

# '78 Grand Marshall Ralph Beamer will lead off rodeo parade on Saturday, Aug. 26

Ralph Beamer will feel right at home when he steps into the saddle on Saturday, Aug. 26, to lead the annual Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Parade.

Beamer, this year's parade Grand Marshall, has spent much of his last 50 years on top of a horse, either working cattle or sheep, or participating in rodeo roping events, horsemen's playdays, or cow-cutting contests.

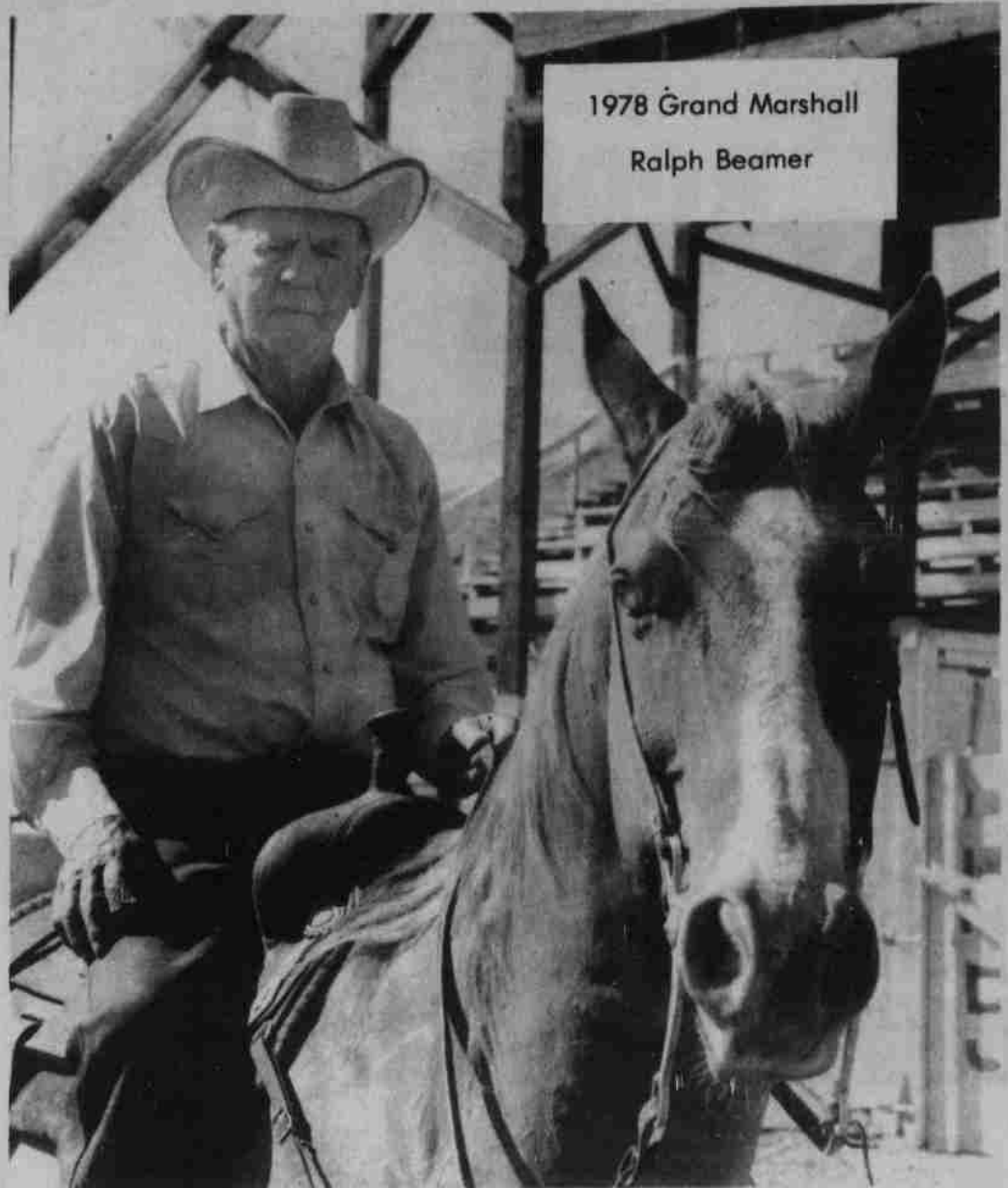
His Balm Fork ranch has been the site for numerous impromptu rodeos and playday events during past years, and he has volunteered his services to other rodeo events across the region.

Leading a way of life never

far from the saddle was a future he had no way of foreseeing as a youth growing up in rural Virginia. After leaving his family's small farm, he worked briefly in a furniture factory, deciding eventually that he could find a better way to lead the rest of his life.

Beamer moved to Heppner, where a cousin was living, and began work on a series of sheep and cattle operations before buying his own place.

His son, Neil, ropes on the regional rodeo circuit, and a daughter, Janice, now of Pendleton, was an avid barrel racer who was named Miss Rodeo of Oregon, and Miss Northwest Rodeo.



## Good table meat, investment in County youth await buyers at annual 4-H-FFA stock sale

Gourmets take note!

It's not often that an opportunity rises to buy some genuine, prime-grade, hand-ted beef, pork or mutton. But such a chance will take place starting at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the covered arena at the Morrow County Fair, with the annual 4-H and FFA Market Stock Sale.

All stock to be sold at the sale must meet or surpass the USDA Good rating for beef and sheep, and the USDA No. 3 rating for hogs. Traditionally, nearly all beef and sheep entries at the sale grade

out choice or better, with many qualifying for the rare USDA Prime rating. Hogs at the sale seldom grade lower than USDA No. 2, with many meeting standards for No. 1, the USDA's highest rating.

Few animals have experienced so much care and individual attention as those that will enter the sale ring. 4-Hers and FFA members often select individual diet programs for their stock, creating their own feed blends designed to produce Grand Champion animals.

But there can only be one

champion for each livestock division, leaving most 4-H and FFA members in the also-ran category, despite long hours of work and planning. Unfortunately, huge disparities between the prices received from champion entries and those placing below often take place.

Casual observers may mistakenly believe that the premium prices often paid many 4-Hers and FFA members are the result of work during only one week—fair week. But stock sale money is really the payoff for a year's work, and is often used towards furthering the club member's education or improving his or her livestock project.

The sale is sponsored by the Morrow County Livestock Growers, with Ron Currin, Louis Carlson, Merlin Hughes, Bob Peterson and Bob Van Schoiack serving on the organization's stock sale committee. The committee puts in long hours to organize the annual event, as does the County Extension office, which handles the paperwork that precedes the auction.

It costs the 4-Hers and FFA members more money than larger livestock producers to feed and care for premium grade livestock. So the break-

even point in cents per pound is considerably higher. The Livestock growers hope potential buyers will bid high enough that all club members will at least break even on their projects.

In purchasing an animal at the sale, you are not only receiving high-quality table meat, you are investing in the future of a Morrow County youth. And that's a bargain with a real payoff.

### Wranglers will again host Sunday a.m.

### Cowboy Breakfast

The welcome aroma of ham and eggs, hashbrowns and pancakes, will drift through the morning air on Sunday, Aug. 27, when the Wranglers horse club will host the annual Cowboy Breakfast at Heppner City Park.

Rodeo performers, fair en-

trants, spectators—everyone is invited to come to the outdoor morning meal.

Price for adults will be \$2.75, with children 12 and under \$1.25. Proceeds will be used to help finance awards presented to winners at the Wranglers' playday events.

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