

The **BRANDING IRON**

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 16363, Phoenix, Arizona 85011

IGRA 1992 SEASON BEGINS CANDY BELL TAKES TEXAS ALL-AROUND

AGRA's 7TH ANNIVERSARY

1991 YEAR IN REVIEW

Happy Holidays

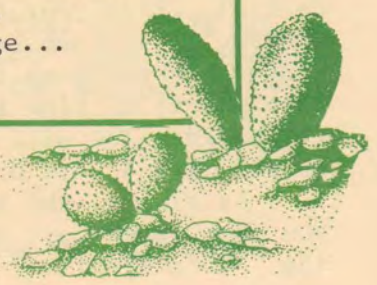


A great start for the 1992 IGRA Rodeo Circuit as AGRA's CANDY BELL brought home the All-Around Cowgirl Buckle from the Texas Gay Rodeo, held last month in Dallas.

Over 170 Contestants competed in this year's Annual Texas Rodeo, including AGRAers Candy, LARRY JONES, and returning Member GARY NEWMAN. But it was Candy who was our "star" with nearly an 80 point spread between her, and the All-Around 1st Runner-Up Cowgirl. Larry ended up in 10th place in the All-Around Cowboy standings, and brought home the Buckle for Calf Roping on Foot. Candy brought home the Buckles for both Bull Riding and Steer Riding, as the only qualifying Contestant in both those Events, on both Saturday and Sunday. She also placed first in Chutedogging both days to claim that Buckle as well.

Congratulations to both Candy and Larry, and welcome back Gary!

All three of our Contestants total standings for the week-end are as follows...
Continued on next page...



RODEO CONT'D.

Barrel Racing	- Saturday	Larry Jones - 6th
		Candy Bell - 13th
		Gary Newman - 34th
	Sunday	Larry Jones - 8th
		Gary Newman - 36th
Breakaway Roping-	Saturday	Larry Jones - 3rd
	Sunday	Larry Jones - 5th
Bull Riding	- Saturday & Sunday	Candy Bell - 1st
Calf Roping on Foot	- Saturday	Larry Jones - 3rd
	Sunday	Candy Bell - 1st
		Larry Jones - 3rd
Chutedogging	- Saturday & Sunday	Candy Bell - 1st
Flag Race	- Sunday	Larry Jones - 11th
Goat Dressing	- Saturday	Larry Jones - 7th
		Gary Newman - 19th
	Sunday	Larry Jones - 10th
Polebending	- Saturday	Larry Jones - 12th
	Sunday	Larry Jones - 10th
Steer Decorating-	Saturday	Larry Jones - 10th
		Gary Newman - 10th
		Candy Bell - 13th
	Sunday	Candy Bell - 15th
Steer Riding	- Saturday & Sunday	Candy Bell - 1st
Team Roping	- Saturday	Larry Jones - 4th
Wild Drag Race	- Sunday	Larry Jones - 4th
		Gary Newman - 4th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December marks AGRA's 7th Anniversary. Seven years of Major and Unit Rodeos, Gymkanas, hosting of Finals, and just plain good times.

As a Founding Member of AGRA, I've seen a lot of good, solid growth in both our State Association, and IGRA. Along with that growth, comes some necessary growing pains. We've had our share of mistakes, disapointments, and problems as well. But when "the chips are down", we always seem to pull together, and pull ourselves out of whatever negative issue we're facing at the time. I remain a proud Member of this Association.

I'm also proud of, and thankful for, JOHN KING. John started AGRA in this State, and has been an ardent supporter ever since then. His guidance on a local level, and help as Trustee on the National level, have been invaluable over the years. Each and every current and former AGRA Member owes him a big "Thank-you"!

Special congratulations this month go to our CANDY BELL, who started AGRA out on top for the '92 Circuit year, by bringing home the All-Around Cowgirl Buckle from last month's Texas Rodeo. Congrats from all of us Candy!

