



larger than a Baker's dozen. Shawn, a senior at the time, decided to charm the new teacher with a little bit of humor.

"I was sitting in class, Future Homemakers of America, because that's where all the girls were at, and the new teacher asked, 'What do you want to be?' while getting to know us. I sat there and thought of the dumbest thing I could think of, and came up with a rodeo clown. It got some laughs," Shawn "Boom-Boom" Thompson stated. "Now, I was a country boy who grew up in the southwest corner of Iowa, just down the road from Sydney, which is Rodeo Town USA, so I grew

up watching rodeos, but I was a football player who never dreamed of becoming a rodeo clown. Well, look where my smart mouth got me, and it's been thirty-two years."

It turned out that the new teacher had a rodeo clown connection, and followed up with Shawn to see if he was serious. A smart mouth and a 'sure, why not' and before he knew it, Shawn was being chased by a wheelbarrow at a rodeo school in Wahoo, Nebraska.

"They took me out back and chased me around with a wheelbarrow for forty-five minutes. They were showing me how to run away from a bull. You're supposed

to run in tight circles instead of a straight line. When I got in the fence with the breathing, snorting two-ton bull, I forgot everything they told me, and ran for my life in a straight line. It turns out I wasn't as fast on two legs as he was on four. The bull hooked me and threw me over the fence. I guess you could say I've been hooked ever since," Thompson explained.

While Shawn's smart mouth led him into the Rodeo Clown business, it absolutely fit his happy-go-lucky character. "I am a firm believer in laughter. It makes my day to make

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According to Boom Boom, being in a barrel while getting knocked around by a bull is similar to being in a car crash without a seatbelt.

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