

# Welcoming Morrow County Fair & Rodeo goes highlight of busy court schedule



Princess Stacey



Princess Bobbette

suits, the court looks sharp in two work outfits and skirts which they will wear to the dance and barbecue.

Pennant bearers Kristi O'Brien, Nancy Bailey, Angie Ashbeck, Sheila Coe, and Lori Cecil were selected in March to join the entourage.

Officially crowned at March 30 ceremonies, the new queen and her court joined many friends and well-wishers at the coronation dance with music by "Suspect" of La Grande.

In addition to attending Heppner High School and remaining active in 4-H and FFA, court members have had a full schedule of rodeos and parades which began with the Arlington parade and Rodeo May 4.

Following by a May 11 ride in the Stanfield 75th anniversary parade, the Court earned a third place award. Ending the month of May, the Court rode in the Spray parade and Rodeo.

June began with a first place award at the Sage Riders rodeo and a ride in the Umatilla Landing Days parade on June 8. Another parade and rodeo June 29 at La Grande included an appearance at a luncheon.

The five young ladies representing Morrow County as royal ambassadors have kept up a busy schedule since their selection October 28 to the Fair and Rodeo Court: Bridgett Greenup, a princess on last year's court was named queen and Bobbette Angell, Stacey Kennedy, Sheila Sieler, and Cindy Davis became her four princesses. For the past several years, the court has included only two princesses; by expanding the court, the rodeo committee hoped to bring more enthusiasm to the this year's annual county event.

First introduced to the county at the November 5 Morrow County Grain Growers annual meeting, the Court had not even had a chance to pick out their official outfits which were ordered from Gardners' in Heppner just before Christmas. MCGG and Kinzua are the two largest sponsors of the fair and rodeo. In addition to the official



Queen Bridgett

to the top winners at the rodeo, the Court will have a booth at the fair with pictures of their activities, the awards that they've won, and friendly smiles from each one ready to answer questions about the county's first five-day fair.

The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo may be the highlight of their year, but it's not the end. August 24, the court is scheduled to ride in the Irrigon Watermelon Festival parade, and to attend a luncheon and festival activities there.

September 7 will be an especially busy day with a ride in the Boardman Harvest Festival parade in the morning and in the Pendleton Round-up Dress-up parade that evening. September 13, the Court will ride in the Westward Ho parade in Pendleton.

An overnight trail ride sponsored by the Wranglers Riding Club September 21 will be their last official ride together. Then in October, tryouts for next year's court will start a busy year for the next year's royal ambassadors.

During July the Court won a second place award at the Condon Fourth of July parade and rodeo, rode in the Pendleton Rendezvous parade on July 6, placed first at the Fort Dalles Day parade and rodeo on July 20, and attended the three-day Chief Joseph Days celebration which included two rodeos, carnival events, a dance, and picnic at Wallowa Lake.

In addition to mounted appearances, the Court has attended many local luncheons and teas to promote the fair and rodeo. They made a trip to the Tri-Cities to film a television commercial and are scheduled for live radio interviews Wednesday, August 7.

Being a member of the Court, however, is not all work. A large picnic at the home of Court Chaperone Ginger O'Brien on July 14 gave queen, princesses and flag carriers a chance to relax with their families and friends.

A parade and luncheon in Hermiston on August 10 will be their final appearance before the big show in Morrow County. In addition to riding in the parade down Heppner's Main Street and presenting awards



Princess Sheila



Princess Cindy