

Red Tape Makes GIs See Red

FRANKFURT, Germany (UPI) —The American GI's biggest gripe used to be KP — "kitchen police." But in today's modern nuclear Army, it's often the paper work and red tape that has the troops climbing up the proverbial walls.

There's an old saying, "An Army couldn't travel an inch without a mile of paperwork," and not many American soldiers in Europe would quarrel much with that.

If a GI in Germany tries to

register his car, wants to get married, applies for a security clearance or requests a transfer out of his unit, he runs up against a storm of bureaucratic red tape.

The Army is so efficient, it even has forms to requisition forms!

At the U.S. Army in Europe's (USAREUR's) massive printing plant just outside Frankfurt, they turn out 100 tons of printed forms every month—twice as much weight as an M60 tank or enough to

reach around the world more than three times if laid end to end.

A GI in Germany will soon need a briefcase to carry all the cards he has been issued.

LOADED WALLET

Take for example SP.5 James McWhinney, a supply sergeant stationed at Fulda, Germany. He has to carry the following in his wallet at all times:

A weapon card, meal card, social security card, Soviet vehicle recognition card, POV

(privately owned vehicle) license, military license, Code of Conduct card, Class A pass, Geneva Convention card, ration card, Soviet military liaison mission card, Status of Forces card and a re-enlistment card which states, "Your Country Needs You."

A GI who loses his wallet is in trouble. He might as well pack his bags for the long trip back home because his enlistment would probably be up by the time he got them all replaced.

Speedy Gonzales Was 'Plum Gentle,' But He Turned Cowboys Inside Out

RAWLINGS, Wyo. (UPI) — Rancher Bill McKee swears up and down that Speedy Gonzales, the most famous Brahma bull ever on the nation's rodeo circuit, was what he calls "plum gentle."

But McKee, who owns a ranch in southern Wyoming near Rawlings and who owned Speedy, says the bull just kind of went crazy in the rodeo arena.

Speedy was nine years old when he had to be destroyed recently after he caught dust pneumonia on the pasture.

At age two, Speedy began a rodeo career that was fantastic by an standard.

A good rodeo bull, according to most cowpokes, is one that can make it through a single season without being ridden the required eight seconds.

In his seven years of rodeoing, Speedy Gonzales was boarded 247 times . . . but only briefly. Nary a cowboy over

the years was able to stay on his pitching, twisting back the required eight seconds.

PART ANGUS

Actually, Speedy wasn't a pure Brahma. He had a little Angus blood in him. This may have had something to do with his unusual arena acrobatics.

Last year, alone, five of the top 15 bull riders in the nation drew Speedy for their rides. They all ended up in the arena dust, including Larry Mahan, a former national champion and one of the best in the business.

Bull riding always is the most popular event in any rodeo, thanks to such performers as Speedy—and the most dangerous.

The bull rider uses a rope looped around the animal's middle. It is held around the bull by the strong grip of one of the cowboy's hands.

This is the only hold he is allowed. The other arm must be free.

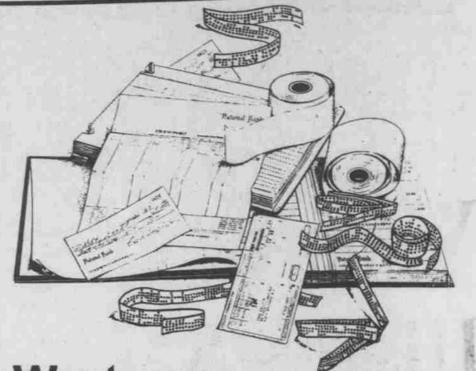
A bull rider's greatest fear is being bucked off away from the riding hand. Sometimes the rope wrapped around his hand doesn't release, and the cowboy is tied to the bull.

The cowboys say a rider in such a predicament looks like "a rag doll tied to a mad dog."

A brave man is unashamedly afraid of the Brahma's horns. The breed usually

throws his head about when bucking in the arena. And if a horn catches a man just right, it can be fatal.

A good share of the nation's best cowboys took their nicks on Speedy.



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