

Cowboy keeps competing; winner at All-Aggie Rodeo

By LIZ BAILEY

No discussion about old rodeo Aggies is complete unless it mentions Fred Dalby.

Dalby was in Snook, Texas, during October to compete in the All-Aggie Rodeo. That isn't very unique in itself because there were many Aggies competing. What is unique is that he is an Aggie from the class of 1943 and is 62 years old.

This year, all Aggies that have graduated and were members of the Rodeo Club and those now enrolled were invited to participate in the rodeo.

Rodeoing is not a hobby that Dalby took up to pass the time during old age. He's been at it quite a while. He was a member of the first rodeo team Texas A&M University ever had. Four Aggies, including Dalby, went to a big college rodeo in Arizona in 1943. "We had two riders and two ropers that went out there. The two riders rode and because the two ropers didn't take any horses, they borrowed some to use in the roping contests.

"We done pretty good. We lacked five points winning the show."

Dalby said he thought they could have won instead of placing second if they had been able to rope off of horses whose habits they knew. As it was, Dalby won the cow milking contest and came in third in calf roping.

That wasn't the first time he ever went to a rodeo. While he was a student at A&M, he was the All Around Champion at the All-Aggie Rodeo in both 1940 and 1942. Then the rodeo was put on by the Saddle and Sirloin Club instead of the

Rodeo Club in those days, he said.

Since then, he has continued to compete in rodeos. He competes almost exclusively in the tiedown calf roping. Occasionally, he heads and heels, but not much because, "It's too late in the day to lose my fingers in the dallying," he said.

His expertise in roping has won numerous awards. So far, he has won eight saddles. He won the first one at a rodeo in 1950 at Furr, Texas, in calf roping. He said he is proudest of the saddle he won in 1955 in the "Old Man's Calf Roping at the Texas Cowboy Rodeo."

His roping ability is apparently known far and wide. In 1976, it earned him a trip to Washington D.C. He was invited to put on a roping demonstration at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. He said he didn't have any idea how he was chosen.

He said he tie-down roped in a pen that was "kind of small." Many people who stopped to watch had never seen calves roped before and wanted to "take pictures of their kids holding the rope."

At Aspermont, the West Texas town where he was born and now owns a ranch, he gives many youths a chance to do much more with a rope than just hold it.

For many years, so many that he doesn't know just how many, Dalby has hosted a roping school for youths every summer at his ranch. The youths usually come from all over the area. Because of problems getting gasoline last summer, all of the students who participated in the school lived in the immediate vicinity of Aspermont. Since he started the school he has taught about 15

students every summer.

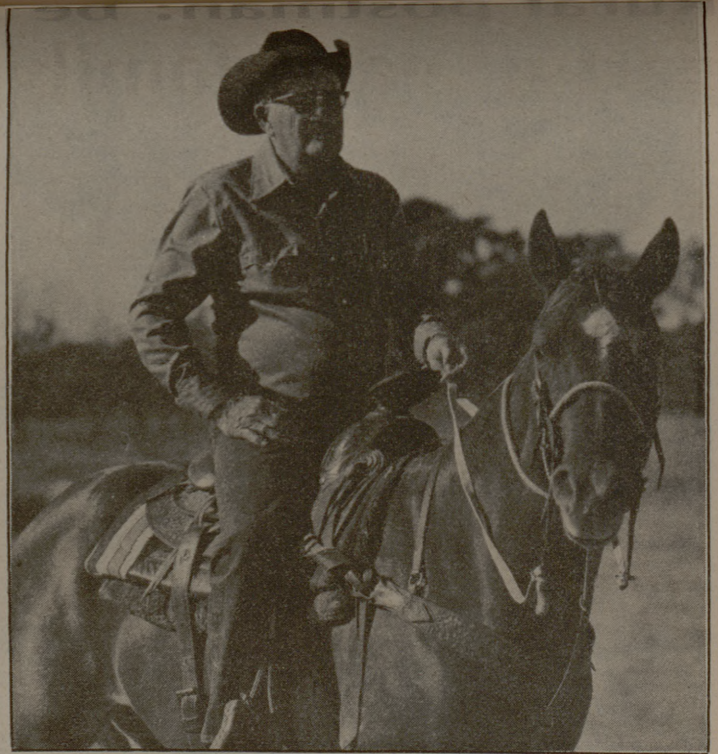
"From ones that have never picked up a rope, to more accomplished, ones," he remarked.

