

Spectators lined the streets for the 1980 Fair & Rodeo parade



Around About with Justine Weatherford

Last week was the busiest week of the year for many who were involved with the County Fair and Rodeo. Probably more people gathered in Heppner between Saturday Aug. 16 and Sunday evening Aug. 23 than are in town during any other week of the year. During the last two days bow hunters coming through town added a bit to the traffic too.

The weather really cooperated with events: those still harvesting in the higher spots were pleased not to have rain; the fair workers, exhibitors and visitors were happy; the horse show and Rodeo directors, performers and viewers were delighted. The big Saturday morning parade moved along under bright skies while a slight breeze kept down the heat.

We wonder how many enjoyed the Saturday parade, our guess is that maybe 2,000 or more were pleased by it. The large school and community band from Ione was such a thrill. A parade sort of falls flat without a band, and how folks cheered for those lads and lassies in their blue jeans, white shirts and cardinal red vests, led by their Cardinal cheer leaders. Their spirit was outstanding; they even marched the "extra mile", coming back along the street with an encore.

Humorous entries stimulated much laughter. The huge sick patient on the Pioneer Memorial Hospital float and the unusual nurses attending him or her, and the shotgun wedding party with the parson walking backward and the bashful, barefoot bride, her attendant and the loving groom, followed by their honeymoon suite, were outstanding. We heard from Hermiston friends that this group was appreciated in the parade there, too.

Rodeo parades always have lots of pretty rodeo royalty on their lovely horses with many of their subjects riding after them. The visiting courts and riding groups seemed down in number this year because, we suppose, like the Morrow court, they have had to cut their traveling expenses—blame OPEC. One appealing male rider was a well-costumed mountain man in fringed leather riding with his shotgun at ready.

Everyone was thrilled with the 20 white mules that came from Baker. They maneuvered along Main Street nicely and their skillful driver earned applause with them. A small covered wagon was also notable.

A delightful 1980 parade feature, supplied by members of the Soroptimist International, was the three, brightly costumed clowns who walked along passing out balloons and candy to entranced young viewers. Although their costumes and makeup concealed them very well some folks were able to recognize Bettie Doherty, Marlene Gray and Jeanne Sumner.

The patriotic groups, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, rightly stood out. So did the Cub Scouts. This being an election year, a goodly number of political candidates appeared. A float reminded us that the Harvest Festival at Boardman is near. The fine, large contingent from Pendleton, as always, effectively promoted the coming Pendleton Round Up.

The passing collection of vintage automobiles was most interesting. What a nice variety came by. We liked every one we saw, but really missed Shorty Peck's ancient beauty. The shining, loaded log trucks and the old and new machinery at the conclusion of the parade were great. Orville Cutsforth's



old wood-burning steam engine operated by daughter Sharon and son-in-law Monte Stookey provided such a contrast to the huge new machinery paraded by the Morrow County Grain Growers.

Later O.W. explained that Monte had overhauled that prized possession and Sharon had carefully painted it with black, red and lots of silver. Orville had long wanted to own a good, old steam engine. He found that one in 1957 when he was visiting in Coos Bay. He saw it being used for skidding logs and immediately negotiated for it with its owner, a Mr. Stewart, who had also used it for general farm work. The Gar Scott engine was built in Buffalo, New York, in 1883. The seller, who took \$800 for it hauled it to Portland, and Orville brought it to his place on a farm truck. It has starred in quite a few Morrow County Rodeo Parades and in the Pendleton Round Up. Maybe it will make a centennial appearance in 1983.

Saturday evening, according to Dr. Tibbles, there was a good crowd in Baker watching the annual Shrine East-West all-star football game. He says the weather was perfect and the game was a real joy. The East team led all through the game, but then with only nine seconds to go the West completed a long pass with which they stole the game by one point.

Both Morrow players, Heppner's Holland and Ione's Stefan, played most of the game and each discharged his responsibilities most commendably.

One sad happening last weekend showed that although lightning is supposed to never strike twice in the same place,

some drivers who smash into parked cars do strike twice in the same place. Jim and Madge Thomson had their nice, older Buick sedan smashed up while it was parked in front of their Court Street home about two years ago. Around 4:30 a.m. Saturday their nice, newer Buick sedan, parked in the same spot, was badly smashed by another driver. (It surely couldn't have been the same one!)

If you enjoy reading, and want some real bargain books, hurry to the Heppner Public Library's book sale now in progress. This year there has been a special effort made to up-date the children's department there, and therefore, this sale is featuring more books for young readers than most book sales offer.

Ah mothers—only five days more and you can turn your young charges over to the school system. Maybe you will be happy and relieved, maybe you will feel lonesome and sad. Maybe you will feel cooperative with their teachers; maybe you will feel critical of them. Your children learn more from you than from any other teacher. If they observe your cooperative attitude, they will feel cooperative and the year will go well for them. If they observe your criticism, they may also become critical and non-cooperative and this year will not go too well for them.

Here's to a Happy School Year for all teachers and pupils everywhere.



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Deadlines will be earlier

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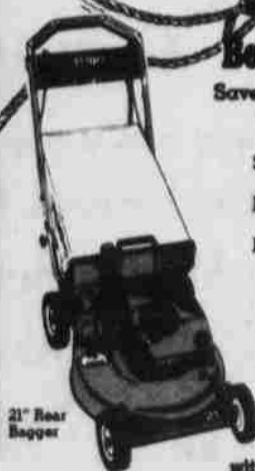
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