

HAPPY TRAILS: A REPORT FROM THE RODEO ROAD

By Mackenzie Carr
2011 Miss Rodeo Oregon



Hello again!

Like I mentioned in my last article, four other state titleholders came to Oregon to attend the infamous Pendleton Round-Up in September. Flying in on Monday September 12th, was Heidi Miss Rodeo Iowa, Becky Miss Rodeo Nebraska, Tricia Miss Rodeo Idaho, and Sammy Miss Rodeo Florida. We began our Tuesday morning by visiting some of my local sponsors around town. We took pictures in front of Wauna with the Credit Union Staff, visited with Karin at Spiralz Salon, dropped in and gave Lisa at Vernonia Florist and Michal at Creatures a friendly hello, and then enjoyed lunch at Black Bear.

Immediately following our town tour, was a kindergarten through 5th grade assembly at Washington

Wednesday was a complete "have fun" day. We started off by touring a logging job site with Axman Mike Pihl. He even outfitted us in Pihl Logging t-shirts and suspenders. We all thought they really tied in with our hats and crowns. After listening to Mike describe the job site activity and overall logging process, we climbed aboard a log truck as well as a loader for some photos. Thank you again Mike for taking the time to tour us around; the girls and I had such a great time with you. After that, we were off to Tillamook to have lunch, an ice cream cone, and of course some cheese at the Tillamook Cheese Factory. Once we were again stuffed beyond belief, we drove to Longbeach, Washington to ride horses on the beach. With the exception of Miss Rodeo Florida, none of the girls had ever ridden on the beach before. Although we were only allowed to walk, we made the best of it and had a blast! We finished the evening with a quick "Truffle Shuffle" in front of the Goonies house and a few pictures with some stinky sea lions in Astoria.

On Thursday, the five of us piled in the car and drove over to Pendleton. Along the way we stopped at Multnomah Falls and had lunch at Cousins' Restaurant in The Dalles. The remainder of the day was spent shopping in Pendleton and prepping for the next day's events.

Friday came, and so did the "Westward Ho!" Parade in Pendleton. The four girls rode in a stagecoach and I rode on the sweetest little old man's horse named Midge. Right behind me in the parade was a team of oxen pulling a wagon. Once Midge finally realized

that there were HUGE horned creatures behind her, all she wanted to do was stare at them. For the remainder of the parade route we either spun in circles or went backwards, not once losing focus on the oxen. At least, we looked nice while giving the crowd some entertainment!

After the parade, the five of us went to the Pendleton Round-Up and got to sit in the VIP section. It was great for my mom and I who had been before, but it was even better for the girls who had never experienced anything close to the type of show that the Round-Up puts on. My good friend and PRCA Clown Crash Cooper was working the rodeo and decided he was going to hold a Pendleton's Got Talent competition. He went through the audience looking for anyone who could do something entertaining/talented. If they were good enough,

they got to showcase their skills over his microphone to the thousands of spectators in the stands. I flagged him down and of course he knew that in a group of five rowdy rodeo queens, something ridiculous was about to go down. Heidi Miss Rodeo Iowa makes a pretty good goat noise and sure enough, Crash thought that the thousands of people at the rodeo would appreciate her talent. To say the least, we were rolling with laughter when it was all said and done. To wrap up the day we attended the Happy Canyon Pageant and Night Show. Thank you again to the Pendleton Round-Up, especially Carl Culham for donating our VIP Round-Up and Happy Canyon tickets. You truly made our Pendleton experience spectacular!

Saturday was more of a laid back day. We toured the Pendleton Underground in the morning, did some more shopping, and made the long drive home to Vernonia that evening. The girls flew out bright and early Sunday morning. Overall, it was the greatest state trip this year. I got to spend one of the best rodeos with four of my closest friends and make so many memories that will last me a lifetime.

The following weekend was not quite as eventful; however it was still a good time. On September 23rd, I headed over to Prineville, Oregon for the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association Finals and 2012 Miss NPRA Pageant. Most of my time was spent at the pageant, with rodeo performances each night. Congratulations to my good friend Emily Clark on sweeping the competition and being crowned 2012 Miss NPRA. Thank you to the NPRA Board and Jean McPherson for having me. It is always nice to see your many familiar faces.

I basically have the whole month of October off; so instead of spending my time at a rodeo, I will be studying, finishing the 21 outfits in my wardrobe, and riding tons of horses in preparation for the Miss Rodeo America Competition in December. I do have one rodeo left in November in Redmond. The Columbia River Circuit Finals will take place November 11th and 12th and will feature the Northwest's top PRCA cowboys and cowgirls. It is also my good luck and send off party for Miss Rodeo America and I would love to see you there.

Until next time.



Mackenzie (center) and her friends Miss Rodeo Idaho, Florida, Iowa and Nebraska at the Shay Park in Vernonia.

Grade School. The kids really enjoyed listening to each of us talk about special things from our states, but the best part was seeing Principle Miller dressed up as a Bullfighter. After the assembly it was into Portland to sample the many tasty treats offered at Voodoo Doughnuts. Between the five of us, we bought 15 doughnuts to share; each of us taking a bite or two and then passing it on. Ironically, there is a "Keep Portland Weird" mural painted on a building across the street from the doughnut shop, and boy did we meet some weird people.



Mackenzie and friends sporting their Mike Pihl Logging suspenders with Mike on a logging job site (above), and horseback riding at Longbeach, WA (below).



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