

Toronto businessman gallops around the world

By Atara Beck
Tribune Correspondent

Hy Burstein is a true adventurer.

In his recently published autobiography, *Ride 'em Jewish Cowboy* (Devora Publishing), he describes his unusual experiences as a horseback rider in several countries. The reader is treated not only to the adventure of the sport, but to fascinating tales of exotic lands and cultures.

Burstein's passion for horses is great. At a book

launch held recently at the Mayfair club in north Toronto, he explained how important it is for a rider to communicate with the animal. "I can speak to a horse," he said. "I can look into its eyes and tell if he's happy, angry - like a human being, you treat it right and it will treat you right. You must respect its strength."

Born in 1928 in Toronto to Russian immigrants, Burstein developed an intense love for his Jewish heritage. *Ride 'em Jewish*

Cowboy includes inspiring tales about his determination to overcome obstacles and to confront anti-semitism.

As a young man, Hy trained as a boxer.

He began driving a truck while working in his father's burlap bag business, and in 1954 won the Ontario Top Truck Driver Award in the eighth Canadian National Truck Rodeo.

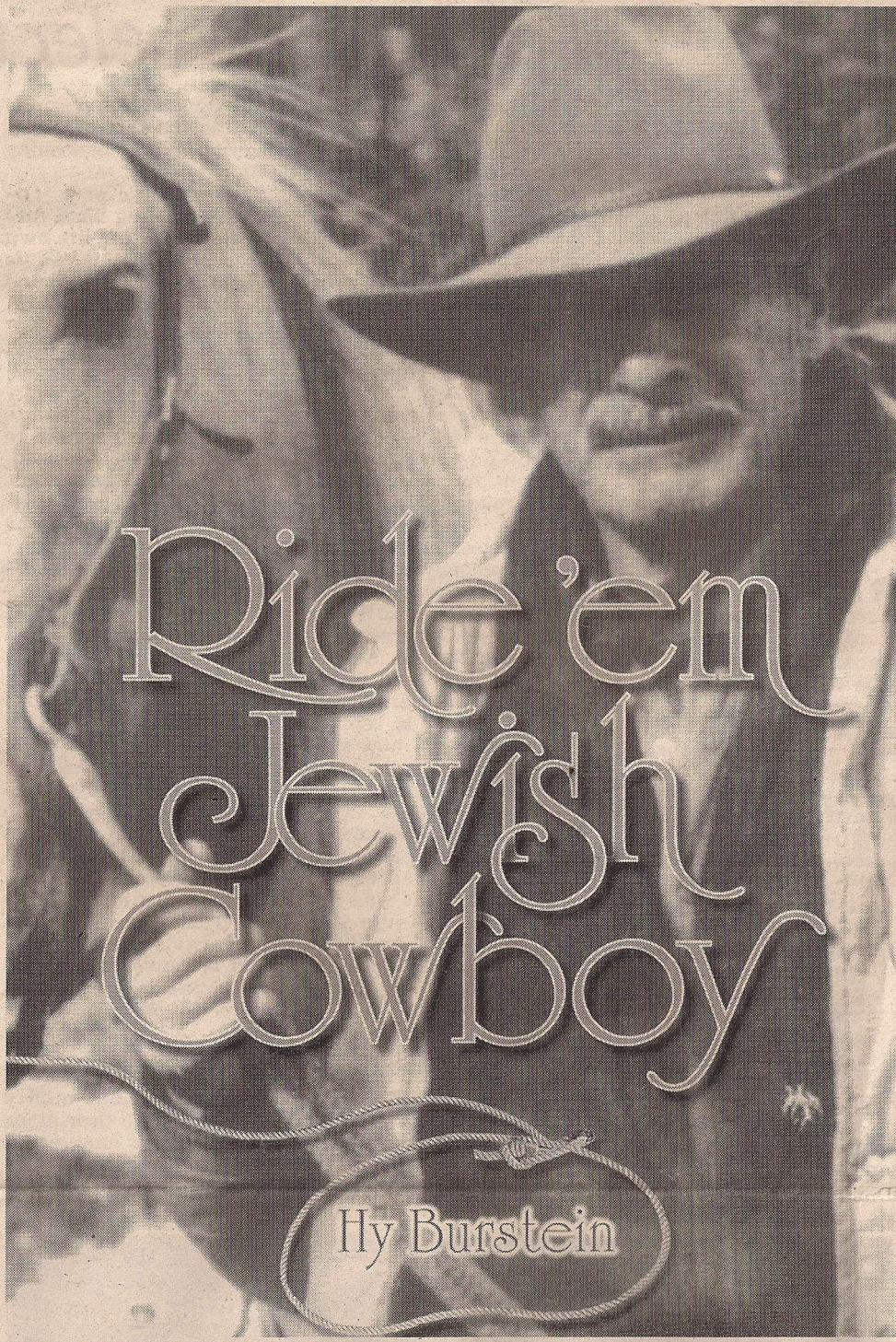
"It wasn't easy for a Jew to drive a truck in the forties," he said, "so I learned how to fight; that's part of the reason I learned to box."

His journeys include America, Europe, Africa, India, and the Middle East.

Travelling by horse, he had the opportunity to behold sights not witnessed by the average tourist, and his experiences were most unusual.

In 1968, Hy began a successful plastics-manufacturing business. He and his wife Sara (nee Elymor), a former Miss Israel (1957), are the parents of six children.

The septuagenarian definitely hasn't lost his zeal for new challenges, and looks forward to training a gelding registered quarter horse given to him by his family last year on his 75th birthday.



Ride 'em
Jewish
Cowboy

Hy Burstein

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