

1951 Roundup Queen Margy Brown Who Crowns Her Successor Tonight



BEAUTY on a champ. Loretta Stevens is shown on Golden Boy, judged the best palomino at the Queen Trials this year.



ALLEN HOWARD, rated one of the West's best square dance callers, is to work the big Jamboree street dance here the night of Saturday, June 28. Following the street dancing, the Roundup Ball will be held at the Armory.

Rainmakers Halt Efforts

YAKIMA (AP)—Rain-making efforts are about to end for the season in the Horse Heaven Hills of south central Washington. Leo Horrigan of Prosser, a wheat grower and a leader in the attempt to "milk" the cloud formations over the arid region, said the efforts will be discontinued this week.

He said it is now getting too late in the season for rain in the area to bring much benefit to the wheat.

Horrigan said rainfall has been about an inch below normal, despite the attempts to bring it by sending silver iodide particles into the clouds.

Old Timer Reviews Colorful Buckaroo History

BY MYRTLE WIMER

FORT KLAMATH—Real buckaroos of the early days of the old West are fast becoming a thing of the past, and Fort Klamath is proud of the fact that one of these is numbered in its population. He is Walter J. Wright, respected and loved, long-time resident, who celebrated his 70th birthday on January sixth of this year.

Much younger in appearance than his years would warrant, Walter is six feet three inches tall, weighs 180 pounds, and his deeply tanned complexion shows the years spent in the outdoors. In summer, it shines on the appearance of mahogany, so dark does it become on exposure to the sun and wind.

Indian Bill Action Due

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Ellisworth (R-Ore) said Friday he expects the rules committee to act early next week on his resolution calling for investigation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The resolution calls for the House Interior Committee to report, among other things, on "transactions involving the exchange, lease, or sale of lands or interests in lands belonging to Indian wards, with specific findings as to such transactions in the state of Oregon."

The resolution actually is a composite of two earlier proposals introduced by Ellisworth and Rep. Bow (R-Ohio).

The Oregon congressman was primarily interested in an investigation into reported irregularities by bureau employees in the sale of 800 acres of Indian land near Gold Beach, Ore. Two bureau employees have been suspended as an outgrowth of those allegations.

Bow's resolution dealt with the wider problem of determining the extent to which the bureau had gone ahead with its program to free Indians from government supervision.

He is a typical cowhand of the old school, and adheres strongly to the code and ethics of a bygone day. He is still very active and by no means ready to hang up his spurs and saddle yet.

NATIVE

Walter is a native Oregonian. He was born in 1881 at Myrtle Creek, where his parents were engaged in mixed farming and also ran some cattle. At the age of 16, Walter became restless and decided to seek his fortune across the mountains. So he saddled up his own little black horse, stowed a sack of clothes behind the saddle and fared forth. His travels ending at Goose Lake, near Lakeview, when he became short of cash. Here he got a job at the Alex Reid ranch, where he worked for two years and received his initiation in the art of buckarooing which was to become his lifetime work.

In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Reid, the family included three sons, Bird, Joe and Elmer, all of whom were fine riders. Many hundred head of cattle were pastured on the ranch meadows. Part of the work of the cowhands was breaking of wild horses, and Walter soon became an expert in this line.

At the end of the two years spent at the Reid ranch, he came to this region to work for Ed Sherwood on his Klamath Marsh ranch. Later he worked here in the Wood River valley for Jack Pelton and Gary V. Loosley. He also helped move stock for Sherwood and Pelton from Dillard (10 miles from Roseburg) to seasonal pasture here in the valley some 25 years ago.

