

Westward Ho Parade

Round-up recounts history of Indians, pioneers



It was a sight of pageantry on the day of September 14, 1979, as the famous Westward Ho parade started its trek through the downtown streets of Pendleton. There were Indians, Cowboys, Trappers and Pioneers providing excitement and beauty to the event that was viewed by thousands.

presented to the audience that drew applause and cheers in appreciation of the performances.

School bands provided cadence for the marchers and added music to the famous "Westward Ho" parade.

Along with the renowned "Let 'er Buck" rodeo, horse races provided plenty of action and had the crowd on their feet cheering their favorite. The Indian bareback relay provided plenty of action as teams from Warm Springs, Pendleton and Yakima participated. The Indians men's race and Indian Women's race also provided a lot of excitement along with the baton and express races. Rolling Acres of Oregon City had just too much for the other riding clubs as they won all their races.

The unique feature of the event is that all floats are not motorized. Everything is drawn by either horses, mules or oxen. People were afoot or horseback. Indians from throughout the northwest and Canada added a lot of color and glamour all decked out in traditional Indian attire. There were the young afoot, the middle-aged horseback and the old huddled together on wagons. Drumbeats and singing echoed through the streets while the rhythm of dancing bells could be heard in the distance as from time to time the War Dance was

Warm Springs was well represented this year claiming the American Indian Beauty contest along with winning their share of horse races.

(TOP LEFT) A reflection of the past as shown here, the covered wagon brought the pioneers out west in the early days of the great country.

(TOP RIGHT) Representing the fur trappers of the past is a familiar scene during the Westward Ho Parade at the Pendleton Round-up each year.

(BOTTOM RIGHT) A high school band from the local area provided the music as they marched down the street. There were several bands representing various schools throughout the parade.

(BOTTOM LEFT) Laura "Mag" Sahme made her debut at the Round-up this year after a long summer touring Montana and Canada participating in powwows. She placed in the small girls category continually.



Story and Photos by Sid Miller