

Fairgrounds Improvements Total \$20,000; Chutes Are Pushed Closer

Buckina Arena Levelled Off; Walk Bigger

Improvements to facilities at the Douglas County Fairgrounds totaling about \$20,000 have been made by the county fair board.

First to try them out will be participants and spectators at the Douglas County Rodeo, Saturday and Sunday.

Major change, according to fair Manager Dick Turley is the "completely rebuilt arena and chutes." This includes the fences and corals. The chutes have been pushed much nearer the grandstand, and their weight has been reduced. Turley says spectators can see the back of the field now.

Arena Is Flat

And, the arena has been graded to a level to eliminate uphill bucking. Turley says the hard surface will be dry "even if it rains the day before the rodeo." Additionally, the fair workers have erected new section of galvanized iron track fence and graded the race track.

"Folks will see the rodeo" this year, Turley emphasized.

Other improvements include an increased parking area at the front gate. The manager estimates there's room for about 300 more cars.

New flood lights added to those already in place are expected to help aid pedestrian traffic to Frontier Town Friday and Saturday nights. Turley says the area will be bright as day.

Returning to the matter of grandstand seating, Turley says there are many new walkways and stairways into the grandstand, to facilitate movement and prevent confusion. The walkway has been widened seven feet to a width of 12 feet. The fence in front of the grandstand has been lowered to increase visibility.

New box seats, just five rows up from the ground, have been built. They'll seat 500 persons, Turley says.

Areas which tended to get muddy have been leveled, Turley said, and the underpinnings of the grandstand have been strengthened.

Most of the work has been done by the fairgrounds crew. Sole outside help called in was to help with the grading projects.

Even the Community Building came in for its share of work. It is now nearly finished, Turley says, and needs only painting and placement of asphalt tile on the floor.

The Community Building will be used during the rodeo. It will house Frontier Town, be the locale for the Queen's Ball and the Wrangler's Ball, and is the spot where the rodeo breakfast will be served.

John Spencer To Be Rodeo Arena Chief

Arena director for the 1956 Douglas County Rodeo will be John Spencer, a member of the Douglas County Mounted Sheriff's Posse. Spencer, well known in rodeo circles and an expert horseman, served in the same capacity last year. His work is to see the rodeo goes off smoothly and according to the rules. He'll supervise all jobs and details in the arena itself.

Another familiar face will announce events. He is Mel Bert of Christiansen Bros. Lambert was master of ceremonies last year. He is a stock contractor.

RCA Officials To Appear Here

Top men in the Rodeo Cowboy's Assn. will be in Roseburg this weekend for the Douglas County Rodeo.

They are Bill Linderman of Walla Walla, Wash., and Lex Connolly of Fresno, Calif. Linderman is completing his fifth term at RCA president by popular vote. He took office first in 1951.

Connolly has served the association several times as a director. This time he is first vice president for 1955-56.

Both men are rodeo experts. In 1950 Linderman won the All Around Cowboy title in the United States, and also the saddle bronc and steer wrestling titles. He repeated on the All Around Cowboy award in 1954. During July of 1954, he broke his arm in Colorado Springs. It prevented him from competing as much as he would like. Bill rodeos the year around. He is married and has three children.

He serves on hundreds of committees and doesn't have a lot of time for hobbies. Whenever possible, he gets in some golf. He owns his own ranch.

Connolly is an Easterner by birth. He was born in Pennsylvania but spent his youth in Arizona and Montana. He entered his first rodeo in Cody, Wyo., in 1933 and has slowed up only for injuries ever since.

Lex is an all around cowboy who works three events consistently. He's never been a national champion, but he has carried off titles in calf roping and steer wrestling.

HEADER

A member of a two-man roping team who ropes the steer by the head. The header has two loops; if the miss with both, the team retires with no time.

RODEO EVENTS

Friday

8 p.m. — 1 a.m. Frontier Town, Community Building, Douglas County Fairgrounds

9 p.m. — 1 a.m. Queen's Ball, Community Building

Saturday

10 a.m. — Rodeo parade in downtown Roseburg

1 p.m. — RCA approved rodeo at fairgrounds

8 p.m. — 1 a.m. Frontier Town, CB

9 p.m. — 1 a.m. Wrangler's Ball, CB

Sunday

7 a.m. — 11 a.m. Cowboy breakfast, CB

1 p.m. — Parade of registered horses before grandstand at fairgrounds

1:30 p.m. — Rodeo

Douglas Assn. Has 13 Directors To Plan Rodeo

How is the Douglas County Rodeo Assn. made up?

Three organizations joined last year to form the association. They are the Roseburg Lions Club, the Douglas County Mounted Sheriff's Posse and the Roseburg Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Four members from each are named to a board of directors. A 13th member is the president of the previous year. One of 12 directors is selected as president and other officers are elected.

Directors this year are: Robert Tripodi, Pat Sullivan, Robert Rafonsperger and Jack Gamet, all from the Jaycees; Vondis Miller, Ivan Pickens, Al Clute and Walter Welker, all from the Lions; and Bruce Carter, John Spencer, Henry Cook, Larry Strode and Bill Tipton, all from the sheriff's posse. Tipton is the 13th man. He was president last year.

