

ATTRACTION WITH ACTION



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**KILLDEER MOUNTAIN
ROUND UP**

60 years of action:
A history of the
Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

1924 - 1984

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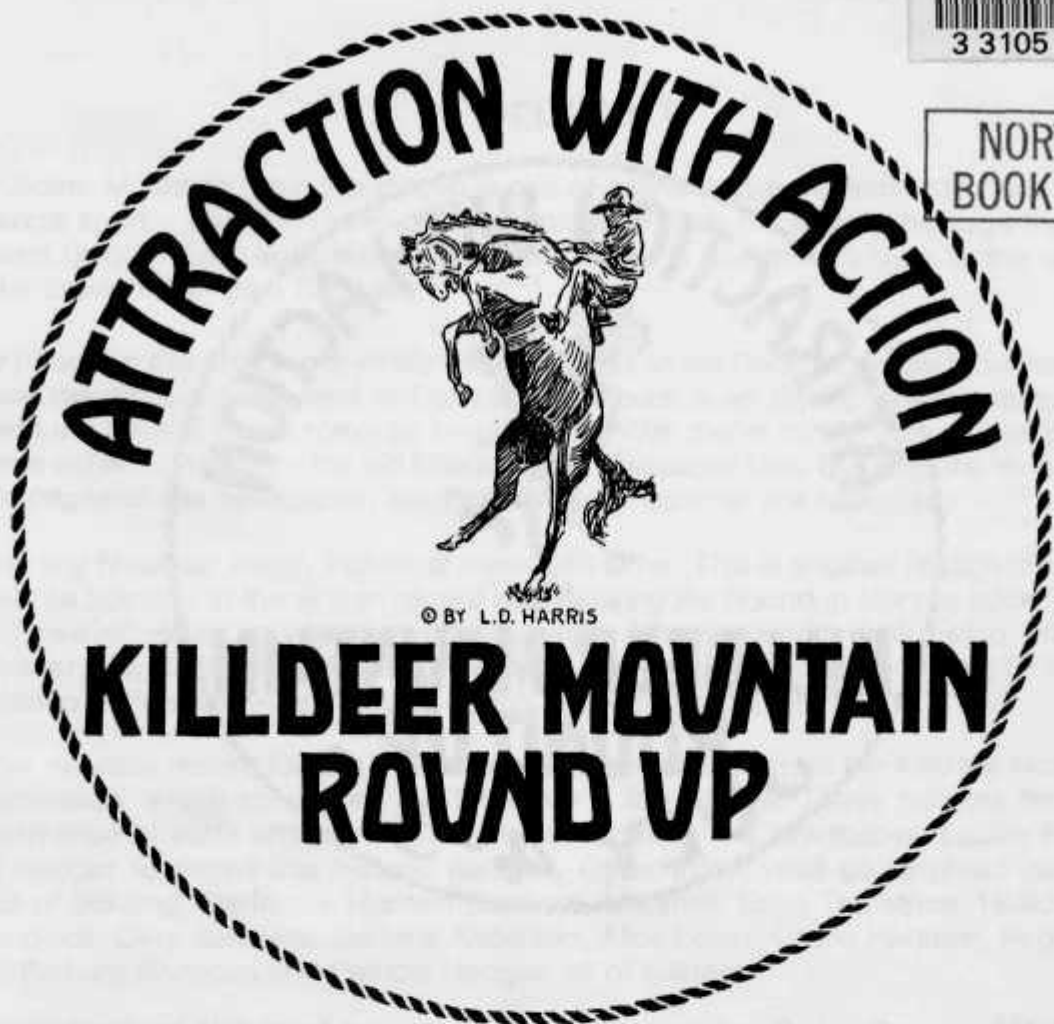
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60 years of action:
A history of the
Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo
1924 - 1984

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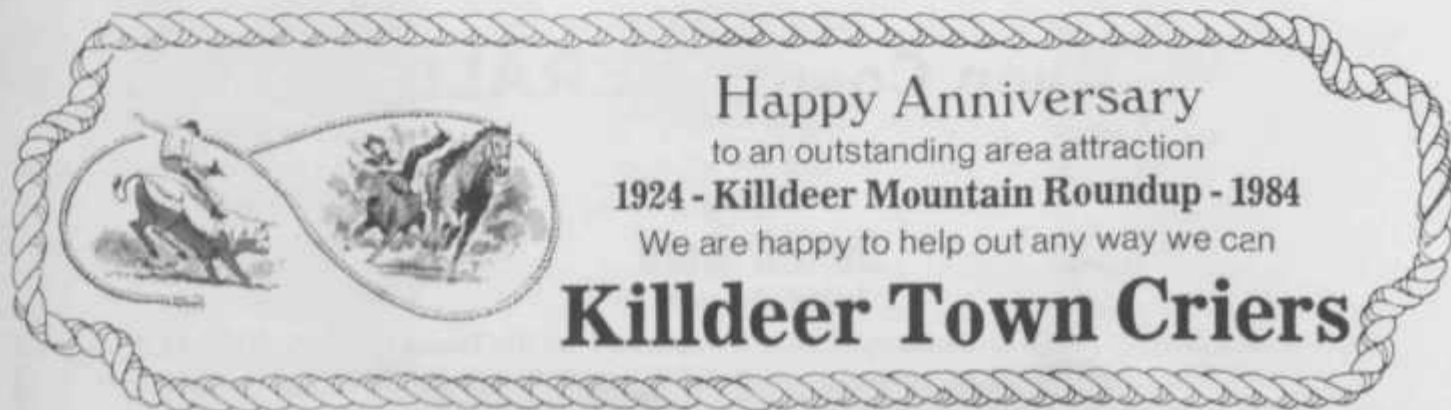
Extra copies of this special anniversary book are available from the **Dunn County HERALD**, Box 609, Killdeer, ND 58640. Cost of the book is \$7.28 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling, if necessary.



About the cover

The design on this book's cover is reproduced from the front page of the June 30, 1927, **Killdeer Herald**. It is reproduced on this page complete with the date. The date was removed from the cover version in order to more generally represent the rodeo history and also to not confuse readers about the dates of the 1984 rodeo, which is scheduled Tuesday, July 3 and Wednesday, July 4.

It is believed this design is from the auto windshield stickers distributed by the Town Criers to promote the rodeo in 1927 (See Page 16). The sticker, in turn, was based on a picture taken by Killdeer's long-time photographer, Leo D. Harris, at the 1926 Roundup. The photo was of Robert Birdbear on a bronc (See Page 19). Harris copyrighted many of his Roundup photos as well as this artwork specimen.



Foreword

The Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo is one of a kind. While modern rodeo is a standardized professional sport -- no other rodeo or community can claim the colorful heritage that makes this local event unique. Each successive rodeo at Killdeer is one more tribute to the original Roundups, the brainchild of Sam Rhoades.

Many people in this area recall vividly the early days of the Roundup in the Mountains near what was once the pioneer settlement of Oakdale. This book is an attempt to recapture some of the magic and excitement of this romantic by-gone era. With this in mind, reliance was placed extensively on a definitive source -- the old **Killdeer Herald** newspaper files. By using the vivid descriptions from the pages of the newspaper, the thrills of each summer are rekindled.

As with any historical event, individual memories differ. This is another reason research stayed as closely as possible to the written record in translating the Roundup story to book form. In some details, however, other sources proved invaluable. Interviews with Jack Fettig, Hugh Murphy, Cleo Veeder, Peg O'Neil and Richard Rhoades, all of the Killdeer area, helped fill in the blanks. These rodeo enthusiasts -- and others -- also provided photographs.

Another valuable record for this book was the file of minutes from the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Association, which sponsored the Roundup in the 1940s. These minutes proved to be a cross-reference of sorts and provided facts not found in the newspaper. Lucille Fitzlaugh and Patricia Hedger furnished this historic material. Other thank yous go to photo contributors Al Rhoades of Solvang, California; Hansen Brothers, Marshall; Edna Transtrom, Halliday, and Cordella Sandvick, Olive Sandvick, Darlene Anderson, Alice Leroy, Leone Hartman, Peg O'Neil, Cleo Veeder, Richard Rhoades and Patricia Hedger, all of Killdeer.

Acknowledgement also must be given to all readers of the **Dunn County HERALD** who stopped in the office (usually while ordering their books) or wrote letters and mentioned recollections of the old days of the rodeo. Many of these folks had useful suggestions and details they wanted us to know about. Their interest is appreciated; without readers, this book would be pointless.

And, of course, the many advertisers in this book cannot be forgotten. Without their financial support, it would not have been possible for a small weekly newspaper with limited funds to attempt such an extensive undertaking as this book project. What started as a 40 page idea grew swiftly by 50 percent! to this 60 page finished product you have before you.

Approximately 500 intensive staff hours over a three month period were required to produce this book -- not to mention myriad other production details. Space and time restrictions prevented further elaboration on the Roundup's colorful history...Several books of this size still would not have done justice to the local six decade rodeo effort.

However, while not every rodeo fact or photo from the past 60 years will be found on the following pages, what you are about to read represents the most ambitious effort to date by anyone trying to provide a manageable overview of the grand history of the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo.

Janell Cole, project coordinator

Gary & Peggy Wright, co-publishers

Friday, May 18, 1984

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Anniversary greetings !
as you celebrate 60 years
Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo
Killdeer Seed & Grain



Prologue

1921-1923

Long before the first Killdeer Mountain Roundup in 1924, the Oakdale area was a well-established playground. July 4 celebrations, picnics, bowery dances and other festivities were common in the shady hills and vales northwest of Killdeer.

In 1921, for instance, the **Killdeer Herald** mentioned the local Odd Fellows lodge was sponsoring a July 4 celebration in the Killdeer Mountains at Oakdale.

Lonien's orchestra of four pieces will play for a big bowery dance all evening and night.

Likewise, the Mountains were the place to be July 4, 1923. Come and spend the day at the foot of the Killdeer Mountains, one of the best resorts in the west. Plenty of shade and fresh water. Local sports of all kinds. Dance in the evening.

The Killdeer Mountains were acclaimed endlessly as a tourist attraction and camping site. In 1923, when A.R. Palmer bought the M.S. Cuskelly property at Oakdale, he proposed to construct cottages, clean out the underbrush and otherwise improve it, "making a public playground of this wonderful scenic haven."

Rodeo events were also increasing in western North Dakota. By 1924 the Mandan Rodeo and the great "Frontier Days" rodeo at Grassy Butte had been thrilling rodeo fans for years. Sam Rhoades, the creator of the Killdeer Mountain Roundup, was involved as early as 1916 with the Grassy Butte rodeo. Area folks remember this is where Sam got his start in the rodeo business.

Rhoades, a cattle driver who came up from Texas and went into the livery barn business in Killdeer, received generous praise for operating the rodeo events during the first few years of the Dunn County Fair.

(See Sam Rhoades biography on Pages 8 & 9 in this chapter)

While Sam is not mentioned in the local newspaper publicity for the "Dunn County Exhibition" (the first annual fair) in 1921, the September event did include a "rodeo and bucking contest."

When the 1922 and 1923 fairs were publicized, however, Sam was a key figure.

As chairman of the rodeo events for the second fair, he arranged to bring in horses from "the Stevenson outfit," apparently from the Grassy Butte area. Commented **Herald** Editor I.L. "Nace" Doherty: Riders who have attended every Rodeo and Bucking event in western United States and Canada have been thrown by the Stevenson outfit of horses.

Enclosures for this event were made from 130 15-foot poplar poles cut by a local crew at the Mountains.

Afterward, the **Herald** declared the second annual fair an unqualified success. The rodeo was the big event of the Fair. Under the able management of Sam Rhoades both bucking and roping contests were kept going in fast order, no time being lost in preparation. The bucking was not as good as at Grassy Butte, one of the reasons being the long distance the horses came.

In 1923, fair organizers prepared for "the biggest rodeo yet" during the two-day September fair. Rhoades announced he had "secured the Mike Goodale outfit of horses." Another feature was to be the "bulldogging by auto."

Again the local rodeo proved popular. According to Judge Harris of Manning, the Fair was excellent in every detail especially the exhibits and the rodeo. The rodeo could not have been better no matter where it might have been or who might have put it on.



Best wishes
on your 60th year
Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo
Buckskin Bar - Killdeer
David and Cheryl Gartner, owners

Killdeer Mountains Round Up



This photograph was taken by local photographer Leo D. Harris of the first Killdeer Mountain Roundup in 1924. This picture became a trademark of sorts for the event. It was rerun in the

newspaper to publicize subsequent rodeos as late as 1946! It was taken from the north, at the top of Spectator Hill on which hundreds of cars parked. (Photo from Cleo Veeder of Killdeer)

CHAPTER 1 The Roundup Is Born

It looked as if Sam was off and running. Less than five months after the fair, he announced his ambitious project for the Killdeer Mountain Roundup.

February 7, 1924, the **Herald** reported: Sam Rhoades and Mike Goodale are preparing plans for the greatest rodeo ever seen in the state. It will take place at the Killdeer Mountains Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 3, 4 and 5. They will have 125 head of horses and 50 head of steers and riders from all over this section and the west.

Interestingly, Mike Goodale's name never again appears in newspaper accounts of the Roundup, so one can only speculate about what happened after his early connection with it.

The local American Legion post was offered the concessions and by March all the preliminary arrangements for the Roundup had been completed. Rhoades planned an arena 90 rods in circumference, "probably the largest in the state and one of the largest in the west." Other plans were for eight

Best Wishes Killdeer
 On the 60th Anniversary
 Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo
West Plains Electric

corrals each 50 feet square and horses from the Porter Ranch in the Mountains and the McCloud (McCleod) place at Medora.

By this time Sam reported he expected 200 horses and 50 cattle, with horse races added to the agenda.

The wild nature of the horses was always a subject given much ink in the early newspaper coverage of rodeos and this first Roundup was no exception.

The Porter horses are exceptionally wild, not having been rounded up for many years while the McCloud bunch of twisters are notorious throughout the country.

The Word Spreads

As the rodeo picked up momentum, publicity and interest about the Roundup began to make its way to other areas. The **Watford Guide** reported the Killdeer rodeo had everything to make it worthwhile attending and horses and riders are coming from far and near.

Sam's brother, Frank, who was still in Texas, was also spreading the word about the celebration, and in May 1924, Sam got a letter from Ima Paterson of Throckmorton, Texas. She asked for time to present her "famous riding and roping" show. She wrote: I am a real wild woman, without fear. I will give them a show worthwhile.

Plans were also materializing for a major baseball tournament at the Mountains in conjunction with the rodeo and area players appeared quite anxious to get into the event.

As final preparations were made the month before the Roundup, the **Herald** gushed with enthusiasm.

Every pole is cut out here and nailed up green making it safe against the wildest plunges of the cattiest horses ever wrangled in the badlands.

Spectator Hill

But the greatest praise was saved for the "magnificent natural amphitheatre feature" of the grounds, and much space was devoted to describing the "great grass covered butte which rises broadside from the foot of the arena in a gentle slope upwards for 400 feet." From all over this hill, spectators could clearly see the arena. Thousands of people can rest on its upward slope and on the very top there is room for at least 500 cars. There is no question 8,000 people can witness the entire rodeo performance from this massive formation (and) there will be no pushing or crowding for advantageous positions.

Across the way, baseball fans could see the diamond in similar comfort.

Judging from the statements of traveling men who have gone out to



"Let Her Buck," says the writing on this photo taken at the 1924 Roundup by long-time Killdeer photographer Leo Harris. The horse is trying to climb out of one of the old-fashioned "shotgun" chutes. (Photo courtesy of Cleo Veeder, Killdeer.)

the Mountains to look the grounds over and size up the Roundup preparations, there will be fully 10,000 people here each of the three days. They report people from all over the state making preparations to come here and camp for the full week of the affair.

Besides rodeo and baseball, plans called for concessions, bowery dances, bands, side shows, vaudeville acts and movies. Arrangements were made to use a "Delco light outfit" to illuminate the area at night.

A Five-Year Proposition

Even before the first Roundup was put on, Sam Rhoades and the rest of the community obviously were counting on this event to put them on the map for some time to come.

This Roundup affair is no hay wire outfit. It is a five-year proposition, the 160 acres having been leased by Sam Rhoades for that period, hence it is no attempt to put on a big passing show to get the money. It will have to represent satisfaction to everyone who attends or no crowd will be there the following four years.

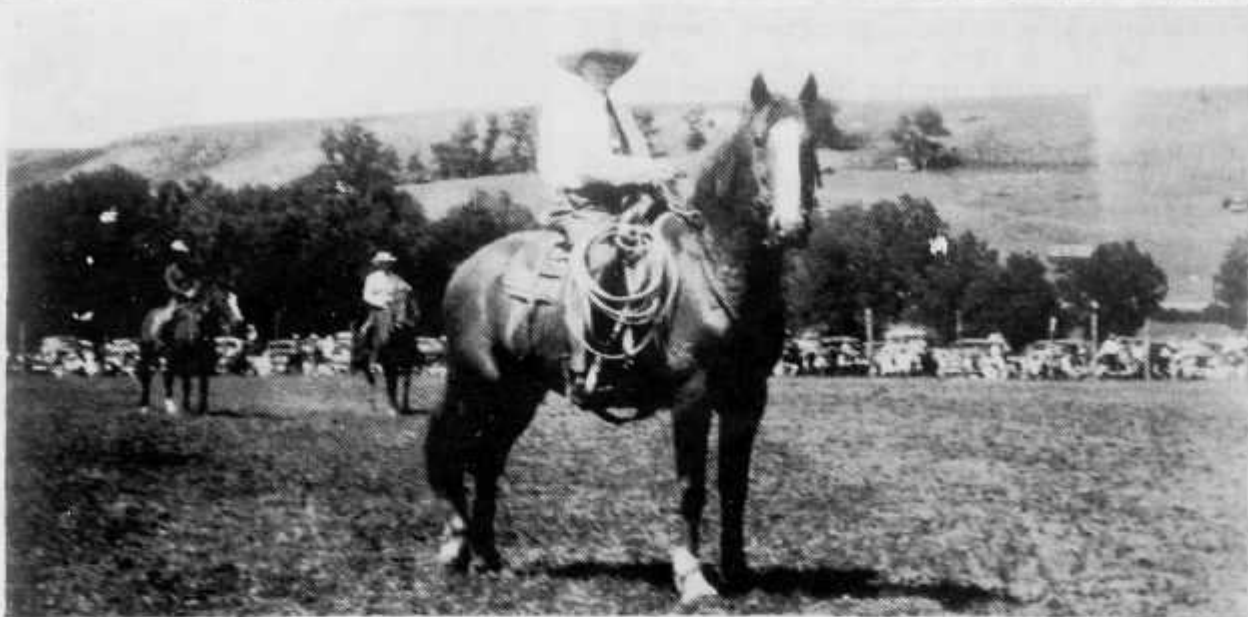
The quarter section leased for the first Roundup is the same site used off and on for the next 30 years. Now owned by Arnie Skachenko, its legal description is the northwest quarter of Section 23, Township 146, Range 96. The spot remains largely unchanged today and probably looks almost

Continued on Page 10

Congratulations

To a great rodeo town
We're proud of our Killdeer heritage

Butch Pribyl and staff
Queen City Club
Dickinson



Sam Rhoades is all gussied up for one of the Roundups in the Mountains. Judging by his fancy "Sunday-go-to-meetin' clothes" (note the tie) and the vehicles in the

background, this was not one of the earliest rodeos. The photo was probably taken in the early 1950s. (Courtesy of Al Rhoades, Solvang, Calif.)

Founder was colorful figure

Sam Rhoades, forever referred to in the local press by such descriptions as "one of the old time cowpunchers of this section," and "that owly old Texas leatherneck," was actually a native of Tennessee.

According to his son, Richard Rhoades, who still lives in Killdeer, Sam went west for his health. Apparently when he was quite a young man, he contracted tuberculosis and was given six months to live. In search for a healthier climate, he ended up in Texas."

Born Samuel Fleming Rhoades March 6, 1872, Sam's obituary reports he "came to this vicinity from San Angelo, Texas, one of the men who brought cattle to the area from Texas on the big cattle drives." This was apparently about 1893, when Sam was only 21 years old.

He stayed in the area and was employed at the Arnett Ranch in Medora and ranched in the Grassy Butte and Killdeer areas before moving to Killdeer in 1916.

Sam operated a livery stable in town, known as the T Five Feed Barn. An advertisement in the **Killdeer Herald** in 1923 outlined his services: "Extra good accommodations for farmers and stockmen. Plenty of feed and first class service to everybody. Good horses and saddles. Open day and night."

It can be assumed the livery barn business was already feeling the effects of the rising use of automobiles, but Sam apparently operated his livery barn until the early 1930s. The **Herald** advertised an auction in 1933: "At the Sam Rhoades Livery Barn in Killdeer on Friday September 15th. Cattle, horses and machinery, C.M. Leroy, owner. Clyde Smith, auctioneer."