He tells of the cattle drives made in those old days, when 1,000 head of Loosley's cattle were driven at one time from here to Warner Valley, a trip which took eight men 12 days to make. One of these drives was especially memorable. Walter and three other cowpunchers started out with 400 head of cattle from Warner Valley, headed for Lakeview, where the stock was to be shipped via rail to market. A man was supposed to meet them with supplies on the edge of the desert, but through some misunderstanding, he failed to materialize and the cowboys were forced to go on with the

cattle, sans food or water, either for themselves or their horses. To add to their discomfort, it started to snow, and the ground was covered to a depth of four inches, and "plenty cold, too," Walter recalls. After 24 hours of riding herd on the cattle without food or water, and cold and miserable to boot, they finally reached a Camas prairie ranch where they and their horses were cared for with the good old-fashioned Western hospitality provided for man and beast alike.

TO FORT ROCK

Later on, Sherwood moved to Fort Rock, where he had taken up a homestead on which he ran horses.

The young buckaroo of our story next went to work for Felix Duncan at his Lone Pine ranch on the bank of Silver Lake. The name was chosen because there was one solitary pine tree growing on the land. Here he also worked with horses and cattle, and at one time, when the horses broke out and escaped into the desert, ranch hands with a cook and chuckwagon made a trip into the wasteland, rounded up the cayuses and brought them back to the corrals.

In 1908, Walter and a friend, Jess Voss, went into partnership and rented the E. R. Cardwell ranch on Wood River northeast of Fort Klamath (now the Earl Keras property), where they put up hay and also cut some timber late in the fall for Uller and Burns for their Kingdom sawmill which was located on the neighboring Samuel King ranch, now the Alvin Copeland place.

While he was living at the Cardwell ranch, Walter said that Harrison Brown of old Yaimax rented the old Billy Moore ranch south of here (now the Fred L. Pope ranch) and moved 200 head of horses there. Forty of these broncos Moore wanted broken to ride, so Walter and partner Jess contracted to do the job. Pete said "we worked at it like we were chopping wood," riding ten horses a day, five apiece, as according to their agreement with Brown, they had contracted to ride each animal three times for the sum of \$5.00. (Walter remarked here that this was a little different from the present day,

when a cowboy would scarcely put a saddle on a wild horse for \$5.00, much less ride him even once . . .) They kept the horses in a large corral out in the meadow, and would ride for a distance of half a mile and back each time they rode one, also if the occasion arose, they would ride some of them to town once in a while.

When they were ready to be sold as gentle horses, broken to ride as saddle ponies, their tails and manes were trimmed and the

"with knots" removed therefrom before the two buckaroos turned them back to their owner, Harrison Brown.

Old-time buckaroos known (and they were really top hands, too, Walter opined) included Heavy Roberts of Warner Valley; Jack Rose, who spent two years here; J. C. Mitchell of the old Weed ranch, now the property of the Hawkins Cattle Co., who moved later to Warner Valley and subsequently passed away at Lakeview; and J. Upton "Dad" Worthington. All are now deceased. Dad Worthington having passed away last summer at Paisley where he had been for some time living in retirement forced upon him by physical disability. He was very well known and liked here, having been a long-time employe and personal friend of R. S. (Seth) Dixon, local stockman.

LONG JOB

In 1917, Walter went to work for Samuel H. Miller, and can claim the outstanding distinction of having been employed by the Miller family for 35 years. Following Miller's death in 1941, the business was carried on by his son, Loren L., and several years ago, Loren L. was joined by his son, Loren L. Jr., a company of Loren L. Miller and Company was formed by father and son, who are partners in their Oregon and California cattle operations. Loren Jr. is the father of three young sons, and a baby daughter born June 12. The sons no doubt will follow in his footsteps when they become old enough to help. All through the changes of the years, Walter has been and still is a loyal and faithful employe of the Miller family.

In his early days with the Millers, the cattle were moved from their ranch at Dillard to the Wood River valley for seasonal pasture, and in the winter, Walter fed beef cattle at the Dillard ranch. The stock was shipped to market by rail from Ashland in those days until the advent of the railroad to Klamath Falls in 1908, when the cattle were consigned from that point; when the railroad came to Chiloquin a few years later, beef

cattle were shipped from there to Southern markets.

