

2007 MANAGER'S MESSAGE

The 83rd Annual Harney County Fair, Rodeo, and Racemeet is coming up on the dates of September 4 through 9, 2007 right here in Burns, Oregon. Imagine yourself back 83 years ago and see what the Fair was like then.

I can see all of the Ranchers coming to town bringing the family to the annual harvest festival. They would be on horses, riding in a wagon, or maybe riding in a buckboard. A few might have had a car to drive along the dusty roads into Burns. With them they would have many of their crops, their canning, their hand made items, and of course many stories to tell about the past year. They would meet many of the town's people at the Fairgrounds, and an annual County Fair began. The Harney County Fair, the biggest social event of the year, an event that everyone looked forward to year after year.

Well, a lot of things about the Fair have changed in 83 years. But, the concept remains the same. The Fair is still a big social event, and everyone still celebrates the harvest and participates in all of the activities. Many of the activities are the same ones from the very first year, but the people still want to see them and participate in them.

Burns, Oregon had the very first sanctioned horse race track in Oregon. Ranchers would bring in their best horse and challenge all takers to a horse race. We still are racing horses, one of only six race tracks in Oregon. Horse racing is alive and well in Oregon, enjoying one of the most prosperous time periods in history. We will have 9-10 horse races on both Saturday, and Sunday, September 8 & 9, with purses totaling over \$40,000. Parimutual wagering on these horse races will attract many people to participate in the grand old sport of horse racing.

In the rodeo arena, there will be horse events everyday, September 4 through 9. The 4H Horse Show will be on September 4, the Kids Playday on September 5, the Stockhorse Futurity on September 6, Women's, Senior's, and Mixed Team Branding competition on September 7, a Ranch hand rodeo on September 7, and an NPRA Rodeo on September 8 & 9. You will be sure to have fun at all of these events. Why, I am sure you will know a lot of the contestants!

The 4H and FFA livestock show will be held almost all week. All market animals will be weighed and booked on September 5 with the shows to be held September 6 & 7. The livestock auction will then be held on the evening of September 8. Come on out and support all of these young people in watching them showcase their animals and see what they have learned in the past year!

Open Class Exhibits and 4H Exhibits will be entered on September 5. This will be the chance for adults and youth to enter their handmade items, showcase their flowers or produce, and collect prize money for exhibiting the best entries in each class. The people of Harney County are very talented, and exhibit many outstanding items each year!

On the US Bank Stage, there will be four outstanding talents performing over a 4 day period, September 6 through 9. Returning this year after appearing about eight years ago will be [Rhys Thomas](#). Rhys is an outstanding variety and comedy act performer that was well received eight years ago. Also returning to the Harney County Fair for her second appearance in a row is hypnotist [Tammy Harris Barton](#). She will wow everyone once again by hypnotizing many of your friends and neighbors and making them do crazy things. [Nevada Slim and Cimarron Sue](#) will be coming to Burns for the first time this year. They are a very popular country western singing act that you will be sure and enjoy. Do you like magic? Appearing for the second year in a row will be the comedy magic of [Godfrey the Magician](#). Godfrey was a very entertaining act last year and is back by popular demand. The [Old Time Fiddlers](#) and other acts to be named later will also appear on the US Bank Stage throughout the week.

One of the most popular events at the Fair every year is the annual Talent Show. The [10th Annual Harney County Fair "Talent Show"](#) will be on the evening of September 6 at about 6:00 PM. Wow, the 10th Anniversary of when Scott Houck and Rebecca Danner were the very first winners.

Paradise Amusements carnival will be back for all of you dare devils to have fun riding the rides and playing the games. Paradise is a first class carnival, and last year provided the very best assortment of carnival rides at the Harney County Fair in many years. Be sure to get your "Pay One Price" advance sale coupons to save you money. Listen to KZZR and read the Burns Times Herald to find the pre-sale outlets for purchasing coupons.

Please plan to attend the 83rd Harney County Fair. The Fair Board needs you to help carry on the grand old event that was began over 83 years ago by the early residents of Harney County. Without all of those people, the Harney County Fair would not have the tradition that lives today!!

Written by Don Slone on June 22, 2007.