Officers of the association are: President - Tripodi; first vice president - Sullivan; second vice president - Carter; secretary - Miller; and treasurer - Pickens.

TIMER

In each of the timed events there must be two or more timers who must agree on the time of each contestant. The timers begin when the contestant in a roping or steer wrestling event comes out of the chute or on signal of the scoreline judge. Time is stopped on the signal of the field flag judge. The timer also keeps time on the riding events and sounds a gun, buzzer or whistle when the contestant has stayed aboard long enough to make a qualified ride.

Five Special Races Highlight Special Events Of '56 Rodeo

Special races have been announced for the 1956 Douglas County Rodeo by race Chairman Bill Tipton.

They are the half-mile chariot race, half-mile three-horse relay, Pony Express race, quarter-mile saddle horse race, baton race and the bareback relay.

Prize money of \$300 will be awarded during the events which will be held Saturday and Sunday at the rodeo.

Registration for each race will close one hour before show time of 1:30 p.m. Residents may register with Tipton.

The chairman said winnings in all events will be split 60-40 for the first two places. He said there must be three or more entries for that split. Races with less than three entries means "Winner take all," he said.

No event will be run if there is not competition, he stressed.

A \$30 purse will be awarded daily in the half-mile chariot stint and the half-mile three-horse relay Pony Express race. A daily \$10 entry fee in both is charged.

The quarter-mile saddle horse race entry fee is \$5. The purse each day is \$30. The bareback relay, for three men and a single horse in each entry, costs \$1 entry fee per man. Purse each day is \$5. Four mounted riders make up a single team in the baton race. The daily purse is \$5 and each rider pays a \$1 entry fee, Tipton said. He said participants in the chariot event must furnish their own two-horse team and equipment. The chariots must be two-wheeled. The half-mile three-horse relay is open to individual riders with three horses. Each horse is saddled and the entrant is assisted by some who holds the steeds. The rider makes a full lap of the race track and changes horses in front of the grandstands.

POINT AWARD SYSTEM

A method by which champion cowboys are selected in each event each year. Each cowboy is awarded one point for every dollar won at RCA-approved rodeos during the year. At the end of the year, the cowboy who has accumulated the most points in each event is awarded the championship.

ROUNDUP VISITOR

Special guest at the rodeo will be Queen Sandra Curl of the Pendleton Roundup. She will be accompanied by Mrs. Cecil Curl Sr. and the official roundup chaparrone Mrs. Jack Duff, according to queen contest Chairman Pat Sullivan.

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EVENT

The five standard events — saddle bronc, bareback riding, calf roping, steer wrestling and bull riding — are seen at RCA-approved rodeos. Team roping, steer roping and team tying may be seen in different parts of the country where these events are more commonly known. The following events may be seen in various RCA-approved rodeos along with the five standard events: wild horse race, wild cow milking, ribbon roping, steer decorating and double mugging. Each of the above-mentioned is a separate event.

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Bareback rigging is a piece of leather shaped roughly like a shallow triangle with two points trimmed off. It is approximately 18 inches along the back side and cannot exceed 11 inches in width at the place where the handhold leather is approximately in the center. The rigging is cinched on the horse, and is usually owned by the contestant.



HOLD TIGHT—Calf roping isn't the easiest job and the exercise involved keeps contestants in trim.

Matched Pony Team Feature Of Rodeo

A fancy-stepping team of six Shetland ponies should prove to be one of the top crowd pleasers at the rodeo. The matched team of black and white horses is owned by Elton and Bernard Bever of Sutherlin who trained them for a hobby.

The wagon-pulling team will be familiar to many rodeo fans since this will be a repeat performance. They have also appeared throughout the state in parades, rodeos and other events.

The Douglas County State Bank is sponsoring the entry.

Rodeo is the only sport in the nation that gives a national high school championship.

Bulldogging History Told; Texan Is Dad

Before 1903 there was no such thing as steer wrestling or bulldogging.

Unlike most other rodeo events, steer wrestling is not a skill that a man needs on a ranch. If a cowboy wants a steer downed he'll do it with a rope.

One of the most skillful and exciting contests of today's arena, steer wrestling is the joint invention of an angry cowboy and a balky steer.

Fifty years ago, Bill Pickett, a cowhand from southern Texas, was trying to drive a steer into a corral. Several times it turned away. Finally Pickett, exasperated, leaped from his saddle to the horns of the critter, twisted its neck till it flopped on its side.

Some people say that as Pickett brought his head close to the steer's, he bit the tender lower lip to help subdue the animal in the same way that a bulldog will grab the lip of an attacking bull. Some folks say he didn't.

But enough people thought he did that it wasn't long until the trick was called bulldogging. For several years it was done at rodeos only as an exhibition. As it gradually changed to a contest event (and none of the cowboys hit the steer) the name was changed to steer wrestling.

WILD HORSE RACE

An event that is recognized by the RCA and one for which no championship is given. In this event a team of three unmounted cowboys must catch a wild horse, saddle him and ride him across the finish line. The teams work against each other for first, second and third place.

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