

1946

In an exciting last-minute bit of diplomacy and maneuvering by enthusiastic fans, Icel Edgmand was selected to reign as queen of the Chief Joseph Days celebration. Ballot boxes in the contest were to have been collected Saturday night at 4 p.m. but collection of balloting continued at the dance at Edelweis Hall at the lake until midnight. Throughout the contest and into the night of the dance, Karen Turnbow led the field of contestants; however, friends of Mina Drake put on a late drive, which was calculated to put her on top at the last minute. A few minutes before midnight when ticket sales closed, \$400 in tickets were purchased by Miss Drake's backers. Edgmand's sponsors, most notably the VFW, had a strategy of their own. They had kept track of the tickets sold and kept checks signed and filled out except as to the amount, waiting until the deadline to see how much was needed. At the last minute, they turned in checks for \$800 carry-

ing their candidate into the winning position. Icel Edgmand finished first, followed by Drake and Turnbow.

1947

Part of the events this year will be a horse sale at the Joseph Sales Yard. Mike McFetridge is in charge of the sale, which is expected to bring a number of final saddle animals. A parade depicting the early history of the county featuring buggies, freighting wagons, pioneer costumes and old automobiles to bring memories of former days is set. Mrs. Sarah Bramlet Knott of Dayton, Wash., said to be the first white child born in Wallowa County, will also be in the parade.

1969

Trucks hauling carnival equipment are a sure sign Chief Joseph Days is at hand. The carnival spent last week in Elgin at a community event. Accompanying the carnival is the usual complement of concession stands, which set up and operate on Main Street in Joseph.

1976

A bit of drama of the mellow kind will be part Chief Joseph Days. Wallowa Community Theatre will produce the play "Deadwood Dick or The Game of Gold," a melodrama on the grounds of the rodeo arena. Gwen Cornwell is the director. The performance marks the first of its kind for the festival. The celebration will have a bit of competition this year as federal officials have selected Saturday to hold the dedication of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, which was created last December.

1988

The golden voice of rodeo, Bob Tallman, will be the host and rodeo announcer. A new event will be added — steer roping. Veteran bullfighters Rob Smets and Craig O'Connor will be on hand, along with Jess Franks. According to Joseph merchants, the event is pumping around a half-million dollars into the local economy each year. While they welcome the

windfall, they also point out a number of additional employees are required to handle the influx, which eats into the overall rosey picture. Most said it was by far their best weekend of the year.

2000

Visitors in town to take in one of the PRCA's top five small rodeos in the nation will be greeted with a new look. Joseph has added public sculptures, native boulder, planter boxes, new benches and street lamps and new sidewalks up and down Main Street.

2010

This year, the 65th commemoration of the event, is being held as early on the calendar as it ever has because of its "last full weekend in July" schedule. This year's rodeo is expected to draw a record 450 participants, partially due to the Snake River Stampede being held at the same time in Nampa, Idaho. Riders, ropers and others can participate in both events if



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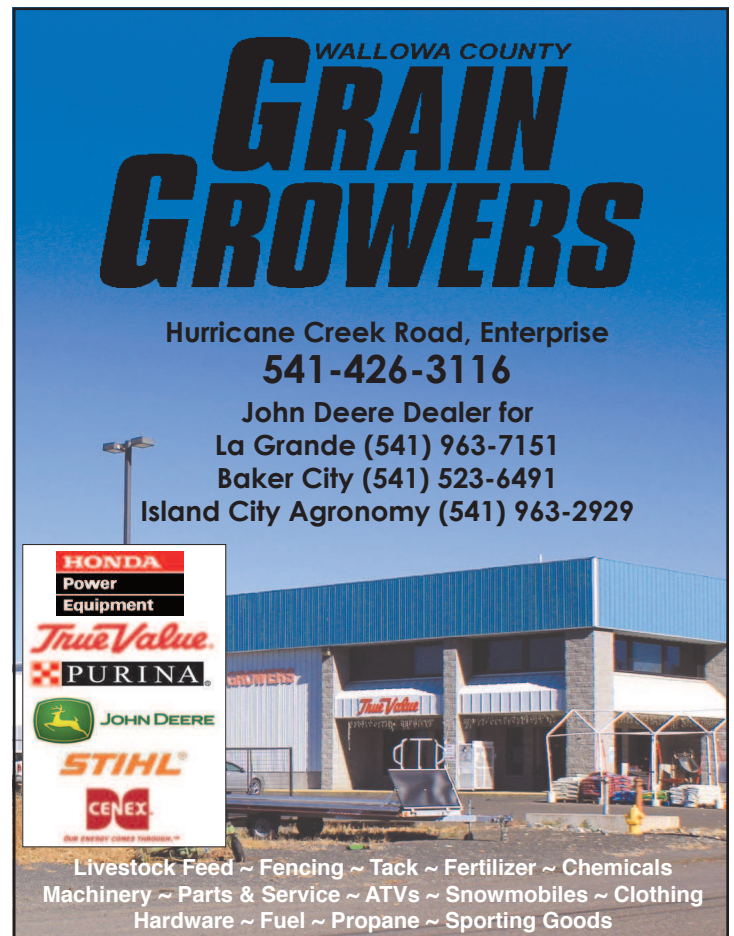
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