

Fair season lasts year round for Fair & Rodeo Court members

A hearty welcome to the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo is extended to all from the 1978 Fair Court—Queen Donna Palmer and Princesses Kim Pettyjohn and Laurie Childers.

Morrow County's official ambassadors of good will have had a busy year since being named to the court in March, traveling to fairs, rodeos and community celebrations throughout the state.

Queen Donna Palmer, 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Palmer, was a princess last year, along with her identical twin sister Debora. She has been riding "since she was old enough to sit on a horse" according to her mother Mary Ann, who will be official chaperone for the court for the second consecutive year.

Donna, a sophomore majoring in business and marketing management at BMCC, broke and trained Johnnie Joe, the Quarter Horse she will ride for official appearances. She is a farm girl, driving wheat truck, baler and swather in the summer. In addition to twin Debora, she has an older sister, Barbara Gutierrez of Hermiston who was a 1975 princess on the Morrow County Court, and a younger sister, Anita, age 14.

Princess Laurie Childers, 18 is also a sophomore at BMCC, and majoring in secretarial science. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Childers, who

owns B&C Repair in Ione, she has two brothers, Harvey a year older, and Roger, 13. She estimates that she's been riding since she was four years old and intends to ride P.J., a Quarter Horse mare for court appearances.

She is presently working on a special project, starting a herd of Brahma cattle with a bull and several heifers. Laurie said she wanted to be part of the court "because I love animals and thought it would be a really good chance to represent Morrow County."

Princess Kim Pettyjohn is the youngest member of the court at 16. She is the daughter of Paul "Skip" Pettyjohn Jr. and has two younger sisters, Kelly, 14 and Kris, 13. A junior at Ione High School, Kim has been riding for about seven years. She chose a horse named Traveler as her official mount.

"I like horses and I like to meet people," she gave as her reasons for wanting to be a part of the court.

All three young women on this year's court have been members of both the Wranglers and the Ione Trail Riders, a 4-H club under the leadership of Linda LaRue.

Mary Ann Palmer, chaperone for the second year, has been traveling with the court for six years, since her daughters were all pennant bearers before they joined the royal ranks.



Queen
Donna Palmer



Princess
Laurie Childers



Princess
Kim Pettyjohn