

County fair, rodeo and court change with the times



Marjorie Clark, Morrow County's first rodeo queen, was selected by rodeo's organizers

By MERLYN ROBINSON
Morrow Co. Fair Board Member

Since the conception of the first Heppner Rodeo in 1922, the county has been represented by a bevy of comely and accomplished equestrians who have been the reigning queens and courts. The prevailing years have seen many new ways, but the Main Street parade route remains a familiar trail that recalls many memories. This year's parade will be no exception, as it promises to be a large one. All the past courts have been invited to participate.

The rodeo was first organized by Heppner businessmen, headed by L.V. Gentry, C.W. McNamer and C.H. Latourell. It was established at its present site, then

Sponsors to provide new awards for rodeo winners

A new award has been added to this year's rodeo, engraved leather clocks. Each clock has a picture depicting the event in leather. The clock itself is above the picture with the name of the sponsor appearing below the picture. The trophy clock is all on an 11 by 26 inch frame.

You can see the clocks displayed at the following businesses in Heppner: Court Street Market and Court Street Processing, Bucknums Tavern, Wagon Wheel Cafe, Green Feed and Seed, Tri-County Seed Cleaning, Pettyjohn's Farm and Building Supply, Heppner Bowl, Central Market, Cal's Arco, Les Schwab, Pig Iron, Shoe Box and at Miller and Sons Welding. In Lexington, look at Del's Market and Lexington Lumber. In Ione, they can be seen at Swanson Insurance, Rietmann's Hardware, Beecher's Cafe, Bristow's Market and Paul Pettyjohn will also have some clocks. In Boardman, the trophies are at the Dodge City Inn, Boardman Pharmacy and

known as Gentry Field. Bleachers and a race track were built and the rodeo was held during the last weekend of September, following the Pendleton Roundup.

The first queen, Marjorie Clark, was selected by the organizers. She was 12-years-old at the time. Her attire, provided by the association, was a brown divided skirt riding habit with boots and hat. This outfit was handed down to succeeding queens.

Riding habits for royalty changed less rapidly than other modes of fashion. By 1925, the queen's appearance was enhanced by the beautifully fringed white leather riding skirt with silk blouse and accessories. This style was worn with various adaptations until 1945.

Hardware and at Inland Empire Bank. Kenny's Farm Market will also have one on display in Irrigon.

Following a three-year period during World War II, when the rodeo was not held, the queens appeared in white shirt and pants, with princesses arrayed in different colors each year. In 1965, the suit jackets were added and polyester fabrics made the wearing and upkeep of outfits much more practical.

Through the years of Heppner rodeos, selection of the courts has also varied. At first, the girls were selected by the rodeo board. Later, the granges sponsored a girl from each area of the county. For a time, the summer rodeo dances determined the queen's selection. Each jitney dance ticket was good for a vote, and the girl with the most votes became queen. Following that, the girls continued to be selected from different areas and the queen was selected from former princesses. The rodeo board in later years sponsored the entire court and try-outs for princesses became the determining factor. At the present time, court members are selected not only for their riding skill, but also for speaking ability and poise. A queen's scholarship is given to be used for further education.

In the early days, the courts seldom got beyond the city limits, so to speak. The present courts travel to other towns and places for parades, luncheons, radio interviews and other engagements. The court members make many contacts and create lasting impressions as representatives for the fair and rodeo. The girls do much to publicize an event that Morrow County can rightly be proud of. The fair and rodeo activities are the highlight of the county, made possible by the combined efforts of hometown folks all working together following a familiar, but ever-changing trail.

By participating in the fair and rodeo, one can enjoy the results of a terrific county-wide effort. Our county and our courts have come a long way. Come and enjoy the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo.

Appointed committee makes changes for the better

Earlier this year the fair board appointed a special committee to make recommendations for changes. The results are more space and better background for photography and arts; a demonstration kitchen area between the two exhibit halls which will be utilized by agricultural demonstrations; an expanded flower show which will flow into a larger agricultural exhibit which will include horticulture.

One row of booths have been removed, so those utilized promise to be top quality exhibits. More display area has been provided in the children's and teen's area.

A special feature this year, courtesy of the garden clubs, will be a covered exhibit area outside for potted flowers, and a pleasant

spot to stop and rest awhile. This area will also be the site of the popular 4-H Fashion Revue on Monday night.

Interest is high in County Fair this year, with a number of pre-fair meetings held to plan and prepare for an improved event.

A carnival will be part of the action scene, as well as the usual 4-H, F.F.A. and open class events.

The Fair Board, Fair Committee, all superintendents and the Extension Staff invite everyone to come enjoy the new ideas—and the old! Be a part of the fair; bring your exhibits and be involved. The 1983 fair promises more things to see and more things to do!


676-9108

Ron McDonald

CHEVROLET
Inc.

GOOD LUCK!
To All 4-H & FFA
Participants at the
1983 Morrow
County Fair

We Will Be Closed
Saturday,
Aug. 27



NO-TILL DRILL
FOR SALE OR RENT
Proto-type Rental Unit Available



Welcome to the 1983
Fair & Rodeo
Miller & Sons Welding
Heppner 676-9613

Episcopal Church
Barbecue
An Annual Tradition For Fair
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH LAWN
SATURDAY, AUG. 28
5-7 p.m.
MENU
BBQ BEEF
BAKED POTATOES
BEANS **BREAD**
SALADS **ICE CREAM**

\$7 **ADULTS**
\$6 **SENIORS**
\$3⁵⁰ **CHILDREN**
UNDER 12