Sam had bought the 160 acres that took in the original Killdeer Mountain rodeo grounds in 1925. He apparently tore down the livery barn in town to construct a house and barn near the arena site. The lumber returned to town



See you at the
60th Anniversary
Killdeer Mountain Roundup
Long X Wagon Train



This picture of Sam Rhoades was taken in 1961. (Photo courtesy of his son, Al Rhoades, of Solvang, Calif.)

when Cleo Veeder dismantled Sam's house and built his own near the old Killdeer fire hall.

Sam was also the local city police officer for many years.

He must have had quite a reputation as a real cowboy, because there was a minor uproar in 1931 when he failed to appear in his Stetson.

In a front-page story headlined "The Last of the West," **Herald** Editor Nace Doherty mourned:

"We have seen coonskin coats on the college campus; sockless women in the sunshine; pajamas on the streets;

cowboys with a patent leather shine on their hair; he-men with handmade curls on their domes; grandmas arrested for disorderly conduct in the ballroom; and that didn't bother us any. But hot bells! when our city marshal, Sam Rhoades, started wearing a straw hat the first of the week, our heart sank. For nigh onto 40 years Sam has worn his old ten-gallon Stetson - ever since he followed the trail herds of clinking long horns up from the pampas of Texas. The old Stetson pulled down over this keen gray eyes was a landmark, a symbol, a proof west was still west and east was east and never the twaine would twine. But - dammit - he shed it for a straw; a regular old dinky straw any old lounge lizard in Noo Yawk can use.

"Woe is us! We quit. What's the use of thinking we're tough now. The next time you see the editor of this light of the world, we'll be wearing an eyebrow under our nose and a set of panels on each cheek. We're through forever - unless Sam gets his old Stetson on again."

The editor was not the only one upset. The next week's **Herald** carried a reaction from the Elm Grove correspondent:

"Is it really true about Sam? If so will you kindly see he gets this sermon. Do not lose hope yet, Nace, I'll do my best to convert him." The correspondent went on, in part, "We are truly sorry Sam has fallen from Stetsonism. We just can't imagine Sam in a straw. We the people of this vicinity have bound ourselves as true vigilants to stay entirely away from the former Peppy City until Sam will dig up the old felt and place it where it belongs, on top of one of the most noble domes outside of canvas...Sam you will be sorry if you don't cut this modern stuff out...We give you fair warning now old top - put 'er back on or down goes the Peppy City for all time."

Richard Rhoades says thereafter Sam alternated between the straw hat and the Stetson.

By the 1930s, Sam was getting help with the rodeos from his son-in-law, Senster Anderson. Senster operated the livestock yards here for many years, and Richard Rhoades said this is where Sam spent most of his time working in his later years.

Sam apparently worked well into his 70s and died on February 4, 1963, about a month before his 91st birthday...Not a bad record for someone who had been given six months to live 70 years before that!

Happy celebrating, Killdeer!
as you mark 60 years of
GREAT RODEO ACTION

Halliday Saddle Club



Continued from Page 7

exactly as it did when Sam negotiated the first lease from Mike Cuskelly. About a quarter mile to the south of the arena site is the little grey Oakdale school. Just northwest is the Murphy home site.

Sam appealed to the Town Criers in mid-June to help him get improved roads to the site. "They would be no good if fixed after the show instead of before," the **Herald** wrote, and the Town Criers agreed to take this up with County Commissioner Rasmus Jensen.

Final Preparations

The **Herald** published one more issue before the great event, and continued to plug it with detail and reports of great expectations.

There isn't going to be anything like it west of the Mississippi River. Six loads of lumber are already on the ground for the mammoth bowery dance. The barbecue and mess camp were set up by Dick Blackburn and the big-league style baseball diamond is ready. There would be no lack of food, refreshments or fresh water.

Nature in all its artistry never laid out a more beautiful playground for 10,000 people to amuse themselves upon.

It also was reported Rhoades was being asked to hold the rodeo events on a fourth day (Sunday, July 6), since people planned to stay over and camp until Monday morning.

Mr. Rhoades has enough horses, cattle and cowboys to run for a week if the people who will be there say the word. Don't get us wrong. We are not over enthusiastic. This show has to go over big because our reputation for the next five years is at stake.

The rodeo events to be held were saddle riding, bareback, steer bulldogging, colt roping and wild horse racing.

The prize money from 1924 would be laughable for today's cowboys: A first place in saddle riding over the three days paid \$75, with second and third placers getting \$40 and \$20, respectively. Top money in the other events was \$30 or \$40.

First Roundup Successful

The first Roundup apparently came off much as was expected, although the prediction 10,000 people would attend each of the three days proved to be an exaggeration. The event also was kept to its three scheduled days.

The First Annual Killdeer Mountain Roundup was a success beyond all expectations of the most optimistic resident of these parts. It is estimated there were over 10,000 people who witnessed the affair. On



Chi Scofield played the "Wild Woman" at the first Roundup when Ima Paterson of Texas failed to show up. The crowd apparently didn't know the difference! (Photo courtesy of Hansen Brothers, Marshall)

July Fourth alone there were over 6,000 in attendance and over 1,500 cars parked adjoining the arena or on the surrounding hillsides overlooking the area.

The newspaper wrote about the Killdeer Mountain Roundup as if it had proven to be the center of the universe for three days: it was the most impressive holiday sight ever witnessed in the western part of the state. Not a person of the enormous crowd attending - not even a child - failed to see the entire performance in comfort, coolness and pleasure.

There were no disturbances, fights or price gouging, according to the **Herald**. As one gentleman from Bismarck remarked: 'This is the most ideal spot in the United States for a wild west exhibition,' with campers unanimous in their determination to return to this paradise of trees and shade next year.

There was, however, one tragedy. One of the competitors, Gabriel Holmesly, 27, of Grassy Butte, died on the first day of the event when his saddle turned over on the right side when his horse made a terrific side lunge and he hit the ground with the left foot still caught in the stirrup. He was kicked, dragged and stamped to death before any of the other riders could get near the enraged animal.

The "wild woman," Ima Paterson of Texas, failed to appear

Congratulations Killdeer Saddle Club

Don't forget our state championship rodeo finals

July 23, 24 & 25 in Minot

North Dakota Rodeo Association



for her performances and, unknown to the crowd, local cowboy Chi Scofield substituted by donning a wig and riding skirts. Only a few of the crowd realized 'she' was a man.

And the Winners Are...

The event winners were Bob McCleod, wild horse race and saddle riding; Chi Scofield, bareback riding; Ralph Schlangen, colt roping, and Dexter Glerup, bulldogging.

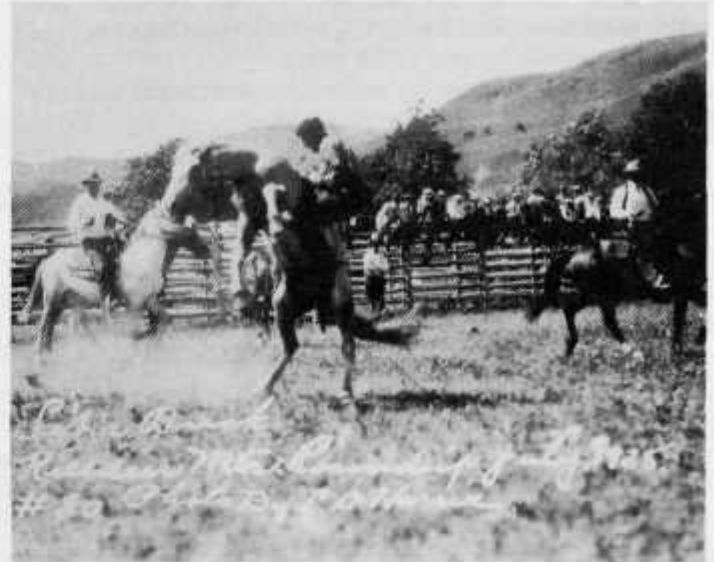
Sam Rhoades wasted no time ensuring the future of the Roundup. By November 1924 he had purchased the 160-acre site from Mike Cuskelly and planned to fence it. He also bought 40 head of horses, most of them being of the Porter bunch, notorious as the worst outlaw critters in the west...Sam assures the whole world the Roundup next year will be better and bigger than ever, with more and larger prizes which will attract riders from distant corners of the country. He planned to have a herd of 350-400 horses by then.



In the background of this 1925 Roundup photo is the hill on the north side of the rodeo grounds that was so handy for parking to watch the event. (Photo courtesy of Richard Rhoades, Killdeer)

Roundup Becomes an Institution

For the next seven years, the Killdeer Mountain Roundup enjoyed a distinction as possibly the most-talked about summer attraction in this area. Rhoades and the entire Killdeer community found themselves with an instant institution on



Another view of the action captured by Leo Harris at the 1925 Roundup. (Photo courtesy of Edna Transtrom of Halliday)

their hands and they continued to work for its success. The overwhelming proportions of the first annual Roundup meant extremely high standards to be lived up to in the succeeding years. Sometimes these were met, sometimes they weren't.

February 1925, Rhoades said he expected to accommodate 15,000 spectators that year. He had 450 "raw wild horses" from which to select his bucking stock, 50 tons of ice put up for the concession stands and he planned to pay out prize money nightly for each day's events.

Instead of one "wild woman" act, Sam will endeavor to have several more, wilder and cattier than ever, if he has to get 'em from the pampas of Argentina.

His plans for a bigger and better event met with enthusiasm from *Herald* Editor Nace Doherty, who speculated the second annual Roundup "will make the World War look like a prohibition picnic."

People were reminded the grounds held 3,000 cars on three sides of the 10-acre arena.

By April, Sam and his cohorts had laid out concession lots, hired a woman trick rider from Lisbon, N.D., and arranged to have longhorn steers shipped up from Texas. Full-page advertising of the Roundup was running by early May, promising "hair-raising thrills." All of the publicity stressed the free parking, free camping, shade, fresh spring water and plenty of food stands for those attending. The price was set



We are honored to be a part of the

Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

It has been a thrill for us to participate in this first class production.

Krance-Stromme Auction Service

Killdeer and South Heart

at the same level as the year before -- \$1 for adults and teens; children under 12 free. Clyde Smith was listed as concession salesman for the 1925 event.

Perhaps the most exciting news for townspeople was that the Roundup would be filmed as a movie.

(See separate story on the Roundup movies on page 14)

Sam was apparently good at his word in coming up with better prizes for the cowboys. He arranged to pay out money each of the three days in each event, and the amounts were higher for day winners in 1925 than for the overall winners in

1924. For instance, the first place day money in saddle riding was \$100. Day money for first place winners in other events was considerably lower, however, most of them being \$25. In the final saddle riding, the winner would get \$125. New events were also added: yearling horse roping, steer riding and Indian squaw bareback race.

In mid-June Diamond C Rancher W. L. Richards arrived with a carload of Brahma steers for the rodeo and they were called "the snakiest, wildest critters which have ever been seen in this section." They were proclaimed as the only Brahma steers in the state and the newspaper headline teased: "Look 'em over -- and shiver, kid!"

An Unusual Painting



'West River Country'

By an unusual western artist

Kaye Burian has presented an original oil, "West River Country," to the Board of Directors of West River Center. This 24" x 36" painting will be hung in the Center.



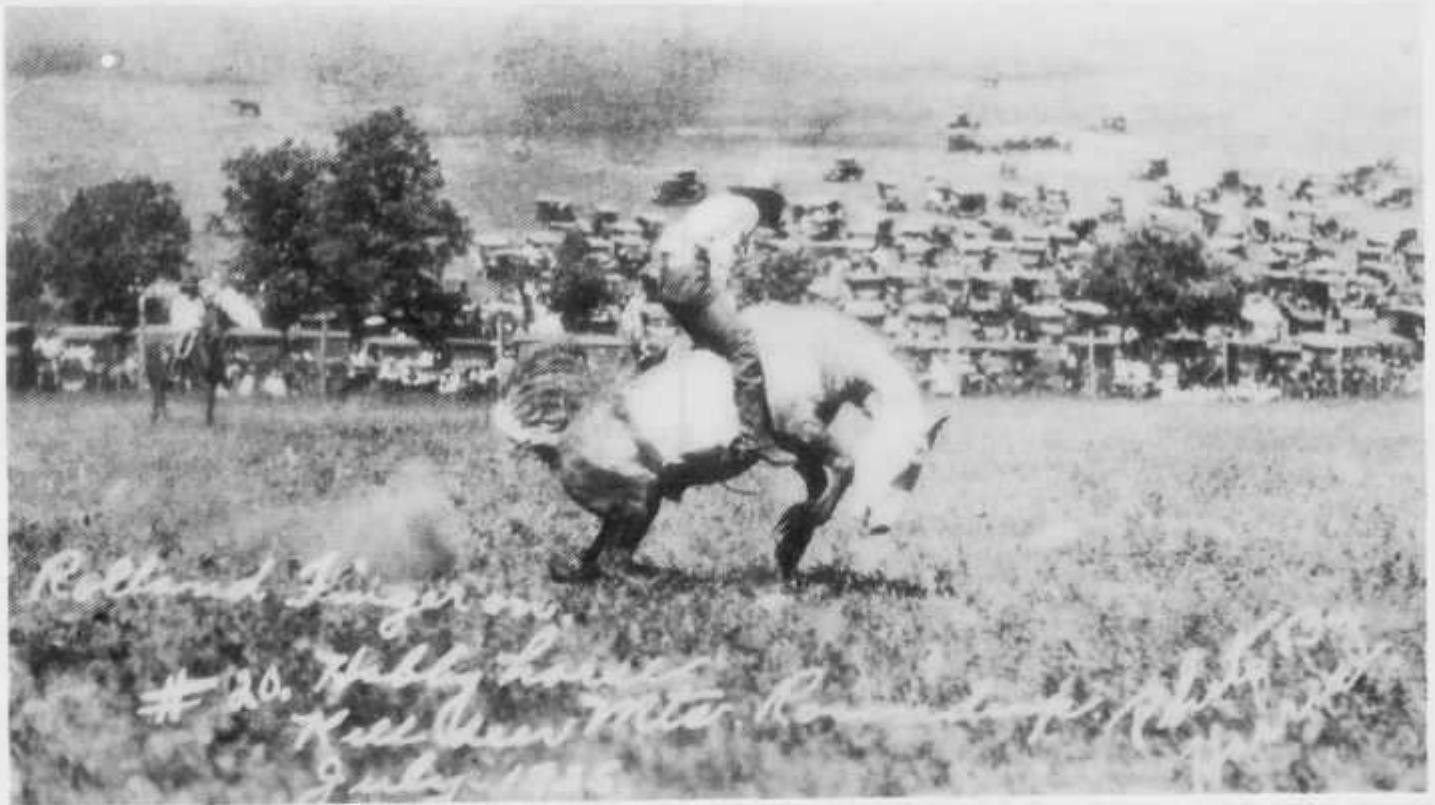
A limited edition of 750 signed and numbered prints of this fine western painting will be offered to lovers of Western Art and supporters of West River Center for just \$75.

To reserve your signed and numbered print, send check or money order to:

West River Center

Box 172 - Dickinson State College
Dickinson, ND 58601





"Rolland Finger on hobby horse, Killdeer Mts. Roundup, July-1925," says the inscription on this photo taken by Leo Harris. Note the cars parked on Spectator Hill in the background. At left is another Harris photo showing Chi Scofield in action at the 1925 rodeo. (Photos courtesy of Hansen Brothers, Marshall)



A new tack was taken in the publicity when the **Herald** pointed out "unlike most roundups and rodeos in the country" the local Roundup did not use any trained bucking stock - only truly wild horses and steers.

1925 Roundup Bigger and Better

Again, the event lasted three days -- July 2-4 -- and when it was over it was reported to have been bigger and better than the first.

The 1925 Roundup offered more and better entertainment to the thousands who witnessed it than the 1924 Roundup -- and that's saying considerable. The three-day event was described to the last

Tavis Candy Co.

Dickinson

Congratulates Killdeer

on the 60th anniversary of the

Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo





"So easy Mable," says this Harris photo from the 1925 Roundup. (Photo courtesy of Hansen Brothers, Marshall)

detail. The weather and landscape were ideal and this time no cowboys were seriously hurt.

The longhorn steers made their mark, however. When Rolland Finger was bulldogging one, it "threw him fifteen feet away and was preparing to put a few polka dots in his hide," just before he was dragged to safety under the fence. Mr. Rhoades offers to back this longhorn for bucking purposes against any charging buffalo, wild mustang or brindled gnu that ever pawed the dirt.

A new "immense" bowery made its debut in 1925 and Mr. and Mrs. Ringwood of the Pathe Film Co., even dared to go into the arena and shoot their movie film. Local Killdeer photographer Leo D. Harris and an assistant from Minot also made "hundreds of views of every stunt of the three day program."

The **Herald** congratulated Sam Rhoades for his efforts and success: the Killdeer Mountain Roundup is a real one. There is no faking done; there are no trained bucking horses or salaried riders. The public is beginning to know this, which accounts for the increasing attendance each year and the good word which is passed along by all who see it.

(See expanded story about the 1925 Roundup on Page 52)

That winter, the 1925 Roundup was relived when its movie was shown in the local theatre. (See separate story)

Continued on Page 16

Roundup makes

Deep in the bowels and clutter of some musty film vault somewhere could be a bit of local history -- the movie made of the 1925 Killdeer Mountain Roundup.

During the planning stages of the second annual Roundup -- in May of 1925 -- the community first became aware its own wild west show was going to be recorded for the entertainment of movie-goers. And by December of that year the local citizenry got to see that movie. However, it is hard to tell whether the movie, contracted for and filmed at the arena that summer, is the same one that thrilled the locals the following December, since two different outfits are mentioned.

Here's the chronology as recorded in the **Killdeer Herald's** that year:

May 21, 1925: "In all the large cities of the United States and all around the rest of the world will appear in movies the high spots of the Killdeer Mountain Roundup of the year 1925.

"Sam Rhoades signed a contract last week whereby he grants the exclusive movie rights for the year to the Pathe Film Co. whose representative, J.H. Ringwood of Minneapolis, came out here especially to secure them. The Pathe concern is familiar to all who attend the movies and is one of the largest in the film world. The pictures will be shown in Killdeer first, subject to criticism of Mr. Rhoades who will be allowed to cut out any objectionable features. Afterward they will be placed on sale in every part of the world where movies are seen.

"An expert movie operator and a title writer will be with Mr. Ringwood during the Roundup.

"Mr. Ringwood stated from what he had heard here, the Killdeer Mountain Roundup was more of the real thing than the famous Pendleton, Oregon affair, which annually attracts tens of thousands of people from all over the United States."

July 9, 1925, in the **Herald's** report of the just-completed Roundup: "Mr. and Mrs. Ringwood of the Pathe Film Co. ...when they dared, went into the arena, but when the steers were bulldogged and the wild horse race was on, they took no chances but shot their stuff from the safety of a truck especially placed outside the arena for their ac-

the silver screen

commodation."

November 19, 1925: "Manager Albert Lubke of the Killdeer Auditorium informs the **Herald** the movie pictures of the Killdeer Mountain Roundup, which were taken last summer, are now completed and will be on exhibit in Killdeer sometime next month. Announcement will be made in time so all may have an opportunity to see them.

Quoting the Casselton, N.D., newspaper, the **Herald** said: "In July Miss Angela Murray Gibson (local Casselton film maker) went to Killdeer to film pictures of the great rodeo held in the Killdeer Mountains. The pictures, the first of the kind to be taken in North Dakota, are to be released in about three weeks, and are to be shown in the western part of the state before coming here. Miss Gibson is to be out with the pictures herself for a short time."

News stories do not explain why the Pathe Film Co., which received so much publicity about making the movies, is not the entity that ended up with the final product. Nevertheless, there were movies made and shown here and they were warmly received.

November 26, 1925, the **Herald**, published a story headlined: "Roundup Movie is Coming. Dunn County: First Place in the United States to See This Product.

"As will be noticed by the ad in another column, Manager Lubke of the Killdeer Auditorium has secured for his patrons the moving pictures of the Killdeer Mountain Rodeo taken last year. On account of them being taken out here, Killdeer is showing them before any other town in the United States.

"Many of the boys we all know such as Jesse Thomas, Paul Schafer, Rolland Finger and numerous others can be seen ridin' 'em. And sometimes - not ridin' 'em -- very far.

"This is the first movie of a roundup or rodeo of which we know. It will be shown all over the United States and it will be worth seeing.

"On account of the inquiries which have been coming from all parts of the county since it became known the Roundup would be in the movies, Manager Lubke has booked it for three nights to accommodate the crowds. All who are taking women and children are advised to come early in order to secure seats."

In spite of the preparations for accommodating crowds, it appears the showings here generated nearly un-



Miss Ardoth Schneider and her trained Shetland ponies from Lisbon, N.D. were among the attractions at the 1925 Roundup. (Photo courtesy of Hansen Brothers, Marshall)

manageable crowds.