I'll close out this month's column with a very Happy Holidays wish for all of our Members. I hope everyone enjoys the Season, then let's get busy and put on the best Roadrunner Regional Rodeo ever!

Stan Bersen

BANQUET UPDATE

The Annual Banquet will be held at our January Host Hotel, the Holiday Inn Park Central. Mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday, January 25th, beginning at 6:00PM. A no-host bar, and the Elections will be from 6:00 - 7:30PM, followed by the Banquet festivities themselves. The evening should be wrapped up by 10:30PM, so you'll have plenty of time to head out to your favorite watering holes afterwards. In addition, the Holiday Inn will be providing special room rates for us that evening, for those of us who live a ways off, and want to party all night.

As always, the Banquet will be provided free of charge to all current Members, but you must renew your Membership for '92 to be eligible to vote in the Elections that evening. More details (and an absentee ballot for those of you unable to attend) will be sent to you before Christmas. Weed through those Christmas cards and find that packet!

YEAR'S FINAL MEETINGS BRING CHANGES IN '92

1992 has yet to begin, and we've already got changes for the new year to report. November's General Membership meeting brought about some of them, with more to come at December's meeting.

Last month's election for our 1992 Trustee was probably the biggest change. After years of being represented by JOHN KING, Membership voted to have LARRY JONES represent us in '92. We understand that John has been planning on slowly but surely winding down on some of these time-consuming roles that he's played such an important part in over the years of AGRA's growth, and we know he'll still be very involved in AGRA, yet we can't help but feel like we already "miss him". Congratulations go to Larry, and good luck, you've got some big boots to fill in your newest role.

Also changing will be the disbursement amounts for any profits realized from our upcoming Roadrunner Regional Rodeo in January. Utah's UGRA, being our only co-host this coming year, will receive 25% of the profits, to go to their State's Charities. Our new Tucson Satellite Chapter will receive 10%. AGRA, as an organization, will retain another 10% to help fund the three Rodeos that we'll be producing this year. The remaining 55% of any profits realized will go to Volunteers in Direct Aid (VIDA) for their ongoing excellent work in giving monies directly to PLWAs for their living expenses.

More possible future changes became evident with our first go-around of nominations for next year's Board of Directors.

Nominated so far were...

President-

Dan Iversen
Crawford Taylor

Vice-President-

Donna Bell
Michael Cooney
Larry Jones
John Klein

Recording Secretary-

Ron Trusley

Treasurer-

No Nominations

Corresponding Secretary-

Tim Dougherty
Phil Looby

Dance & Entertainment-

David Anaya
Wayne Rafferty
Joe Rubio

Fundraising-

David Anaya
Tommy Read
Marco Salazar
Rob Sherr

Mobility & Logistics-

Jeff Coon
Jamie Saragosa

Public Relations-

Mike Butrymowicz
Crawford Taylor

Rodeo Events-

Larry Jones
John King

Nominations, and who knows what all else, will continue at our December General Membership meeting, so make sure you're there, and involved.

1991 YEAR IN REVIEW

Some ramblings, thoughts, updates, and anally retentive statistics concerning AGRA's soon to be completed 7th year of existence...

Remember when Tucson had five Members, and we dreamed of the day when they'd be a larger part of AGRA? They're ending 1991 with 53 Members and full Satellite Chapter status. Tucson will also be the site of our '92 Saguaro Unit Rodeo.

Our first Saguaro Unit Rodeo this year, was also IGRA's first Rodeo to be held under the stars. We kept pace with IGRA's other Units this year by losing money, but did manage to attract over 1,000 people, and have a great time doing it.

DAVID ANAYA spent the year representing us, and IGRA, as Arizona's second Miss IGRA titleholder in a row. An extremely successful year for Miss HOLLIE WOODS who was "thanked" last month with a "Charlie's" "Miss Gay Nobody" party in her honor. Gee, what friends.

Continued on the next page...

REVIEW CONT'D.

