

March 2008
Volume 1, Issue 2

Umatilla
Sage
Riders

Pony Express

Inside Highlights:

2008 NPRA Rodeo	3
2008 USR Events	3
Missing Court Pictures	3
USR Court	4
Cowboy Church	5
2008 Calendar of Events attached	6-9

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Celebrating 60 Years! A Look Back....

This year USR is celebrating its 60 year anniversary and what better way to celebrate than to look back at some of our history?

While researching the history of USR on the Internet I ran found this interview and got a kick out of it, so I decided to share it. It talks about USR in the early years and Sam Nobles recollection of the club. The article is an interview with Sam Nobles by Donna Sinclair (1999) of the Umatilla Museum and Historical Foundation. If you would like to read the whole article it is available at:

<http://www.ccrh.org/comm/umatilla/oralhis/smnobles.htm>.

Ms. Sinclair's questions are in blue. Sam's responses are as they were recorded by Ms. Sinclair.

Can you tell me about any community activities that you have been involved in?

SN: Well let's see, I served on the Umatilla school board for about 9 years. I got appointed and then I ran for two terms and got elected and the last term I ran for I got defeated. So I have been on the budget and the school board for about ten years during the late seventies and the early eighties. And I was, when I first come back I took over the presidency of the Umatilla Sage Riders so I was the president of the riding club.

What is the Umatilla Sage Riders Riding Club?

SN: It was a club that was started here in Umatilla in about 1947. Billy Kick who was a Umatilla school board member today his grandfather give us some land, where the ground is up there on 730, and its just been a club in existence ever since. In the early days we'd get together and ride in the local parades, we'd put on a rodeo, in fact our bylaws call for us to always put on an annual rodeo at that grounds.

So do you have one every year?

Every year we have the Sage Rider rodeo since we started. Yes, and my family's all went through it I think my dad was the president 2 or 3 years and I grew up to become the president 2 or 3 years. My little brother Bruce, he was the president 2 or 3 years so its been kind of in the family. Now we got my older brothers in the service and his boys in town and he's got kids so they will get involved in this cycle as they get older. So its been, all because of McNary Dam is when the Sage Riders started. Right at the first too we had enough people and enough horses and that's when we started. In fact our first meeting was right here in this Umatilla Museum because we didn't have a hall or nothing. So the city of Umatilla let us use the city hall and we had our organizational meetings here and also at McNary, we had a grocery store up there by Karl and his brother, I can't think of their last names but they let us use the building next to theirs. At that time we called the teen center we had a couple of meetings up there organizing the Umatilla Sage Riders. And that was during the construction of the Dam. Because the one time they was a nice grocery store up there, we had the teen center up there, it was a pretty big place, a lot of people.

And you were young enough to be involved in it?

SN: Oh, yes, enjoyed every bit of it.

Continued on page 2-



So the Sage Riders Club and the rodeo, is there a lot of participation from around the county? Do people come to Umatilla for this rodeo?

SN: Yes, its not as good as it was in the old days when we was the only ones that had it. Nowadays everybody has a rodeo. But there's a lot of people my age or my generation that you know they'd come either from Condon or Ion or Heppner and help us put on a rodeo. The guys would come and rope local, we have a lot of contestants and we had a good rodeo. The Umatilla Sage Riders one year had a polo team. Where you use a big rubber ball about the size of a basketball and you got a mallet and you hit it, with your horse. Well when I was growing up, for two years we was the polo champs of the Pacific Northwest. We beat the Mollala teams and we beat the Washington teams and they wanted us to go back to Texas and play in the finals, but we're all farmers or you know we couldn't take off a week but it was fun cause we was good enough to go that far.

Do you have any professional rodeo riders come through for an appearance or any thing?

SN: Not now, you do if you have a professional rodeo show or, we don't. Over the years they tried to have it but we went back to having just the regular Oregon cowboys. Its pretty expensive to put on a, but you know. Hermiston puts on a great one now. Hermiston will compete with Pendleton in a few years. They put on a fantastic RCA rodeo.

Did you ever compete in a Pendleton Rodeo?

SN: Not the Pendleton Rodeo well I did but not as a rider. I did as an express team- the Sage Riders, we had a pony express team up there at the Pendleton Roundup. So during the 50's and the late 40's I participated as a pony express rider and rode those horses around. Yes, I was pretty well involved in that and I used to do a lot of cow milking and for two or three years I was in the wild horse race.(laughter). Not too smart.

Did you ever fall?

SN: Oh did I fall, those horses would bite you, you know I'd, I don't know, to be able to grab that rope, let them open that chute and you got 6 horses with three guys on this rope and you got to get your hands on that horses head, hold him so the guy can get the saddle on his back and then ride him over across this line. And it gets pretty dangerous.