Under the headline: "Doors Were Locked to Stop Jams at Killdeer Roundup Movie," the **Herald** reported December 3, 1925: "The movies of the Killdeer Mountain Roundup which were shown here Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights brought record-breaking crowds. Every evening the doors had to be locked and many turned away. Before seven o'clock each evening people began to pour into the auditorium and by 7:30 all seats were taken because there was not even standing room left. The streets were lined with cars.

"Every cowpuncher who rode during the three days as well as those who assisted, appeared in the picture. Even Gube Saunders' shining dome loomed up like a sunburst on the evening sky."

Besides this complete coverage of the rodeo action, the film showed scenes of the Killdeer area. The crowds enjoyed recognizing local people in the film, and "when Sam Rhoades, owner and manager of the Roundup was shown, his picture was greeted with a deafening roar.

Miss Angeline Gibson of the Gibson Studios filmed the Roundup. Although it was her first attempt at an action picture of this kind the results were marvelous. Long before the picture was completed, requests to show it were made throughout North Dakota and other states. Since its first appearance here requests have come for it from several towns in this territory and on the main line of the N.P. Ry.

"It is a ticklish and dangerous task to stand out in the arena and film a real rodeo such as this one, and Miss Gibson is to be enthusiastically congratulated for the whirlwind of popular approval which has greeted her picture."

Wishing Killdeer
an exciting 60th anniversary 'Roundup'



513 Elks Drive
Dickinson, ND 58601
701-225-1000



Western Livestock

Dickinson
and the

Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo:
Two great names that mean 'The Best in the West'





This picture of a part of "the big Masonic Reunion" held at the Killdeer Mountains just prior to the 1926 Roundup was taken by

Osborn Studio, Dickinson. Note the Shiner garb. (Photo courtesy of Richard Rhoades, Killdeer)

Continued from Page 14

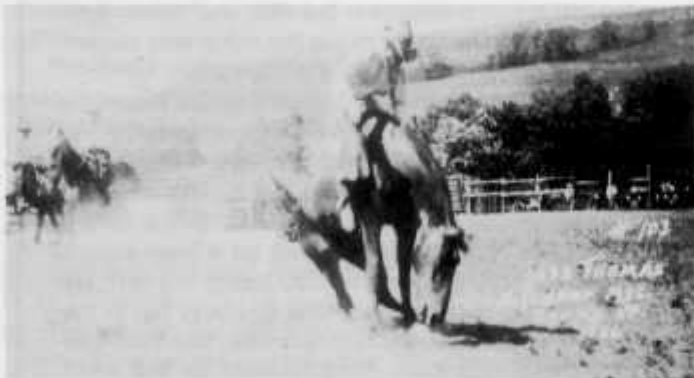
Masons Entertained by 1926 Roundup

Sam had announced in July 1925 his third annual Roundup would be July 1-3, 1926. However, he changed his plans when the community heard the Killdeer Mountains would be the location of the "big Masonic (Shriners) reunion" June 22-25. He decided to produce the rodeo June 26 and June 28-29 in order to take advantage of this captive audience.

Sam apparently did not use this as an excuse to take it easy, however. He announced more features and events, and the **Herald** continued to trumpet the Roundup as "the only bona fide rodeo in the country." Plans called for a wild mare milking contest and a "Roman standing race" in which the cowboys stand upright on the bare backs of horses. Arrangements also were made for a special train from Mandan



Ralph Little Owl at the Killdeer Mountain Roundup in 1926. Taken by Leo D. Harris. (Photo courtesy of Cleo Veeder, Killdeer)



Jess Thomas at the 1926 Roundup. (Photo courtesy of Hansen Brothers, Marshall)

to bring out more rodeo fans.

All of the usual events were scheduled including bowery dances to "amuse those who wish to fling a wild hoof."

When the Roundup was over, it was again praised as "the most interesting and thrilling which Mr. Rhoades has ever put on," with more riders coming from farther away than before.

A new world's record of eight seconds in colt roping was set by Clay Smith, an Indian from the Fort Berthold Reservation.

Sen. Nye Speaks at 1927 Event

By March 1927, publicity was well under way for the fourth annual rodeo. Area residents were urged to advertise the event with "the auto windshield stickers bought by the Town Criers last year." Dates were July 4-6.



We're backing a leader!

Your leader in agricultural lending

congratulates the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo



This undated picture was taken by Leo Harris - probably the first year or two of the Roundup. (Photo courtesy of Richard Rhoades, Killdeer)

U.S. Sen. Gerald P. Nye agreed to speak at the Roundup July 6 and additional entertainment would be offered by "the famous (Dickinson) Normal School Tumbling Team and Miss Rudiselle, the dancing virtuoso."

The Roundup was again plugged as "the only one where there is no joking on the job." A week before the rodeo, three carloads of local townspeople "went down the line as far as Hazen on a booster tour for the Roundup," an event that appears to have been nearly as much fun as the rodeo.

After looking at the almanac and finding there would be no fire in town that day, the boys took the siren off the fire truck, adorned their

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“Paul Shaffer & Jess Perkins bulldogging. Killdeer Roundup. Fiske photo,” says this undated picture. It was probably taken dur-

ing the 1920s. (Photo courtesy of Richard Rhoades, Killdeer)

domes with white hats and a red feather, hung beribboned canes over one arm and a 2x4 red, white and blue umbrella over the other and stepped on 'er.

A drawback was the airplanes scheduled to come to the Roundup arrived late and then could not fly passengers or do stunts because of high winds.

(See expanded story about this adventurous trip on Page 55)

New management in 1928

Some 7,000 people attended the Roundup that year, and two world records were again announced. Anton (Tony) Fetting marked one in “the steer ribbon tying contest” -- whatever that is -- with 38 seconds and Bill Hereaf (a headline called him “Fred Hereof”) had a time of 52 seconds in the wild horse race. Senator Nye “delivered a very interesting address on the problems of the farmer.”

A new wrinkle appeared in April 1928 rodeo publicity. At an informal meeting of members of the American Legion last Tuesday evening, it was decided to take over the Killdeer Mountain Roundup this year. Dates of July 2-4 were set by the Legionnaires at the meeting, who have taken this step on their own initiative, independent of the Legion Post...they will assume all responsibility for the management and financing of the venture. Sam Rhoades was to be arena manager.

Happy Anniversary Killdeer

On Your 60th annual rodeo



Kelley's & Daughters
Dickinson - Williston - Sidney, MT

"Mat Olson taking his morning exercise," says the inscription on this undated photograph. It was taken by Leo Harris, probably in the 1920s. (Photo courtesy of Edna Transtrom, Halliday)



A later announcement listed Joe Kroll as Roundup manager and the sponsors were listed as "ex-servicemen of Dunn County." Among the events planned at the Roundup was the organization of an Old Settlers Association for anyone who had been in North Dakota before 1910.

The Roundup was again hailed as a "huge success," with an estimated attendance of 8,000. The boys who put the rodeo on cleared a bunch of money.

Tony Fettig of Killdeer, "one of the west's greatest riders had a leg snapped in two on the third horse ridden and is in the Dickinson hospital now," and a horse ridden by Rolland Finger broke its neck "in a terrific lunge at the arena fence." Bob McCleod of Medora also had a rib broken when a bronc dumped him and "planted a departing hoof." Riders came from North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, and Fettig won a prize as best all-around and best-costumed hand.

The 1929 Killdeer Mountain Roundup was again planned by Legion members, and the dates set for July 3-5. The group was referred to as "the Rodeo Association." Rhoades was again to run the arena events.

As a side show, Jack Guth of Baker, Mont., wanted to bring and exhibit "his famous giant steer," a 3,400-pound



"Robert Birdbear on Kangaroo, Killdeer Mts. Roundup, 1926," is the writing on this Harris picture. (Photo courtesy of Edna Transtrom, Halliday)

Wishing Killdeer 60 more years of Roundup action

Congratulations

Midwest Federal



Your full service financial center

North Dakota State Library
Bismarck, N. D. 58505

Dickinson



This picture of Barney "Hanson" was apparently taken at the 1924 Roundup by Leo Harris. (Courtesy of Hansen Brothers, Mar-

shall)

behemoth measuring eight feet around at the chest.

A crowd was anticipated of 15,000. Stories following the rodeo don't mention the estimated overall attendance, but report 7,000 saw the event on the second day, July 4.

Event Shrinks to Two Days

In 1930, the first and only publicity in the *Killdeer Herald* about that year's Roundup finally appeared in mid-June. Rhoades again was overall manager of the rodeo and, for the first time, scheduled "two big days of fun and whoopee" July 3-4 instead of the usual three-day affair.

When the seventh annual Roundup was over, it seemed for the first time newspaper accounts had to stretch to say positive things as only "1,598 adults went through the gates." -- a relatively tiny crowd by comparison with the other years. This, added to the number of children admitted free

under 12 years of age, would place the total attendance for the two days well over 2,000, to which might be added those who attended the dances in the evening and had not witnessed the Roundup features. This was very uncharacteristic rationalizing.

The newspaper admitted due to the late attempts in getting concessions there were but few there. Mr. Rhoades informs us that henceforth he will secure concessions beginning in December for the following July.

There is also a somewhat surprising indication that rodeo was perhaps getting to be old hat to the area: The rodeo itself will doubtless be cut down considerably to allow for the new and generally interesting stunts and features which Mr. Rhoades will put on for the season of 1931, for July 3-5.

Roundup Held at Bridge Dedication

In 1931 drought was becoming worse in North Dakota.



Best Wishes

KILLDEER

on 60 years of great rodeo entertainment


Prairie Hills Mall


Dickinson

Reports of non-existent crops and dead livestock north of the Little Missouri shared local newspaper space with the announcement of dedication ceremonies for the Little Missouri bridge 19 miles north of Killdeer. The annual Roundup was to be relocated at the bridge site as part of the festivities July 4.

Plans for the "gala affair" included a speech by Gov. George Shafer, band music, rodeo, picnicking and a "bridge dance" that night. News reports speculated traffic control would be necessary for the event, since "it is thought there will be more traffic converging on Highways 22 and 23 than on any others in the state at this time."

On the big day heavy rains spoiled plans and events were rescheduled for a day later. Only 2,000 attended. However, the rodeo, held near the north end of the bridge, was touted as "the best ever." Sam Rhoades had to move equipment and wire over to the new location and put up new corrals, arena and other facilities for the temporary rodeo and he received much praise for this.

The rodeo attracted a huge crowd and was remarkable this year by the expertness of the riders...If it were not for Sam's rodeo the afternoon would have been a blank.



Marie Gibson, above, was a trick rider who performed at the 1926 Roundup. Below, this picture is inscribed: "Chas. Blake, the hard horn, takes a joy ride." It was taken by Leo Harris but there is no date on it. (Photo courtesy of Richard Rhoades, Killdeer)



Stockmen's

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CHAPTER 2 1937-1942

By newspaper accounts, this was the last Killdeer Mountain Roundup until 1937. Lucille Fitzlaugh of Killdeer has reported she remembers being the rodeo secretary for 1936, 1937 and 1938. However, there is no mention of a rodeo at Killdeer in the **Killdeer Herald** until March 11, 1937.

Then its return was given the attention of a long-lost friend via a two-inch front page banner headline: "JULY 4 AT MOUNTAINS" accompanied by the customary writing in superlatives that had been the trademark of stories about earlier Roundups.

That famous old rodeo king, Sam Rhoades, assisted by Senster Anderson (his son-in-law), will put on a three day celebration that will eclipse anything yet attempted in the shade and shadows of the Killdeers. The event was set for July 3-5, a Saturday, Sunday and Monday. With the 4th on a Sunday, and Monday a legal holiday, it was speculated "thousands of people from all over the state will auto up to this sylvan paradise and camp for three days."

One day was dedicated to old settlers of the area and the rodeo events were to be kept to about two hours a day.

Although the rodeo will be a good part of the program it will not be all by any means. Numerous other features and specialty acts are contemplated for the benefit of those who have lost interest in rodeo stunts. Carnivals, horse races, bands, and fireworks were also part of the agenda, plus "a big bowery dance with hip flinging, neck wringing and cheek friction from noontime 'til suntime - Oh gal, what a time! what a time!"

A month later, it was reported with preparations going on apace for the biggest and most varied celebration that the Killdeers have ever seen, the event is being talked all over the state whenever the topic of summer celebrations or vacations comes up.

In May, Ed Canfield, the famous coyote hunter of Williston, aired in to Killdeer Tuesday to make arrangements to put on his airshow at the Killdeer Mountain Roundup. In connection with the air show was

the plan to have parachuters jump over the rodeo grounds.

Also planned that year were horse races to "thrill those who like to see slick horseflesh split the air around the circular path."

In May and June, Senster Anderson and Duane Dennison traveled about 1,000 miles to promote the rodeo in various North Dakota cities. With the public address system attached to his car, Senster put the Killdeer Mountain Roundup on the map as far east as Jamestown and on the branches north and south of the N.P. Railway and west to Beach on the state line. Judging from the interest shown wherever he traveled and from the inquiries made, Senster estimates an attendance for the three days of 30,000 people. In many instances he found entire towns all sold on the Killdeer Mountain celebration and preparing to move in here for the roundup.

Special Train From Mandan

By mid-June there was a serious prospect of a special train to Killdeer July 4. A great number of the residents of both Mandan and Bismarck have been suggesting the need of a special train for that occasion which will give them an opportunity to enjoy the Northwest's greatest celebration staged in the most beautiful spot in North Dakota -- the rugged tree covered, grass grown mountains of the Killdeers.

Tentative plans called for the train to leave Bismarck about 8 a.m. and arrive in Killdeer before noon. A Town Criers committee was appointed to find enough cars to take the travelers from the Killdeer depot to the rodeo grounds and bring them back in at midnight. Every owner of a car in Killdeer has volunteered to take a load out and back with the old Killdeer spirit and hospitality which has never failed to function for the guest within our gates. It was estimated about 500 visitors would come on the special train.

Meanwhile, the bowery dances were already drawing "huge crowds," on Saturday nights, with the opener in June being "everything that could be hoped."

Congratulations Killdeer Saddle Club

for your efforts in promoting rodeo
Good luck during the 60th anniversary
of the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

Linseth Rodeo Stock

Lynn, Leone, Lisa & Billie Jo Linseth - Killdeer



"Brun Rosseau making a good ride," this picture says. There is no date but it is probably from the 1920s. (Photo courtesy of Richard Rhoades, Killdeer)

An interesting detail of the 1937 Roundup was the "fact" it was termed the "eighth annual". The same distinction had been given to the rodeo at the bridge dedication in 1931!

15,000 Come for 1937 Roundup

When it was over, the second "eighth annual" Roundup had drawn an estimated 15,000 people.

The celebration was recorded for posterity by Ruth Taylor, who seemed to spare no effort in describing the events down to the most minute detail. On July 4, Dunn County States Attorney H.L. Malloy opened the day's celebration by introducing the 22 honored pioneers to the crowd of 10,000.

Draped with bunting, sitting erectly and happily astride his horse, each old cowboy rode forward at his introduction, lifted his hat from a silvered head and received the tribute of the crowd. It was a real rodeo as ever was held in this riding west. The fact riders were local men, hard-riding wild horse wranglers, made it supremely worthwhile and genuinely western. She then described a plethora of injuries and close calls from the three days of arena action.

The crowd was awesome -- license plates from as far away as California and Florida decorated the thousands of cars on the hillside, and visitors were also here from Minneapolis-St. Paul, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Massachusetts and Manitoba.

The writer also described how Sam Rhoades' house, nestled behind a clump of trees near the arena, had become a "cooling and first aid station," with Sam's wife, Hulda, in charge. Sam had built the house out of lumber from his livery barn, which had been dismantled when he went out of business in 1933. The lumber was again re-used when subsequent rodeo grounds owner Cleo Veeder built his house in Killdeer in the late 1950s.

(See expanded story on Page 56)

1939 Rodeo Held in Town

After the 1937 blockbuster rodeo, the event was not held again until 1939. There is no mention of a local rodeo until the *Herald's* March 23, 1939 issue. This is when Killdeer was celebrating its silver jubilee, having been founded in 1914.

At a special meeting of the Town Criers Monday evening, a deal was made with Senster Anderson of this city, famous rodeo manager of recent years, to stage the big rodeo attraction for Killdeer's Silver Anniversary, July 2-4. This time the event will be held in Killdeer, with the sylvan glades of the Killdeer Mountains a few miles to the northwest and Lake Ilo, largest artificial lake in the state another few miles to the east.

All of the concessions, carnival attractions and other features were placed in the hands of the Town Criers activities committee headed by Carl Liedl and Lawrence Malmstead. Senster was to manage the rodeo.

The rodeo will measure up to every glorious tradition for which the Killdeer Mountain Rodeo has been noted through the years. At the last rodeo in 1937, almost 10,000 people attended and 26 states of the 48 were represented on the grounds according to license tags recorded.



This is the only photograph made available of rodeo action during the Jubilee Roundup held on the south edge of Killdeer in 1939. Note elevators and other town buildings in the background. (Photo courtesy of Peg O'Neil, Killdeer)



Congratulations
On a proud heritage
Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

Eide Helmeke & Co.
Certified Public Accountants

116 West Villard
Dickinson, ND
225-6077

It is interesting how the 1937 crowd had shrunk from the accounts at the time -- 15,000 -- down to "almost 10,000" two years later. Also amazing is how the 1939 event was dubbed the "11th annual" roundup. The last one had been called the "eighth annual".

In any case, Killdeer planned to outdo itself for the great jubilee. Gov. John Moses was invited. Two queens were selected - Peggy Chase was named the silver anniversary queen and her sister Harriet was designated the Roundup queen.

The three-day schedule included parades, acrobat and trained dog acts, aerial stunts and parachuting. Rodeo events included some new events: a wild cow milking contest, a return of the wild horse races and a calf roping contest for men 50 and older.

Jubilee Rodeo Draws Huge Crowd

The in-town arena was constructed just south of the railroad tracks where the livestock yards used to be (east of the highway).

The high expectations were apparently realistic, because when the Jubilee and "11th annual" Killdeer Mountain Roundup were over, it was reported the celebration drew 3,000

and 2,000 people the first and second day, respectively, and between 10,000 and 11,000 July 4.

Streaming in from all four points of the compass, the traffic July 4 was stalled for a mile out from the city limits where south, east and west roads converge. It took a solid hour for cars to make that mile and enter the roundup grounds. Toward noon the traffic was even denser.

All available rooms in the city had been booked weeks ahead of the event, and overflow was sent to Dunn Center and Dickinson. Many guests came to town and set up tents or slept in their cars. Some even bedded down on the streets and sidewalks, according to the newspaper accounts.

In all, the celebration represented the greatest panorama of mass humanity ever seen in the land of the Dakotas. Judging by licenses on the cars, visitors came from 42 states.

By then townspeople had apparently resigned themselves to a rodeo only in alternate years. In 1941 Killdeer will stage another Roundup, every other year as is our custom.

Roundup Association Formed

Next local rodeo news appears March 1941. This is also the first time the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Association is mentioned.

A large attendance Monday evening at the regular Town Criers



Grand entry of the Jubilee Roundup held in Killdeer in 1939. Dr. Dan Fitzlaugh (in dark shirt, next to flag-bearer) leads the way.

(Photo courtesy of Fitzlaugh's daughter, Patricia Hedger, Killdeer)

Best Wishes
on 60 more years of outstanding rodeo
Southwest Grain Cooperative

Killdeer and Dickinson stations

meeting discussed the matter of celebrating with another Killdeer Mountain Roundup July 4 for three days. Also mentioned is the possibility of an event at Lake Ilo. The decision will follow the meeting of the Roundup Association this Saturday which will decide whether or not this association will complete its organization.

According to Association minutes obtained from Lucille Fitzlaugh, the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Association finalized its organization on Saturday, March 22, 1941, in Dr. D.B. Fitzlaugh's dental office. Tony Fettig, who had become increasingly well-known for his accomplishments in riding at area rodeos, was elected president. Senster Anderson was elected treasurer and Fitzlaugh was named secretary. These are the only officers the group had in its six-year history -- with the exception of a short stint by Monica (Fettig) Hovden as treasurer.

After the election, the 21 dues-paying (\$15 each) members got right down to business, and the first business to be taken up was that of location. A vote was taken and carried to have the Roundup at Mr. Sam Rhoades' place. The price decided for the three days was \$250.

Arena, Facilities Improved

The Association voted to build a grandstand above the chutes, which were now located on the east end of the arena. Sam had originally built the arena with the chutes on the west. Responsibility for grandstand construction was given to Tony Fettig.

Committee chairmen, as listed on the group's 1941 letterhead stationery, were Frank Oukrop, concession manager; John Blackburn, ticket manager; Sam Rhoades, arena manager; George Oukrop, advertising manager; Jim Connolly, stock judge; John Maas, police and; Bill Cockburn, master of ceremonies.

Other business covered in the group's May and June meetings that year involved rebuilding the bowery and piping spring water down to the grounds. Senster Anderson was assigned May 6 to check on the price of a bowery and May 20 he reported lumber for just the floor would run to \$250. June 24, the group voted to put a roof on the bowery.

