

## Spring roping held at Dodge City



Photo by Joyce Hensley

Left-Steve Harsbauer, Echo, is roping the head and Ed Wallace, Enterprise, is heading his steer at Tatone's arena in Boardman.

By Joyce Hensley

Mexican steers were chased, cussed at and roped last week at Boardman's Dodge City arena.

Cowboys and cowgirls from all over the northwest, riding hot, sweaty horses and raising dust, competed for various sized purses and silver trophy belt buckles.

To the average roper it wasn't just a weekend sporting event. They were there for the money.

Says rancher and professional roper, Steve Hofbauer of Echo, "this is how I make part of my living." \$10,000 was his best take for a year traveling the roping circuit.

The air turned blue often during the three day competition after a few colorful words escaped from lips of team members who showed a "no score".

One slip of the rope can be a

disappointing experience for a roper who has traveled many miles for the event.

Not just any old nag will do for roping competition. "I have six head of horses," said Hofbauer, "but I only have two I use for roping."

"A good roping horse will run \$3,000 to \$5,000," said Jody Tatone, Boardman, producer of the weekend show. "A top value roping horse can run as high as \$15,000."

Roping team, Bryan Connal and Joe Crowder, showed the fastest time of 7.06 seconds for the weekend in Friday's warm-up first go round.

The largest purse, \$232 each, was won for roping four steers in the under \$2,000 event Saturday with a time of 42.03 seconds by first place team, Lucky Chappello and Toni

Camarillo.

Tatone, who features World Champion rodeo schools all over the United States and also co-manages Dodge City restaurant announced the following winners of the weekend Corriente Cattle Company Dispersment Roping:

Warm Up-Bryan Connal and Joe Crowder, 7.6 seconds, first go-round; Bryan Connal and Dave Inman, 28.54 seconds, first; Rich Samples and Joe Crowder, 29.29 seconds, second; Bryan Connal and Rory Mytty, 29.60 seconds, third.

Junior-Senior Mixed-Jill Rugg and Chris Henderson, 7.45 seconds, first go-round; Mary Keneally and Dave Inman, 41.40 seconds, first; Lori McAuliffe and Joe Crowder, 41.87 seconds, second; Sammy Smith and Bryan Connal, 42.21 seconds, third.

One Over 40-John Smith and Shane Crossley, 8.36 seconds, first go-round; John Smith and Bryan Connal, 43.77 seconds, second; John Smith and Kelsey Felton, 53.37 seconds, third.

Under \$2,000-Wayne Henderson and John Smith, 8.36 seconds, first go-round; Lucky Chappell and Toni Camarillo, 42.03 seconds, first; Ray Walker and Guy Gregg, 64.25 seconds, second; Margaret Keneally and Chris Griffith, 65.40 seconds, third.

Sunday-Open Match-Winner Take All-Mike Fuller and Dave Inman.

## Boardman • Irrigon News

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## Arsonist torches Boardman restaurant



Photo by Joyce Hensley

This fire in the Hitchin' Post restaurant was believed to have been started by arson. The fire started in the corner and to the right of the picture.

By Joyce Hensley

Arson was the cause of a midnight fire at a Boardman truckstop, the Hitch'in Post, last week.

"Arrests are imminent," said Boardman Chief of Police, Steve Cearley.

The \$250,000 fire was suspect from the very start. Previous incidents at the restaurant, which because of the continuing investigation cannot be disclosed, "combined with the fact that the fire spread very rapidly and because of the location of the fire, we called the Oregon State Police," said Boardman Fire Chief, Milt Reynolds.

After an investigation by Oregon State Police Sergeant Mike McCullough from the arson division in Baker, and the Boardman Police Department, it was confirmed the blaze was not an accident.

The fire was discovered by employees preparing to close the lounge at approximately 12 p.m. They had to run to a pay phone to call for help as the telephone wires had already been damaged.

The large fire was brought under control by three trucks and thirteen firefighters, dispatched from the Boardman Fire Department, and one truck with four firefighters from Irrigon.

"I would like to commend the fire department," said Hitch'in Post manager, Gary Alexanian, "they did a good job."

"They moved the fire away from the office by ventilating the roof and using water," said Alexanian, who is also the son of the owners of the restaurant, Oscar and Virginia Shoemaker. "They save our papers and the safe."

A newly installed swivel deluge gun mounted on the top of a fire truck was used to quickly contain the fire. "The gun allows us to pour huge amounts of water in all directions," said Reynolds.

One volunteer fireman from Boardman, Bill Hall, was taken by

ambulance to Good Shepherd Hospital. He was treated for smoke inhalation and released.

Several firemen were treated with oxygen and first aid on the spot, according to Reynolds.

Although the flames were contained to the lounge, storage rooms, and part of the kitchen, the west portion, including the dining room, sustained extensive heat and smoke damage. "Styrofoam cups in the front store room melted," said Alexanian.

The fire gutted building will soon be demolished to make way for a new structure, according to owner Oscar Shoemaker, who plans to rebuild the Hitch'in Post.

"It will be completely different," said Shoemaker. The new design will include a banquet room, lounge and restaurant.

A \$5,000 reward has been offered by the Oregon Arson Award committee for information pertaining to the fire. "If anybody has information, we want it," said Shoemaker.

Because of the nature of the crime, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, which is a division of the federal government's Department of Treasury, is involved. "Once the suspect or suspects are arrested, they can be prosecuted by the federal government," said Cearley.

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## 4-H summer week registration due

Morrow County 4-H members in grades 8 through 12 who plan to attend 1988 Summer Week at OSU should return their registration entry to the County Extension office immediately, according to Bill Broderick, 4-H agent. Registration for classes must be in Corvallis by May 1. The sooner it's sent to Morrow County Extension office,

the more likely 4-Hers are to get into classes of their choice.

"Toward the 90's" is the theme for this 74th annual 4-H event. Scholarships, contributed by local organizations and businesses, are available to help cover costs. Members who did not receive information are asked to contact their Extension office, Broderick said.

## CSD to hold orientation in Hermiston

Children's Service Division, Hermiston Branch and the Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler Branch, will be having an orientation meeting for people who are or may be interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents. This will be held at the CSD office, located at 1050 N. First in Hermiston, suite No. 115, on April 27 from 7 - 9 p.m. At this meeting we will share with you what CSD does, and the need of children for foster and adoptive care in our community. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Helfer in the Hermiston area

567-7611 or Maureen Barrett in Boardman 481-9482 for Morrow Gilliam and Wheeler County.

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