

# Muck and mire disheartens rodeo-goers



**BALKING HORSE**—Even the bucking stock had second thoughts on the muddy conditions of the rodeo arena on Sunday, April 18.

The winds blew, the rains fell and the temperatures ranged from hot to cold as nature announced the weekend of the Root Feast.

One thing people are beginning to depend on during the Root Feast weekend is the forces of nature to bring rainy, windy, cold weather along with a few, short moments of sunshine. During the last several years, it has become apparent to rodeo spectators and participants alike, that it doesn't matter what the date of the feast and its activities, the weather always turns bad at the last moment.

This year was not any different. The week started out with beautiful spring weather but by the time the rodeo was due to start there were rain clouds in the sky and the wind began to blow.

And rain it did. The rain dampened the spirit of many of the cowboys and spectators. By the end of Saturday afternoon, the rodeo arena was a sea of muck and mire.

On Sunday the number of contestants had dropped as well as the number of spectators. The rodeo starting time was held up until the cowboys and cowgirls made the decision whether to rodeo in the mess. At least 32 contestants were strong willed enough to handle the possibility of more rain and deeper mud. The Sunday show was on and events started in the sea of mud.

The Endurance Race was held before the rains fell on Saturday. Winning the race for the third time in a row was Emerson "Chief" Smith. The win enabled him to gain ownership of the "Elmer Quinn Challenge Trophy." Winning the youth division was Wally Scott of Warm Springs. There were no entries in the women's division.

Another year of fighting the weather's elements to celebrate the Root Feast has passed into history. And many die-hard spectators and contestants are saying, "Well, maybe next year."



**MUD ROPING?**—Jazz Wewa and C. Benson had a go at a team roping in the muck and mire.



**SUNNY, SMILING WINNER**—Emerson "Chief" Smith accepts "Elmer Quinn Challenge Trophy" and 1st-place trophy from Juanite Bourland, Tribal Council secretary.

Spilyay Tymo photos  
by  
Pat Leno