Jack Fettig, one of the original members of the Association, tells of the hard work done on the rodeo grounds by the group. "These improvements were done on formal and informal work days.

Members who did not show up for assigned work days, he said, were fined a day's wages. More often, however, were the times members decided to have an unplanned work day. If it rained and members who farmed could not get out in the



Killdeer Mt. Roundup Association

"The Rodeo Capital of the Century World"

Killdeer, North Dakota



OFFICERS:

Tony Fettig
PRESIDENT
Killdeer, N. Dak.
Dr. D. B. Fitzlaugh
SECRETARY
Killdeer, N. Dak.
Senster Anderson
TREASURER
Killdeer, N. Dak.
Frank Oukrop
CONCESSION MANAGER
Killdeer, N. Dak.
John Blackburn
TICKET MANAGER
Killdeer, N. Dak.
Sam Rhoades
ARENA MANAGER
Oakhole, N. Dak.
George Oukrop
ADVERTISING MANAGER
Killdeer, N. Dak.
Jim Connolly
STOCK JUDGE
Dunn Center, N. Dak.
John Maas
POLICE
Killdeer, N. Dak.
Bill Cockburn
MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Killdeer, N. Dak.

This is a reproduction of the stationery used by the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Association in 1941.



July 4-5-6, 1941



fields and work, they would contact one another and go work on the rodeo grounds.

The water project took a lot of work. Association members trenched 1,400 feet of pipe by hand from the spring up in the hills west of the grounds all the way down to the area west of the arena where the livestock pens were.

"It was a real good group, I'll tell you that," Jack Fettig said.

Plans for the 1941 rodeo July 4-6 included an air show by John Worth of Dickinson. There was a rumor cowboy movie actor Gene Autry would come for an appearance. (He didn't make it.) A booster trip was planned to surrounding towns and Killdeer residents were asked to house out-of-towners expected to arrive for the celebration.

1941 event draws 17,000

By July 3, a sizeable number of cars had already passed

Sharing a proud heritage

Bosch Lumber
1946 - 1984

Killdeer Mountain Roundup
1924 - 1984

Best wishes for another 60 years of great rodeo



There is no date on this picture of Roundup action; however photo donor Olive Sandvick of Killdeer writes it is of the "beginning of Rodeo days."

through town on the way to the Roundup grounds, and there was speculation "the crowd will exceed that of all previous affairs of this kind." This type of prediction had become a standard part of the publicity for the rodeos.

There was a good turnout -- between 15,000 and 17,000 for the three days, according to *Killdeer Herald* estimates -- and, as in 1939, the largest crowd of 10,000-11,000 came July 4. This would appear to be about the same size as the 1939 crowd, but by 1941, the local newspaper was saying the 1939 turnout was only 10,000 total.

Between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (July 4, 1941) so dense was the traffic that it was necessary to take down part of the fence and allow the cars to enter the grounds three abreast.

The sunrise trail ride, which became an annual event for several years thereafter, was initiated in 1941. Anyone who had a horse was welcome to come along and ride their way through the Killdeer Mountains and nearby Badlands.

The big day, July 4, was marred by an afternoon rainstorm. One-third of the program was still left but the grounds were too slippery to use when the rains let up. There was also a 1941 tragedy when competitor James Crowsheart, 32, Fort Berthold, received a fatal skull fracture.

With the conclusion of the 1941 Roundup, the Association immediately announced plans to coordinate its second rodeo the next year.

Roundup Proceeds go to War Effort

Before too many 1942 plans were made, World War II engulfed the nation and the Roundup Association announced it would donate half its 1942 net proceeds to "national defense." The Association also went to work on extensive new improvements on the rodeo grounds. For instance, more work was done on the bowery. The Association minutes show another \$250 worth of lumber was brought in May and a "raising bee" for the new bowery was set for May 24 and 31. "Bring lunch. Stay all day," the minutes said. The end result was an enclosed, covered dance hall. It was decided the dances would be free this year.

It is interesting to note despite the overwhelming number of people who had come to the 1941 rodeo, the Association had regretted getting a relatively late start. So by February 1942, local promoters were busy looking for the "numerous attractions and special entertainment features". Doc Fitzlaugh said by October 1941, his group had been in contact with trick riders and other specialists. By late May all arrangements were finished and "the show could open tomorrow in all its vast completeness."

The setting of the Roundup was still a major attraction. Fitzlaugh said the Association was "considerably surprised by several of these rodeo specialists whose letters stated they were anxious to participate in the Roundup on account of its unique and beautiful setting among the trees and mountains of the Killdeers so far from any city."

The event was July 3-5 that year. The exact agency assigned to get the wartime proceeds turned out to be the Red Cross. A 250-mile, one-day booster trip to area towns again generated interest.

When the 1942 Roundup was over, it had brought in 9,000 (6,000 on the 4th) spectators, which was less than the 1941 turnout. It was proclaimed as satisfactory, however. A new event was the calf scramble for young boys.

War Interrupts Rodeos

The next few years apparently brought another hiatus in the Roundup continuity. There are some Killdeer residents who say there were local rodeos between 1942 and 1946 -- and indeed, the association apparently planned some. Confusing the issue then is no mention throughout the complete *Killdeer Herald* files of rodeos either planned or carried out those years. It can only be assumed, if rodeos were held those years, SOME report of them would have been in the local newspaper -- which had taken it upon itself to promote previous rodeos ad infinitum.

Congratulations, Killdeer!

We're proud to serve your

RODEO NEEDS



WEST RIVER SADDLERY

& TRAILER SALES

Dickinson



According to minutes of the Association, members considered rodeos in 1944 and 1945. In 1944, minutes state: "Only seven members present...Unanimous vote in favor of rodeo in July. Vote taken for days to show. July 2-4. Vote for locality undecided." A thorough search of newspaper files finds no mention of a 1944 Roundup actually held.

February 1945, the group again discussed a rodeo for that summer: "Vote taken for Rodeo 100 percent in favor on standing vote. Motion made by G. Oukrop as to where rodeo

to be held. Mountains - 0. City of Killdeer 15." John Maas was appointed to get an arena built. There is also an indication the Association then wanted to put its bowery up for sale, but there are no notes that follow up on this - that is, not until 1947.

The July 5, 1945 **Herald** wrote: Nearly everyone from this county and adjoining counties were at Lake Ilo fishing or at the Killdeer Mountains picnicking over the Fourth. Apparently the rodeo did not materialize.

CHAPTER 3

The years 1946-1955

In 1946, a rodeo was again held at the Mountains. The Association's minutes show members voted December 31, 1945, to have a Roundup July 2-4, 1946.

The Roundup Association is whipping into shape the greatest Roundup ever shown in North Dakota. Gov. Fred G. Aandahl agreed to come and speak and Dr. A.G. Arvold, "famed originator of 'the Little Country Theatre' at the state Agricultural College (NDSU) will present two great spectacles at the Roundup."

The Association also had more work days to improve the arena and other facilities.

Newspaper promotion of the 1946 rodeo was extensive and very enthusiastic as the post-event story reported there were "almost 10,000 people" in attendance."

Roundup Association Disbands

However, while the Association was "pleased with the financial returns," this was the last event put on by the Association. Its March 1, 1947 minutes show the group disbanded: "Ballot taken for liquidation 16 yes 3 no. Passed. Balance in bank of \$19.38 to be dispersed when property at the Rodeo Grounds is disposed of. Discussion to leave dance hall out on bids -- sell to highest bidder. Newspaper ad to be

placed in two issues. April 1, 1947 to be date for opening bids. Ticket office sold to T. Fettig." The advertisement for bids was placed in the **Herald**, but there were no news stories about the meeting or following events.

Most of the next several rodeos at the Mountains were organized by new owners of the property or other private individuals. First, however, there was a two-year gap; no rodeos were held in 1947 and 1948. By the time the next one was held in 1949, the grounds had been purchased by Matt Olson. He sponsored the 1949 and 1950 rodeos.

Rodeo Again Held in 1949

This next era of rodeo action was promoted by the June 23, 1949 newspaper headline: "Again Plan to Hold the Famous Killdeer Mt. Rodeo". After a lapse of several years the famous Killdeer Mountain Roundup has been scheduled again for August 6-7 of this year. The added feature of a real outdoor barbecue has been added giving the official name 'Killdeer Mountain Roundup and Barbecue' to the event. Olson was joined in the venture by Don Wright of Billings, a stock contractor.

Wright had staged rodeos as far east as Rockford, Ill. and in many other localities including nearby Medora. Clowns, trick

Johnston's Inc.
Dickinson

Extends best wishes for a
wonderful 60th anniversary
to the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

riders, a "lady bullfighter", bowery dance and the barbecue all augmented the rodeo.

For the first time in the newspaper, mention is made this is to be a Rodeo Cowboys Association (RCA) rodeo. The RCA (later to become the PRCA) had succeeded the Cowboys Turtle Association as the force behind better pay and conditions for rodeo riders.

Don't miss the revival of the famous Killdeer Mountain Roundup at the Mountains this Saturday and Sunday. The management has already announced plans for this event next year July 2-4, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Be on hand to see the first one in this new series.

This was the first time Roundup followup coverage was not included in the local newspaper so there is no indication whether the event was considered successful or not.

Next rodeo news coverage comes the following April. Again, Matt Olson and Don Wright were to team up to put on the 1950 event. The event was supposed to take up three days, but by June 1, two major changes had been made in the plans. The rodeo had been reduced to two days and Don

Wright had dropped out of the picture. This made for an interesting development, as evidenced by the newspaper coverage.

When the Killdeer Mountain Rodeo is held July 3-4 this year, it will be produced by the only lady rodeo producer in the world. Together with Joe Orr, Alice Greenough of Red Lodge, Mont., will be producer of the big two-day event held in the popular Killdeer Mountains.

Apparently Wright had developed problems putting on the proposed three-day event and recommended the Greenough and Orr stock instead. Greenough had been a champion bronc rider in her younger years and came from a family of rodeo competitors. Joe Orr also was a former rodeo champ in bull riding.


The rodeo included the five major RCA events - saddle bronc, bareback riding, calf roping, bull dogging and Brahma bull riding -- and the total purse was \$1,200. Meanwhile, the Sanish rodeo was entering its fourth year and was offering a purse of \$3,000.


When the 1950 version was over, the event had drawn a somewhat smaller crowd than other years but was never-



This is one of many photographs loaned for use in this book taken and developed by Killdeer native Glenn Sandvick. While there is no date or identification on it, judging by the vehicles in the

background, it is probably from around 1950. It would be a safe bet the woman riding the horse is Alice Greenough of the Greenough & Orr rodeo company. (Photo courtesy of Olive Sandvick, Killdeer)





**First American Bank
of Richardton**
Member Bremer Financial Corporation



Congratulates Killdeer
on its great progress in rodeo tradition



"Thorris Sandvick, July 4, 1951," this photo says. It was taken and developed by his brother, Glenn. (Photo courtesy of Olive

Sandvick, Killdeer)

theless considered successful.

On the comeback trail, the Killdeer Mountain Rodeo is well on the road to becoming once again the most popular rodeo in the state. The stock provided this year was the best ever to appear in the old Mountain arena which has seen the top notch material in its day...The Fourth, second day of the rodeo, over 5,000 admissions were paid and the first day was also unusually good. A highlight was when Alice Greenough and her sister, Marg, rode the broncs in two good rides.

Also receiving special publicity was the new practice of cowboys shuttling between rodeos by airplane in order to compete in more than one on the same day. A couple of riders that year squeezed in both the Sanish and the Killdeer Mountain events this way.

In 1951, the plans for a rodeo were put together by Don Hartman of Killdeer. In May he announced bowery dances and a wild horse mounting contest with the rodeo on July 3-4. A feature planned for the first time since the city's 1939 jubilee was the crowning of a rodeo queen.

Rodeo Begins Using Fettig Stock

The 1951 rodeo was also the first time it is mentioned the Fettig Brothers rodeo stock was used at the local contest. This family, which included Joe, Tony, Jack, Nick, Ray and Monica (Hovden), developed its rodeo stock company into a regional institution and eventually served the Killdeer rodeo for many years.

(See separate story on the Fettig Brothers rodeo stock on Page 30)

The 1951 purse was \$1,000 and enthusiasm for the event seemed good. News coverage after the event was low-key, however, so it is difficult to gauge the success. Briefly reported was a large crowd attended another good rodeo...with the number the 4th almost doubling that of the previous day.

Continued on Page 33



Congratulations Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

The First National Bank & Trust Company

of Dickinson

FDIC



Fettig rodeo stock firm also helps put Kildeer on map

For many years the organizers of the Kildeer Mountain Roundup had the advantage of having top rodeo stock right in their own back yard. Fettig Rodeo, operated by the local Fettig boys and their sister Monica Hovden, was as top-notch an outfit as could have been found.

Fettig Rodeo, earlier known as Fettig Bros., was well-known for producing and providing stock at rodeos in several surrounding states and at the National Finals Rodeo. Many a cowboy went up against the likes of Figure 4, Bear Den and Steel Dust in the bucking events, and Spit Fire and Yellow Fever in bull riding.

As is the case with many rodeo stock contractors, the Fettigs got their start in rodeo stock literally from hands-

on knowledge -- riding broncs or bulls themselves.

According to their hometown newspaper, the Fettig brothers as rodeo riders were "among the toughest, hardest riders in the great cow country of the west."

Tony Fettig became a well-known name at the Kildeer Mountain Roundup during its earliest years in the 1920s and also competed in other area rodeos.

His first appearance in the records of the local Roundup comes in the **Kildeer Herald** report of the 1925 event. Anton Fettig is listed as a winner of the July 4 go-round of the wild horse race. He also was third in the 1926 wild horse race and second in the bareback contest that year.

In the Roundups of the late 1930s, Tony was named the best all around cowboy twice.

The July 11, 1940 **Herald** reported Tony had returned from the three-day rodeo at Van Hook with the honors of best "all-around cowboy."

Said the newspaper: "The trophy was a bronze cowboy riding the old hoss straight up and fanning him like Tony himself does...Tony's brother Nick got second money in bulldogging." Tony had placed third in the money for bulldogging and two firsts and a second in day money. He also brought home two broken ribs for his efforts.

The local editor said Tony Fettig "is acknowledged as one of the best horse busters in the nation today." Tony was also the first and only president of the Kildeer Mountain Roundup Association.

The other brothers in the family besides Nick and Tony are Jack and Ray.

Nick was the first one to get involved in rodeo stock, Jack says, and sold out to his younger teenage brother, Phil, in 1942.

The first time mention is found of Fettig Bros. rodeo stock in relation to the Roundup is in 1951 when the



"Anton Fettig, Harvey, N. Dak., 1926," is the inscription on this photograph. While it does not show local rodeo action, it is the only early photo of one of the Fettig brothers made available. (Photo courtesy of Cleo Veeder, Kildeer)

Figure 4 Ranch Watford City

congratulates the Kildeer Saddle
Club on the observance of the
60th Kildeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo
July 3-4, 1984





This picture, another one taken and developed by Glenn Sandvick, shows Phil Fettig in action at the Mountains.

(Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)

brothers were one of the stock contractors working with promoter Don Hartman.

That year, Hartman planned and executed several rodeos in the Mountains. "Plans have been announced for a series of rodeos to be held this year at the Killdeer Mountain rodeo grounds," the **Herald** wrote. At the second rodeo of this series, held May 31, the broncs were contracted from Phil Christensen and Nick Fettig with other stock from area ranchers. Fettig Bros. furnished the stock for the main Roundup July 4 and again for an "all-horse" rodeo at the Mountain arena late in August 1951.

They also furnished the stock in 1952, when the rodeo was a one-day affair put on with Don Hartman.

"A good many horses furnished by Fettigs have never been ridden to the finish by any rider," the **Herald** wrote.

Fettigs also furnished stock in the 1954 Roundup. According to the **Herald**, "Fettig Bros. have established a reputation for handling good stock and running more stock through the chutes in an afternoon than any other rodeo stock producer."

Also in 1954, Fettig Bros. ran advertising in the **Herald** announcing what rodeos they were furnishing that

Continued on next page

To our valued friends in the Killdeer area:
 Congratulations on 60 years of great rodeo

DAN'S **County Market**
 Dickinson

No One Else Can Save You More!

Continued from previous page

season. "The Fettig Bros. Rodeo Stock will be at the following places within the next few weeks: Garrison, Emerald, Thief River Falls, Towner, Beulah, New Town, Killdeer.

Local involvement by the stock contracting family reached a new level when they were instrumental in building the new rodeo arena in Killdeer in 1956. They then furnished the stock for the next 12 local rodeos.

"It is recognized throughout the rodeo world Fettig Bros. have some of the outstanding livestock in the business. They produce rodeos throughout the midwest and their string of horses and Brahma bulls is among the best in the nation," the **Herald** wrote prior to the 1956 event.

In 1958 Fettig Bros. introduced some new horses to the local crowd. They were among a truckload bought at the the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale, "including the outstanding horse of the auction."

In 1959 the first National Finals Rodeo was held in Dallas and Fettigs were among the contractors taking stock to the historic event. They also had stock at the next five NFRs.

One of their horses, Figure 4 (he was bought off the Figure 4 ranch northwest of Killdeer), was named the Bucking Horse of the Year at the first NFR in Dallas. He had been a buckler for Fettigs since 1943.

Having stock at the NFR and then having these animals further honored with designations like top horse or bull of the event is the epitome of honor for a stock contractor.

At every RCA rodeo during a season, rodeo officials rate the stock according to excellence, and at the end of a season the leading 20 cowboys in each event nominate animals from this top stock for the NFR.

Fettigs furnished stock to the first three NFRs in Dallas and the next three (1962, 1963 and 1964) in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, tragedy struck the area's rodeo family. On July 18, 1960, Phil Fettig, then 35, manager and producer of the Fettig Bros. Rodeo Co., died in a traffic accident just inside the border in northeastern Montana. He and Larry Transtrom, 30, a rodeo announcer from Halliday, were returning from the Wolf Point (Mont.) Stampede.

Jack says townspeople told him, "don't let that stock out of here, we've got to keep it going," so he bought the company from Phil's estate and had it renamed Fettig Rodeo.

Jack recalls with pride the high points of the Fettig Bros. and Fettig Rodeo era. They went to the Miles City sale several times. "We bought some mighty good horses out there...we were fussy," he says. He also remembers in 1960, before Phil was killed, the brothers had bought a lot of local calves to used at the upcoming Minot indoor rodeo. "We used them as roping calves and then brought them up as bulls."

One of Fettigs' bulls, Spit Fire, went to the NFR about five times; another bull that went several years was Dark Angel. Bear Den, a Fettig horse, was the top bareback horse at the '63 and '64 NFR.

"In '63 and '64, I had more stock go to the National Finals than any other contractor," Jack remembers proudly. One horse, Steel Dust, "was a sensation the first year at Los Angeles," (1962) and was written about in the **Los Angeles Times**.

Other animals in the Fettig line were Spur Dodger and Shooting Blaze, both saddle broncs. Another well-known horse was Four Roses. Some bulls were Pinky (his name was later changed to Wrangler to help promote Wrangler western wear), Jamboree (with one goofy horn) and Yellow Fever.

A lot of the best stock was lost later in the 1960s while being sent to Nebraska to be wintered.

That year, Gary Lawhead of Killdeer was driving a truck full of stock to be wintered and rodeoed at Butler when it crashed. Some of the stock lost was Four Roses, Tangerine, Midnight, Ace High and Foghorn -- all horses -- and Jamboree, a bull.

Ray Fettig was along in the truck and, as Jack remembers, he had to be cut out of the wreck with torches.

The only Fettig sister, Monica (Mrs. Morris) Hovden, was a long-time rodeo secretary for the company-produced events and the RCA once designated her the "world's most efficient secretary."

The last time the Fettig Rodeo Co. was the designated contractor for the Killdeer rodeo was in 1968, but Jack says he still furnishes stock for the local event as a subcontractor for the Marvin Brookman outfit, which has been the contractor since 1969.

Happy 60th anniversary Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo



First National Bank of Belfield
Station at South Heart



Another Glenn Sandvick photo, probably from the early 1950s. Rider not identified. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)



"Emery Chase on Little John," this photo by Glenn Sandvick says. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)

Continued from Page 29

The 1952 rodeo was even more low-key, judging by news accounts. The first and only mention that year comes barely a week before the July 4 rodeo, and says not much more than: Don Hartman and the Fettig Bros. of Killdeer are again putting on a July Fourth Rodeo at the Killdeer Mountains. It is to be a one-day affair, complete with the best bucking, wildest livestock in the west. The purse had dropped to \$500 and there is an absence of the word "Roundup."

1953 Rodeo cancelled

Even more unfortunate developments occurred the following year. In the June 25, 1953, **Herald**, on an inside page, a three column advertisement announces a rodeo July 4 at the

Jerome's Inc.