Did you ever see anybody get hurt?

SN: Oh, several times. In fact we was winning it one year, we'd won the local one we were in Walla Walla and we'd won the first day and all we had to do the second day is get the saddle on that horse cause we had all the points. And of course we were being real careful we think we're real good and we was on the ears and the guy was putting the saddle on and all of a sudden the kid behind us let his horse get loose from him and it just nailed all three of us and knocked the horse and us down. Of course we didn't get no points so we didn't win. It's rough but its just like, I tried to ride the Brahma Bulls and I never could do that either.(laughter)

Can you describe a day at the rodeo?

SN: It starts real early in the morning. It starts day[s] before because you fix your grounds up, you get the parking lot fixed up, you get you concession stand fixed up. It's all local people that's doing this, people that run the club. From selling the beer to putting on the rodeo it's pretty hectic for. I used to take a week off just to put on this rodeo for one day because I was the president. And for that you have to sell the signs to help promote it, so you pretty well better have your money there because you had to go out and contract this stock. You want to get the best horses and the best bulls and the calves and the ropes you have to make a commitment like a year earlier to get that date then to get the stock in there it was a busy time.(Talks a bit about rodeos). It was nothing to be over there at 3 o'clock in the morning running slack time.(Explains slack time is like preliminary events before the show).

Does the whole community turn out for this?

SN: Pretty much. Of course now it's you know the professional riders come from all over like the at the Pendleton Roundup. At the Umatilla Sage Riders they still get them but it's pretty local, within a 200 mile radius.

But it's a pretty big event in town?

SN: It's pretty big. Its not like it used to be in fact it got so big there that the local people put on a local rodeo down below town for a few years.

NPRA Rodeo Scheduled for July 18 & 19

The rodeo committee is working diligently organizing the 2008 NPRA Rodeo scheduled for July 18 & 19. Currently members are contacting potential sponsors and working hard to find donations to support this year's rodeo.

Committee members are Alvin Young, Jerry Young, Wes Young, Ciara Kowalski, Elizabeth Serry, Cyndie Driscoll, and Tammy Campbell. Cyndie has agreed to return this year to assist in locating sponsors. Thanks Cindy! We really appreciate you and your hard work.

The same events will be offered again for 2008; Bare back, saddle bronc, bull riding,

team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, break-a-way roping, barrel racing, wild cow milking, and mutton bustin'.

Rafter B Bucking Bulls & Gold Buckle Rodeo Company will again be providing the rough stock, while Bob Peterson and Mike Church have agreed to provide the roping steers.

The USR drill team plans to perform during the rodeo and grand entry.

USR is looking for youth service organizations that are interested in earning funds by assisting with parking, handing our day sheets, etc. If you know of an organization, please let us know.

USR Plans for 2008

The 2008 USR calendar of events has been set and is included in this newsletter.

Over the next few months USR has many events planned and they include: **a play day series, a horse show series and spook-tacular, a 2-day NPRA rodeo, six ACTRA ropings, and three Old-Timers' Rodeos.**

As you look over the USR calendar of events, you will also notice some other activities, such as, **ranch sorting** every other Saturday evening and **drill team practice** on Wednesday nights.

Daryl Kepler has agreed to chair the ranch sorting/cutting events for 2008. He is again planning on using Max Helberg's cattle. Thanks to Daryl and Max for all their hard work.

Janie Kepler and Zannie (Suzanne) Kennedy are co-chairs of USR's new equestrian drill team. Be sure to read the article included on page five.



Scheduled Upkeep Dates:

March 8 & 9:

Grounds Maintenance

April 12 & 13:

Grounds Maintenance

May 3 & 4:

Grounds Maintenance

June 7 & 8:

Grounds Maintenance

July 11 & 12:

Grounds Maintenance

March 8 & 9:

FILE ORGANIZATION-

We have 60 years of records history & records stored in boxes. To preserve our history, we need to organize these files. The board is asking for assistance in this project.

Past Court Pictures:

Can You Help Us?

We are missing several years of pictures of our past courts and we are attempting to find members that may have pictures that we can copy.

If you have pictures and wouldn't mind loaning them to us to copy, please let us know. Melody Buck-Pitts has reviewed the albums and knows which years are missing.

Thanks to Nick at Tom Denchel Ford Country.

