

1963 Douglas County Rodeo Is 19th

First Event Was Held In '45; Growth Noted

Editor's note: The following account of the history of the Douglas County Rodeo comes from reminiscences of early-day rodeo promoters in the area.

How did Rodeo start in Roseburg? Like many things, from a small beginning.

Each member of the then-existing Sheriff's Posse was assessed \$10 to cover cost of getting on the horse. A bill for a small tax of 1 mill to purchase the present Fairgrounds location. The measure was passed at the subsequent election. Two to one. Financial aid was also received in the amount of several thousand dollars from two individuals, Cleo Tipton and Al Sashford, for land, fence, buildings, lighting and other necessary items. Members of the original Sheriff's Posse gave freely of their time and donated any equipment they owned which could be used to get things ready for the first big rodeo event in the area.

First in '45
The first rodeo was held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in 1945. Stock was furnished by Christians Brothers of Eugene. The first rodeo board consisted of Sig Felt and the late Dick Baker. Ivan Pickens was the secretary-treasurer.

The first rodeo queen was Priscilla Wade, daughter of Mrs. C. B.



CLEO TIPTON
... charter donor



IVAN PICKENS
... first secretary

Wade and the late Dr. Wade, Norma Shrum of Glide claimed the high honor in 1946 and was followed the next year by Donna Summers of Days Creek. Sixteen lovely girls from all over Douglas County have won over stiff competition since then.

Group Splits
In 1953 the original Sheriff's Posse split up. A donation of all Posse funds amounting to several thousand dollars was made to the Fair Board. Then, 15 members of the original posse formed the organization known as the Douglas County Mounted. This group went ahead with the rodeo from then until the present time. Some of these 15 members were charter members of the original Sheriff's Posse, including Cleo Tipton, John Spencer and the late W. H. (Doc) Carter.

In 1954 the Mounted and the Posse joined forces again. At a later date, they split up again, this time permanently.

For a few years, a Rodeo Association comprising the Douglas County Mounted, the Jaycees and the Lions Club put on the rodeo. Later the Lions and the Jaycees withdrew.

Some years, Rodeo has been profitable, others lean. The 1961 rodeo left the club with a deficit of over \$1,000. Money was borrowed from a local bank to cover expenses. A month later the club, with the aid of donations in food from many local merchants put on an old fashioned barbecue dinner and dance at the Happy Valley Ranch and raised enough money to pay off the indebtedness.

Last year, 1962, the County Court, Fair Board, city officials, electricians and many others cooperated fully with The Mounted to get a lighting system set up to make night rodeo events possible.

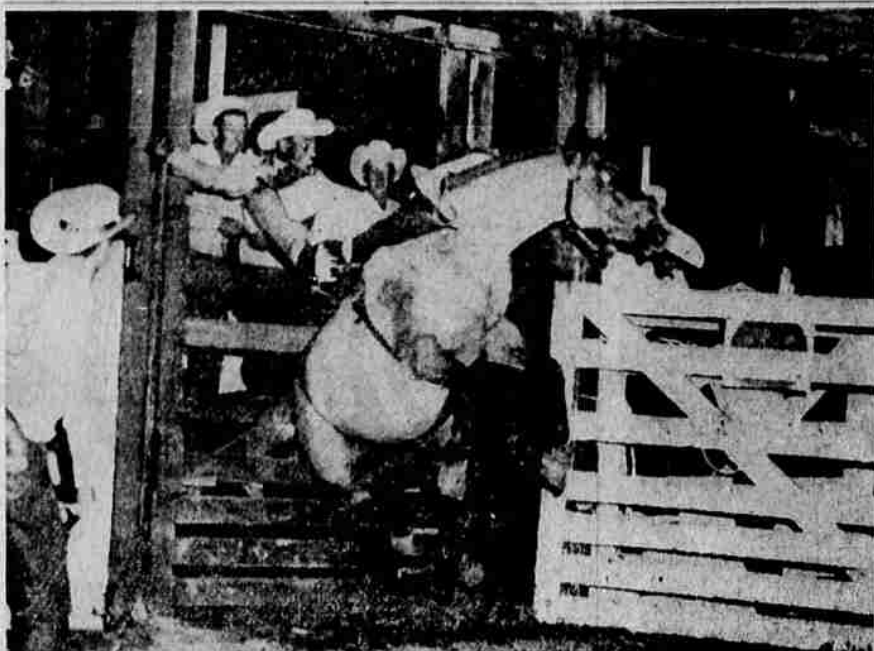
Charter Members Noted
Of the original members, several have died, some have moved away and many have dropped out. Only two charter members of the original rodeo promoting group are left, John Spencer and Cleo Tipton. Spencer still serves on the board since the illness and later death of Dr. L. M. Lerbach.

Cleo Tipton, besides being a member of the club, was a Fair Board member for many years. According to rodeo old-timers here, Tipton probably gave more hours of service than anyone until 1956. He was then forced to take a less active part due to illness in the family. Many Douglas County persons remember the familiar face of Tipton's wife, Dessie, at the lunch counter in the Fairgrounds kitchen or wherever her services were needed throughout the years. Much hard work, a lot of fun, and a part of each of the rodeo old-timers in the area have gone into building the Douglas County Rodeo to its present status as a major seasonal event.

RUMMAGE SALE CANCELED

The end-of-season rummage sale scheduled for this Saturday at the Elks Ballroom by the Emblem Club, has been canceled, according to an announcement by club members today.

The sale was announced in Wednesday's edition of The News-Review.