Dickinson

CONGRATULATES KILLDEER





This outstanding photo, probably taken about 1950, shows the rodeo grounds during the event's last years in the Mountains. It is shot from Spectator Hill on the north. The barn, bowery and bar are the buildings on the south side of the arena. Concrete footings for

the large barn, plus a few depressions where post holes were located, are the only signs remaining in 1984 of the grounds' former use. Sam Rhoades' house would be just off the lower right edge of this photo. (Photo courtesy Leone Hartman, Killdeer)



Tom Tescher is identified as the rider in this Glenn Sandvick photo. (Courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)

Killdeer Mountain rodeo grounds, with the program beginning at 2 p.m. and a bowery dance in the evening.

But a small news story on the front page of the same issue brings the bad news: Producer Don Hartman informed the **Herald** this morning he had been forced to cancel the event. The ad had already been printed when Don came into the office or it would have been left out. Keep in mind the rodeo has been cancelled and will not be held at the Killdeer Mountains July 4 this year.

The next year, 1954, Killdeer celebrated its 40th anniversary and the plans included a rodeo at the Mountains. The celebration was July 26-27, with the rodeo preceding it July 24-25. The RCA-approved rodeo was sponsored by the owner of the rodeo grounds, Cleo Veeder, and was again produced with Fettig Brothers stock.

Veeder purchased the land in 1951 or 1952, he said in an April 1984 interview. He rebuilt the arena again, took down

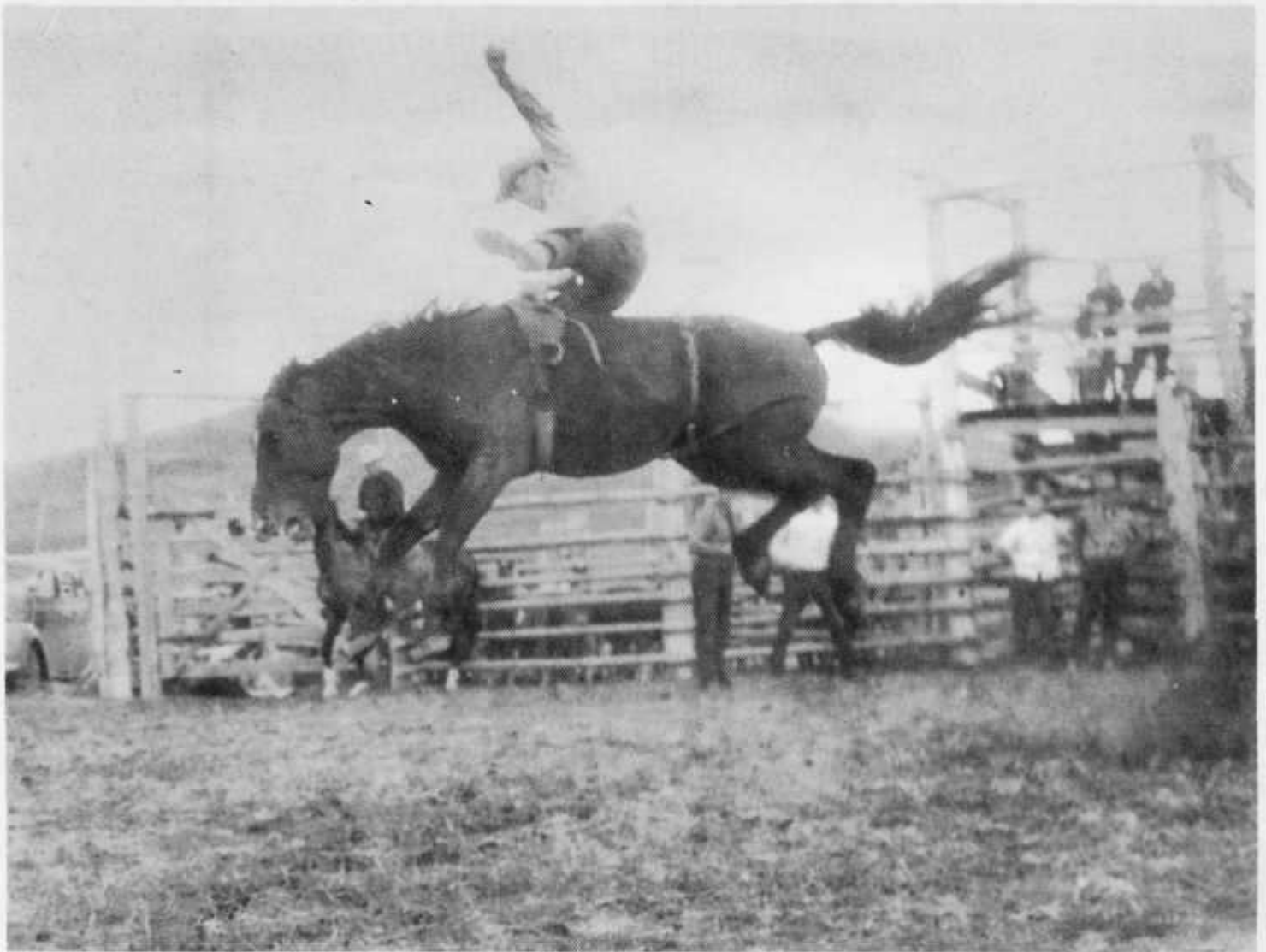
Happy Anniversary

Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

from one great institution to another!

Gate City Federal
for a better way of life

Dickinson



Another Glenn Sandvick photo from the 1950s. The rider is not identified. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)

the bleachers over the chutes and put up a new set of bleachers on the south.

The 1954 celebration brought 2,500 people to town.

In 1955, Veeders again put on the Killdeer Mountain rodeo, but used stock from the Greenough and Orr 66 Ranch. The rodeo was held July 30-31. This was the year new bleachers were erected. There was purse of \$1,100

plus all the entry fees returned as part of the cowboys' payments. Girls barrel racing was apparently also added to events.

Bowery dances at the Mountains were held every Saturday night from mid-July to the end of August.

The 1955 rodeo drew "nearly 2,000 people."



Joe LaDuke Real Estate

wishes Killdeer rodeo fans
a happy 60th anniversary

1924 - Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo - 1984

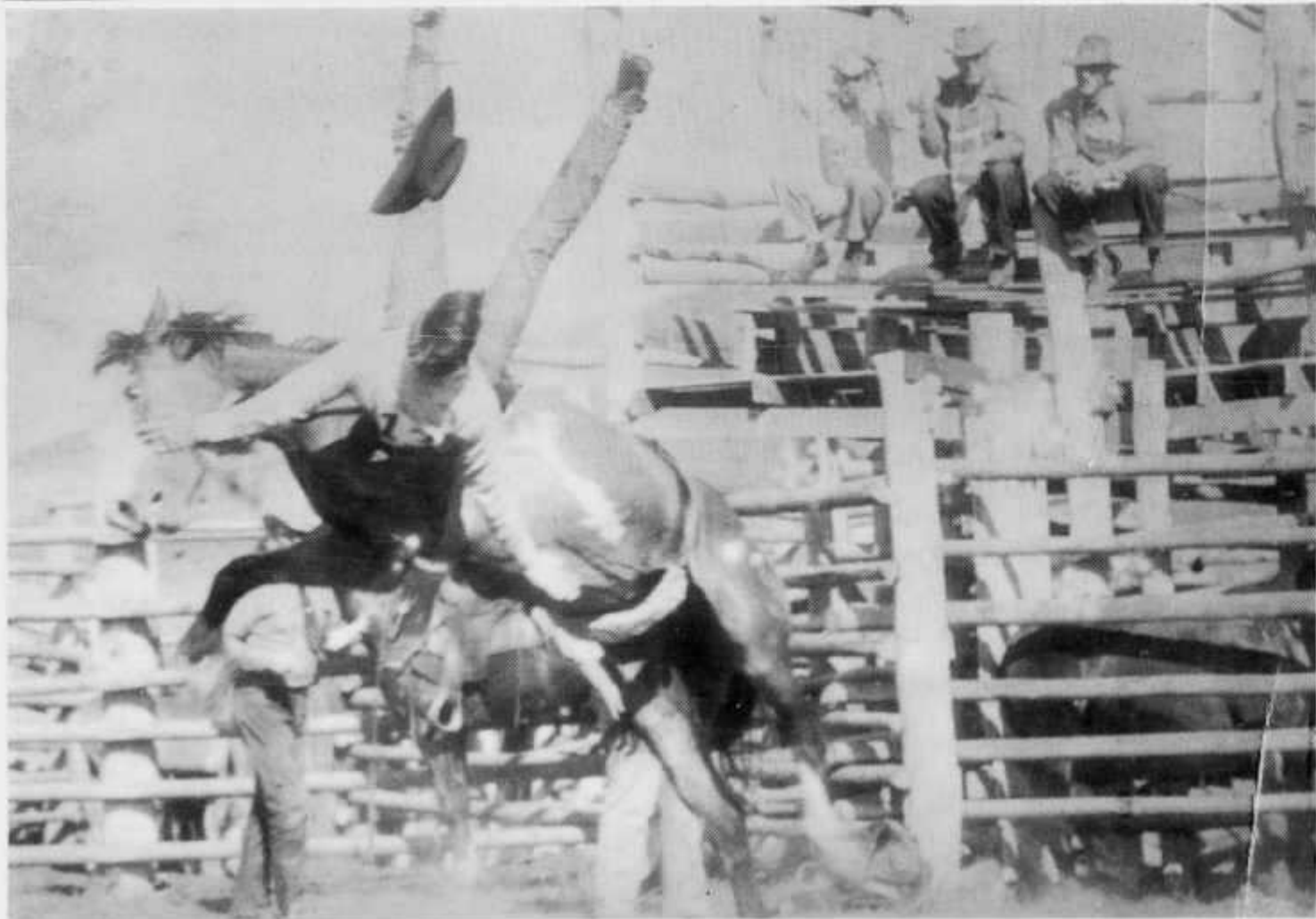
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More action shot by Glenn Sandvick in the 1950s. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)




A good guess is this shot is from one of the first years the rodeo was moved to town – probably in the late 1950s. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)



More action from what is believed to be one of the early in-town rodeos in the 1950s. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)

We three

Congratulate Killdeer
on the 60th anniversary
Killdeer Mountain Roundup



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Killdeer - Dickinson - New England



Another outstanding 1950s action photo from the Mountains by Glenn Sandvick. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)

Happy 60 years

Killdeer Saddle Club and fans

Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

Union Bank -- Halliday

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"The Small Bank"



CHAPTER 4

The rodeo's modern era

1955's Roundup marked the end of an era. It was the last one held at the Mountains, and shortly thereafter, owner Cleo Veeder had the facilities at the grounds dismantled. He sold the corrals, chutes and bowery to Glenn Tysver and the lumber was moved to the Tysver place about 10 miles northwest of the rodeo location. A large barn on the property was bought by Frank Fischer, who used the lumber at his place near there. Today, only a few concrete slabs used as footings are visible on the grounds. Veeder says these were under the barn.

He and his family lived at the site -- in the house Sam Rhoades had built -- and owned it until 1959. It was a popular picnicking site and bowery dances attracted people there all summer.

Rodeo Moved to Town

Meanwhile, the rodeo was renamed and moved into town, to be held in a brand new arena. This is the location still being used for the annual rodeo.

July 12, 1956, promoters were ready to announce "plans have been completed for a championship rodeo in the new Killdeer arena July 21-22."

As local rodeo aficionado Peg O'Neil explains, at that time any rodeo that counted toward a cowboy's RCA championship points could call itself a "world championship rodeo." This was the name adopted by the local event until 1960.

The 1956 rodeo brought together a new and long-lasting partnership in local rodeo promotion.

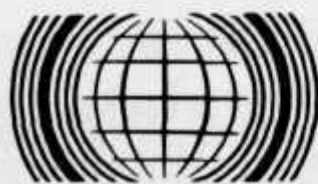
According to newspaper accounts: Killdeer will have a riproaring good rodeo this year right at the southwest edge of the city. Fettig Bros. are completing the arena and other facilities this week and the grounds will be in first class condition when the first chute is opened Saturday, July 21 at 2 o'clock. The Killdeer Town Criers are sponsoring the two-day event which will be held at the same time both days.



Photographer Glenn Sandvick caught a rider really flying. Rider and date unknown. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)



This shot is also from the Glenn Sandvick collection of rodeo action from the 1950s at the Mountains. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)



REALTY WORLD®

Realty World-Everett Real Estate
extends its best wishes
to **Killdeer**

for a happy 60th anniversary rodeo

See Don Hedger - North Star Financial Management Bldg. - Central St. - Killdeer - 764-5065

This joint effort between Town Criers and the Fettig Brothers would last until 1968.

The 1956 event also included a queen contest for girls over 15, with the winner to go on to the state rodeo queen competition. Also initiated was a parade through downtown preceding the rodeo. Non-profit groups in the county were invited to set up concession stands on the rodeo grounds.

Fettig Brothers was a well-known and highly-regarded stock contracting firm by then. Killdeer will have one of the best rodeos in the country this year and the City with the Pep has an enviable reputation in this respect that goes back many years.

The rodeo offered purses totalling \$1,000 (plus entry fees) and amateur bronc riding events were added to give area ranch boys a try at competition without having to go against the professionals. The 1956 event was labeled "outstanding" and promoters apparently decided to stick to a successful format. The distinguishing characteristic of the local rodeos the next 27 years is the apparent consistency with which they have been produced.

In 1957, the "Second Annual World's Championship Rodeo" held July 20-21 at Killdeer had what was called "the largest purse ever offered in North Dakota" -- \$150 in each of five events. This boast contradicts the fact that a \$3,000 purse had been offered at Sanish in the early 1950s, but nevertheless, it was a higher purse than Killdeer had offered in 1956. The purse in amateur events was also raised.

One of the most enjoyable features at the rodeo last year was the amateur bareback riding which drew a large number of youthful riders. The event was so well received the purse this year has been increased to \$200...and is the largest purse ever offered in the state for that event.

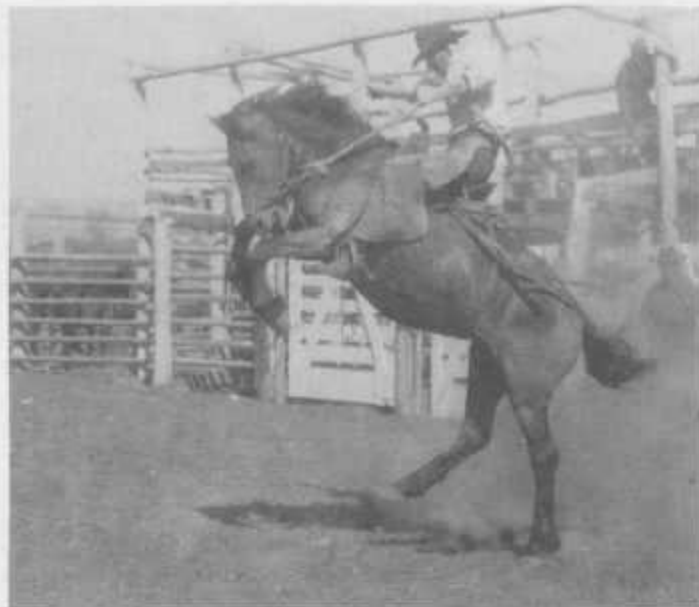
The 1957 event included an evening dance in town. Another new wrinkle was instituted when Saturday's performance was delayed until 5 p.m. in an attempt to alleviate the heat situation for the crowd.

In 1958, the date of the rodeo was moved to June 14-15, and included "seven thrilling events plus two high school contests," the latter "because of increasing interest in high school rodeo clubs."

Fettigs Expand Stock

Just in time for the 1958 rodeo, Fettig Brothers had been to the rodeo stock auction in Miles City and purchased the top horse.

While the in-town rodeo dance at the Legion building was promoted, there was also a bowery dance at the Mountains



There is no date and no identification on this action photo, probably shot by Glean Sandvick. It appears it would be from one of the last Mountain Roundups in the 1950s. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)



Dean Armstrong rides in this photograph. No other information on this picture was available. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)

advertised for Friday night as well.

The third annual "World's Championship Rodeo" at Killdeer was apparently successful despite less-than-ideal weather.



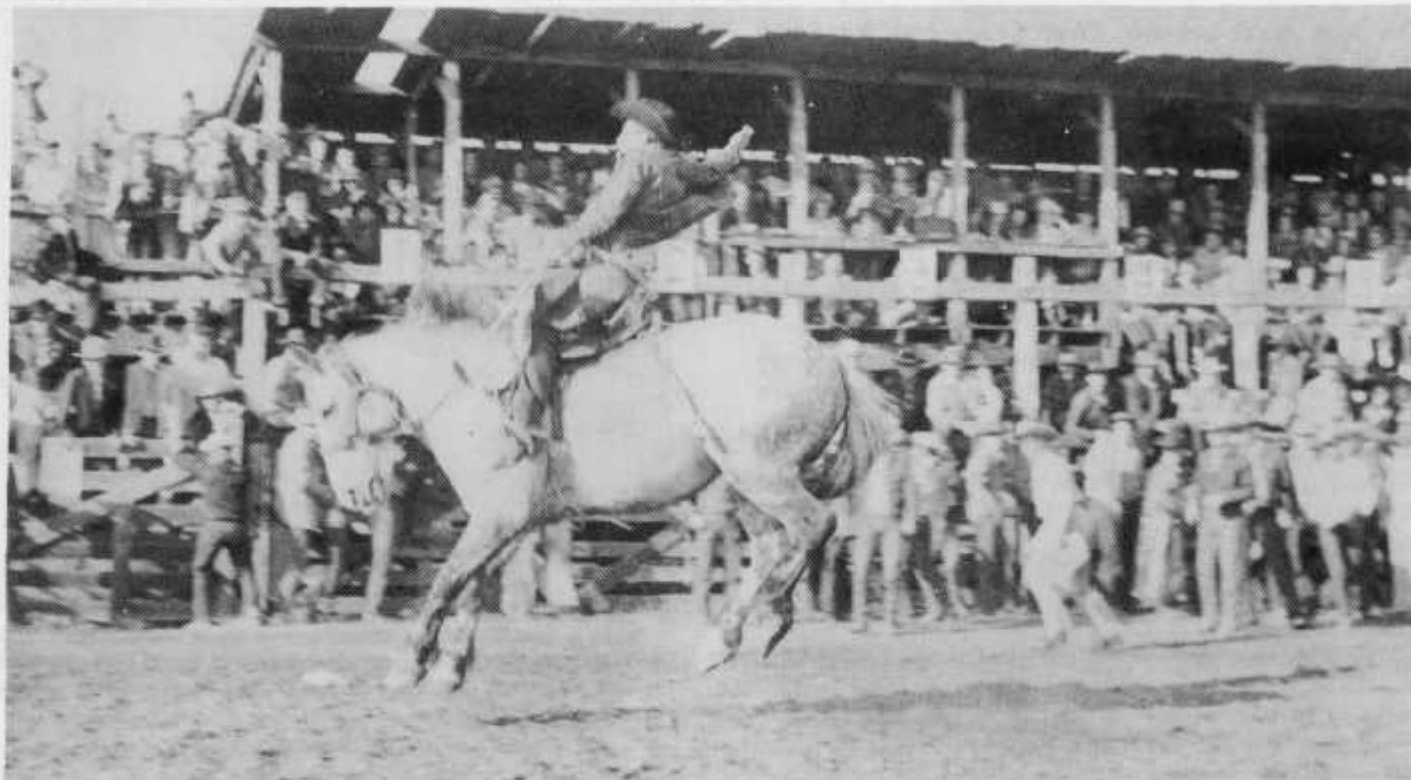
NOTHING
Succeeds like success!

Join the

Knights of Columbus
Councils 1515 & 6308

Dickinson

We Congratulate Killdeer on 60 years of fine rodeo



"Doug Lenerman on Outlaw," this photo says. (Courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)

In an advertisement placed by Fettigs following the rodeo, they said they were "appreciative of all those who came to the rodeo in spite of the bad weather." According to the **Herald**, rain dampened spirits, reducing attendance." However, it was "an exceptional show for the spectators who didn't mind the rain," with Fettigs showing off some new bucking horses.

Two cowboys, Herschel Steckman of Cartwright, and James McGill of Mobridge, were thrown off bulls and taken to Dickinson for hospitalization.

The 1959 rodeo was June 20-21. It featured a calf scramble for boys between ages 9 and 14, with the winner receiving a pony. Dances were held in town both nights and a carnival was set up in town during the event.

The same year, Cleo Veeder was forced by dry weather conditions to ask the public to refrain from picnicking at the old rodeo grounds in the Killdeer Mountains, so this was apparently still a popular place.



Another photo of Dean Armstrong. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)

Best Wishes Killdeer Mountain Roundup

on your
60 years of rodeo history!



MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.



FIFTH ANNUAL WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP

RODEO

SUNDAY & MONDAY JULY 3 & 4



KILLDEER ARENA
RCA APPROVED
STARTING TIME:
SUNDAY — 2 P. M. (MST)
MONDAY 1 P. M. (MST)



DANCE Monday Evening — American Legion Building — Killdeer

CONCESSIONS ON GROUNDS — Sponsored by Killdeer Town Criers

This is a reproduction of a Killdeer Herald advertisement for the rodeo in 1960, when it was still known as the "World's Championship Rodeo."

