

Catch One & Ride It



Pictures by Callie Daniels Photography



By Dennis Cappel

Lying on a blanket across the soft, cool grass were four small boys, dreaming about their lives while gazing into the open sky! In their imaginations these exciting visions were coming to life. In these daydreams they had horses, cattle, trucks and trailers. They were dressed in cowboy boots and wranglers, and all of them in true cowboy style, had nice well shaped hats on their little heads!

The crowd that gathered to watch the events of the day, which they were taking part in, were full of joy as they talked and laughed with each other! There were moms, dads, grandmas and grandpas, as well as neighbors and friends! Some folks meeting for the first time, and some old friends reuniting! As their dreams felt more real, they saw competitors paying their entry fees and preparing their horses, while the staff helped to keep everyone and everything on schedule and in an orderly fashion. The announcer was entertaining the crowd and calling for the first team of competitors. The judges were in place with pencil in hand and a flag ready to drop, right after we all bowed to pray and stood to attention as the flag waved by in the beautiful fall sky! The stock contractor let the steers in and at last the exhilarating ranch rodeo was underway!

All over this country gatherings like this are taking place, so I thought you might find some comfort and perhaps some encouragement to look at these things from a different perspective. The angle that I think some might take for granted is this, every person and every animal in attendance matters.

I believe that each one of us was created as a unique individual and each person's presence makes each one of these gatherings a

special jewel, a jewel with its own impression to be left on those whom were there and on the memories of that time. Despite what our own self talk might be saying to us, the facts are that every person everywhere has a great role to play and your presence is noticed and needed! So, like the little boys that were creating their lives from the beauty of dreams and imagination, you might find a breath of fresh air waiting for you to catch a dream and ride it for all that it's worth.

Dave Stamey sang it best with his inspiring lyrics from his song called, "Song For Jake", if you have the song, give it a listen, or simply read below: Song For Jake by Dave Stamey I am an old cowboy I don't ride much no more I came to this valley right after the war and I used to shoe horses and there's some saddles I built and I've rode after cattle all over these hills Started out at the pitchfork when I was thirteen Riding young horses riding my dreams and them old hands they taught me all it takes is some nerve just throw a leg over and ride what you ride for all that it's worth Some folks regret the lives that they lead they stare out the window they yearn to be free I live the life that was given to me and I threw a leg over and rode it for all it was worth Yes I rode it for all it was worth I was blue eyed and windburned I was every girl's dream Wild steers on the mountain where the butt brush was green and though some days were dark ones when



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that old north wind blew I just gathered my reigns and I rode it through Time comes creeping to wipe out your tracks but if your trail's been a good one you don't mind looking back Dreams are like horses they roam wild on the earth catch one and ride it for all that it's worth Some folks regret the lives they lead they stare out the window how they yearn to be free I live the life that was given to me and I threw a leg over and rode it for all it was worth Yes I rode it for all it was worth I am an old cowboy I don't ride much no more

Keep dreaming, and keep rising into the person and horseman that reaches those dreams, they are attainable, and know that you are valuable to every experience you take part in.

Mindful Riding,
Dennis Cappel - Master Horse Communicator
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