Speaking of those old-time cattle drives (which were so many that he can't recollect the exact number in which he took part) Walter said that it took eight or ten riders two weeks, with good luck, to move the stock from Dillard across the mountains to Fort Klamath, a distance of approximately 190 miles. Compared to the modern means of transportation of cattle by diesel and gasoline-powered trucks and trailers, accommodating 35 or 40 head according to their size and piloted by drivers known as "diesel or gasoline" cowboys to buckaroos of the old school. Although the majority of local cattlemen now move their stock by the faster means of transportation of truck and trailer, a few cling to the old way of shipping via railroad to Chiloquin, with buckaroos on horseback driving the cattle from there to the lush green pastures of the Wood River valley.

FOOL THINGS

Reminiscing about his younger days, with a twinkle in his eye Walter allowed that he had done a lot of "fool things" as a youth, such as riding miles out of his way just to ride a wild horse he had heard about. On one such occasion, he rode ten miles to Canyonville where he had been told there was a bronco which his owner was afraid to ride because he was so mean. The animal was kept in a stall in a livery barn where he was fed grubs and hay, and in connection with the livery barn was a saloon, the two combined establishments being run by a man named Johnny Jackson. Walter saddled and got on the wild pony, rode him all over town, returned to the livery stable, dismounted and put the horse back in his stall, got the quart of whisky he had bargained for, and returned home. He said that he had done many similar stunts in his early days, but unlike many riders who will never admit that they were ever

bucked off a horse, he said that he had been thrown many a time.

Comparing wages of those times and the present day, Walter said that then the going wage for a buckaroo was forty or fifty dollars a month and board, although he was paid slightly more as he was an all-round ranch hand in addition to having the ability to break horses. Before he entered the employ of the Miller family, he was offered several jobs running different spreads, but as this would have entailed staying put for several years at a time, he didn't accept any of these offers, as he wasn't ready to settle down yet and preferred to be foot-loose and independent. Present day pay for an ordinary ranch hand is at least \$200 a month, with rent and a few other incidentals thrown in.

Last School Election Due

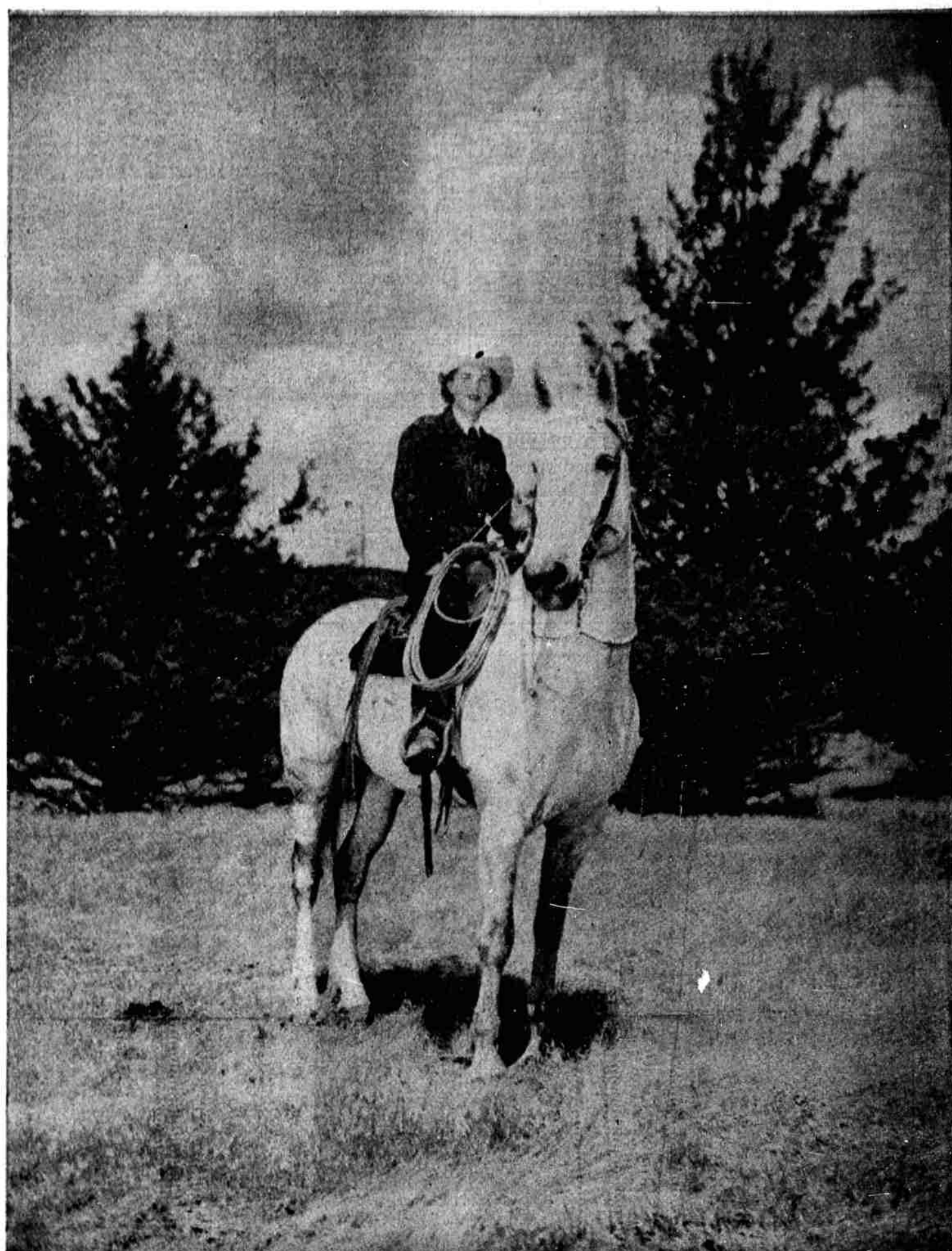
The last of this year's local school elections is scheduled for next Monday to elect one member of the Klamath Union High School board for a five-year term.

