

## Inside Indianapolis

By Ed Sovola

EVEN a dude, when he sees the genuine article, can make no mistakes.

My neck was out a yard when I asked the big man who was crossing the road in front of the Exchange Hotel at the Stockyards if he was a cowboy.

In a mild voice, low and slow, Wiley Elliott said he was a cowboy. A real cowboy?

"I've been punching cows all my life," said Wiley. "That long enough? What can I do for you?"

It's best to be honest under certain conditions. Especially if the conditions are the size of Wiley. "I saw you and immediately decided you were the real stuff. Never talked to a cowboy and thought it would be interesting."

"Start talking," said the cowboy.

## Suggested a Cup of Coffee

INSTEAD of talking I began to shake. The man with hands the size of boxing gloves gave his belt a pull. Something was going wrong with the interview. A suggestion that a cup of coffee would hit the spot went over well.

By the time the coffee arrived in the dining room of the hotel, Wiley, answering only what was asked, told me he was 43 years old, 6 feet, 3 inches tall in his socks, weighed 190 pounds and has been punching cattle ever since he could remember. At the present time he was in the city getting ready for the rodeo at the Carey Ranch, 9000 S. Meridian St., Sunday.

The coffee tasted fine. Wiley refused a cigarette saying he never smoked before he'd had his morning coffee. He threw a pack and a box of matches in the middle of the table.

In his actions the guy reminded me of Gary Cooper at his shy best. It's a wonder he didn't tell me to shove off or whatever they say in the West. Imagine someone coming to you before you've had your morning coffee and asking that you talk about yourself for an hour or two.

About nine months out of a year, Wiley travels the rodeo circuit. He's been performing in rodeos all over the country for 25 years, he said. Madison Square Garden?

Wiley leaned forward over his coffee and the front legs of the chair hit the floor. He informed me son, people think a man has really been some place when they find out he's been in the Garden. Wrong.

A man does just the same in the Garden as he does anywhere else. They'll beat you up there as quick as here." That brought up the question of injuries.

Over the years Wiley thinks he has been lucky. Once he got a finger tangled in a rope and suddenly the digit was gone. Outside of the usual bruises that was all he had happen to him in the ring. His mouth broke into a growing smile. I waited.

"Broke my leg and spent a day in the hospital," began Wiley. "Broke it as I got off my horse. Landed wrong and broke it."

Riding bulls, in Wiley's opinion, is the most dangerous work in a rodeo. He didn't hesitate to say that because in his quarter century of



Cowpokes . . . During his 25 seasons of rodeo work, Wiley Elliott has been lucky in the arena although once he broke his leg getting off his horse.

rodeo work, he has competed in every event in the books.

"A man might complete a ride and get gored trying to get out of the arena," Wiley said, leaning back in his chair. "You never know what a bull will do."

A cowboy enters a rodeo with no guarantee of anything. He pays his own expenses to and from a town. On some occasions relatives pay.

"Whatever you win is your pay," explained Wiley. "If you don't win you've had a big time."

Does he get nervous before entering the arena at a fast clip on a bucking bronco or a heaving bull? Wiley said, and he's the kind of a man you believe, that he has taught himself control. Competing in a rodeo is not the thing for a nervous man to do.

"I'm not any more nervous when I come out of a chute than you are sitting in that chair," he added.

## Some Get Patched Up, Try Again

ELABORATING a little, Wiley said he has seen a lot of boys break their necks by being nervous. Of course, some get patched up and try and try until they get over being nervous.

After Sunday's effort, Wiley plans on taking in a couple more rodeos and then head back to his regular job of punching cattle and breaking horses.

How many more seasons in the rodeo business? Wiley said he didn't know. A man never knows. He just keeps riding and hoping.

## Robbers Flee Under Fire After Confectionery Holdup

Police Question Eight Others in Two Burglaries During Night

A confectionery operator fired three times at two fleeing holdup men early today, and detectives were questioning eight suspects in two other burglaries during the night.

John Cioroann, 57, of 5116 W. Morris St., told police he fired three shots at two men who came into his candy store at 941 Indiana Ave. shortly after midnight and robbed him of \$40.

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