

Slipper's Soliloquies

By Fred Slipper

Way back in 1948, when the present Loggerodeo was originated, I was the first secretary-treasurer. Also at that time I was the commander of the George Baldrige Post 43 of the American Legion.

In fact, I was the first World War II commander and served two years. I am not bragging, but am proud of my involvement in the original Loggerodeo and the Legion. At that time, the Legion was instrumental in forming the Loggerodeo, a partnership of the Fourth of July celebration and the riding club.

In 1950 I had to suddenly move to Ritzville to pursue my career and was gone from Sedro-Woolley for 26 years. Upon my return I became interested in the Loggerodeo again and served on the committee. Then last year, when Frances Miller retired after many years as treasurer, I was elected to the position. After having served as treasurer during this year's celebration, I have learned a few things about the financial setup of the Loggerodeo.

This is not private information, as the figures I am going to quote would be available to anyone attending one of our meetings. But I do believe they are facts that may interest some of our people and maybe even encourage more participation in the coming year.

There is one very evident fact -- without a carnival we would be unable to present all of the events that make up the present Loggerodeo. Those of us on the committee appreciate the fact that the carnival in its present location at the ballpark is a nuisance to those living near there.

However, for the time being, this is the only logical spot to locate it and have it operate the number of days necessary for them to be able to financially come to Sedro-Woolley and to make a profit so they in turn make money for the Loggerodeo.

In addition to the inconvenience caused those living near the baseball field there are grumblings from the police department regarding the overtime they must pay their personnel during the time the carnival is here. This is true, but there is another side to the story. For the time it was here, Rainier Shows paid the city approximately \$1,800 in business and occupation tax, cleanup fees, etc. Also, carnival personnel spent a lot of money in our town.

I saw them in many establishments -- bakeries, clothing stores, hardware stores, eating establishments, etc. One auto parts business reported the carnival spent over \$400 in their store for parts for their equipment.

There are a few isolated problems, but officials of the Rainier group run a pretty tight ship.

Speaking of their equipment, if you looked around the perimeter of the carnival grounds, you would have seen their trucks and mobile homes parked there. There is a lot of money invested in their basic equipment and the Rainier Shows is not a "two-bit" outfit.

Speaking of money invested, just take a look at their entertainment equipment -- there are rides for all ages, young and old, and it is good solid machinery.

So as a member of the Loggerodeo committee, we are generally fortunate to have Rainier Shows coming to our celebration each year. Next week I will tell you how much the Loggerodeo committee derives from the carnival and the various expenses and profits of our other Loggerodeo-related events.