, when a truck was purchased for the operation. "Dad finally got a Model B Ford pickup, and we used it to cake those bulls on pasture. They didn't know what to think of that for a while, and those bulls really didn't either. It took some time for us all to get used to it," Wayne claimed.

The cowboy brothers recollected with their even broader smiles about the yearling and two-year-old mules their dad would get each winter to break and sell the next year. "We'd always try to ride them, and we had some pretty exciting times. Even some fun Dad fortunately didn't know about, or we didn't think he did," Wayne admitted.

For several years, Clyde Miller's Wild West Shows from Iowa wintered some of their stock at the Alexander ranch. "One year, one of those Brahma bulls charged one of our horses, and hooked him right in the side. We're just lucky that horse wasn't killed," Bob remembered.

There was never a shortage of work to be done doctoring the large number of cattle looked after by the family, so Dad and the boys got a lot of practice with their lariats. It was work, but it was fun too, and they all seemingly got rodeo in their blood.

"Even our little brother Jimmy knew how to ride and could get a lot of work done with the cattle, but he didn't have it in his heart as much as we did. Jimmy got interested in airplanes, pursued that as a career, was very successful and received several honors. Jimmy was probably the smartest one of the bunch, could have even better than being a cowboy," Wayne evaluated.

An old rodeo program shared by Bob indicated that their dad, Bud, competed in a rodeo on September 8-9, 1923, at the small community of Comiskey on the Lyon-Morris County line.

"Dad was entered in the steer roping, and placed second. It was actually tie-down steer roping back then. They didn't have tie-down calf roping in the early rodeos," Bob commented.

One of the first competitions Bob can recall entering personally was a goat roping at the annual Fairmont Creamery celebration. "I don't know how, but I got lucky and won that roping," he remarked, obviously the start of a successful arena career matching that of professional cowboy cattle business endeavors.

When the Alexander brothers, Bob and Wayne, became adults, they started roping at rodeos throughout the area.

"I remember going to the rodeo in Wilbur Countryman's pasture near Cassoday, and the Picolet boys had a rodeo in their pasture, northwest of Council Grove, with cars just set up for a fence," Bob reflected.

Following in his dad's boot steps, Bob started looking after summer pasture cattle over a wide area. "I had up to 3,200 head on grass at one point, but I soon found out that 2,100 to 2,200 head worked out better all around," he calculated.

Wayne served in the Air Force, and then was a steel worker headquartered at Topeka for 28 years, sometimes following the employment to other states, including Colorado and California.

"I had Brahman calves for practice and roped just about every evening after work and went to rodeos on weekends," Wayne related.

Bob contended: "Wayne really went to a lot more rodeos and did win a lot more than I did."

Although it's not that well known, the cowboy brothers did occasionally ride bucking steers, and cows, in early day competition, although it was mostly in the corral at home where they never shied away from an outlaw bucking horse, or broncy mule, for that matter.

Both Bob and Wayne served as pickup men for bronc riders at a few amateur rodeos. They were called on to judge rodeos, including more modern day ranch rodeos, over a wide part of the state.

Amateur rodeo competitions throughout the Midwest were on their schedules at the height of their rodeo days, with Wayne competing in many rodeos in Colorado, and other western states, sometimes entering Rodeo Cowboys Association (professional) sanctioned events.

Cassoday on the Fourth of July and Eskridge on Labor Day stick out as two of the Alexander Brothers' favorite rodeos. They both claimed roping titles at both of those rodeos for a number of years, sometimes beating each other out by just a few seconds.

"I always had a good time at the Cassoday and Eskridge rodeos. There were so much fun, because most of the contestants were ranchers and pasture cowboys just like we were. I really enjoyed them," Bob insisted.

Following in big brother's boots steps again, Wayne also was named the all-around cowboy at Eskridge and other rodeos. Although Bob was known to bulldog a few in his younger days, Wayne regularly and successfully included steer wrestling in his competition repertoire.