Still on the Royalty front, CAROL SHEARER started the year NOT as a Ms Contestant, and ended the year the same way. Others have taken up the challenge though, with a total of eight people running for the three titles to date. The largest slate of candidates in recent memory.

The "Branding Iron" circulation went up to nearly 250 copies per issue this year. Besides Members, copies are sent to all the other Associations and their Chapters, IGRA Trustees and it's other Officers, advertisers, Arizona's Gay Press, and others. From the long distance calls we've heard about, we know that many of you are already well aware that your names, and antics, are being passed around Nationwide.

There's some good stuff being passed around too. As best we can count (don't hold us to it) AGRA has picked up a whole slew of Rodeo awards this fiscal year. Starting with 1991's Roadrunner Regional, and ending with the just completed Texas Rodeo, we've brought home 4 Unit Rodeo Championships, 11 Major Rodeo All-Around Championships, 24 top five runners-up to All-Arounds, 71 Rodeo Buckles, and an astounding 351 top five Events Ribbons. A huge round of applause goes to all our Rodeo Contestants.

Some of us moved on to "greener pastures" in '91. DAN ANDERSON to California, ROD HENRY and ANDY CAVES to South Carolina, LEWIS SANDERS to Washington D.C., RON ERICKSON to Missouri, and PAUL OTTINGER to Italy. ROB SHERR is still threatening to leave us for New York any time now, and WOODY K. is now a part-time resident here as he prepares for a Feb. '92 move to Denver. Of course some of us found the other pastures to be not so green. Rod and Andy may be back by now, and what is the story with Ron?

We also recently lost two more people to the ongoing AIDS epidemic in this Country. Longtime Rodeo supporter RON TEMPLETON, and former Rodeo Contestant KEITH THOMPSON. While we're briefly on the subject of AIDS, what's going on with this MAGIC JOHNSON story? Now we know that everybody's sad that yet another person has tested positive for HIV. And we're grateful for the increased awareness and understanding about AIDS issues in this Country as a result.

Also hopeful that this news will mean much more funding towards finding some answers. But, is there anyone else out there who's starting to get some queasy feelings about how this story increasingly seems to be taking the slant that Magic is the "first person who counts" who's ever tested positive? Or is it angry feelings? With nearly 130,000 people already dead in this Country (many of them our friends) and over a million more testing positive (with many more of our friends included) where has all this awareness, understanding, and funding been for the last DECADE? Hedda wants to hit someone.

Now we feel better. Happier news for '91 is the fact that more of us came out of the closet this year, or at least more out than we were. CINDY McCORMICK finally allowed us to use her full name in these pages. WOODY K. never did get busted by his folks at San Diego's Rodeo, they ended up staying home with a daughter who was having a baby. But he may be out by now anyway. Seems he was to have out-of-town company in for Thanksgiving, which was to include dinner with the parents. And of course we'll never forget DINO ROSIE coming out in a big way, all over the pages of Advocate Men a few months back.

Several Members were sporting new jewelry, in very interesting places, over the past year, or were they just decorating early for the Holidays? JACK ADDINGTON, BOB CAHALL, and CHUCK GREINER spring to mind. There's probably many more of us out there, but we can only speak to the ones that we've personally touched... so to speak. Not wearing any new jewelry, at least on the end of his thumb, would be GREG OLSON.

Many of us "got together", and/or continued together this year. MIKE BUTRYMOWICZ and JOHN KLEIN met, got along well, and are now living together in Tucson. COLLEEN BARRY and DONNA BELL are celebrating their first year together by buying a house. TONY DeLUCA moved back "home" here from California, and brought BRETT NELSON with him. ANGIE DARNELL changed her mailing address this year, to TERI ROWE's place in Gilbert.

Members sleeping with other Members, but not setting up housekeeping together were... yeah right... like AGRA can afford to send out novel-sized Newsletters for this issue. But isn't Gay Rodeo a wonderous thing? Tell a friend!



7 YEARS OF AGRA

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS REMEMBERED

Now here's some interesting names and memories from the past. Seven years of people who helped start, and contributed to the growth of, AGRA.

