

Slipper's Soliloquies

By Fred Slipper

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Last week I gave some background on the Loggerodeo celebration and some of my personal feelings regarding the Rainier Shows.

In this column I'm going to talk about the other events that make up our annual Fourth of July Loggerodeo. As I mentioned last week, I am treasurer of the Loggerodeo committee. As such, I learned a few things I didn't know about the financial part of the celebration. Anything I say here is my personal observation, and does not necessarily reflect the feelings of the rest of the Loggerodeo committee. Hope I'm still treasurer after they read this. . . .

The Rainier Shows pay the Loggerodeo committee a percentage of their gross income from the carnival. This year it amounted to approximately \$6,600. This sounds like a lot of money, but wait until I'm done listing the other events.

The Fourth of July fell on Wednesday this year, which fortunately doesn't happen too often. This disrupts tying the Fourth in with a weekend, which breaks up the continuity of the celebration. This was especially true in the Log Show. The only day it could be held was the preceeding Saturday, and apparently people just weren't into the Fourth of July spirit at that time. To make a long story short, we paid the usual \$2,250 in prize money, but took in only \$278 in ticket sales. There goes \$2,000. . .

The Drum and Bugle competition was held for only the second year, and apparently it is going to take awhile for the public to realize what a good evening's entertainment this is before we get the turnout necessary to make this self supporting. The expenses over income this year amounted to around \$800.

Our Loggerodeo float is the main attraction we have when it comes to publicizing our own celebration, as the float enters many parades in our area, and these celebrations in turn send their floats to our parade, which helps make up our successful parade. The past two years the float committee has spent a bare minimum to make an attractive float, as we are still struggling to overcome a bad financial year three years ago. Already this year our float has won top prizes in the two parades it has entered, showing a good float may be built economically. Even with keeping expenses down, our float this year will be budgeted at around \$1,500, which includes transportation. However, this is all expense with no dollar income to our treasury.

These are the main expenses of the celebration as far as individual events go, but the various other expenses add up to over \$3,000, which includes advertising, trophies and many miscellaneous odds and ends.

Everything isn't expense, however, as some of the events break about even, while others make a few dollars. The community picnic, which is a donation affair, broke even this year. The flea market, ably supervised by Bertha Howell, made a profit of about \$140. We do receive concession fees from a number of stands. The Kiwanis Club handled the log drive tickets this year and we will break about even on this, as we pay \$2,000 in prize money.

A special thanks is in order for the members of the Wildcat Steelhead Club, who handled the actual float trip of the log from the Marblemount bridge to the finish line at the Clear Lake bridge.

I'm not trying to paint a bleak picture for the Loggerodeo, but I felt many people do not understand the entire picture. On the plus side there are many things. This year we added lawnmower races, the firemen's competition, and horseshoe pitching. They were all free, and were self supporting. The Loggerodeo thanks the American Legion for their help in various events—they donated trophies and the use of their field.

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Other events which make up the entire Loggerodeo are the Kids parade, the Pet Show, the Quick Draw contest, Chance's BMX Bike demonstration, etc. The Great Sedro-Woolley trace was sponsored by the Rotary Club this year, and the Sons Club underwrote the expense and handling of the grand parade. I know I have not covered everything and apologize for that I may have missed.

In closing, I would like to compliment the Sedro-Woolley Logging Club for its annual rodeo, which attracts many people to the Fourth of July celebration. Although their representatives attend our Loggerodeo meetings throughout the year, the rodeo is handled independently as far as financial arrangements are concerned.

So now you may have a better understanding of what the financial end of the Loggerodeo is all about. I don't expect everyone to agree with what I have revealed in my past two columns—the hope to come and discuss it is the next Loggerodeo meeting.