"I liked to get in the bulldogging, too. I didn't win as much dogging steers as roping, but it was good to have another event to enter when you hauled so many miles. I had a couple of good bulldogging teams over the years," Wayne qualified.

"I really craved that roping," Wayne added emphatically.

One newspaper clipping from September, 1970, reported: "The 18th annual Eskridge Labor Day Rodeo fans were delighted to have Wayne Alexander win the All-Around Cowboy trophy

this year. Now in his late forties, Wayne has been a steady contender in each event he enters. He made a good score and earned each point.”

The article verified that Wayne was first in team roping with Jon McCormick of Topeka as his partner, and third in calf roping. Bob was second in the wild cow milking with Bake Blosser of Perry, as his partner.

Another Eskridge weekly newspaper story from 1960 recounted that Bob Alexander was first in the ribbon roping event at that year’s Labor Day Rodeo.

Reiterating, calf roping was still their main and favorite event, they both also collected their share of payback checks in team roping, steer tripping and wild cow milking. “That wild cow milking would get pretty wild sometimes,” Bob smiled as he remembered when Blosser, again as his mugger, got pretty boogered up at the Cassoday rodeo.

“I roped that renegade cow, and Bake latched both arms around her head, fingers in her nostrils, and she put her head down on the ground and headed across that pasture arena, with Bake’s left hand between the cow’s nose and the rocky sod. Bake couldn’t get her head up, but I finally ran along her side, got some milk in the bottle, and ran back across the finish line so we placed.

“Afterwards, Bake’s hand and wrist were completely raw. He uttered a few choice words, as he took a good slug from the (liquor) bottle and poured more out on the raw wound,” continued Bob, grinning wider.

Actually, there are way too many good, actually-true cowboy stories that need to be told by the Alexander brothers, but there’s not enough paper to do it here and now.

Suffice to say, the Alexander brothers usually left with a paycheck when they competed in a rodeo or jackpot event.

The Alexander brothers always trained their own horses, and many of them were the ones they raised. “I had to ride what I had, because I couldn’t afford to go out and buy one. Anyway, I had to have my horse trained so he’d work a rope, or I couldn’t get my real job done in the pasture, so I could afford to go to another rodeo on the next weekend. It all required a horse that could work cattle and a rope,” Bob defended.

“For many years, I also bought, trained and sold a lot of rope horses, and all around horses. I was in the race horse business and kept horses on the track for a number of years, too. I haven’t ever figured out how profitable that part of it ended up in the long run, but it was sure a lot of fun, as well,” Wayne said.

Daughter Nancy Alexander Sharp reflected: “Dad had several race horses that did well, and his most outstanding was Aparado, who won a number of races. Dad’s level of excitement would go through the roof when his horse got close to the finish line, but then whose wouldn’t.

“Those were exiting days for Dad, and he loved everything about the racing industry. With his rodeo days being in the number one spot and most exciting, his racing days would have to come in as a strong second place winner,” Nancy added.

Besides looking after cattle for itinerant owners on leased pastures, day work helping other cattlemen doctor and gather cattle was always a big part of all of the Alexander family.

“Dad continued helping with cattle on horseback many years after most men would have retired,” Bob related. “Dad did have a truck and trailer loaded with his horse just about every day, certainly April through October, and even a lot of times during the winter, too .

“He didn’t have to get up as early as he did 50 years earlier to ride 20 miles to a pasture, but Dad was still up before anybody else and ready to go before sunrise,” Bob’s eyes shined as he talked about his true hero-mentor, his dad.

“My sons and daughters all rode horses growing up, and my oldest son, Tom, still has cattle operations, looks after the home place and was a top hand with a rope at a stage in his life,” Bob credited.

"I helped do a lot of cattle work horseback when I was growing up, went to lots of rodeos all around, did some competition roping. Dad always worked hard and wanted to win, but he'd never let on much. He'd usually win or place at about every rodeo, but he'd just say, 'I guess I got lucky.' Dad has always been my hero," said son Tom, adding "Mom was always a strong supporter of his rodeo competitions. I never heard her complain or for them to ever have an argument."

