

Editorial E COOSH EEWA:

(The way it is)



Tygh Valley Rodeo: All-Indian or All-Saddle Club?

EDITORIAL

by Cynthia Stowell

(Editors note: The following opinions represent the views of this newspaper and do not presume to reflect the feelings of the Tribal Membership as a whole.)

"Hey, lady! Lady with the camera! Get down from there!" I obediently hopped down from the bucking chute where I was photographing a horse in a most compromising position — on his back with legs flailing. I was amused by the powerful animal's inability to right itself. The folks in the announcing booth were not amused, however.

Several minutes later, while I was absorbing all the activity behind the chutes, more anxious shouts came from the booth. I climbed up to the source of the rather terse commands and was greeted with the news that if I was to take pictures at the Tygh Valley All-Indian Rodeo I would have to pay the Tywama Saddle Club \$50 and sign a release. "I'll sign a release," I said, "but it's against my principles to pay for a news story."

"Well, don't take pictures of down animals," she said. "It's bad business, you know." At that point I understood what was worrying the saddle club. I had two pictures that would probably

interest the humane society, although it hadn't occurred to me to share them with such a group. For me, it was just part of what goes on at a rodeo.

At the end of that day's events, I paid a visit to the rodeo office to make peace with the irritated saddle clubbers. Our relationship deteriorated quickly. My newspaper identification only earned me further restrictions. I was to pay a "deposit" of \$50 which was reimbursable if I a) followed their rules, b) stayed out of the way of the cowboys, and c) provided the saddle club with photos. If I did not comply with their financial terms I would be thrown out of the arena the next day, the kind ladies informed me.

In my three years of photo journalistic experience I had never been asked, much less ordered, to pay cash for what I perceive to be my right to report on a public event. It sounded a lot like checkbook journalism to my naive ears.

There was more at issue here than freedom of the press — which had been flagrantly violated in my opinion. I began to consider the manner in which the Tygh Valley All-Indian Rodeo was being conducted and how the Indian fit into it. It was certainly a far cry from the events staged by Indians at the Warm Springs rodeo grounds.

As in other rodeos I had photographed, the Indian cowboys at Tygh Valley were friendly, accommodating, and supportive of my efforts to get both arena and behind-the-scenes shots. A smile and "are you getting some good shots?" was the usual greeting. For my part I asked permission before going into new territory and gladly moved if I was in the way. (One irony at Tygh Valley was that the owner of the upside-down horse was glad I had taken the picture and expressed an interest in seeing a print later.)

Such a relaxed atmosphere was not in evidence at the gates or in the offices at the Tygh Valley All-Indian Rodeo. In fact no Indians were in evidence on the administrative end of the rodeo. They were all on display in the arena and in the beer cage or paying their \$3.00 admission to sit on the hillside.

The Tygh Valley All-Indian Rodeo is sponsored by the predominantly non-Indian Tywama Saddle Club. It is a money-maker, each year netting \$16-20,000, which goes to local charities, saddle club activities and the following year's rodeo. Indians receive only what they earn for providing bucking stock, and as paraders, dancers and tepee-builders. And they have a stab at the purses.

Indians in combat with wild

range stock are the featured event, much like the lions and Christians of old. They are applauded for their riding and roping skills and admired for their gutsy pursuit of the prize money. The announcer hails the rodeo queen and her princesses (chosen by the saddle club), the sub-chief of the Warm Springs Tribe, and the Indian pride of the many tribes in attendance.

But outside the arena I saw more than a few Indians being treated rudely, as I was myself. Paraders received arguments when they asked for their money and dollars seemed to change hands somewhat begrudgingly. People with stamped hands, some of whom had legitimate business, were shooed away from the competitors' area as if they were pesky livestock.

Camping conditions were chaotic and primitive at best. Tepees were scattered among Winnebagoes and horse trailers on the rocky, dusty ground. Cold water spilled from faucets into open troughs. It was a long walk to outhouses with no toilet paper. Showers were a couple of miles away at the fairgrounds.

Beer flowed freely in the "cage," a zoo-like area that featured staggering and slumped Indians. All part of the Wild West Show, no doubt.

The Tygh Valley All-Indian Rodeo was the first to give

recognition to the Indian cowboy. But in the years since it began in 1952 it has come to perpetuate some stereotyped views of Indian people rather than lend any dignity to Indian culture or rodeo tradition.

It is long past time for Indians to be directly involved in the planning and execution of the Tygh Valley All-Indian Rodeo. The event might better meet the needs of Indian participants and inspire the Indian pride that was referred to but not in evidence at last weekend's rodeo.