'ROANY' is one of the bucking broncs to be seen at the Douglas County Rodeo this weekend. The horse literally explodes from the stall, as Jerry Tamani found out at the Merced, Calif., rodeo. Bareback riding such as this will be included among the events to be seen Saturday and Sunday. The show will also include some crowd-pleasing amateur events such as a powder puff horse racing derby for women, 4-H club horse race and calf scramble.

Rodeo Events Never Easy On Hard-Riding Cowboys

There's an old saying that the only way you can kill a rodeo cowboy is to cut off his hand and bury it where he can't find it. After one afternoon in a rodeo grandstand, you begin to believe it.

There's no such thing as a non-dangerous event in rodeo, and it's a rare thing for a performance not to be interrupted at least once by an ambulance coming into the arena to pick up a fallen contestant.

In bareback and saddle bronc riding the cowboys get ridden into the fence, brushed off on the chute gate, kicked in the head as they are bucked off and run over as they lay on the ground.

In steer wrestling, after the cowboy has leaped from his saddle to grab the horns of a running steer, anything can happen. First, he might miss the steer altogether and break his neck. If he makes a good catch, his feet may be stepped on or the steer may fall wrong and splinter a horn in his hand. He may be fallen on, trampled or kicked, or a horn can hook him in the face if he loses his grip.

Not even calf roping is safe. The roper, racing a stopwatch, can step out of a saddle into a hole and break a leg. Before he's through he has to flip the roped calf on its back, gather three sharp, kicking hooves and tie them with a short rope.

Always dangerous is Brahma bull riding. The lumbering, dignified appearance of the Brahma belies a disposition as murderous as a tiger's. Big, fast and powerful they are the only animals in rodeo who are always ready to kill a man any way they can. They hook up at the rider with their horns, try to throw him over their heads so they can trample or gore him when he falls.

Kindergarten Vacancies Open In Hucrest Area

Officials of the Hucrest PTA-sponsored kindergarten announce that a few vacancies still exist for the morning session, following the recent pre-registration. Those interested in starting their children in the fall are asked to call Mrs. E. T. Cone Jr. at OR 2-3554.

The kindergarten sessions will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each school day and the terms will coincide with those of School Dist. 4. Registration fee is \$2 and tuition \$12 per month.

Injuries are common in just about every competitive sport. But the very nature of rodeo—pitting the skill of a man against the strength and determination of big, powerful animals—makes it perhaps the most dangerous of all.

Every precaution is taken to reduce injuries. Experienced, cool-headed pickup men on well-trained horses move in beside a bareback or saddle bronc as soon as the ride is completed to give the contestant a safe way down. In bull riding, the intrepid and ever-present rodeo clowns hurry in to distract the bull from turning on the rider.

At all rodeos approved by the Rodeo Cowboys' Association, Inc., the management is required to have an ambulance and a fully-equipped first aid station at every performance. Most rodeos also keep a doctor in attendance.

Hospitalizations Rare

Although bone-jarring jolts are routine and injuries frequent in rodeo, hospitalizations are rare. With a resilience that is amazing, rodeo contestants bounce back from the toughest falls. Often they will break a limb one afternoon and return to ride in a cast at the next performance the following day. At

'RHO-Dee-O' Is Way To Say It

About this time every year, folks get into the same old discussion. How to you pronounce rodeo? Is it RHO-dee-o or ro-DAY-o?

Chances are nobody's going to settle the argument for good and all this year, either. But here are the points, pro and con. Originally, of course, rodeo was a Spanish word meaning "round-up." Rodeo has its roots deep in the western cattle industry which, in turn, began years and years ago in Mexico with cattle brought to the new world by the Spanish conquistadores. But all that was a long time ago, and today the cowboy contests we call rodeos are as thoroughly American as apple pie and the Mississippi River.

So some folks insist it should be pronounced American style: RHO-dee-o.

But the other side shoots back. "It's a Spanish word: ro-DAY-o." How do rodeo folks say it? RHO-dee-o.

Top Rodeo Names Already Signed Up For Weekend

Ralph Buell, reigning world champion bareback bronc rider, sparks the early entry roster for Roseburg's 19th annual Douglas County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo slated Saturday night and Sunday afternoon, in the Fairgrounds arena.

Buell, 31, from Sheridan, Wyo., along with other top cowboys, will be in pursuit of an estimated \$5,600 in prize money (purse money plus contestant entry fees) at stake in six events.

On tap are saddle and bareback bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, bull riding, and team roping. Livestock will be furnished by Ray Kohrs, Tres Pinos, Calif. The lanky Buell, 6-1 and 170 pounds, made 1962 the competitive highlight of a 10-year rodeo career which began when he joined pro ranks from the University of Arizona rodeo team. Buell earned \$16,720 on the bareback broncs to take the championship title.

Others on the early entry list this year include Harry Charters, Jr., Melba, Mark Schricker, of Sutherlin, Louie Torricellas, of Eugene, Cecil Swaggart, of Riller, and Gene Miles, the red-haired veteran steer wrestler from Eugene, who has competed at the Douglas County Sheriff's Rodeo for the past 15 years.

Charters, 37, 1959's world champion steer wrestler, is running in close contention this year for rodeo's top title, the all-around cowboy championship. He has earned over \$12,000 as of June 9th this season, competing in calf roping and steer wrestling.

Schricker, 23, is being tabbed as all-around championship material also. Despite six-months army duty



MARK SCHRICKER is Sutherlin's hope for a world rodeo championship this year.

Last year, he wound up tenth in the sport's winning columns at the end of the season, with \$16,759. He enters calf roping and steer wrestling, won the former here in 1961.

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