Rodeo Returned to July

1960, the rodeo was moved back to the July 4 holiday. Another change was both performances of the fifth annual World's Championship Rodeo were held at 2 p.m., eliminating the evening performance the first day.

In followup news coverage, ambitious plans for 1961 were mentioned. Announcement was made that the rodeo in 1961 would be a three-day affair over July 4.

However, judging by Herald records, there apparently was no Killdeer rodeo in 1961. Other rodeos held in the area were at Beulah and at the north entrance of Theodore Roosevelt Park, but there is no report of a local rodeo.

New interest surfaced for the 1962 event, however. A new publisher of the Herald, Ray Barchenger, seemed to be all for it and his support was apparently helpful. He wrote April 11 of that year: Although it seems far off it was announced Jack Fettig and the Junior Rodeo Club will jointly put on a RCA rodeo here sometime in

July. It seems in the past there hasn't been too much support given to this project in the way of parade and the likes of that... It is certain to draw a bigger crowd and be more of a success if it has all the trimmings that go along with a rodeo... Is it asking too much to try to wake a town up again? With a lot of work and not too much expense this could turn into something special instead of just a rodeo.

By the next week's newspaper issue, the dates had been set for July 3-4, and Barchenger wrote: This Rodeo is going to be put on by the Fettig Brothers. As you all know they have a very fine line of bucking horses. Town Criers have gone on record supporting such a show. Dance music was furnished by "Hegvik (the local school superintendent) and his Rodeo Troubadours," who were named "the official Killdeer Mountain Rodeo Band."

Quite a bit of work was needed that year to repair the arena and chutes. By April, this job had commenced, with the Killdeer Rodeo Club helping.

Rodeo Heavily Promoted in 1962

Shortly thereafter, a committee of the Town Criers took charge of the rodeo.

Town Criers, the sponsors of this rodeo placed the job of promotion into the hands of their activities committee and Lavern Linnell as chairman met with the activities committee, Fettig Rodeo and the Rodeo Club to discuss the celebration. Doc Fitzlaugh had his usual job of arranging the parade and Fettig Rodeo donated a quarterhorse yearling to be given away in a drawing. Barchenger was named chairman of publicity and Jack Fettig was asked to actually produce the rodeo.

A businessman's calf tying contest was added to the agenda, and purses were set at \$250 for each of the five RCA events. In addition, amateur saddle bronc, amateur bareback and girls barrel racing winners would receive \$100 each, for a total of \$1,650. Entry fees would also be paid out, "which makes this the largest rodeo in North Dakota in 1962."

Town Criers really got into the swing of things and decreed any business people in town who did not wear western garb from the first of June through July 4 would "be left to the mercy of the kangaroo court." Two dances were scheduled, a carnival was contracted and a flurry of prizes for the parade floats were gathered.

Fettigs bought loads of new horses and bulls that would be used for this rodeo and the event was promoted -- at least locally -- as "North Dakota's Largest World's Championship Rodeo."

No estimate of attendance was published -- just a list of the winners and placers in each event.

In 1963, the prize money was increased to a total of

To our friends in Killdeer Congratulations

On 60 Years of the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

— BRANCH STORES —
BEULAH BOWMAN MINOT
WATFORD CITY

MANN'S
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY
DICKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA 58501

Your House
Of Service

\$1,850 for the rodeo July 3-4. The event was "now the biggest rodeo in the state of North Dakota," according to the local newspaper. "The nerviest bullfighter in the business," Frank Curry of New York, the "Manhattan Matador," was brought in.

The 1963 rodeo was praised as "one of the finest shows put on by Town Criers in conjunction with Fettig Rodeo Inc." although specific attendance numbers were absent from newspaper accounts.

Golden Jubilee Rodeo Held

By September 1963, Town Criers were discussing Killdeer's golden jubilee to be celebrated the next summer. Doc Fitzlaugh was appointed general chairman of this event July 3-5, 1964.

The year also marked the centennial of the Battle of the Killdeer Mountains and Dakota Territory.

Town Criers were "red hot" on the golden anniversary, lining up an appearance by Governor Bill Guy and the Ink Spots singing group. Meanwhile, Morris Hovden was appointed chairman of the rodeo committee and the "Manhattan Matador," Frank Curry, was again contracted as the rodeo clown. Pete Logan, who had been the announcer for the National Finals Rodeo since that event's inception in 1959, was hired as the jubilee rodeo's announcer.

Rodeo organizers came up with a \$300 purse for each event and they "expected to draw top cowboys from many states, just as early day rodeos did at the famous Killdeer Mountains."

When the jubilee was over, it was estimated 7,000 had attended the celebration July 4, but figures are not broken down to specific rodeo attendance.

In 1965, the two-day rodeo was held July 4-5 with Town Criers and Fettig Rodeo again putting on the event. The purse totaled \$1,650. Advertising for the event said "Howdy Partner... welcome to the biggest rodeo of the west." It drew an attendance of 2,000 July 4 and a smaller number July 5.

New mention is made of a rodeo queen contest the next year, 1966, and apparently more interest existed in town for the rodeo. The **Herald** trumpeted in a large headline: "Ya Don't Know What You're Missin' if Ya Ain't Here!" Purses were \$250 for each of the RCA events and \$100 for the amateur events.

For the first time, public notoriety is given to some of the individual rodeo bulls and horses Fettigs used: Red Pepper, Bear Den, Funeral Wagon, Idaho, Steel Dust.

The next two years, 1967 and 1968, Town Criers and Fet-



This is another great action shot by Glenn Sandvick, although the identity of the rider is unknown. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sandvick, Killdeer)

tig Rodeo held the first days' performances in the evening, which had been tried before as a way to beat the heat. This time, however, it seemed to be a concession to the fact that while July 4 was a holiday, July 3 (it fell on a Monday in 1967 and a Wednesday in 1968) was an ordinary work day for most folks. The rodeo was complemented by the usual fare of dances, concessions, fireworks display and other details.

In 1967, publicity recognized the top winner and-or the all-around cowboy for individual years. Tex Appeldoorn was the top winner in 1967 and won all-around honors in 1968.

Also about that time, mention is made of total number of cowboys entered. There were 80 in 1968, when the rodeo "played to a capacity crowd both days."

Saddle Club Takes Over

The 1968 rodeo marked the end of another era. It was the last time the Fettig Rodeo-Town Criers partnership put on the local rodeo. The next year, and every year since, the rodeo has been produced by the Killdeer Saddle Club with stock from Marvin Brookman's outfit at Wolf Point, Mont.

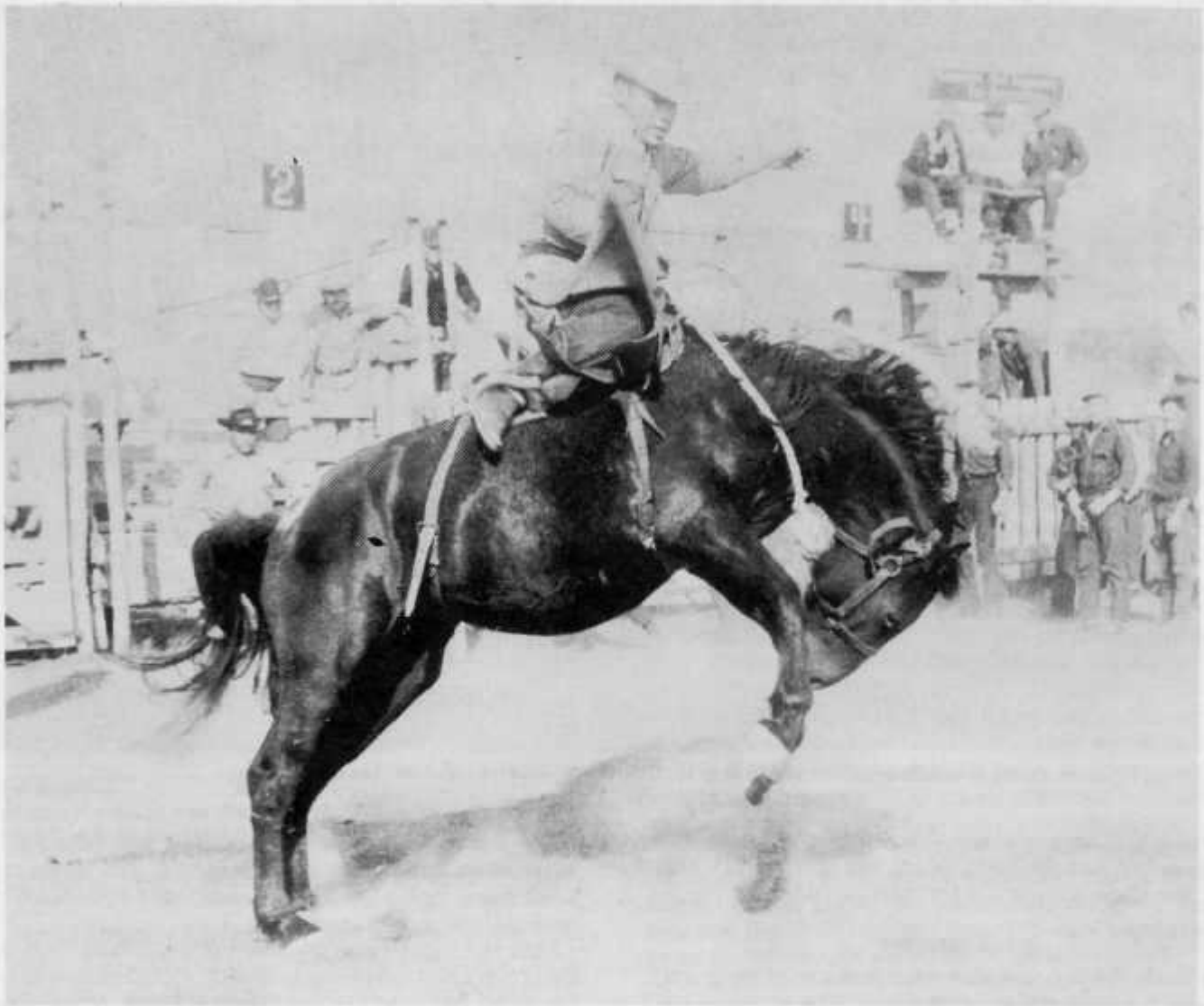
Peg O'Neil of the Saddle Club explains what he remembers about how this transition took place. It seems Town Criers decided to sell the rodeo arena and asked an appraiser to let

It has been our distinct pleasure to provide stock for the well known Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo over the past 16 years.

Best of luck to the Killdeer Saddle Club on this year's 60th anniversary of the Roundup. We're looking forward to being a part of the excitement July 3 & 4, 1984.

Marvin Brookman Rodeo Company

Wolf Point, Montana



More action, probably from the 1950s. Rider unknown; photograph by Glenn Sandvick. (Photo courtesy of Cordella Sand-

vick, Killdeer)

them know what they could get for it. When the appraiser told them they would be fortunate if they could find someone to give it to, the Saddle Club turned out to be the lucky group.

"They gave it to the Saddle Club without asking us," O'Neil remembers. The Saddle Club had been started some years

before as a "roping club," comprised of individuals who practiced team roping. At first it was just a recreational club; then they bought some steers and had a pasture. Apparently, at the time they were given the rodeo arena which they had been using as a practice site.

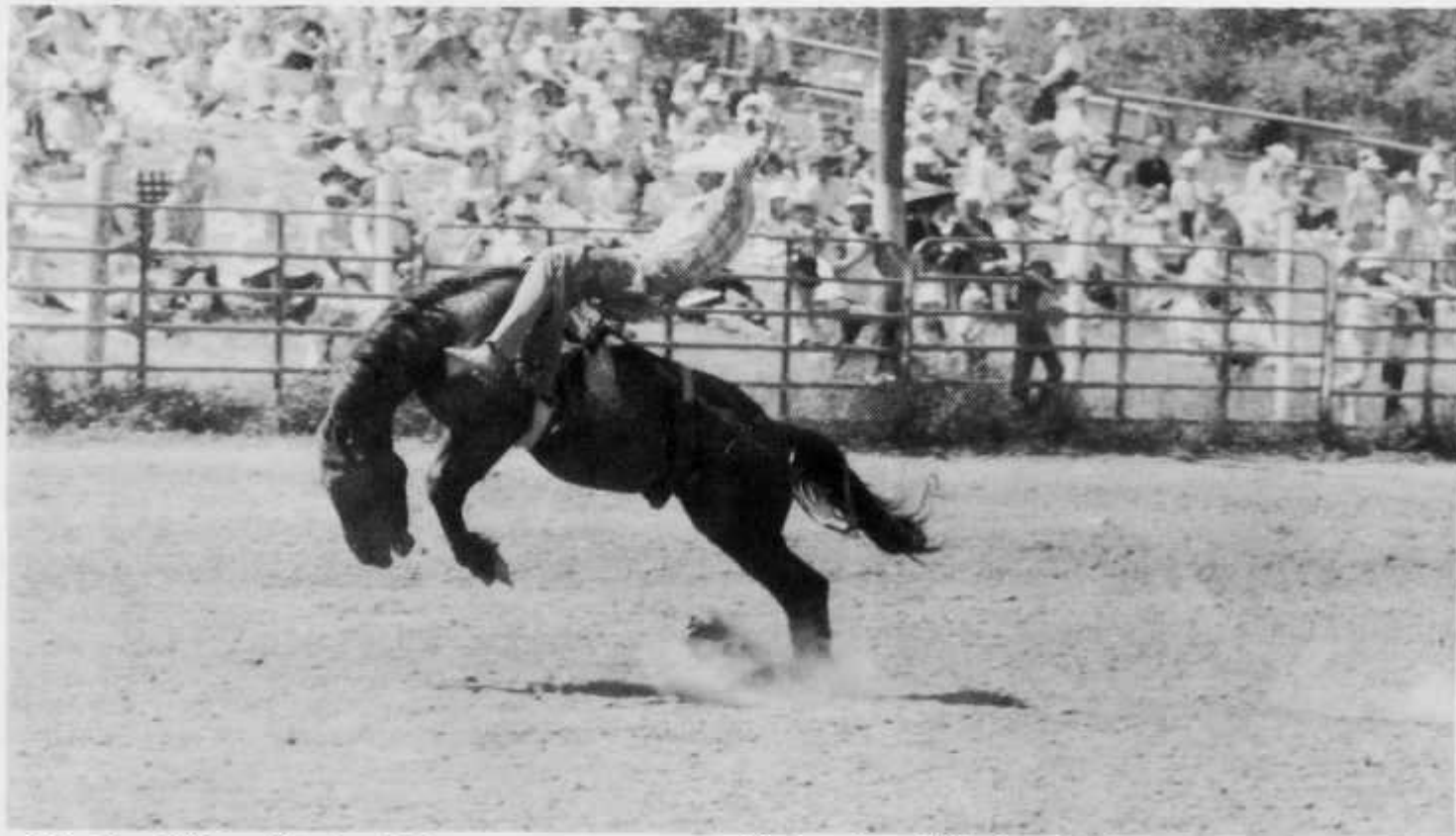
Our hats are off to the
Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

Celebrating 60 years
 of rodeo action

First Federal Savings and Loan

Killdeer, Dickinson, Bismarck & Mandan





Mika Olson, Killdeer, riding in saddle bronc competition in 1983.

(Photo courtesy of Alice Leroy, Killdeer)

According to O'Neil, what seemed to have precipitated the arena giveaway was the Saddle Club had sponsored a kids rodeo -- the Showdeo, for the first time in 1968.

Arena Improved

In any case, the club was now the possessor of the arena, which was evidently not in great shape. The structure apparently had not been updated much since it was put up with cottonwood poles in 1956.

"We spent several years just patching so we could have a rodeo (each summer)," O'Neil remembers. "And after the rodeo it was demolished again." The club was spending up to \$1,000-\$1,500 a year to gradually upgrade the facilities. A lot of the arena, pens and chutes have now been converted to the use of portable metal panels, manufactured calf chutes and bleachers.

The first rodeo by the new sponsors was held July 4-5, 1969, with six professional events plus girls barrel racing, junior barrel racing the "rescue race" for 14-year-olds and a Jaycees "pack up and go" race.

Pete Hutchinson was president of the Saddle Club during the group's first rodeo. He estimated 4,000 people attended the rodeo that year. Freddie Brezel of Ismay, Mont., took all-around cowboy honors and was the top money winner. There were more than 100 entrants competing for almost \$4,000 in purse and entry fee money.

Prior to the 1970 rodeo July 3-5, the Saddle Club announced it was adding -- or really, reviving -- the amateur saddle bronc and bareback events. The Saddle Club put up a \$1,500 purse, which together with the entry fees added up to about \$2,500. Appledoorn was named top cowboy of the 46 entered. His wife, Pauline, had become rodeo secretary

Liberty National Bank & Trust

Dickinson

extends best wishes
to Killdeer

Here's to another 60 years of tremendous rodeo



FDIC



KILLDEER, NORTH DAKOTA

July 3-4-5

7:00 P. M. 2:00 P. M.

Rodeo Cowboy's Association Approved

Stock Furnished by Marvin Brookman
Wolf Point, Montana

Two New Added Events – Amateur Saddle and
Bareback Riding – \$150 Purse & \$15 Entry Fee

Buy Advance Tickets and Save – Tickets can be
picked up at various Killdeer business places,
Schnell's Livestock and Western Livestock

For the best in Rodeo come to Killdeer July 3, 4, 5

This advertisement was used to promote the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo in the *Herald* in 1970.

for the Saddle Club, a position she has held since.

Event Renamed Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

In 1970, the Saddle Club revived the name "Killdeer Mountain Roundup," officially adding the word "rodeo" to clarify it. In conjunction with this, the club also harked back to the original years in numbering the event. The 1971 rodeo was dubbed the "47th annual," even though there had been a total of 15 years when apparently there was no local rodeo.

In 1971, the two-day event July 3-4 drew 120 cowboys and the total purse climbed to \$4,200. This was an RCA "entries not restricted" event, meaning anyone could enter.

At the 1972 rodeo July 3-4, five-time world champion all-around cowboy Larry Mahan was on hand to show the rodeo

fans how he became a champion. He was entered in four events and placed high in three of them. His total winnings were \$929. He was one of 159 entries from 18 states.

Top Hands Come Here

Killdeer, had, by that time, become just one of many July 4 ("cowboys Christmas") rodeos in the nation. With a schedule of 28 Rodeo Cowboy Association rodeos held throughout the United States during the Fourth of July, Killdeer was fortunate to have a good supply of top cowboys competing. According to local newspaper accounts, however, many of the cowboys said they like to come back to that good old western hospitality that is always present at Killdeer.

Killdeer's size, though, didn't mean the rodeo was easy pickings. In 1972, for instance, many of the top hands were bucked to the ground. In the bull riding event here 38 bull riders entered and only 10 riders made a qualified ride.

The practice of flying from rodeo to rodeo was fairly common by this time. Peg O'Neil and Jack Fettig talk about former Sheriff Tom Dardis going out to the the intersection of Highways 200 and 22 to stop traffic so planes could land on the road. Rodeo contestants would finish their event in Killdeer, head for the highway and fly off again.

Also in 1972 an old-timers day was apparently begun, with anyone over 70 admitted free. Parades and dances were part of the standard schedule.

Starting in 1972 and continuing for several years, the Saddle Club offered a free barbecue supper for those holding tickets to the evening performance July 3 -- apparently an attempt to encourage a larger crowd at the first go-round. Also for many years, the old timers day was held July 3.

In 1973, the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo was one of 32 RCA rodeos in the country on July 4, pulling in 186 entrants from 16 states. An outstanding performer that year was Bob Berger of Norman, Okla. The local event continued to be an "entries not restricted" rodeo.

50th Annual Rodeo Held in 1974

When the 50th anniversary rodeo was held in 1974, there were 167 entries from 18 states and Canada. They went after a \$1,900 purse that, when entry fees were added, came to \$6,820.

An added feature that year -- and every year since -- was the Long-X Wagon Train from Watford City coming for the parade. A private barbecue is held at an area farm or ranch the night the wagon train approaches Killdeer.



To all our friends in Killdeer:
Best wishes on your 60th anniversary

Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo
Queen City Beverage

Dickinson





Keith Norby, pickup man, works one of the recent years' rodeos. (Photo courtesy of Alice Leroy, Killdeer)



The Wagon Train pulls into a circle at the Mountains. (Photo courtesy of Darlene Anderson, Killdeer)



The Long X Wagon Train arrives at the Mountains in 1981. (Photo courtesy of Darlene Anderson, Killdeer)



Calf roping action from the 1983 Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo. (Photo courtesy of Alice Leroy, Killdeer)

Congratulations On the 60th anniversary
Killdeer Mountain Roundup
McKenzie Electric Co-op
Killdeer and Watford City



This photograph of Dr. and Lucille Fitzlaugh was taken for the Killdeer 25th Anniversary in 1939. The couple was honored in 1978 for the years of service to local rodeo. (Photo courtesy of Patricia Hedger, Killdeer)

Added for the 50th anniversary was an old timers saddle bronc ride, the wild horse race and a "Pony Express" race from Grassy Butte to Killdeer.