You should have seen some of our "old timer" Board Members try and remember some of these people. Hope we didn't miss anyone.

Kick back and relax as you read these names. If you're like us, you'll experience a lot of warm memories flooding back from those beginning years. And plan on sticking around after our December General Membership meeting at "Charlie's" for our Anniversary Party. Share those memories with some of the rest of us.

1984 & 1985

President - Kenny Cunitz / Ron Templeton
Vice-President - Kim Preston / Ron Templeton/
Dean Ross
Treasurer - Randy S.
Recording Secretary - Ed Walraven/ Don Weese/
RSK
Corresponding Secretary - Michael Cooney
P.R. & Fundraising - Crawford Taylor
Mobility & Logistics - Denny Rockstroh/
Mitch Yates/ Jeff Coon
Rodeo Events - John King/ Sheldon Griswold
Dance & Entertainment - Larry G.

1986

President - Artie Michaelis
Vice President - Debby Root
Treasurer - Randy S.
Recording Secretary - Ron Trusley
Corresponding Secretary - Carl Maese
P.R. & Fundraising - Todd Hulett/ Dan Iversen/
Gerry Gibbons Mayer
Mobility & Logistics - Jeff Coon
Rodeo Events - John King
Dance & Entertainment - Larry G.
Sargent at Arms - Ron Christensen
Trustee - John King

1987

President - Ron Trusley
Vice-President - Artie Michaelis/ John King
Treasurer - Bob Harris
Recording Secretary - Barb W.
Corresponding Secretary - Carl Maese/ Treva
London
P.R. & Fundraising - Dan Iversen
Mobility & Logistics - Jeff Coon
Rodeo Events - Debby Root/ John King
Dance & Entertainment - Bill Sather
Sargent at Arms - Bubba
Trustee - John King

1988

President - Artie Michaelis
Vice-President - Dan Iversen
Treasurer - Randy Reed/ Linda Holmann
Recording Secretary - Bill Besancon
Corresponding Secretary - Treva London
P. R. & Fundraising - Crawford Taylor
Mobility & Logistics - Jeff Coon
Rodeo Events - John King
Dance & Entertainment - Ron Erickson
Sargent at Arms - Greg Olson
Trustee - John King

1989

President - Artie Michaelis
Vice-President - Dan Iversen
Treasurer - Tim Versluys
Recording Secretary - Bill Besancon
Corresponding Secretary - Colleen Barry
Public Relations - Crawford Taylor
Fundraising - Joyce Havelicek
Mobility & Logistics - Jeff Coon
Rodeo Events - John King
Dance & Entertainment - Ron Erickson
Sargent at Arms - Greg Olson
Trustee - John King

1990

President - Artie Michaelis
Vice-President - Dan Iversen
Treasurer - Tim Versluys
Recording Secretary - Ron Trusley
Corresponding Secretary - Colleen Barry
Public Relations - Crawford Taylor
Fundraising - Joyce Havelicek
Mobility & Logistics - Jeff Coon
Rodeo Events - John King
Dance & Entertainment - Ron Erickson
Sargent at Arms - Donna Bell
Trustee - John King



And in case you didn't know... our 1991 Board of Directors is listed on the next page....

1991

President - Dan Iversen
Vice-President - Rod Henry/ Donna Bell/
Michael Cooney
Treasurer - Max Sutherland
Recording Secretary - Ron Trusley
Corresponding Secretary - Colleen Barry/
Tim Dougherty
Public Relations - Crawford Taylor
Fundraising - Pat Elson/ Woody K.
Mobility & Logistics - Jeff Coon
Rodeo Events - Larry Jones
Dance & Entertainment - Ron Erickson w/
Joe Rubio
Tucson Liason - Mike Butrymowicz
Trustee - John King

RRRR UPDATE ADS & BUCKLES

Only a month and a half to go before our Annual Roadrunner Regional Rodeo, and we've still got Program Ads, and Event Buckles to sell. Help us out by contacting the people named below.