Webmaster for USR website:

www.sageriders.org

Introducing the 2008 USR Court

This year Ciara Kowalski and Elizabeth Serry will be representing the Umatilla Sage Riders by participating in parades in Oregon and Washington. Not only will they be present at the 2008 USR Rodeo, but they also will be traveling to approximately 20 parades. The court will be inviting other royalty to attend our rodeo and are in the process of planning a luncheon for the visiting queens and princesses. It is our hope that past USR royalty will be available to attend the luncheon and participate in the grand entry. We would appreciate volunteers to help plan and host this event. Please contact one of the board members if you are interested in assisting.



The court is also in the process of gathering sponsors and raising funds through donations. The USR board is also considering hosting a fund raiser dinner for the court, similar to what Heppner's court has done.



Ciara is the daughter of Gary and Candy Kowalski of Hermiston. She attends Hermiston High and is involved in FFA, the Greater Columbia Barrel Racers Association, and the National Society of High School Scholars. Ciara began riding at the age of three. Susie Q is name of her horse that she will be using this year.

When asked what excites her most about being this year's queen and what she hopes accomplish, she said: *"I am extremely excited about being on the USR court this year and have the wonderful opportunity to represent USR to its fullest potential. I look forward to all of the traveling, adventure, and all the memories that will come along. This year I would love to see the number of members increase and see a higher level of member involvement. I would like USR to regain its status of [being a] family club and hopefully have more and more members attend more activities."*

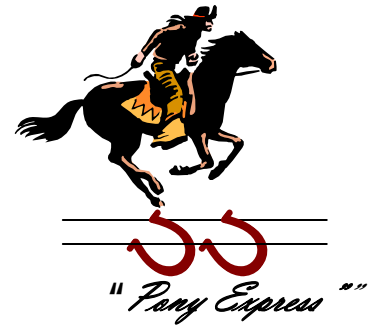
Riding and training horses in barrels, poles, and roping is one of her many hobbies. She also enjoys helping her parents on their 20 acre farm.

Riding horses, 4-wheeling, and shooting guns are favorite activities of Princess Elizabeth Serry. She is the daughter of Tom and Kelli Crawford of Hermiston and attends Hermiston High School. She will be riding "coyote", her paint horse..

Elizabeth was also asked what excited her about being a USR princess and what she hoped to achieve this year. *"What excites me the most as a 2008 USR court member is being part of something that I have always wanted to be a part of and because I think that being on the rodeo court is fun. I get to learn more about horses and meet new people (representing the club). I hope to accomplish making new friends and help[ing] the club get more people interested in joining USR and just having fun."*



Cowboy Church Celebrates 10 Years!



This year the Cowboy Church celebrates its 10th anniversary. A celebration has been set for March 14th, 15th and 16th and the event is dedicated to founder: DeWayne Rogers. Worship, inspirational guest speakers, gospel jam, and baptisms are a few of the many activities.

Schedule

Friday, March 14th

Gates open at 12:00 PM

Speakers: Dave Taff and Harlene Rogers

Gospel jam

Saturday, March 15th

Speakers: Al Parsons and Cherrie Simpson

Brunch at 9:00 AM

Dinner at 5:00 PM

Silent Auction (bring donations)

Quilt Drawing

*activities throughout the day

Sunday, March 15th

Church service at 8:00 AM

Speaker: James Lafollette

Worship: Rebecca Lafollette

Baptisms and lunch following the church service

PARKING:

The dry parking lot only

Bring warm attire, chairs, and instruments

USR Newsletter:

Important member information:

Due to the high cost of printing and mailing the USR newsletter, the board has agreed to offer the publication in three formats: email, online, or by paper. To receive your newsletter FREE of charge, you will need to provide an email address or download a copy from the USR website.

For those members that do not have email or prefer to receive the newsletter in a paper format, the board is asking for a \$5.00 donation

Umatilla Sage Riders to have a Drill Team Again!



*National Horse Show
Northwest Friesian Horse Club Drill
Team
www.nhs.org/news*

Once again Umatilla Sage Riders will have an equestrian drill team. Janie Kepler and Zannie Kennedy will be leading the drill team members this year. The team plans on traveling to the many parades, escorting the USR court.

February 15th, Janie and Zannie met with interested members. Approximately 12 people (women & men) attended the meeting to discuss ideas, plans, and to ask questions. Examples from the Washington State competition

were shared to provide samples of drill patterns. Drills for 4-man, 8-man, 12-man and 16-man teams are planned.

The team plans to practice Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM. If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a member, please contact Janie or Zannie.

To the left is a picture from the national horse show. In future issues we hope to have pictures of the USR team for you to review.




