

Heppner Rodeo, a tradition since 1922

By Merlyn Robinson

The 1990 edition of Heppner's rodeo, part of Morrow County Fair and Rodeo week, August 15-19 has been sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Two PRCA rodeo performances, Saturday and Sunday afternoon, on August 18-19 are scheduled and, along with the Morrow County amateur rodeo on Friday evening, August 17, there will be plenty of rodeo action.

Local sponsors have pledged \$7,000 for PRCA winner purses which is sure to attract some top rodeo athletes. Kinzua Mill Corporation is again sponsoring the saddle for the winner of the Morrow County Amateur Calf Roping.

Livestock for the PRCA performances will be furnished by rodeo stock contractors Kelsey-McLean, Coulee City, Wash. A rodeo clown

will be on hand and the announcer is Gary Rogers, a well-known figure in the rodeo sports world.

Heppner's rodeo, a tradition since 1922, became an organized event held on ground that belonged to L. V. Gentry. Gentry later donated that ground for rodeo events. Local businesses organized those earlier shows, perhaps to keep pedestrians from being run over when early-day buckaroos tried their bronc-busting skills on Main Street.

The history of this rodeo involves many changes. Bucking horses were originally snubbed from another mounted horse. And bronc riders, after being turned loose, had to figure out the best way to dismount if they stayed on past a qualifying eight-second ride.

The expertise of cowboys has become a science rather than just a

matter of luck or who has the longest rope.

Changes in Heppner this year, include a professionally-designed arena adjacent to the north grandstand at the fairgrounds. Bleachers on the south side of this enclosure will accommodate a capacity crowd, officials say.

A \$12.50 Fair and Rodeo button is good for admittance to all fair and rodeo events. Daily gate admission charge on Saturday and Sunday is \$5.

Friday night's amateur rodeo is programed for all ages. There will be junior and peewee barrels and mutton busting for the younger set. Along with calf and team roping there will also be steer wrestling. "Something for everyone," the organizers say.

Contests/demonstrations return to fair this year

For the first time in Morrow County Fair history live demonstrations of a variety of crafts will be presented in the demonstration area of the main exhibit building every hour from the opening on Wednesday, August 15 through Friday, August 17.

Wednesday August 15

- 1 p.m. Suede Painting by Millie Baker
- 2 p.m. Cooking with Lamb and Wearing Wool by Oregon Wool Growers with Maureen Krebs
- 3 p.m. Machine Embroidery by Ron's Sew 'n Vac
- 4 p.m. Wood Whittling by Ed Murty
- 5 p.m. Painting with water colors by Shirley McNary
- 6 p.m. Sweatshirt painting by Betty Mills

Thursday, August 16

- 9:30 a.m. Spinning by Sandra Van Liew
- 10:30 a.m. Flower arranging contest sponsored by Heppner Garden Club
- 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. "The New Look" by the Country Shears
- 1 p.m. Bread making in a machine and the new jellies-Theta Lowe
- 2 p.m. Dress in an hour by Beverly Craig
- 3 p.m. Leather craft by Sherman Murray
- 4 p.m. Mop dolls by Lauretta Lantis
- 5-5:15 p.m. Tasting bread from the machine and new jellies by Theta Lowe
- 5:15 p.m. Covered boxes by Denise Betsinger
- 6 p.m. The Kaleidoscope quilt by Karyn Peck

Friday, August 17

- 10 a.m. Bread machine baking and the new jellies by Theta Lowe
- 11 a.m. Quick and easy sweatshirts with a serger by Hildegard Piersol
- 12 noon Painting a denim totebag by Millie Baker
- 1-1:15 p.m. Tasting bread from the machine with the new jellies by Theta Lowe
- 1:15 p.m. Homemade noodles by Maxine Gray
- 2 p.m. The Kaleidoscope quilt by Karyn Peck
- 3 p.m. Tattered Teddy Bears by Millie Baker
- 4 p.m. Quick breads with the food processor by Birdine Tullis
- 5 p.m. Stenciling by Molly Evans (4-H)
- 6 p.m. Waffle Iron Cookies by Jane Rawlins

Basket weaving and other crafts will be demonstrated in the craft village in the fair park area on Friday morning and other days.

Quilting demonstrations will be located near the quilt department, also new this year.

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Contests at this year's Morrow County Fair will include the following:

Wednesday-1:30 p.m.-pet show, picnic area; 2 p.m.-ugly dog contest, best dressed, dressed alike, best trick; 5:30 p.m.-shoe kicking contest, fair office.

Thursday: 11 a.m.-musical chairs, front of annex; 1 p.m.-grandparent, grandchild contest, picnic area; 5:30 p.m.-waterballoon toss, front of annex; 6:30 p.m.-chairman's race, picnic area.

Friday: 11 a.m.-stick horse race, (bring your own stick horse) front of annex, 1 p.m.-jump rope contest, (bring your own jump rope), picnic area; 6 and under; 7-12; 13-18; 19 and over; 5 p.m.-3 legged race, picnic area.

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