To put an ad in the Rodeo Program, call CRAWFORD TAYLOR at #274-5855. He's got all the rates and sizes available.

Details about sponsoring an Event Buckle can be had by calling MICHAEL COONEY in Phoenix at #274-5855, or BILL DARNELL in Tucson at #798-3528.

Don't wait until the last minute or you'll lose out on both. The deadline for ad copy is Friday, December 20th. Belt Buckles are sold on a first come, first served basis. Do it now!

TUCSON MEETS/PARTYS

It's already time to elect our Tucson Satellite Chapter's Board of Directors for '92, and Tucson is doing it up right. The elections will take place at their December General Membership Meeting, on Saturday, the 21st of this month, beginning at 3:00PM. "Tucson Old Pueblo" will be the site, and a Membership party will follow the meeting/elections. Someone suggested bringing your swimsuit, though clothing would be optional. We suggest leaving your suit at home. The water in the pool at the

end of December is bound to be a little on the cold side, so odds are no one will have much left to hide in a Speedo anyway. Results of the Election, and any other poolside developments, will be in the next issue of the Branding Iron.

TWO POSTER CONTESTS

There are two poster Contests currently going on that you may want to know about. The artwork is needed for both our upcoming Saguaro Unit Rodeo, as well as our hosting of the Finals '92.

There will be a \$100. cash prize for each winning entry, so now's the time to try out your creative skills.

Let's start with the Saguaro Unit, as that entry deadline is just days away. December 14th to be exact, so let's not dawdle.

The size is to be 17" X 22", and MUST feature a Saguaro Cactus somewhere in the design. Leave enough blank space for specific Rodeo information to be added later. Black and White, or color, is fine, though a color entry must be original artwork, or an original photograph. All entries must be recieved, in Tucson, by Dec. 14th. Submit them to AGRA-Tucson, 7272 E. Broadway #412, Tucson, AZ 85710. For more information, call BILL DARNELL at #323-1730.

For the Finals Rodeo Poster specifications...

Keep the same size, and Black/White or color specs, and drop the Saguaro Cactus stipulation. Leave a space for specific Rodeo information, and add the words "IGRA 1992 FINALS" somewhere in your design.

We also suggest that all entries be matted and covered with clear plastic (framed if you desire). Your name, address, and phone number are to be placed on the upper left back.

Finals Poster entries must be submitted by Jan. 17th. You may bring them to the Rodeo Arena grounds that Friday night up until 10:00PM, or send them in advance to AGRA c/o "Charlie's", 727 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85013, attention CRAWFORD TAYLOR For more information call Crawford at #274-5855.



"BITS"

Old news, but still being talked about, was the Halloween Costume party at BILL (Uncle Sam) DARNELL's place. RON SHAW as a Cat Burglar, and MIKE BUTRYMOWICZ as DALE EVANS from Hell. Was that GEORGE KAMINSKI under those yellow socks, white legs, red bikini underwear, and a Rooster head?! HOWARD DISBROW did a "Flasher", complete with cut-off pant legs, trench coat, and, oh my God, was that the "real thing" you were flashing at the party, and "IBT's" Contest later that evening?! We're shocked! And please have a seat next to us next time we're all together.

Forgot to mention the results of the Finals Martha Washington Race last month. Our team of DAN IVERSEN, LARRY JONES, and GREG OLSON came in second, with Greg setting a new time record in the final run, in pumps!

Congratulations to RHONDA WALDEN, and her new bar on 7th Ave, "The Country Club Bar and Grill". Finally, a place to send those newsletters. Be sure and stop by for a drink and a "hello".

Someone told us that BOB "Daddy" JANSSEN is looking for a new "Boy".

Not available for "Boy" status, but certainly butch, is JOE RUBIO, and his new short hair. Will you be doing wigs now Joe, or just SINEAID OCONNER numbers from now on?

