

WEBB, HENRY JAMES  
August 8, 1891-February 11, 1916

EX-CHAMPION WEBB DANGEROUSLY HURT BY FALL FROM HORSE

Henry Webb lies in the Wheatland hospital in a very precarious condition as a result of injuries sustained Monday afternoon when a young horse which he was breaking to the saddle fell with him. In falling, Henry struck upon his head, causing a serious brain concussion and paralysis of the entire left side. He was rendered unconscious by the fall, and up to the hour of going to press today, he had not regained consciousness.

The accident occurred at the Muleshoe ranch. Dr. Phifer was immediately summoned and brought the young man to the hospital where he is receiving every possible attention. While the best results are hoped for, it is realized that Henry is in a very serious condition.

Webb's injury is an exact duplicate of that suffered by Oscar Soward last year. He is bruised on the same side of the head, the paralysis is the same and all conditions identical with the young Soward case.

Young Webb is one of the most expert riders in the country, having won the world championship three years ago.

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Henry Webb, who three years ago won the world championship as a rider of bucking horses, has been in an unconscious condition at the Wheatland Hospital since Monday afternoon as result of a concussion of the brain, caused by a bucking horse falling with him at the Mule Shoe ranch. While it is thought probable that he will recover, his condition is very serious.

On Monday afternoon Webb was going to drive some horses in from the pasture and saddled a horse that is a hard buckler, but is a good saddle horse when he'll work. The animal had gone through a series of wild bucking and had apparently quieted down. However, he started in again in making a tremendous effort to dislodge his immovable rider, his feet went out from under him and he fell with great violence upon his side. Webb's foot was caught under the horse and his head came against the ground with great force. He was unconscious when parties reached him and has remained so since that time.

Dr. Phifer was summoned at once by telephone and removed the young man to the hospital, where his condition is watched constantly and everything is being accomplished that science and care can provide. Webb's condition is identical to that of Oscar Soward, who had the same sort of an accident a year ago. Both were injured on the same side of the head and both suffered paralysis of half the body. The many friends of the champion rider, who is a prime favorite at every wild west contest, and widely known, are awaiting the outcome with a great deal of interest and anxiety.

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August 8, 1891-February 11, 1931

Henry James Webb, 1913 world champion rider, conqueror of the worst horses known, unacquainted with fear and one of the greatest busters the great West has produced, is dead. He died as he lived—a horseman, nothing his consummate knowledge and exquisite poise in the saddle against the viciousness of a bad horse. Had the animal merely pitched, Henry Webb would be alive today. But when a mount falls, skill, courage, strength, poise go for naught. When the animal Webb was riding, lost his footing and fell violently on his side, the rider came down with even greater violence, and the light went out. One of the best riders known to the West quit his being.

For four full days, Webb lay unconscious in the Wheatland Hospital, where everything that science and medical skill could accomplish was done for him. His splendid strength and great vitality kept the spark of life in his body, but consciousness failed to return, and finally, added hemorrhage increased the pressure of the blood clot on the nerve centers at the base of the brain, and death came. Sustaining injury on Monday, February 7, Webb's condition remained unchanged until afternoon on Thursday. Up to this time, it was considered possible he might recover, although the damages were known to be heavily against him.

On Thursday afternoon, the heart action began to grow weaker, and finally became a mere flutter, the breathing became fast and labored, and it was felt there was no chance for him. However, his vitality extended the struggle to Friday evening at near 6:00 o'clock. Mother, father, sister and brother were with the young man when death came, although he never regained consciousness from the moment of his injury.

The funeral of the champion was one of the most largely attended ever held in the city. Services were held Sunday from the All Saints church, Rev. B.A. Turner officiating. The crowds of friends and mourners was so large that not more than half of the number could get into the church and the funeral procession extended from the church almost to the cemetery. It is estimated to have been more than half a mile in length.

The music provided was the most excellent and the discourse comforting, while the floral offerings were exceptional in beauty and profusion. A splendid floral piece came from the Swan Land & Cattle company, another equally beautiful from cowboy pals of the deceased in Cheyenne, and still another elaborate design from friends in Wheatland, together with many large bouquets and a mass of loose cut flowers.

Unassuming, quiet, unafraid, congenial, a real friend to his friends, Henry Webb was popular. Making no show of himself, he was a central figure at every bucking exhibition he entered, and he always put up a ride that made him a consideration with the judges in the finals.

World champion at Frontier Days in Cheyenne in 1913, winning \$500 in gold and a \$500 saddle offered by Union Pacific railway company, Webb was always in the finals wherever he appeared as a contestant in bucking exhibitions. In addition to winning many less important contests, he was award second place and \$500 in gold at Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 1913 and the following year took second place and \$500 in gold at the big contest at Winnipeg. He secured first place at the Platte county fair last fall, and has always been in best form and ready for the worst bundles of equine cunningness that

could be produced. He was never known to hesitate a second on a mount, and was one of the main and most popular riders with the Gilford & McCarty wild west outfit in 1914, one of the best wild west aggregation ever assembled, although not so large as many that have traveled extensively through east.

Webb was born in Greeley, Colo, and at the time of his death was twenty-four years, six months and three days old. When he was a small boy, he removed with his parents to Wheatland, and he grew up here. From early childhood, he was constantly with horses and was riding the bad ones while the ordinary youngster was employing a stick for a steed. His first real prominence came with his winning of the world championship at Cheyenne.

Henry Webb has a host of friends and acquaintances throughout the west who will be grieved to learn of his untimely demise, and there is a void in the family circle that will never be filled. He was thoughtful and considerate of his parents, sister and brother, and enjoyed the confidence and respect of his innumerable friends and acquaintances.

Besides the parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Webb, the deceased is survived by a sister, Mrs. C.C. Cole, and a brother Whyde Webb, to whom the sincerest sympathy of the community goes out.