While all of Wayne's family had an admiration for horses and ranch life, his son, Rick, worked as a trainer at Remington Park in Oklahoma City for several years. Especially close to Wayne's sentimentally, the horse genes have gone a step further as his grandson, Corey Reynolds, is in the race horse business with his family, too.

In addition to being a cowboy, Bob had a limited farming operation. "I didn't mind hay, but I always preferred cattle over farm work, and kept a stock cow herd," he qualified.

"After Dad retired as a steel worker, he raised black Angus cattle, which he loved. He had several customers from Council Grove to Topeka who loved his beef. Some of the guys in Topeka could hardly wait for that wonderful meat from Wayne Alexander. Dad fed his cattle corn and molasses, and the product was amazing. His steaks were the best," Nancy insisted.

Competing long after most of those other rodeo cowboys they'd beat, and some who'd infrequently beat them, the Alexander cowboy brothers entered and won in roping events at Old Timers Rodeos throughout the country.

Bob won a number of over-60 tie down roping competitions and was leading the world standings one year, but couldn't go to a run of rodeos during shipping season, and dropped down slightly in the standings. "You have to take care of business at home, or all of this rodeo fun won't ever be possible," he evaluated.

However, Bob does have fondest memories of qualifying and competing in calf roping and team roping at the National Finals Old Timers Rodeo in 1985 at Las Vegas, Nevada. "That had to be the most exciting rodeo I've entered. I didn't win it, but they knew this Flint Hills cowboy was there," Bob said.

Family and friends are still the most important to Bob and Wayne, even though cowboys, horses, ropes and rodeos seem foremost in their conversations.

Wherever his steel worker profession led Wayne and his family, he had his horse and was in the arena there roping, including with the world champion team roping Camarillo brothers and family in California.

Additional most recognizable names acquainted with Bob and Wayne include, of course, Clyde Miller, E.C., Ken, Gerald and Marge Roberts, Louis Brooks, Slim Pickens, Clarke McIntire, Floyd, Bronc and Tommy Rumford, John and Dale Jacobson, Jerry Taylor and Max Stowell, to name a few.

Plus, there are hundreds more local cowboys but often still nationally recognized some which are Dusty Anderson, Wilbur Countryman, Andy Olson, Slim Pickering, Bill Ebbutt, Bob Widau, Eddie Van Petten, Wendell Tranter, Gibb Franks, Charlie Blosser, Jon McCormick, Ralph Bowman, Cheese Marten, Jim, Kenneth and Marshall Hoy, Jack Chase, Ike Grosse, Byron Moore, Norman Hamm, Ralph and Clyde Scott, Roy Frey, Dan Matile, Eldon Pugh, Bill Martin, Ted Wilkerson, Kenny Muller, Jack Gieswein, and the list goes on and on and on.

Whatever the cowboy crowd, the Alexander cowboy brothers were recognized and common knowledge was they'd likely have a piece of the pie when the day was done, although still likely to share it with a grin if asked.

Pastures that Bob had for custom grazing have now been turned over to a younger generation, some to his grandson Jimmy Lerner and his sons, Bob's great grandsons. "I looked after cattle for Webster & Son of San Angelo, Texas, for more than 40 years. I'm kinda proud of that," Bob did admit.

Cowboys don't get rich, the Alexander brothers agreed. "It will have to be for the love of the lifestyle, rather than the money for young men to want to be cowboys," Bob contended unequivocally.