Umatilla Sage Riders Event Calendar

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					☺☺	1
2 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	3 USR General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM ☺☺	4	5 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	6	7	8 USR Grounds Maintenance- Records organization
9 Cowboy Church @ 8:00 USR Grounds Maintenance- Records organization	10	11	12 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	13	14 Cowboy Church- 10 year anniversary	15 Heppner Parade- Non-horse event Cowboy Church- 10 year anniversary
16 Cowboy Church- 10 year anniversary	17	18	19 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	20	21	22
23 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	24	25	26 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	27	28	29ACTRA Roping @ 10:00 AM
30 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	31 Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM ☺☺					

2008

Umatilla Sage Riders Event Calendar

April						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	3	4	5 Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
6 Horse Show- 1 of 3 part series Cowboy Church @ 8:00	7 General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 	8	9 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	10	11	12 USR Grounds Maintenance 
13 Cowboy Church @ 8:00 USR Grounds Maintenance	14	15	16 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	17	18	19 Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
20 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	21	22	23 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	24	25	26 ACTRA Roping @ 10:00 AM
27 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	28 Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM 	29	30 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM			

2008

Umatilla Sage Riders Event Calendar




May

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3 Arlington Parade USR Grounds Maintenance Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
4 <i>Cowboy Church</i> @ 8:00 USR Grounds Main. ARENA leased for Cutting	5 General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM	6 	7 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	8	9	10 Old Timers' Rodeo @ 10:00 AM
11 Old Timers' Rodeo @ 10:00 AM Cowboy Church @ 8:00	12	13	14 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	15	16 	17 Waitsburg Parade Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
18 Family Play Day @ 2:00 PM Cowboy Church @ 8:00	19	20	21 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	22	23	24 Horse Show- Part 2 of 3 part series Dayton Parade
25 Family Play Day @ 2:00 PM Cowboy Church	26 Memorial Day Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM	27 	28 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	29	30	31 ACTRA Roping @ 10:00 AM

2008

June




Umatilla Sage Riders Event Calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 Family Play Day @ 2:00 PM Cowboy Church @ 8:00	2 General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM	3 	4 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	5	6	7 Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM USR Grounds Maintenance
8 Union Parade Cowboy Church @ 8:00 Family Play Day @ 2:00 PM USR Maintenance	9	10	11 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	12 	13	14 Old Timers' Rodeo @ 10:00 AM
15 Cowboy Church @ 8:00 Old Timers' Rodeo @ 10:00 AM	16	17	18 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	19	20	21 Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
22 Umatilla Landing Days Parade Cowboy Church @ 8:00	23	24	25 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	26	27	28 Crooked River Stampede Parade ACTRA Roping @ 10:00 AM
29 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	30 Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM 					

2008

July




Umatilla Sage Riders Event Calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	3 	4 Stanfield Parade	5 Horse Show- Part 3 of 3 part series Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
6	7 General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM	8 	9 Elgin Stampede Parade	10	11	12 Grounds Maintenance
13 Grounds Maintenance	14 Rodeo Prep	15 Rodeo Prep	16 Rodeo Prep Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	17 Rodeo Prep & Set Up	18 Court & Drill Team Slack @ AM NPRA RODEO @ 7:00	19 Court & Drill Team NPRA RODEO @ 7:00
20 Rodeo Clean Up	21	22	23 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	24	25	26 Chief Joseph Parade ACTRA Roping @ 10:00 AM
27	28 Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM 	29	30 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	31		

2008

Umatilla Sage Riders Event Calendar




August

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2 Hermiston Parade Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
3 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	4 General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM	5 	6 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	7 	8	9
10 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	11	12	13 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	14	15	16 Benton-Franklin Parade Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
17 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	18	19	20 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	21	22	23 Old Timers' Rodeo @ 10:00 AM
24 Cowboy Church @ 8:00 Old Timers' Rodeo @ 10:00 AM	25 Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM 	26	27 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	28	29	30 Walla Walla Parade ACTRA Roping @ 10:00 AM
31 Cowboy Church @ 8:00						

2008

September



Umatilla Sage Riders Event Calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM 	2	3 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	4	5	6 Dress Up Parade- Pendleton Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
7 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	8	9	10 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	11	12 Westward Ho Parade- Pendleton	13
14 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	15	16	17 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	18 	19	20 Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
21 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	22	23	24 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	25	26	27
28 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	29 Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM 	30				

2008

October

Umatilla Sage Riders Event Calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	2	3	4 ACTRA Rifle Roping @ 10:00 AM Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
5 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	6 General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM 	7	8 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	9	10	11
12 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	13	14	15 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	16	17	18 Ranch Sorting @ 7:00 PM
19 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	20	21 	22 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	23	24	25 Spook-tacular Horse Show
26 Cowboy Church @ 8:00	27 Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM 	28	29 Drill Team Practice @ 7:00 PM	30	31	

2008