ARTIE MICHAELIS has gotten the Annual "Char" Humanitarian Award from Los Amigos Del Sol (L.A.D.S.). Congrats Artie! Couldn't have happened to a more "involved" man!

Congrats also to our Miss AGRA Contestant, PUSSY LeHOOT, for just winning this year's Miss Gay Arizona title. Will we have a double titleholder on our hands in Jan.?

"Old Tucson" just got the nod for our Saguaro Unit Rodeo '92 site. The whole complex will be ours May 8-10. Details to follow.

And finally, JEFF PARKER threatens to "have our head" if he's mentioned in these pages. The words "head" and "Jeff" do sound nice together, though that's not exactly the context we had in mind. Now wouldn't you think a marketing person such as himself would know to "suck up" more to a newsletter person such as ourselves? Oh well, Jeff is doing such a good job with the "Old Tucson" people, we'll cut him some slack... for now.

MEMBERSHIP

Two new people bring our grand (and record breaking) total for the year to 192 Members. Joining us is LARRY MAGER from Phoenix, and re-joining us is GARY NEWMAN from Texas (he wanted to play with us again at the Texas Rodeo).

In a final spasm of year-in-review trivia, we know you'll be fascinated to hear that over 150 of you have been mentioned in these pages since we expanded the Branding Iron in April. Some of you just once, as new Members, others of you more times than you probably care to remember.

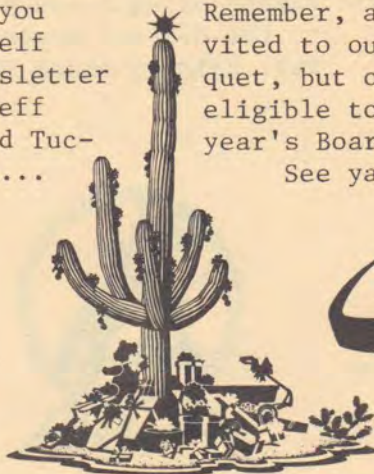
Where are 192 of us all living? Well, besides Arizona, we're in seven other states and the District of Columbia, as well as one foreign Country (remember PAUL OTTINGER's move to Italy?). Within Arizona, we're in seventeen cities and towns. Phoenix and Tucson have the majority of course, followed by the Phoenix suburbs of Tempe, Mesa, Glendale, and Scottsdale. There's also a good number of us scattered around the smaller cities and towns through-out our State. We're everywhere ya know, and can be spotted by the discerning eye in such unlikely sounding places as Avra, Avondale, Carefree, Gilbert, Goodyear, Laveen, Lake Havasu City, Marana, Maricopa, Peoria, and Sacaton.

Next month will be our annual Membership "plunge" as yearly renewals are due. Last year we temporarily lost about 40% of our Membership, but they come back, or are replaced by new people, so we always end up with more Members than the previous year. It'll be interesting to see how many remain with us from the start of this year, with three Rodeos to put on in 1992.

Membership renewal information will be arriving in your mailbox soon. Remember, all current Members are invited to our upcoming Elections Banquet, but only renewing Members are eligible to vote that evening for next year's Board of Directors.

See ya there!

Season's



Greetings

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- December 8th - Sunday - Board Meeting
3:00PM - "Charlie's"
- December 8th - Sunday - General Membership Meeting
5:00PM - "Charlie's"
- December 8th - Sunday - AGRA 7th Anniversary Party
"Charlie's", after the Mem-
bership meeting.
- December 21st - Saturday- Tucson Satellite Chapter Mgtng.
Membership Party & Board Elections
3:00PM - "Old Pueblo Resort"
- December 22nd - Sunday - Board Meeting
3:00PM - "Charlie's"
- December 25th - Wednesday- Christmas
All day long at your house
- December 31st - Tuesday - New Year's Eve
All night long, all over town
- January 17-19th Weekend - Roadrunner Regional Rodeo
Phoenix, AZ (Get ready to Volunteer!)

Remember: Please bring a non-perishable food item
to the General Membership meeting on the
8th. Help to stock Shanti's Kitchen.

