

I'm Just a Picture-Taker

Dan Evans, September 1977

- Refrain I am / a picture-taker for the Rodeo Sports News.
On my way to Kansas City then Montana's town of Butte.
From there I'll fly to Portland, then bus to Fresno, Cal.
Justta snappin' black and white glossies of those big old Brahma bulls.
- Verse 1 I've documented Larry Mahan's rags to riches tale,
Dean Oliver's gold buckles and Slim Picken's fan mail;
I've been chased, stomped and run over, and slammed against the fence.
After twenty years of this you'd think that I'd have better sense,
- Verse 2 My editor said "Charlie, you've gotta try it out."
And I said "Boss, what in blazin' sunshine are you talkin' about?"
He said, "A photographer should experience his subject's up and downs,
So climb aboard a Brahma Bull and wave your arm around."
But boss, I'm justta... (refrain)
- Verse 3 For weeks I shot my pictures from the Presidential box.
Jimmy never came to the shows, so I didn't think I'd get caught.
But, the third night in Atlanta, brother Billy borrowed the seats,
And the Secret Service threw me into the arena in a heap.
- Verse 4 Well, the pickup man rode over and snatched me like a fly;
Threw me or' the rump of his Quarter Horse and across the arena we commenced to ride.
He stopped in front of chute number three and he dropped me in the dirt,
Then I heard the rodeo announcer say "out of gate number three will ride Charlie Murtz."
But boys, I'm justta (refrain)
- Verse 5 Some cowboys gathered 'round me and yanked me to my feet.
My bravery one could measure by the wobble in my knees.
They shoved me over the railing of the gate painted with a three,
Then my butt hit the back of the biggest, hairiest, meanest bull I'd ever seen.
- Verse 6 My life flashed before my eyes like a movin' picture show,
To that great first-aid station in the sky, I was preparin' now to go.
As they wrapped the rigging 'round my hand I heard the announcer say:
"Charlie, you'd better say your prayers, 'cause this is the judgment day."
And I said – Mommy, mommy, I'm justta ... (refrain)
- Verse 7 Well, my recollection of the next half minute ain't too clear at all.
I can't remember a doggoned thing that happened after the fall.
Before they opened the gate my head felt light and I turned pale,
Then I passed-out cold, went limp like a toad and tumbled over the rail.
'Cause I was justta (refrain)