Ride & Tie

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN COWBOYS WORKED AND ROPED IN NECKTIES.
IT’S A STYLE THAT FOR SOME SEEMS TO HAVE COME AROUND AGAIN.

By William C. Reynolds

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ANITY AND UNIQUE DRESS KNOW NO CLASS
distinction. For the cowboy of the late 1800s,
vanity was tough to trot out—especially
since there were few mirrors around—but
many managed to pull it off. In his book, Ties Pinned Under,
Montana artist and writer Charles M. Russell gave a clas-
cial and colorful description of these peacocks of
the plains. He wrote:

“Cowpunchers were mighty particular about their rig, an’
in all camps you’d find a fashion leader. From a cowpuncher’s
idea these fellers was sure good to look at; of course a good many
of them fancy men were more ornamental than useful, but one of
the best cow-hands I ever known belonged to this class. Down on the
Gray Bull, he wore under the name of Mason, but most punch-
ers called him Pretty Shadow. This sounds like an Injun name,
but it ain’t. It comes from the truth. Consider the fact that stockmen are con-
stantly at the mercy of Mother Nature’s timing and are
therefore on the job all the time. Their ability to stay kempt
and presentable is always being tested by the elements.

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Westerners. After the Civil War, the ribbon or string
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