

Jill Rugg Excels In A New Field

It has been only in recent years that we started hearing about the "All Around Cow Girl" whereas the All Around Cowboy has been battling around for half a century or more.

A Heppner girl's love of horses and the outdoors teamed with a spirit of competition has lured her to the Rodeo events.

When Jill Rugg goes off to college this fall she will take three saddles, two horses, her dog and two or three goats. These are a far cry from what most girls are taking. Following a summer of rodeoing, Jill who is the 1972 All Around Western States Jr. Rodeo Cowgirl, will continue to follow this activity at BMCC.

Her interest in animals stems from her lifetime of living on a sheep ranch in Morrow County, and through her parents she became interested in the Appaloosa Horse Shows. During the winter when the sheep are on No. 3 canyon, Jill has worked as assistant to Dr. Norden Stefanius, Veterinarian.

Her interest in Rodeoing had this beginning. At BMCC she plans to try out for the Girls Rodeo Team. If she makes enough points at the tryouts, she'll make the team. The events are goat tying, break-away and barrel racing. Her studies will have emphasis in the animal sciences.

Her roommate at BMCC will be Shannon Maddox of Redmond. They are partners in team-roping. Jill says of Shannon, "she always gets the heels." They will be living in a mobile home at the Quentin Rugg ranch out from Pendleton.

This summer she entered 2 jack pots, 2 NRA rodeos, 2 GRA, 8 WSRA and 4 Oregon High School Rodeo Ass'n shows. Her list of prizes is so long she can't remember them all. This summer she has won in part, three saddles, 28 buckles, trophies, head stalls, blankets and spurs.

She wears the buckle she won in team roping at Redmond in August of this year. She has given 9 buckles away. She has given buckles to her mother and dad and



Trophies and Jill. Two of the three saddles she earned this summer. The one on the right is the All Around Cowgirl saddle from the Oregon High School Rodeo Association.

She entered the goat tying, breakaway and barrel racing. Also at the rodeo at Burns she won the big trophy in goat tying, the smaller trophy she won in a split 3/4 in the barrel racing. One buckle was for 1st place in breakaway and one for All Round and the handsome leather satchel in the foreground was also for All Around.

close friends.

She has entered goat tying, calf and steer roping, steer daubing, cow riding, ribbon roping, steer undecorating and team roping. Steer daub and steer undecorate are the feminine versions of steer wrestling.

She rides Quick Nap for mauling because she stops better and Jill also uses her for calf roping because Quick Nap puts her in a better position.

She uses Bob for barrel racing, pole bending and team roping. "He really gets in and digs."

Her favorite event is break-away calf roping. In this event the lasso is tied to the saddle horn with a string. After the calf is lassoed it runs. As it runs the string breaks and the timers flag goes down.

Her saddles have been won at the Lake County Jr. Rodeo at Lakeview as All-Around Cowgirl, Oregon State High School All Around Cowgirl at Burns and Western States Jr. Rodeo All Around Cowgirl at Redmond. This summer she won one of her buckles at Henderson, Colorado, for 4th in goat tying. Another special

Jill on her favorite horse Quick Nap, in her favorite saddle wearing her favorite buckle.

buckle is one she won as All Around at the Grant County Jr. Rodeo. It is the George Gibbs Memorial buckle.

Mother and daughter travel together as Jill goes rodeoing. Back at the ranch, Jill changes sprinkler pipes, rides for cattle, helps with lamb

shipping, drives swather and baler and acts as the family veterinarian. The help says she is a "good cook" when the spirit moves her.

Jill is a 1972 graduate of Heppner High School. She was named Queen of the Prom her senior year and participated in sports when they didn't interfere with her rodeoing. She was a member of the Honor Society and was elected secretary of the student body. In order to broaden her interests, she played flute three years in the band. While she isn't sure about her college plans, she does like PE and may possibly go this route.

Jill is a bit on the serious side. She apparently had no qualms driving to high school from Parker's Mill during the early part of the winter, a distance of 35-40 miles and then when the sheep were moved down on the desert in the spring, she drove up Willow Creek on the same distance.

It will be interesting to see what changes college will bring to this outstanding horseman. Jill is the daughter of Shirley Rugg, Heppner; George Rugg of Ephrata, Wa., and her grandmother is Mrs. Frank Wilkinson of Heppner.



Get the goat before you can tie. Jill lures her goats in with a promise of grain.



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