



RULE 1—Owner of at least two head of cattle—entitled to wear boots. **Penalty:** Buy drinks for everybody in yelling distance, then take boots off.



RULE 2—Owner of three head of cattle—can stuff right pants leg in. **Penalty:** Buy drinks for everybody in sight, remove the stuffed-in pants leg.



RULE 3—Owner of four head of cattle—can stuff both pants legs in. **Penalty:** Suspension from wearing boots for two weeks, remove both stuffed-in pants legs.

“...for cattlemen only!”

Way out west where men were men and women had to sigh long and loud to make themselves heard above the belting of the cattle, distinctive wearing apparel was the badge of that leathery breed of men known as cowboys.

The rough and tough cowboys who lived in the rough and tough country were a very practical lot. Everything they used or wore was designed for a specific purpose. Their saddles, their hats, their pants, their chaps, their boots were all made with that thought in mind and these articles have changed little with the passing years.

As the fame of the cowboy spread through the medium of fiction and fact, many came to regard his job as romantic and gay. The cowboy says different. He was a hard-working fellow with very little time for romance and gaiety.

But he was proud of his trade and the tools of his trade. Especially proud was he of his high-heeled boots. No self-respecting cowboy would be caught with a pair of “store-bought” boots — he had his made to order. They were practical — the high heels made for easier gripping of the stirrup while in the saddle, easier to dig into the ground while roping an ornery calf while aloft. High tops protected his ankles from the thorns and underbrush as he rode the range. Pointed toes made it quick finding the stirrup. Stitching the tops held them stiff, prevented buckling at the ankles.

Quick to pick up new fads, others — dudes — began wearing cowboy boots. The legitimate cowboy’s resentment smoldered at this outrageous invasion of his domain. Somewhere along the line someone did something about it.

One group in Madisonville, Texas formed a Sidewalk Cattlemen’s Association with the motto, “Cowboy Boots for Cattlemen Only” and drafted a set of rules for the wearers of the boots. J. C. Roberts, Jr., of Lake Charles, a member of the group, passed the rules on to the NEWS. These are illustrated here by Morris Micelle, who is a cattleman and rightfully entitled to wear boots.

Watch for the different types of cattlemen at the Junior Livestock Show and Rodeo at McNeese, February 24–25–26.

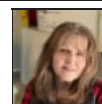


RULE 4—Owner of six head—can wear spurs. **Yippee! Penalty:** Suspension from wearing boots for three weeks, remove spurs.

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