

Pioneer Resident Of Keno Recalls Branding Episode

By ALEX SEVELY JR.
As told to Ruth King
(Editor's Note: Alex Sevely, Lakeview, raised in the Klamath country, is the son of pioneer parents, Alex and Martha Sevely, whose lives and those of their children were closely interwoven with this area in the days of the stockmen's W.A.F.A. stage robberies, steamboats and cattle rustlers. In this and future articles he reveals some personal experiences of those times.)

I ran by the door of the shed while they tried to stack a rope on me. Mostly I'd dodge the loop and then I'd run and buck and bawl, kicking up my heels like a wild mustang or a maverick calf. Once they caught me they went through all the maneuvers of trussing and branding. This little act had been repeated several times when Clyde got a bright idea. He found some wire and the two boys twisted it to form a DL brand. Then Lee got another bright idea and built a little fire. While I was still bucking they heated that wire to a bright cherry red, but I never suspected what they were up to. A few more bucks and they had me caught and trussed up ready for the next act. Lee peeled down my britches, grabbed that hot wire and plunked it down on my left hip. I let out a yell that would make a mountain lion curl up.

It scared those "rustlers" half out of their wits and they took to their heels. I laid there with the fire creeping toward a forkful of hay and I kept on yelling until passerby heard and untied me and put out the fire. I can't remember how long I

carried that brand but my mother put wornwood aise on it for many a day. That cured me of playing maverick with Doten and Leggett.

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Keno was just a spot in the road when my family lived there. It had a hotel on the left at the bridge across the Klamath River and a store across the road to the right. I do not recall all the "prominent" buildings but there was a livery stable and a school. The rest of the town was a jumble of shacks with here and there, a better-looking house scattered about. The school stood on the north side of the river where the present highway makes its first turn. The school building was pretty crowded. Some of the pupils were almost grown men and women. Many of the girls wore skirts that touched their ankles and their hair was curled in bangs. Most of the smaller and some of the bigger students went barefoot. Jesse Walker was the teacher then and I remember a picture of Dan Doten, who now lives at the Klamath County Nursing Home, taken with the teacher. Dan was half a head taller. I was too young to learn my ABCs but I used to run away and go play at recess time. Lots of the bigger boys played with the smaller boys and it was this way that I got to know Lee Doten and Clyde Leggett. On one of the days when teacher Walker did not run me home, I ran into Lee and Clyde, playing in an old shed. I got in on the fun and we played roundup. I was the horse.



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EARLY THIS WEEK in Dunsmuir, 48 hours of snow and rain had reduced the main street to two narrow lanes of traffic. Traffic meters, as shown in foreground, were almost hidden by snow piled high by the plows. The high water content of the drifted snow made heavy going for businessmen and merchants who shoveled snow from the sidewalks in front of their places of business. — Photos by Harold Walsh

4-H NEWS

LANGELL VALLEY CUT UPS
President, Anita Vaden called the meeting to order at the home of Sherry Crawford. The 14 point program was used for role call. This is a way of determining how much you should wear in the way of different colors and accessories. Each girl counted the number of "points" she was wearing and told how her costume could be made better. Such as, not wearing more than three pieces of jewelry.

The radio program script for the 4-H program over KPJI was discussed under the old business. Our leader, Mrs. Brett, had started the script to the assigning of parts was in order. We are to take a

subject, one of the activities that we have done out side of sewing this club year, and give a description of this occasion.

We talked about having a skating party with a hay ride to and from the skating rink. A hay ride in this weather probably wouldn't be very comfortable, so we will postpone it until warmer weather.
Sydne Ketcham,
News reporter

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