Some of the profit that now goes to the Saddle Club and charities might be put into grounds and sanitation improvements. If Indians are to be on display, a more flattering image could be created. There should be more incentive to parade and dance than a couple of dollars a head. And with Indian planners, the two-day program might better reflect Indian values and attitudes.

These comments are not leading to an appeal to the Saddle Club for a special platform for photographers or the right to reckless shooting. But they are intended to convey the feeling that as a photographer I'd rather answer to Indian cowboys and their friends than a non-Indian saddle club that has its own notions of what is appropriate at an "All-Indian Rodeo".

Letters To The Editor: Thanks from the Indian Education Institute

To the Editor:

The students and staff of the Indian Education Institute at Eastern Oregon State College wish to thank the people from Warm Springs for their help with and support of our mini powwow on May 12.

We would especially like to thank Delmar "Mouse" Geary for taking the time to explain the songs to observers; and the Greene family for bringing a drum. Thanks also to Evangeline Trimble and family for setting up a display, to Mr. and Mrs.

Amos Simtustus, Sr., and to the Warm Springs Tribe for the generous donations of salmon.

The attendance to the powwow was scarce, but what we lacked in quantity we made up in quality because everybody had fun. In the future we hope to have a greater turn-out, and we also hope that the people of Warm Springs will continue to give us their support.

Sincerely,
Amos Simtustus, Jr.
Student Chairman
1979 Pow-Wow

"Indian Truth"

Dear People,

The Indian Rights Association would like to offer Indian groups and organizations our newsletter "Indian Truth".

Indian Truth, published six (6) times a year, is the official newsletter of the Indian Rights Association, the oldest Indian advocacy organization in the United States. Published since 1924, Indian Truth carries articles covering a broad spectrum of issues dealing with current treaty rights litigation, Indian legislation, natural resource development, and Indian sovereignty and jurisdictional questions.

Due to our limited financial

resources, we do not receive federal monies, we would appreciate an exchange or contribution to help defray cost of printing and postage. If you can not contribute anything now, but would still like to receive our newsletter, fill out the form below and return. We will add your name to our mailing list.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Baumann
Editor

Return this portion:
☐ \$5 annual contribution
☐ Add to mailing list
☐ Exchange newsletters:
Newsletter Title _____
Address _____

Legislative Report By Senator Ken Jernstedt

Workmen's Compensation Problems Eyed

By Senator Ken Jernstedt,
District 28

One of the most frustrating experiences for those of us who have served in the legislature a number of years is the inability to achieve major reform in our workers' compensation system.

We all know all of the problems, and we've been studying the system to death for the last six years. Oregon not only pays the highest rates in the nation, but we are 49 per cent higher than the second highest rate paying state. Our appeals system is costly, cumbersome and time-consuming. The courts — as well as the legislature — have been lax.

It would be nice to report

that the legislature will yet address the question of reform this session — but that is very unlikely. Members of the Senate Labor Committee tell me that no substantive reform will emerge from the committee this session.

Our best hope for reform in the future now rests with a special Governor's Task Force on Worker's Compensation created by Governor Atiyeh. It has the best potential to bring together business, agriculture, labor and the public sector, and is chaired by an exceedingly able former legislator and Speaker of the House, Monte Montgomery.

The task force has just released its first report, consisting of 21 recommendations

which, hopefully, could save at least \$39 million in workers' compensation costs — about 7.5 per cent of all insurance premiums paid in the state.

"Doctor shopping" would be done away with and the burden of worker rehabilitation would be placed on insurers and employers. Other proposals of the 12-member task force would make the State Accident Insurance Fund more like a private insurance carrier and would permit group self-insurance to meet worker's compensation requirements.

A final report on legislative proposals is to be made by the task force by December 1, 1980 in time for consideration by the next session of the legislature.

Good Burgers

To those who helped,

We want to thank the Lion's Club for their hard work with the hamburger stand at the Tee Pee Chapman May 12 and 13. Also, thanks to the Warm Springs Men's Golf Association for the concession stand.

Co-Chairman
Zane & Norma Jackson
Frank and Shirley Joscelyn
Mark and Reba Massey.

Tribal Council Agenda

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| May 24 | 7:00 p.m. - GENERAL COUNCIL
June 5th Referendum - Housing - Deschutes Water System |
| May 29 | Tribal Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
1. 10:00 a.m. Cost-of-Living
Cigarette Ordinance - State Proposal on Refund - Ken Smith |
| May 30 | 2. Unfinished Business
Tribal Council meeting, 9:00 a.m.
1. 10:00 a.m. Managements Reports
Self-Insurance Program
1. Unfinished Business |