

Flora silversmith honored by grand marshal selection

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

FLORA — Thirty-five years ago, Larry Bacon attended a spur-makers school in Idaho.

The classes, which were in Nampa in 1986, were to take four weeks, but Bacon, a Flora resident, attended for just a week due to matters that needed tending to on his home farm.

"I asked if I could go just for one week. I had cows to calve, etc.," he said.

Yet in that week, the skill he honed — one he set out to develop to make a little money on the side — turned into one that led to him spending three decades crafting spurs for the all-around winner of the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.

This past weekend, he was honored for that contribution as he was named grand marshal of the Chief Joseph Days Parade, which ran through the streets of Joseph on Saturday, July 31.

"It was quite an honor — very much appreciated," he said. "There's only very few people that are chosen with that honor. If they think I have benefited their rodeo and business, I very much appreciate that."

Bacon began making spurs for the rodeo in 1991, he said, after "word kind of got out" that he was making spurs and bits.

"One of the directors contacted me and asked if I could make a pair for Chief Joseph Days, which I did," he said.

The silver spurs have



Flora silversmith Larry Bacon rides through the arena with his wife, Donna, in the Chief Joseph Days stagecoach Saturday, July 31, 2021. Larry Bacon, who has made the all-around award winner's spurs for the past 30 years, was the CJD parade grand marshal.

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Larry Bacon, grand marshal of the Chief Joseph Days Parade

become a hit since, and one of the more desired items one can win at CJD.

"From what the directors

tell me, everyone wants to win those spurs, and it becomes quite a competition between them of who

is going to get it," Bacon said.

The spur-making process, he said, can take about a month and starts with a bar of steel.

"You saw out your design, cut it out of the steel, file it, and work it as needed," he said.

Once the steel is crafted into a spur shape, Bacon overlays the spur with silver, then polishes it.

The CJD ones then have the logo for the rodeo in

bronze soldered onto them, with lettering spelling out the title also soldered on — and also in bronze.

This year, Bacon said, it read, "All-Around Champion, 2021, 75th."

Bacon, who has made between 100 and 200 sets of spurs, said he has always liked making, working on farm projects or as a mechanic. That was part of what turned him on to spur making.

"I wanted a job that

I could do in my shop over the winter time, and kind of make a little extra money for the farm," he said. "That's what I chose to learn to do a little silver work and maybe help out with my income."

Over the years, he has made spurs for several individuals, and has also crafted them for the St. Paul Rodeo, he said. He also made buckles, jewelry, bits and more.

"People ask me to make them for special occasions, usually — wedding anniversary, birthday, such things as that," he said. "Many of my spurs are being used in everyday use."

Terry Jones, CJD president, said the grand marshal honor was given because of the longtime commitment to the rodeo by Bacon, and also by his wife, Donna.

"Larry has done the all-around spurs and stuff for a long time," he said. "Living in Flora, it's a long way out to attend stuff, and they show up. ... They have been here for a long time and supported the rodeo. As long as they've supported us, it was time to return the favor, or at least let them know that we know what they're doing."

Bacon will work with an individual who wants spurs to get them what they desire. If interested, they can email him at ld_bacon@yahoo.com, or find him on Facebook at Larry Bacon.

"We would need to talk it over," he said. "I would then have to design what I think they want, and then I proceed to make them."



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CLUES ACROSS

- Artistic inspiration
- Penne ___ vodka
- Albacore and bluefin
- Banded gem
- Weaving device
- Japanese port city
- Dinosaur experts (Hint: Read this answer's last 3 letters first)
- Head of state?
- One who takes a vow, or a pledge
- One-dollar chips at a high rollers' table, say (... last 4 letters first)
- Roll of cash
- Golden or brown brew
- Trivia champion Jennings
- Two-piece swimsuit
- Piece of work
- Oboe necessity
- Burn slightly
- Into many things? (... last 4 letters first)
- Gadget
- Garment such as an obi
- Stock option?
- "___ Eleven" (2001 eist comedy)
- Compostable straws?
- Fish eggs
- Word after "flower" or "oyster"
- Low-cost lodging (... last 3 letters first)
- Like many restaurants
- What skaters "catch" after jumping
- Those who stick together forever, or a theme hint
- Rihanna wore one for a British Vogue cover
- Draw in
- Duct ___
- Enjoys a newspaper
- Church recess
- Southern fried vegetable

CLUES DOWN

- "The Simpsons" bartender
- Game with Reverse cards

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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57	58	59								60			61	62
63						64					65			
66						67						68		

- Produced electronically, as music
- Bonus
- "___ is well"
- Rigidty's opposite
- Deductive skill
- Sect wary of technology
- Belief with spirit animals
- Russia, once: Abbr.
- Siesta
- Wanted poster letters
- Nickname within "Absalom"
- Piglet's sound
- Ticket tear-off
- Touch on the back
- "The Silence of the Lambs" protagonist
- Spice Girl Halliwell
- When a beach trip is especially nice
- Poet Maya
- Game cube
- Rios and Sorentos
- ___ Sutra
- Texter's "When will you be here?"
- Brings shame to
- Yens
- Casual talk
- Slimy lump
- Oversaw
- Button often clicked moments before noticing a typo
- "Uh-huh"
- One of its Roadsters is in space
- Reach out to, colloquially
- Be untruthful with
- Out of battery power
- New Deal prez
- Regret
- Songwriter Gershwin
- Shirt shot from a cannon
- "Car Talk" network
- Substance control org.

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