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## 1985 Fair Premium Book dedicated to Eva Griffith



Dedication of this premium book to Eva Griffith aptly culminates her long-standing interest in rodeos as well her active participation in the fair through both exhibiting and serving as a superintendent.

Eva was Queen of the second Morrow County Fair and Rodeo at age 14. She has always been an avid horse enthusiast and outdoors person. In 1975, Eva was selected as Grand Marshal of the Heppner Rodeo parade, and again headed up the parade from astride a horse.

Eva Padberg Griffith, was born to William H. and Mary Blake Padberg on January 30, 1909 at the Padberg ranch in Clarks Canyon. She had one brother, Irvin, now deceased. His son Bill and wife, Annette, presently live on the home place.

While living all her younger years at the family ranch, Eva attended the Social Ridge grade school by riding there on a mule each day. She attended Lexington High School by riding a horse for the first two years, boarding in Lexington one year, and when Eva became a senior, the district procured a bus and she became both student and bus driver.

Following her local schooling, Eva went to college at Monmouth, and returned to teach school out of Ione. In 1928, she met and married J.J. Griffith, who had come to this area from Salem for construction work. J.J. and Eva took up farming near Spray, and all of the seven children born to this union attended a country school in the Kahler Basin and later went to school in Spray. Her husband passed away in 1957; her youngest son, Mac, an ardent rider of rough stock in rodeos, who once participated at Madison Square Gardens, was killed in 1964; and a daughter, Faye, died in 1970. Eva's daughters are Bev Denney and Sue Robinson of Hermiston, Rene Iedbetter of Heppner, and Shirley Cunningham of Stevenville, Montana. A son, Don Griffith, still resides at Spray. The royalty tradition was handed down to daughter, Bev, who served on the Spray Rodeo Court, as well as her granddaughter, Donita Adams, who was queen of the Spray Rodeo. Eva has 23 grandchildren and is presently awaiting the 24th great grandchild.

After the present Heppner High School was built, Eva served as cook for nine years and enjoyed the association with youth of the community. Besides being active in the Morrow County Fair, Eva enjoys bowling, her host of friends in the community, and always looks forward to gatherings with any number of her large family. Eva depicts a community-minded individual who continues to give of herself during retirement years.