At the 1974 rodeo, Gary Straud of Port Tallis, N.M., set a local record with a time of 8.1 seconds in the calf roping. Crowds were also described as "record breaking," although no figures were given.

In 1975, the Saddle Club continued to make improvements, building new ticket booths and a new rodeo office at the grounds. The rodeo, held July 3-4, included a \$2,150 purse, to which was added the entry fees. Chip



This picture shows Doc Fitzlaugh and his daughter, Patricia Fitzlaugh Hedger, in the 1950s. (Photo courtesy of Patricia Hedger, Killdeer)

Whitaker of Chambers, Neb., was the top money winner.

The 52nd annual rodeo was held July 3-4, 1976. This was the year the public barbecue, held just before the first day's events, was dropped.

In 1977, Tom Ferguson, a two-time all-around champion cowboy, was one of the 214 entrants. His brother, Larry, also competed at the Roundup. The rodeo was July 3-4.

As part of the 1978 rodeo celebration, Lucille and Dr. D.B. Fitzlaugh were honored for their 40 years of service to local rodeo and were given lifetime memberships in the Saddle Club.

By this time, the Saddle Club had the event down to an art. Each year the rodeo agenda included parades on Main Street before each rodeo performance. Rodeo dances were held both nights. The 1979 rodeo fit this pattern exactly.

60th Birthday Congratulations

to the Killdeer Mountain Roundup

The Killdeer Saddle Club is proud of producing 16 of the Killdeer Mountain Roundup's rodeos on the occasion of its 60th anniversary





This is a shot of the rodeo grounds on the south side of Killdeer about 1976. (Photo courtesy of Darlene Anderson, Killdeer)

In 1980, the event was designated as the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association qualifying rodeo for North Dakota. That year, Paul Tierney of Rapid City, who was then current leading money winner on the PRCA circuit, set a new world's calf-tying record of 6.91 seconds to add an extra highlight to the rodeo. He was one of 291 entrants from 21 states competing for a total of \$4,000.

In 1981 a further attraction at the celebration included sky divers jumping out of their planes over the rodeo arena and in 1982 the Saddle Club installed new bleachers at the grounds. Also that year, the rodeo-going public had a chance to pick up free rodeo tickets during a giveaway promotion in

which 13 local businesses participated.

The 1982 rodeo showed a good attendance of between 4,000 and 4,500 each day. It was the first time in several years attendance figures were printed. Saddle Club President Cleo Veeder said this was an increase from recent years, especially for the first day.

In 1983 O'Neil took over as Saddle Club president and the group looked forward to an even more successful rodeo. 1983's parade was held in conjunction with Dunn County's Diamond Jubilee observance with Elizabeth Wetsch of Killdeer, 94, and Knud Moen of Halliday, just shy of 96, serving as honorary marshals of the rodeo parade. Many more

Northwestern Bell

Congratulates Killdeer

on 60 years of action-packed

RODEO





Brad Gjermundson of Marshall, 1981 and 1983 world's champion saddle bronc rider, tries his luck at the 1982 Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo. He placed a 70 in the local event, but was edged

out of top place by Tom Miller, Faith, S.D., who scored a 73 on a re-ride. (Dunn County HERALD photo)

floats than in previous years participated in the parade.

The 1983 rodeo brought in 241 contestants and an estimated 5,000 to 5,500 people for each of the two performances.

Now, at age 60, the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo stands as a healthy institution that should continue to rank

among the most colorful, historic and successful rodeos in North Dakota. With the efforts first of Town Criers and Fettig Rodeo, and now with the Saddle Club and Brookman Stock, the last 28 years have shown a remarkable consistency in local rodeo production.

Happy birthday. Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo.

Best Wishes and warm greetings to the

Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo

on your 60th anniversary, 'a tradition of quality.'

Killdeer Drug & Gift

'Pardners in health'

Prescriptions - Hallmark Cards - Russell Stover Candies

Killdeer, ND 58640



SUMMARY BY YEAR

1921 -- First Dunn County Fair in Killdeer in September; included small rodeo.

1922 -- Second Dunn County Fair in September with rodeo organized by Sam Rhoades.

1923 -- Rhoades again organizes rodeo at third Dunn County Fair in September.

1924 -- First Killdeer Mountain Roundup July 3-5.

1925 -- Second Roundup July 2-4; movie made.

1926 -- Roundup June 26 and 28-29 with "Big Masonic Reunion" held prior to Roundup in Killdeer Mountains.

1927 -- Roundup July 4-6; first booster trip to area towns to promote event.

1928 -- Ex-service men sponsor Roundup July 2-4.

1929 -- Ex-service men again sponsor Roundup July 3-5.

1930 -- First time rodeo held two days instead of three; Rhoades again in charge of entire event.

1931 -- Roundup held as part of new bridge (Lost Bridge) dedication; event took place north side of Little Missouri River near bridge.

1932 -- NO RODEO.

1933 -- NO RODEO.

1934 -- NO RODEO.

1935 -- NO RODEO.

1936 -- NO RODEO.

1937 -- 15,000 attend Roundup July 3-5 at Mountains; organized by Rhoades and son-in-law Senster Anderson.

1938 -- NO RODEO.

1939 -- Town Criers sponsor Roundup in town as part of Killdeer's Silver Jubilee July 2-4.

1940 -- NO RODEO.

1941 -- Roundup sponsored July 4-6 by newly-organized Killdeer Mountain Roundup Association.

1942 -- Roundup Association donates proceeds to war effort; Roundup held July 3-5.

1943 -- NO RODEO.

1944 -- NO RODEO; planned but not held.

1945 -- NO RODEO; planned but not held.

1946 -- Roundup sponsored by Roundup Association July 2-4.

1947 -- RODEO.

1948 -- NO RODEO.

1949 -- Roundup sponsored by Matt Olson, grounds owner, and Don Wright, stock contractor, August 6-7.

1950 -- Roundup sponsored by Olson and Greenough and Orr, stock contractors; held July 2-4.

1951 -- Roundup sponsored July 3-4 by Don Hartman with Fettig Bros. stock.

1952 -- Roundup July 4 by Hartman and Fettig Bros.

1953 -- NO RODEO; planned by Hartman but cancelled.

1954 -- Roundup July 24-25 at Mountains; part of Killdeer's 40th anniversary; sponsored by Cleo Veeder with Fettig stock.

1955 -- Last year rodeo at Mountains; July 30-31 by Legion Post with stock contractors Greenough and Orr.

1956 -- Rodeo moved into city and becomes joint effort between Fettig Bros. and Town Criers; July 21-22.

1957 -- Town Criers and Fettig Bros. sponsor rodeo July 20-21.

1958 -- Town Criers and Fettig Bros. sponsor rodeo June 14-15.

1959 -- Held June 20-21 by Town Criers and Fettig Rodeo.

1960 -- Rodeo moved back to July 4 holiday; sponsored July 3-4 by Town Criers and Fettig Brothers Rodeo Company.

1961 -- NO RODEO.

1962 -- Held July 3-4-5 by Town Criers and Fettig Rodeo.

1963 -- Rodeo held July 3-4 by Fettig Rodeo and Town Criers.

1964 -- Rodeo held in conjunction with Killdeer's Golden Jubilee July 3-5; sponsored by Fettig Rodeo and Town Criers.

1965 -- Held July 4-5 by Town Criers and Fettig Rodeo.

1966 -- Rodeo sponsored July 3-4 by Town Criers and Fettig Rodeo.

1967 -- Rodeo held July 3-4 by Town Criers and Fettig Rodeo.

1968 -- Town Criers and Fettig Rodeo sponsor rodeo July 3-4.

1969 -- Killdeer Saddle Club takes over sponsorship; Marvin Brookman Stock, Wolf Point, Mont., becomes stock contractor; rodeo held July 4-5.

1970 -- Saddle Club renames event Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo; held July 4-5.

1971 -- Sponsored by Saddle Club July 3-4 with Brookman stock.

1972 -- Held July 3-4 by Saddle Club with Brookman Stock.



Slope Area Veterinary Clinic

Dickinson

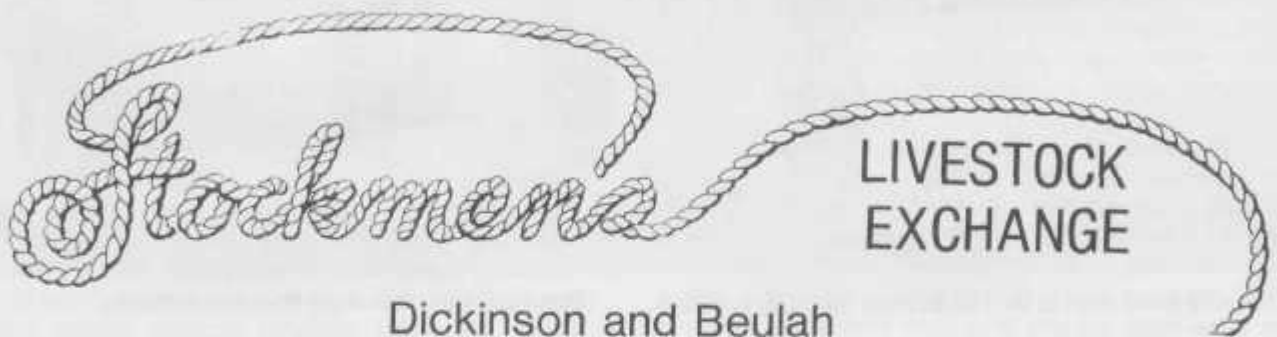
Is Proud to Serve Killdeer

Congratulations on Your 60th Rodeo

- 1973 -- Saddle Club and Brookman Stock sponsor rodeo July 3-4.
- 1974 -- "50th Annual" rodeo sponsored July 3-4 by Saddle Club and Brookman Stock; Long X Wagon Train makes first annual appearance.
- 1975 -- Saddle Club and Brookman Stock sponsor rodeo July 3-4.
- 1976 -- Saddle Club and Brookman Stock sponsor rodeo July 3-4.
- 1977 -- Rodeo held July 3-4.
- 1978 -- Saddle Club and Brookman Stock sponsor rodeo July 3-4.

- 1979 -- Saddle Club and Brookman Stock sponsor rodeo July 3-4.
- 1980 -- July 4-5 rodeo sponsored by Saddle Club with Brookman stock.
- 1981 -- Saddle Club and Brookman Stock put on rodeo July 4-5.
- 1982 -- Saddle Club and Brookman Stock sponsor July 3-4 rodeo.
- 1983 -- Saddle Club and Brookman Stock put on rodeo July 3-4.
- 1984 -- 60th Annual Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo sponsored by Killdeer Saddle Club July 3-4.

CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATION



Dickinson and Beulah

Congratulates
 the
Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo
 on its
60th Anniversary

Stockmen's is 48 years old and
 we're proud to serve the Killdeer area
 For livestock marketing, contact the
 area's marketing center

Stockmen's Livestock Exchange

Willard Schnell Delmar Erickson Larry Schnell

CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATION

CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATION

CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATIONS • CONGRATULATION



The Manning Band plays at the 1925 Killdeer Mountain Roundup.

(Photo courtesy of Richard Rhoades, Killdeer)

This article is reprinted from the July 9, 1925, *Killdeer Herald*.

Second Annual Roundup Again Thrills Thousands

Both Riders and Horses Fulfill Every Expectation of those who came from All Corners of the United States to See a Genuine Exhibition of Western Range Life

The second annual Roundup put on by Sam Rhoades in the Killdeer Mountains offered more and better entertainment to the thousands who witnessed it than the 1924 Roundup --

and that's saying considerable.

The weather was wonderful; the hills more green and attractive than ever; and the beauty and restful shade of the timber-covered grounds more than ever appreciated by the campers who dotted the hills on every hand.

Everyone especially appreciated the fact exhibitions always started promptly at 1 o'clock and continued without delay.

The horses were in every way just exactly as advertised



Wishes Killdeer rodeo fans
a happy 60th anniversary

KINGS SHOPPERS PLAZA
P. O. BOX 1613 DICKINSON, ND 58601
TELEPHONE: 701-225-5476

- COFFEE, TEA, and SPICES
- COOKWARE and Acc.
- CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING
- LTD EDITION ART, PRINTS, and POSTERS
- UNFINISHED FURNITURE

Tony & Nance Martin
Proprietors

and the boys who rode them gave an exhibition of broncho-busting not surpassed any place in the western continent. Several times the animals tried to climb the eight foot crowding pens. Two riders were carried over backwards but stayed in the saddle while their horses regained their feet and fanned them till the gun barked.

One horse knocked a section of a corral to the ground and burst out into the arena in its attempts to escape the saddle. That particular corral was laid up for repairs the rest of the day.

All the riders were especially fortunate, only two receiving minor burises. Roland Finger, however, had to be dragged to safety under the fence when the big white longhorn steer which he was bulldogging threw him fifteen feet away and was preparing to put a few polka dots in his hide.

Mr. Rhoades offers to back this longhorn for bucking purposes against any charging buffalo, wild mustang or brindled grn that ever pawed the dirt.

The trained Shetland ponies of Miss Schneider of Lisbon were a special feature which captivated the crowds with every performance.

The Manning band was on the job and everyone was highly pleased with the way they did their part and furnished high class music. Their singing was especially good. It doesn't seem possible such an aggregation of vocal artists could get together and turn out the brand of melody the Manning boys did. But such veteran vocalists as Judge Harris and Harold Boehmer of Manning and Les Hulett of Killdeer couldn't help but whip 'em all into line. Dunn County folk can well feel proud of the Manning band boys.

There were numerous stands of all kinds and no one was heard to kick either on prices charged or on lack of things to eat. Frank Johnson and Tony Fischer at their stand won a reputation for making good coffee which will stick with them all through the coming Norwegian whist season.

The immense bowery erected by Messrs. Lubke, Jesty and Smith did its part in entertaining the vast throngs. The floor was good and the five-piece Lonien orchestra was the best ever.

The lighting arrangements were taken care of by the Delco Light Company and the grounds were plentifully supplied with illumination.

All the thrills and exciting moments of this year's Roundup will be shown throughout the world on the screen. Mr. and Mrs. Ringwood were present all three days, representing the Pathe Film Co. When they dared, they went into the arena,



The wild horse race was a regular feature at early Roundups. (Photo courtesy of Peg O'Neil, Killdeer)

but when the steers were bull-dogged and the wild horse race was on, they took no chances, but shot their stuff from the safety of a truck especially placed outside the arena for their accommodation. In addition to the movie outfit, L.D. Harris and assistant from the Minot Photo Shop were on the job with the high powered cameras to take pictures of the arena activities, and they have hundreds of views of every stunt of the three day program.

Mr. Rhoades is to be congratulated for the exceptional success of his second Roundup and for his untiring and conscientious efforts to please all who attended it. The Killdeer Mountain Roundup is a real one. There is no faking done; there are no trained bucking horses or salaried riders. The public is beginning to know this which accounts for the increasing attendance each year and the good word which is passed along by all who see it.

Next year's Roundup will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 1-2-3.

The prize winners each day and the money they received are as follows:

SADDLE CONTEST

July 2: 1st - Jess Thomas, \$100; 2nd - Bryan Rosseau, \$75; 3rd - Paul Shafer, \$50

July 3: 1st - Paul Shafer, \$100; 2nd - Dave McLeod, \$100; 3rd - Roland Finger, \$50

July 4: 1st - Paul Shafer, \$100; 2nd - Jesse Thomas, \$75; 3rd - Henry Mastel, \$50.

FINALS

1st - Jesse Thomas, \$125; 2nd - Paul Shafer, \$100; 3rd - Roland Finger, \$50.

BAREBACK RIDING

July 2: 1st - Homer Harmon, \$25; 2nd - Ernest Guimont, \$20; 3rd - Roland Finger, \$15.

July 3: 1st - Homer Harmon, \$25; 2nd - Roland Finger,

Best
Wishes

on 60 years of
OUTSTANDING RODEO





Miss Ardoth Schneider and her Shetland pony act from Lisbon, N.D., apparently made a hit at the 1925 Roundup. (Photo courtesy of Hansen Brothers, Marshall)

\$20; 3rd - Phillip Rosseau, \$15.

July 4: 1st - Roland Finger, \$25; 2nd - Jess Thomas, \$20; 3rd - Henry Mastel, \$15.

COWBOY RELAY RACE

July 2: 1st - Roy Lillibridge, \$25; 2nd - Jerome Johnson, \$15; 3rd - Jim Barnhart, \$10.

July 3: 1st - Roy Lillibridge, \$25; 2nd - Jerome Johnson, \$15; 3rd - Howard Blackburn, \$10.

July 4: 1st - Roy Lillibridge, \$25; 2nd - Mike Fisher, \$15; 3rd - Jim Barnhart, \$10.

STEER RIDING

July 2 & 3 none of the cow punchers dared to tackle any of the steers, they claimed they had enough to do to ride the horses without tackling any of the long horns. But the Fourth some of the boys took their lives in their hands with the following results:

1st - Frank Landis, \$25; 2nd - Edwin Herouf, \$15; 3rd - John Hanson, \$10

STEER BULLDOGGING

July 2: 1st - Paul Shafer, \$50; 2nd - Dave McLeod, \$25; 3rd - Jess Perkins, \$15.

July 3: 1st - Dave McLeod, \$50; 2nd - Roland Finger, \$25; 3rd - Paul Shafer, \$15.

July 4: 1st - Dave McLeod, \$50; 2nd - Paul Shafer, \$25;

3rd - Roland Finger, \$15.

WILD HORSE RACE

July 2: 1st - Dave McLeod, \$25; 2nd - Wm. Herouf, \$20; 3rd - Jess Perkins, \$15.

July 3: 1st - Wm. Herouf, \$25; 2nd - John Hanson, \$20; 3rd - Dave McLeod, \$15.

July 4: 1st - Anton Fettig, \$25; 2nd - Edwin Herouf, \$20; 3rd - Dave McLeod, \$15.

COLT ROPING CONTEST

July 2: 1st - Bert Murray, \$25; 2nd - Howard Blackburn, \$15; 3rd - Ralph Schlangen, \$10.

July 3: 1st - Bert Murray, \$25; 2nd - Ralph Schlangen, \$15; 3rd - Jim Barnhart, \$10.

July 4: 1st - Ralph Schlangen, \$25; 2nd - Roy Lillibridge, \$15; 3rd - John Maruchek, \$10.

INDIAN SQUAW COWPONY RACE

July 2: No entrants. July 3: 1st - Ruth Packinow, \$10; 2nd - Allison Gernal, \$5; 3rd - Mrs. Spotted Bear, \$3.

July 4: 1st - Allison Gernal, \$10; 2nd - Mrs. Spotted Bear, \$5; 3rd - Ruth Packinow, \$3. All these Indians were from Eibowoods.

Judges were A.C. Murray and Wyeth Luttrell of Grassy Butte and Gube Saunders of Killdeer. Pige Jeffries was book-keeper and the announcers were Clyde Smith and Pete Nor-thrup.

The time is coming when the real riders will be those who can qualify at a real Roundup on real horses. Those riders will be the successful ones at the Killdeer Mountain Roundup.

Don't forget the dates of the next one -- Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 1-2-3.

Made Good Time

The best bulldogging time made at the Roundup was by Paul Shafer who did the job in one minute and five seconds. The best colt roping was done by Ralph Schlangen in 44 3-4 seconds.

Dance at the Mountains

Owners of the dancing pavilion at the Killdeer Mountains are announcing a dance July 17 in their ad in this issue. Messrs. Lubke, Jesty and Smith spent an even \$1,200 for the lumber and labor for this pavilion and it is considered the best in the slope country. During the hot summer months it is almost impossible to enjoy dancing indoors, but out where the cool breezes blow high up in the mountains, everyone can heartily enjoy himself.

The boys expect to have dances there throughout the summer with the best music obtainable. Watch for their future advertisements.

The staff of

Holiday Inn

Dickinson, ND

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Congratulates Killdeer
on its 60th Anniversary Rodeo

Western North Dakota's
Convention Center
Accommodations for 1,000

150 spacious rooms
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Indoor pool
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Good Earth Lounge
& Restaurant

This story is reprinted verbatim from the June 30, 1927 **Killdeer Herald**.

Booster Trip was a Huge Success

Last Friday morning three carloads of Killdeer boosters went down the line as far as Hazen on a booster tour for the Roundup at the Killdeer Mountains July 4-5-6.

After looking at the almanac and finding there would be no fire in town that day, the boys took the siren off the fire truck, adorned their domes with white hats and a red feather, hung beribboned canes over one arm and a 2x4 red, white, and blue umbrella over the other and stepped on 'er.

