

HAPPY TRAILS: A REPORT FROM THE RODEO ROAD

By Mackenzie Carr
Miss Rodeo America 2012

Hello everyone!

I can't believe August has come and gone. It is crazy how fast time flies when you're having fun! My month of August was booked with small town rodeos full of big town spirit. I spent the majority of the month in the great Northwest close to home, hitting up the 2013 Miss Rodeo Oregon Pageant in conjunction with the Clackamas County Fair and Canby Rodeo in Canby, Oregon and the Kitsap County Fair and Rodeo in Bremerton, Washington. I kick started the month with the Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo in Abilene, Kansas and while on the way there, I encountered some interesting travel experiences. This inspired me to write about some of the insane and hilarious events that have taken place out on the rodeo road.

Since I already mentioned it, I'll start with Abilene. In general, this whole

they resemble instrument cases. I am normally asked if I'm keeping a cat in my hat can which is strange enough, but this time I was asked something new. The first person wanted to know



Mackenzie and Abbey, Miss Rodeo Kansas State University in Abilene, KS at the Rodeo Committee Softball Game.

if I was carrying cymbals and another asked if it was my French Horn case. I guess being a one man band needs to be added to the 2013 Miss Rodeo America requirements.

After I landed, I was whisked away to the television station for an interview with Abbey, Miss Rodeo Kansas State University. We sat down, clipped on our lapel microphones, and waited for the anchors to come over. As the news program started, pictures of the anchors were flashing on the TV screen. Abbey said, "I feel like I'm in the Will Ferrell movie Anchorman." So of course, we had no other option but to start reciting movie lines. I'll leave that to your imagination to come up with what was said. About ten minutes later, I realized that the whole time we were imitating Ron Burgundy, our mics were on and the guys in the sound room could

hear us. Great! When it was our time to interview, the anchor came over and I asked if we needed to do a sound check. He said that they already got one. Oh I bet they did! Needless to say, Abbey and I had a HUGE laugh about it later.

Along with the many lifelong lessons and memorable experiences I have gained from this year, I have also learned a lot about myself. I have learned to completely swallow and maybe even possibly throw away any sense of self pride. I have, on numerous occasions, asked the concierge, housekeeping maid, and/or random stranger in the hotel hallway to zip up my leather dress. Trust me it would take an act of God for me to do it on my own. I am not embarrassed in any way to be pat down and have all of my hair searched in every single airport that I visit. What really gets TSA is when I start off by telling them, "Yes I know that you are going to use the backs of your hands in sensitive areas and no, I would not like to be taken to a private room."

Robert Frost said, "If we couldn't laugh we would all go insane." I have applied this quote not only to my year as Miss Rodeo America, but to my whole life as well. It's important to be able to find the humor in things, but more important to be able to laugh at



Canby Rodeo Queen Haley and Mackenzie at the Canby Rodeo.

yourself. To put it simply, I have had a blast thus far and cannot wait for what the next 3 1/2 months have to offer.

Until next time.



Mackenzie giving a ride to young fan, Anika.

week was a hoot. It started off while I was boarding my flight. Apparently to a person who has never seen a hat can,

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