Voting will be between the hours of 2 to 8 p.m. at the main KVHS building.

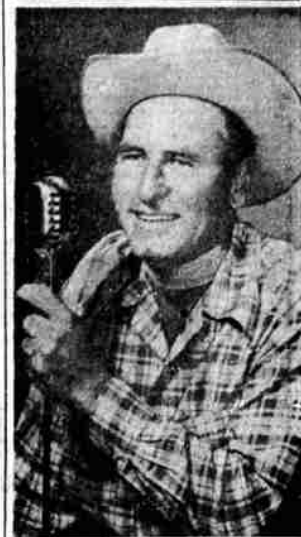
Nelson Reed, board member for many years, is seeking re-election to the post, and is opposed by L. Ernest Taylor, who is office manager and treasurer of the Palmerton Lumber Company.

Some electioneering is being done now, in contrast to the usual deadly quiet of school elections, in behalf of Taylor. A good many residents of town have received printed postcards outlining Taylor's education, business career and qualifications for the school board post.

A telephone campaign for Reed was also being carried out. All registered voters who are residents of the Klamath Union High School district, comprising Klamath Falls and much of the suburban area, are eligible to vote. The residence requirement is six months.



SUE SESSLER, Klamath Falls, was a member of the 1951 Roundup Royalty court.



B. M. ANTLE is one of the square dance callers who will be at the big Jamboree street dance here Saturday, June 28.

Power Needs More Money

SPOKANE (AP)—Bonneville Power Administrator Paul Raver, said in Spokane Thursday low-cost financing is needed for power development.

He made his statement at the opening session of the BPA's regional advisory council's two-day meet.

Raver described the electricity business as a "mass market business" and said "low cost unit is the key to the development of that system."

He told the council more power must be generated to "maintain mass production through the low rate approach."

Another speaker, Gus Norwood, executive secretary of the Northwest Public Power Association, also called for low-cost financing for power development. He told the council the "six per cent rate of return type of investment cannot do the job of the future."



WALTER WRIGHT