A case of spring water was harvested later. After this both members of our quartette, Bob Clement and Cliff Hammel caroled like the bird on Nellie's hat -- even more so.

As town after town flew by, the singing improved until the quartette was increased to 11 members; Col. Meredith was unable to join in the harmony having lost his voice during the Panic of 1907.

After going through to Hazen, the boys returned to Beulah where a big two-day rodeo had just started.

Taking possession of the band stand they treated the folks of that vicinity to the "Beulah song" which goes as follows.

Beulah, oh dear old Beulah
We're for you all the time
We have the cattle
You have the coal
We love your ladies young and old
So Beulah, O dear old Beulah,
To our home town we are true
Beulah oh Beulah show us you are living
Come on, Beulah, let's go.



The words were appropriate, the intentions were good, the "ambish" was 100 percent but the harmony was aitch-e-double-ell. It was a music massacre and not a note survived. Then Editor Brown of the **Beulah Independent** thrust his brass band into the breach in the levee and no one knew the difference. It was kind and noble of Brown to do this, and we're going to send him a pint of ink as soon as we can spare it.

In order to replenish the supply of bull meat at the local shop, Anton Wetsch, our bustling butcher and bath tub base, bought a bulldog at the Hazen meat market. Watch his ad in the **Herald** for a special sale of tender weenies. Only one weenie to a customer.

Otherwise, the trip was very calm and peaceful.

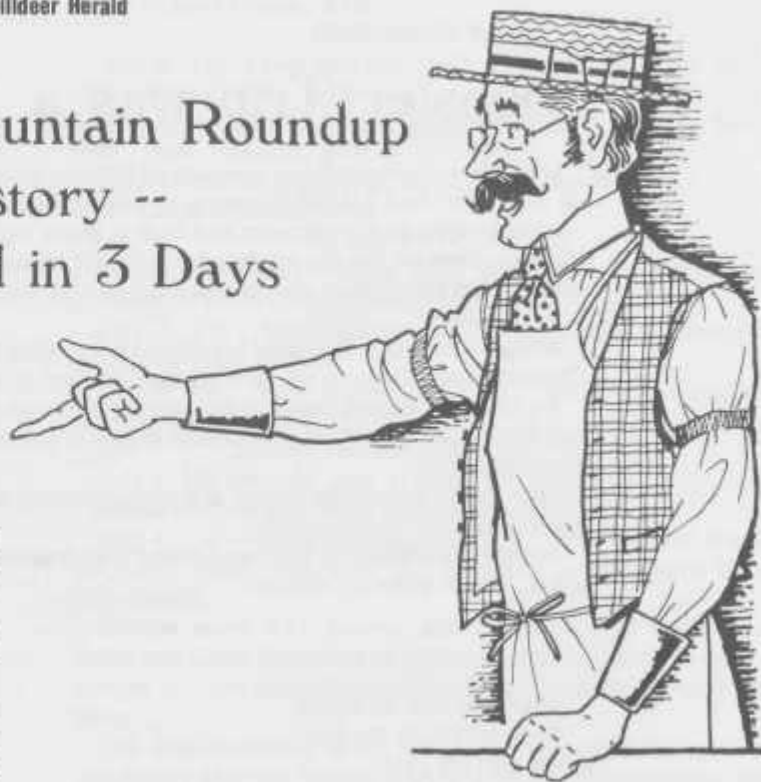
The boys who made the trip and helped spread Killdeer pep down the line were: Anton Wetsch, Joe Hoye, Jr., Herman Wulfsberg, Jack Jesty, Joe Zankl, Haakon Weydaht, Sam Rhoades, Tom Cain, C.R. Meredith, Bob Clement, Cliff Hammel, Nace Doherty.

We salute you
Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo
1924 - 1984

Killdeer Bar
Earl Kruse, owner for the past 24 years

This story is reprinted from the July 8, 1937 *Killdeer Herald*

Eighth Annual Killdeer Mountain Roundup Greatest in its History -- 15,000 People Attend in 3 Days



by Ruth Taylor

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor and the pleasure of introducing to you the pioneers, the Trail Blazers, of Dunn County and its vicinity. Before making formal introduction I shall speak in tribute to these men, and in doing that I shall go back to the time this republic was formed to emphasize the importance of this event."

His words carried by amplifier to approximately 10,000 people gathered at the foot of the historical and scenic Killdeers, Dunn County States Attorney H.L. Malloy, by his introduction of the pioneers officially opened the Fourth of July program of the Eighth Annual Killdeer Mountain Roundup, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

"At this time," the speaker continued, "on this anniversary, in every part of the world American citizens meet together and renew their vows of devotion to the ideals that have inspired or animated them. All the world admires, all the world sympathizes with the vast work of the Great American Republic. All the world looks back to that July, 1776, 161 years ago, upon the years that have elapsed since that date, and sees an expansion in the way of population, in the way of wealth and power, material and spiritual, which is unexampled in the history of the world.

"We should celebrate; we should hold this day sacred when we stop to think the Declaration of Independence was one of the greatest documents ever written; there are certain passages from this Immortal Declaration which for over a century have caused men's hearts to beat faster whenever they are read, and it was the deciding factor that eventually made the colonists free and independent of the tyrannical rule of

King George. Fifty-six men signed this document after traveling miles upon miles for this privilege by means of transportation that is now obsolete; and risked their lives in doing so. They knew if the colonies lost the war which this act precipitated, every one of them would be arrested, tried and convicted of treason; that meant only one thing -- death.

Still they experienced all kinds of hardship and inconvenience to have this opportunity. Today the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence, faded and almost illegible, is kept in a shrine of glass in the Congressional Library at Washington, D.C., where all who wish may look at the precious parchment.

Our Debt to Our Pioneers

"God made this land, with its hills, dales, rivers, brooks, mountains, valleys, forests, and prairies, stocked it with unlimited resources, then went to Europe, picked brave men and women, those who believed in a Supreme Being and were not afraid of the Unknown, to come and make this their home. They encountered the dangers of the seas the



**the nokota
company**

Thank you, Killdeer Saddle Club and other promoters of the Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo for providing area spectators with top-notch rodeo excitement for six decades

savages, the elements, and disease, and overcame them all that they might live and worship according to the dictates of their own conscience. It was that type of people who founded this republic; who fought, suffered and died to establish the first government of this kind. To them we owe a debt we cannot pay.

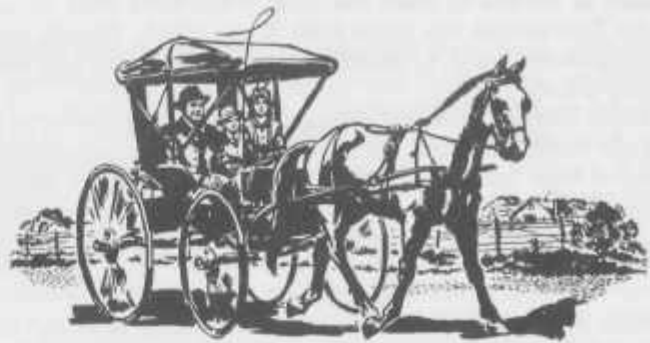
Likewise, brave men and women came to this part of North Dakota, to this community which now comprises Dunn County and its vicinity years and years ago before the state was admitted into the Union. They, too, came as our forefathers did, fighting and struggling for an existence. Some of them left fine homes and communities and came here when railroads were far distant and highways and automobiles were unknown, when roads were nothing but trails and the only means of transportation was by saddle horse, buckboard, or on foot. There were no schools, or churches, or conveniences of any kind; and the nearest town or place where medical assistance could be obtained was from 50 to 75 miles away. Still they came, settled here, made their homes and built up the country so you and I might follow in the soft cushions of the Pullman or limousine and enjoy the fruits of their labor. To them, also, we owe a debt.

Our Foundation is Solid

"They are the foundation of this community. It is like building a home. It needs a good foundation if we expect it to stand and weather the storms; otherwise, the wear and tear weaken it and the winds come and send it crumbling to the ground, the same as our American Citizenry, our commercial structures and public institutions will topple and fall under stress of depression, keen competition, and political subterfuge. I am happy to say our community has been built around men and women who are as solid as rock, the real foundation for all homes.

"Many of these men and women whom we have with us today are nearing the end of the long, long trail. Their lifework is nearly done. All of these Trail Blazers, these pioneers, have passed the halfway mark, and soon they may answer the call of the Last Roundup. Let us not forget. Let us keep up their good work and maintain their standards throughout this generation. Until the mountains crumble, and the tides go in and out no more; until the clouds are weary of replenishing the springs, and the springs forget to send out their clear, life-giving water, and the rivers no longer flow onward to the seas, may the good work of these men and the principles established by them go on and on and on.

"I now present the Trail Blazers of Dunn County and its vicinity."



Trail Blazers of Dauntless Dunn

Draped with bunting, sitting erectly and happily astride his horse, each old cowboy rode forward, at his introduction and lifted his hat from a silvered head, and received the tribute of the crowd.

Twenty-three pioneers were presented. Sam Rhoades, foreman of the Roundup, came from Texas in 1893 and is still actively engaged in ranching. Mark McCarthy of Watford City is another southerner and an old North Dakota rider. Ben Bird has driven three long trails and four short trails from Texas. Sime Cuskelly is a native son born here in 1887. Layton Trotter was raised near the Missouri River in the lower W Bar country, Lew Keykendall came from the Indian Nation country with cattle. Bill Taylor came from Panhandle Texas in 1896, driving a trail herd of 3,000.

Gube Saunders was born here and ranches near the Killdeers. Bill Connolly migrated from the east through the Black Hills country during the Indian days when a man's scalp was not safe. James Stevenson, born here, follows in the footsteps of his pioneering grandfather Don Stevenson and his father Hugh Stevenson. Carl Siverts has lived in Dunn County since 1887. Melvin Olson has lived in the Killdeer Mountain country since 1890. Willis Richards, the son of a Civil War captain, and member of a family who were pioneers in Texas, was among the first of those who came here. Rasmus Jensen is another old trailman who has done just about everything; he now ranches north of Killdeer. Red Murphy, one of the oldest timers of all, is a native of Ireland. Bill Dawes was born in North Dakota and early became associated with ranches here. Bob Monroe came 45 years ago from Canada to work for Willis Richards on the Diamond C Ranch.

J. Grantier was only 18 when he was sent alone with a re-

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1924 - Killdeer Mountain Roundup - 1984

Manning Sales & Service



mount of horses to meet the Long X trail herd from Texas. John Zimmerman has been here since 1895. Equally long time pioneers are J. L. Webster, Andrew Johnson, and Cornelius Olson.

When introductions were through, the old cowmen rode in parade finally coming to attention with heads bared while the Killdeer High School band directed by Caroline Kopp, played "America." Eyes were misted as the lapse of another year visualized gaps in the ranks of those silver haired titans of other days.

Sons Carry On

After a final salute the men dismounted to squat near the fence or sit on the rails and reminisce while they watched their sons carry on. Among the riders were Earl Bird, Neil and Bob Stevenson, Connor & Buckey Cuskelly, Owen and Norman O'Neil, Edgar, Jim and John Trotter, Bob McCloud, Owen Lee, and Louis Pelissier, all sons of pioneers. George Howard, the great-great-great grandson of Four Bears, a sire of the Mandan Indian Tribe of the Fort Berthold Reservation, assisted Jack Murphy at the chutes; and Don Dehlinger and Red Hugh O'Neil were in the corrals. Other pioneers' sons in the arena were Judges Don Short, Jim Connolly, and Layton Trotters; and pickup man, Bob Monroe. Dick Rhoades was again at the gates.

Prize Winning Riders

Winning riders during the three day events were:

Saddle

First day: Bob Stevenson, Searing; Lorenzo Bear, Elbowoods; Ken Rindall, Searing; second day: Lorenzo Bear; Roy Goodbird, Elbowoods; Neil Stevenson; third day: Ken Rindall, Jimmy Crowsbreast, Elbowoods; Ted Buffalo, Elbowoods.

Relay

First day: Earl Bird, Medora; John Trotters, Alexander; Dale Wilson, Garrison; second day: Earl Bird; George Bloomington, Almont; Dale Wilson; third day: Earl Bird; George Bloomington; Cecil Wilson, Garrison.

Steer Riding

First day: Jene Ludwig, Billings; Raymond Bergan, Elbowoods; Owen O'Neil, Dunn Center; second day: Owen O'Neil, Buckey Cuskelly, Killdeer; third day: Owen O'Neil; Buckey Cuskelly, Joe Erwin, Montana.

Calf Roping

First day: Earl Bird; Louis Pelissier, Medora; Bob Stevenson; second day: Owen Lee, Grassy Butte; Ken Rindall, Bob Stevenson; third day: Earl Bird, Norman Goldberg, Arnegard; Bob Stevenson.

Wild Cow Milking

First day: Owen Lee and Louis Pelissier; Harvey Grevious, Killdeer, and Tony Fettig, Killdeer; Ralph Schlangen, Fayette, and Bob McCloud, Medora; third day: Norman Goldberg and Ken Rindall; Earl Bird and Owen Lee; Ralph Schlangen and Bob McCloud.

Cow Pony Race

First day: Earl Bird; Dale Wilson; Ben Bird; second day: Harvey Grevious; Whitey Rains, Oklahoma; Tony Bergan, Elbowoods; third day: John Trotters; Jim Trotters; Dale Wilson.

Bareback

First Day: Ed Crowsheart, Elbowoods; Ralph Birdbear, Elbowoods; Pete DuPree, Wyoming; second day: Harvey Grevious; Whitey Rains; Tony Bergan; third day: Pete DuPree; Tony Bergan, Whitey Rains.


Jack Goldberg of Sidney, Montana, and Earl Bird did trick riding and rope swinging. Six-year-old Clinton Fettig, Killdeer was presented as a Junior Cowboy rope slinger. Norman O'Neil and Connor Cuskelly were Junior Cowboy steer riders. Clowning were Harvey Grevious and Tony Fettig.

Few Casualties

Few casualties, none of them fatal, marked the days riding. The crowd held its breath when Harvey Grevious went limp as the steer he fell from stepped on his back; men carried him in, gently layed him face down, and found him only winded. Ten minutes later Grevious was again playing the arena clown. Ray Good Bird, an Indian boy, was was badly cut when thrown off his broncho and into the path of an arena rider's horse. Neil Stevenson, injured bodily on the second day, remained inactive the third day and sat leaning against his camp tent, tired and sick, but still swapping stories with the old cowboys gathered around him. Stevenson has suffered injuries year after year, but he takes them bravely and goes bravely back for more. Another Indian rider had a knee thrown out of joint and John Kupper suffered a broken left leg.

It was as real a rodeo as ever was held in this riding west. The fact the riders were local men, hard riding, wild horse wranglers, made it supremely worthwhile and genuinely western.

Each contest was governed by the most stringent rules ever devised for a sport card. And when the 100 man-eating, outlaw, untamable horses had been ridden each day, the crowd continued to be entertained by the 30-piece Killdeer High School Band, the Canfield Flying Circus, and the Midwest Carnival Shows, and bowery dances.



Since 1924 Fords
have gotten you to the
Killdeer Mountain Roundup
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Ed Canfield, the flying ace, headed the air circus that flew passengers, demonstrated coyote shooting from the air, and presented Irvin in parachute jumps.

Cars from Distant States

Among the thousands of cars parked on the hillsides that circle the natural arena bowl were many foreign licenses, and those as widely separated as California and Florida stood side by side. A young man resembling Cornelius Vanderbilt turned out to be Marvin Ness, a Minneapolis resident at his first big Roundup. Mr. Ness was with Ernest Benser of Bismarck. Mrs. A.B. Curry and two daughters, Helen and Mary, the wife and daughters of a late Dunn County rancher, came from St. Paul to see the rodeo. Leota Meddles and Lucille Van Erck, of Freedom, Oklahoma, and Alva Meddles of La-Cruces, New Mexico, especially liked the Indians' riding; going in smiling as those Indian boys did, and coming back still smiling, even through broken teeth and cut lips.

J.C. Michalenko, a Massachusetts man, had never seen anything like it before and described it as "something wonderful." W.C. Gardner of Sperling, Manitoba, Canada, brother-in-law of the rancher Tom Cain of Grassy Butte, knew of very few roundups held in Canada, where, he said, they are called "stampedes." Bill Connolly was delighted when the parade went off so well. Bill Taylor marvelled at the genius of performer Jack Goldberg's gun juggling. Rodeo manager, Senster Anderson took the microphone from announcer and commentator Bill Cockburn to extend his hearty appreciation, and to promise perhaps another bigger and better rodeo next year. Sam Rhoades, worn out by the long days and nights, could truly be gratified at the success of his Roundup.

Ruminations

by Ruth Taylor

From where we sat high in the announcer's stand the panorama of the scenic Killdeer Mountains country stretched out on all sides to an abrupt and jagged horizon. Beyond the patch of trees just to the north was the Rhoades' ranch, where Mrs. Rhoades held open house and a veritable cooling and first aid station. Airplanes flew above us and horses bucked below us. All around the arena, cars were lined six deep; and people, 10 deep, swarmed over the fenders and hoods and tops to make an arresting array of mixed and moving color.

From the corrals behind us, men moved beautiful, untamed horses into the chutes, yi-ing at them, using stout poles to force them, while the animals reared and plunged and turned. Once in the narrow chute, the horse was held with no room to

move. There the rider let himself down on its back, settled to a good hold, and gave signal he was ready. Only an instant the horse hesitated at the open gate before his dash into the open to buck and kick and stampede in sometimes not a vain attempt to throw the holding, spurring man on his back. If the broncho buster still held at the end of ten jumps an arena rider picked him off his horse or he caught the fence as his horse dashed near it. If the rider did not hold to the time limit, they sometimes picked him up too. Throughout County Agent Cockburn announced fast and commentated often; Harris was there with his camera; Fiola was there with his first aid; and the treats were on Doherty. Arresting incidents: The sons' obvious pride in their fathers' parading, and the fathers' proud happiness at their sons' good work. Bill Cockburn announcing they were "now putting the horse on the saddle in chute number three." The way Bob Stevenson's hand shook as he took the bridle and gave the signal to "open up." The breathtaking way one stamperder torn down the arena and straight through the lower corral fence. The comical way a big broncho landed sitting with his hind legs fastened in the lower fence while his front feet were fast above them. The grace and skill with which Jack Goldberg and Earl Bird executed their "Drunken Cowboy Ride," standing swaying in the saddle. The wonder of the six-year-old Fettig boy and his rope. The gameness of youngsters Norman O'Neil and Connor Cuskelly as they rode steers that sent them over head and horn. And on the grounds when the riding was finished: All manner of ladies' dress ranging from slacks to gowns. Following the crowd and ending up, behold, between mugs of beer. People five deep all around Crist's three-sided bar. The boy who cut deep his thumb tip and and feared he'd cut an artery there. Meeting Tom Cain, an old timer of Grassy Butte, who will soon move to the coast. Visiting the Stevensons and Trotter and Bird camps, and knowing their ranchers' hospitality and hearing ranchers' talk.

Senster Anderson doing the work and worry of three men and doing it well. Bill Dawes leading us horseback down the grounds. Ben Bird and Bill Taylor tracing the Chisholm Trail in the sand. Sam Rhoades leaning from his pony to admonish "You'd better write this up doggone well, Susie." And Tuesday: Meeting on the highway near Grassy Butte Stevensons and Trotters and their horses going home, and Ben Bird and his riders driving Bird's six horses back to Medora. Stopping to shake hands with him and a promise to be at the Medora rodeo next month.

Congratulations Killdeer!

On 60 years

Of outstanding rodeo

WESTERN OUTPOST

Prairie Hills Mall - Dickinson





Janell Cole

About the Author

Janell Cole has been involved in professional-level communications work for 10 years. A native of Page, N.D., she received her communications and printing education at North Dakota State School of Science, Wahpeton, and Moorhead (Minn.) State University.

While a student, she worked at the **Daily News** in Wahpeton and **The Forum** of Fargo-Moorhead. She came to this area December 1975, as a copy editor and reporter-photographer for **The Dickinson Press**. In 1981 she left that position to freelance.

Since then the majority of her work has been for the **Williston Basin Oil Reporter**. Other articles have been published in **North Dakota Horizons**, the **North Dakota REC** magazine, **Farm and Ranch Guide**, **Western Business**, the **Back Forty**, the **North Dakota Fire Chiefs** and **North Dakota Aviation Association's** publications and the **North Dakota Farm Bureau** magazine.

Cole also edited the **Dickinson Centennial** history book in 1982, was temporary news director in 1983 at **KDIX** radio in Dickinson and has been on the staff of the Women's Alliance domestic violence program in Dickinson.

She is a member of the National Federation of Press Women and has received a national writing award in the group's annual competition. She is also a member of North Dakota Press Women and has collected 47 state awards in their communications contest.

She has an intense interest in North Dakota heritage, history, government, geography and trivia.

Congratulations

To Killdeer
On the 60th Anniversary of the
Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo



South of Prairie Hills Mall
Highway 22, Dickinson

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