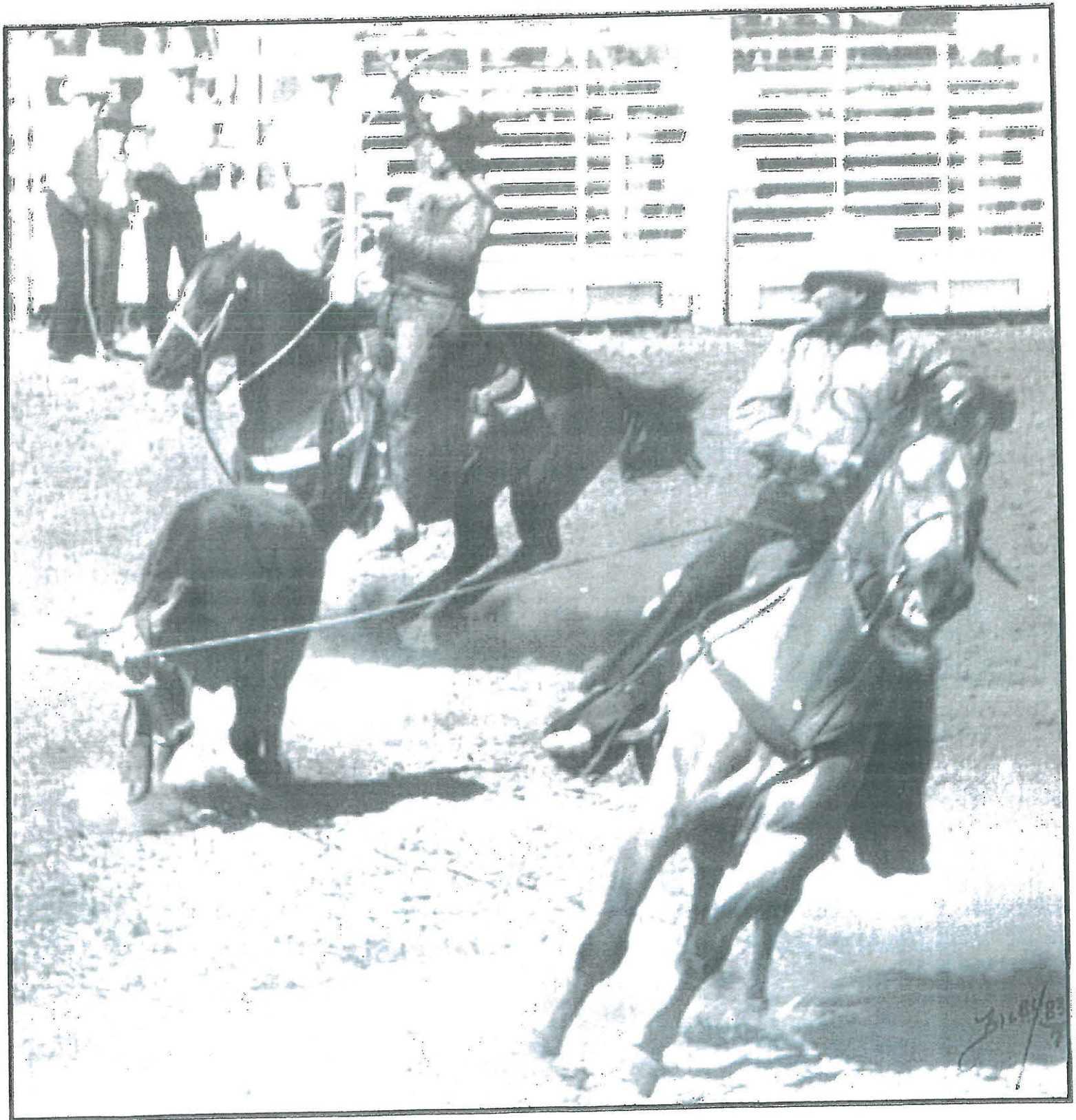
Age has taken its toll on the Alexander cowboy brothers who are confined to a care home now. But, there's no doubt they're cowboys by their everyday apparel boots, jeans, western cut shirts and sometimes even their hats, too.

Certainly their days brighten and a sparkle glistens in their eyes when mention of the Alexander brothers' lives as cowboys comes into the conversation reflecting horses, roundups, rodeos and the life they've lived professionally and truly a bit romantically as well, as if it was yesterday.

A cowboy always a cowboy, and the Alexander brothers are real cowboys.



In a more serious moment, Bob and Wayne Alexander talked about the dry conditions.



The TEAM to be reckoned: Bob heads for Wayne at an Old Timers Rodeo in Hyannis, Neb