He teaches youths to rope because he likes to, not to make money. "We charge 'em a little. So much a day. Not no big amount like a lot of these places now," he explained.

One thing he really enjoys is teaching children whose parents he taught when they were young. Besides his roping school, he is involved with youth in 4-H activities. He has been a leader of the Stone-wall County 4-H Club for so long he can't remember when he started, but he puts it somewhere around 20 years.

Even though he is 62 years old and is older than "most who rodeo," he isn't ready to retire to a rocking chair yet. He doesn't rodeo as much as he used to, but, "I make a few old timer's rodeos," he said.

At the All-Aggie Rodeo, he entered what was called the Old Timer's Calf Roping. Instead of a roping contest, it could have been called the "Learn-All-About-Roping-in-One-Easy-Lesson-From-Fred-Dalby" event because he put on a roping demonstration good enough to win the event.



Former student Fred Dalby sits on his favorite horse Punkin' and reminisces of his college rodeo days at Texas A&M. At age 62, Dalby gave some of the students a run for their money in competition at the All-Aggie Rodeo.

New human milk bank research opening doors

By SHERIE KELLER

A premature baby has been born to a mother who cannot produce her own milk. The baby needs human milk to receive colostrum, a substance in the milk which prevents intestinal diseases.

The only place the baby could receive human milk, other than its own mother, would be if another woman was willing to give up some of her milk for this child, said Dr. Charles W. Dill, professor of dairy science at Texas A&M.

Finding a substitute mother is difficult even in large city hospitals and there is no other place to get the human milk, he said.

Now, however, a team of resea-

chers at Texas A&M University is looking into the possibilities of starting human milk banks in the United States which would make human milk available to premature babies whose mothers cannot produce milk.

The research is based on evidence that premature babies need human milk during the early months of their lives to receive colostrum which prevents intestinal diseases, said Dill, one of the team researchers.

Premature babies, born before the normal nine-month gestation period for humans, have no colostrum in their bodies, he said.

Human milk banks would store human milk, colostrum and milk

components in a stable frozen form.

The milk then could be shipped to doctors who would administer it to premature babies after birth so they could receive the colostrum, he said.

This system works similar to the blood bank system that stores and ships blood to hospitals, he added.

The U.S. government requested the research, which is being funded by the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, with sub-contracts going to Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at Galveston and NASA.

Texas A&M's research is concerned with processing the human milk for storage and shipping, Dill said.

The processed human milk is sent to the University of Texas at Galveston where the protein and colostrum levels of the milk are analyzed.

Most of the milk used by Texas A&M research is collected from women in Houston at the Baylor College of Medicine.

These women donors cannot have been taking drugs, such as antibiotics because they are transmitted through the milk to the baby, Dill said.

Since babies are smaller than adults, the effect of the drugs is greater on the infant and a high level of some drugs can be harmful, he added.

Dill said, "Very little research has been done on human milk, while cow's milk has been tested to death. Maybe the reason for such little research is that people consider human milk to be perfect.

"All through man's existence, human milk has been a main food source, sometimes the only food available in the infant years. People, therefore, feel that because of the quality of human milk, man has been able to survive.

"Human milk may be perfect, this we do not know yet. However, we do know there is a definite need to have it available for premature babies so they can receive colostrum to prevent diseases that threaten their health."

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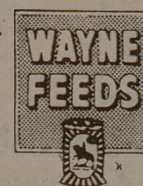
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