

Raw Post

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CECIL WILLIAMS — sings "They Don't Tell".



THROWING DOWN — Ben Hodges III, his great, great grandfather was a gunfighter. Here he is demonstrating some of the speed and skill his great, great grandfather possessed with the same gun he used.

Black Cowboys Relived

Last Saturday the Nairobi Wranglers came riding into East Palo Alto bringing with them songs, legends and stories of authentic black cowboys, mountain men and gun slingers of the old west.

According to the legends and tales as told by the Nairobi Wranglers blacks were as much a part of all

the glamour of the west as any other group.

Nairobi Wrangler Cecil Williams, in his version of the tale said after the war between the states ended and with the abolition of slavery many of the displaced blacks in the United States at that time drifted to the southwestern states to make a living at

herding the millions of long horn cattle that roamed the plains.

He said blacks quickly developed skill and expertise in cattle herding beyond comparison by most men. According to Williams, sometimes whole trail crews on cattle drives to the railheads were black.

When these crews

reached the railheads and the cattle drives ended in places like Abilene, Tex. and Wichita, Kan. a rodeo would often take place. According to Williams, blacks like Bill Picket, the father of bulldoggin, would often win all the competition.

Through their songs and legends the Wranglers have tried to preserve what contributions blacks made to opening up the west. Many of the songs they sing were written by them based on what they know about black cowboys and mountain men.