**MIKE ALLEY**

Mike Alley grew up around horses, horse breaking and horse trainers. As a young boy he watched Vaquero's from old Mexico break and train wild horses gathered off the Red Desert. The Vaqueros were flamboyant, good horse trainers and some used exceptional horse gear. He got the chance to learn rawhide braiding from Jack Meese who has been braiding for 50 years. He also got the chance to visit braiders in Argentina and learned some of their techniques.