

## House Bill "Horse Tripping" (SB 835)

Our hope would be that you oppose the so-called "horse tripping" bill, but being realistic and after seeing what happened to us on the Senate side, we ask that you at least not pass it without the amendment. During the Senate testimony we heard many untruths and situations that did not apply to us.

First of all, what we do is not "horse tripping"; it is horse roping with a 20 foot loop. It takes extremely skilled ropers to make a qualifying run with that size loop. The horse has to first be roped around the neck and brought under control before the front feet can be roped. Both feet have to be roped so as not to cause injury. Any intentional "tripping" would not only mean immediate disqualification, but the contestant could also be banned from competing at our rodeo for at least three years or maybe more depending on the degree of the infraction. Of the 90 teams that rope, usually less than 10 will make a qualifying run. I have a copy of our rules so you can see that we do everything we can to avoid any stock injury. Any roughing of the stock causes immediate disqualification.

I would like to give you a brief history of our Rodeo and the Big Loop. We have had rodeos in Jordan Valley for a very long time. I have video of a rodeo even before the rodeo grounds were built and pictures of rodeos and horse roping from the late 40's. These rodeos were on an off and on basis, depending on who was willing to put one on. In 1959, to celebrate the Oregon Centennial, the present structure of our rodeo board was established and has produced a rodeo every year since, except for 2011 when we had the horse encephalitis outbreak. Even though this was an economic setback for the community, we canceled due to our concern for horses all gathering in one area.

After the rodeo in 1961 the Rodeo board decided to have an event that would make Jordan Valley Rodeo unique, thus the Big Loop was added in 1962. The "Big Loop" concept came from a few ranchers from Malheur and Harney Counties arguing about which county had the biggest haystacks and swung the biggest loops. The only way they could settle it was to have a "Big Loop" contest. They held this contest for three or four years beginning in 1956 and alternated it between Burns and Vale. Your own Denny Jones and his partner won it the first two years.

It has been the highly skilled rodeo event that has put Jordan Valley on the map and has drawn thousands of spectators through the years from all parts of the United States and other countries. We have been written up in the Western Horseman magazine as well as other publications, so we are quite well known throughout the United States. We have a book on the "History of the Jordan Valley "Big Loop" Rodeo" that has been shipped all over the US and Canada. We would like for you to consider that we have been doing the Big Loop event for fifty years and had tens of thousands of people witness it from all walks of life and have never had complaints about it like we had this year from an edited video. We think it would only be fair for you to witness it in person before you make a judgment.

My other appeal is from the economic side of the issue. I am afraid that without the Big Loop Roping we just become "another rodeo".

As Oregon State Representatives, I would hope that you would also be concerned about the economic issues of small towns like Jordan Valley. Not only is the rodeo a boost for the businesses there, but also for volunteer groups, service organizations, schools and churches. A list of groups that I can think of are:

JV Lions Club

JV High School FFA and Booster Club

JV Catholic Church

JV Ambulance Service

JV EMTs

JV Methodist Church

JV Heritage Museum

JV Volunteer Fire Department

JV 4-H Clubs

Malheur County Sherriff's Search and Rescue

Our trade show has become a western "must see" event that benefits several of our local artists as well as many from other parts of the west. Our rodeo brings us together as a community to put on one of the best events in the area.

Since the Big Loop horses are raised and rented from the Duck Valley Indian Reservation; it also affects many Paiute/Shoshoni people who supply horses for the event. Also, does it make any sense to you that anyone would supply horses if they are injured as portrayed by our opposition?

We, as JV Rodeo Board members, do not receive any personal compensation for our time; it is quite the opposite. We do it for our community and we take pride in what we have accomplished over the years. And again, we ask that you at least witness our event in person before you pass judgment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Raburn

For the Jordan Valley Rodeo Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Raburn".