

Wranglers boast history, host breakfast, horse show

The Morrow County Wranglers Riding Club was organized March 31, 1947. Cal Sumner was elected president and Howard Bryant, secretary. The origin of the club name was proposed by Cornett Green, also a charter member.

This club was formulated by horse people of the county to enjoy group activities on horseback, which included games, roping, riding events, trail and overnight rides and various activities. A drill team on horseback was formed and performances were given at neighboring rodeos.

Members participated in parades regaled in new uniforms. Relay and pony express teams were formed, giving fierce competition to teams from other riding clubs.

In 1949 the first Wrangler Cowboy Breakfast during the rodeo evolved under the leadership of President Bill Smethurst with Merlyn Robinson as chairman. This was first held on the Morrow Co. Courthouse lawn. Dimple Munkers assumed the breakfast chairmanship for a number of ensuing years. The Wrangler Cowboy Breakfast on Sunday morning of Rodeo continues to be a major highlight and will again this year be at the Heppner City Park on Aug. 30.

As the club flourished and grew, the fair board delegated responsibility of the Morrow County Horse Show to the Wrangler Club. Fred Mankin assumed the position of superintendent, which he held for many years.

Competition towards the champion working horse each year accelerated when Jim Farley sponsored a trophy for this coveted award. This then was called champion performance horse, determined by points won in various classes. This trophy could only be

acquired for permanent possession by winning it three times by the same horse and rider.

L.R. Sullivan won the first leg with King Pistol Ten in 1964. Floyd Jones on Mr. Bar Barred won in 1965, and Art Vance on Frosty captured the championship in 1966 and 1967. Kite Healy on Jet's Babe Bar won in 1968. Floyd Jones won

permanent possession of this trophy by being champion with the horse, Pat Brady in 1969, 1970 and 1971.

Floyd and Lorena Jones sponsored the next trophy on which are engraved the following winners; Kite Healy on Goldie in 1972, Patty Healy on Goldie in 1973, Joan Echman on Dunny Bar in 1974. Capturing and retiring this trophy

was Becky Evans riding Ricki for their wins in 1975, 1976 and 1977. D.O. and Delpha Nelson sponsored the current trophy with the following winners to date. Becky Evans on Ricki in 1978, Kryn Robinson on Jaeleap in 1979 and 1980.

The introduction of English riding and jumping classes is a more recent development and brings an exciting new element to the horse show. This year's show also includes

jackpot barrels and pole bending and bareback classes, which gives more scope for spectators and participants. With a larger number of varied classes and with OHA judge, Howard Fisher of Madras, this year's show promises to be bigger and faster than ever. Some of the events will be run simultaneously, taking advantage of different areas within the rodeo arena.



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