

Continued from page 1...

Days of '76 Rodeo! The last week in June found me in Colorado at the Greeley Stampede & Miss Rodeo Colorado 2008 Pageant with my friends Miss Rodeo Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, & Wyoming!

I had a great time spending Cowboy Christmas in Crawford, NE at the Old West Trails Rodeo and queen pageant! I had the opportunity to work with Burns Rodeo Co – Hal & Barb Burns were terrific! My host family, Vince & Marge Rotherham made sure I was well taken care of and got to see some of the "extras" in the area by taking me to the Drifter Cookshack for a delicious breakfast! The last night of the rodeo, July 4th, they set off a beautiful display of fireworks! The next morning I headed back to Colorado, where my Aunt Julie drove me to Denver International Airport, I met up with my friend Dr. Terri Bridgman, and we flew to Calgary, Alberta for the Calgary Stampede. That was an amazing experience!!! They consist mostly of volunteers, and put together a tremendous production between the afternoon rodeo performances (where I got to see Grated Coconut – 2006 Bareback Horse of the Year), the evening chuck wagon races, and the "night show", which is a huge production of dancing, singing, lights & fireworks – every night they would shoot off \$145,000 worth! I also learned how to square dance, met up and coming Canadian country music artist Brett Kissel, went to a great breakfast for special needs kids, along with several other great events! When we flew back into Denver, I headed straight to Colorado Springs for the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo. I think that is the most beautiful setting I have ever been to for a rodeo – the sunsets during the rodeo were almost enough to take your breath away! At the rodeo we got to help with Mutton Bustin', hand out pink bracelets on Tough Enough to Wear Pink night, and hand out little flags on Patriotic Night! During that week the PRCA Hall of Fame hosted a Special Olympics Rodeo, which we got to help with – they had a great turn out! We also were invited to attend the Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. That was a tearjerker – some of laughter and some of sorrow! From Colorado Springs, I went home for a county sponsor Dry Creek Western "tent Sale" before I headed to Wyoming, then back to Burwell, Nebraska's Big Rodeo. It sure committee did a great job this other than the down pouring rain ances, everything was perfect! was Larry Mahan – we felt very of honor!



ple days and spent a day with Wear in Burwell during their Cheyenne Frontier Days in NE for my hometown rodeo, was great to be home! The year, planning the events, and during a few of the perform- The Grand Marshal this year lucky to have him as our guest

August 1st found me in Dodge Kansas Amy Wilson and Miss Dodge City Round Up Rodeo eant. It is amazing how small talking to people! Amy & I look at the helicopters & visit behold we were talking to a man that grew up in Burwell in City rodeo, I headed back to Nebraska for the Buffalo County Rumford Rodeo Company again, but I also got to see the final portion of a brand new rodeo queen pageant! Cheri and Dani Hilton coordinated the Miss Rodeo Buffalo County pageant – GREAT JOB, ladies! And congratulations to Taylor Puttergill! The following weekend I went to Hemmingford, NE to spend the day with my sponsor, Alliance Animal Clinic, at the Box Butte County Fair, then to Gordon, NE for the Miss Rodeo Sheridan County pageant. Two days later, I met up with Lori Bortner & Sharon Halligan and we drove to Amarillo, TX for the Premier Rodeo Seminar, which was hosted by the American Quarter Horse Association, and was a very intense, hands on, rodeo queen clinic. Besides learning a lot, we had a great time together, and Sharon definitely kept us entertained!



City, KS with Miss Rodeo Teen Rodeo Kansas for the and Miss Rodeo Kansas pag- the world is when you start stopped by an Army display to with the servicemen, lo and

the early 1980s! Well before the conclusion of the Dodge Fair & Rodeo in Kearney. Not only did I get to work with

Labor Day weekend took me to Hastings, NE to the Oregon Trail Rodeo. For a few days leading up to the event I helped Ruth Nicholas with TV. and radio promotion. The rodeo committee there always puts together a first class event! On top of a great rodeo, they coordinate a day where 4th grade school kids from surrounding schools (even as far away as Lincoln) come to the fair grounds and rotate through small sessions to learn about rodeo, the livestock, clowns, bullfighters, cowboys & cowgirls, and the events. Not only was the committee involved, but Jim Korkow (the stock contractor) and his crew all got involved as well. The reason they focus on 4th graders is because that is when they are learning about state history – and what an important part of our history rodeo is! My hat is off to you, Oregon Trail Rodeo Committee & Korkow Rodeo Company! From Hastings I went to North Platte for the wedding of my terrific National Director, Lynne Shearer to Larry Jeffers. It was a beautiful evening and a perfect setting for a wonderful couple! September 12th & 13th I spent with my sponsor Rowse Rakes at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island, NE – I had no idea how huge an event that is! It takes up about 700 acres, and if you walk all the "streets", you will walk about 6 miles! The weekend of the 22nd I went to Omaha, NE for the Miss Rodeo Ak-Sar-Ben pageant, and spent most of the week there for the River City Round Up and Ariat Challenge Rodeo. Talk about edge of your seat, rodeo action! With the elimination style format, you couldn't guess from one round to the next who would make it and who wouldn't! In between rodeo performances Miss Rodeo Ak-Sar-Ben, Jessica Iodence, and I had a busy schedule! We visited several elementary schools, Utahale girls home, helped at a little girl's birthday party, and the best event of all – the Challenge Rodeo. I have been to several 'challenge rodeos' this year, but this one was definitely the best! Primarily organized by Craig Korkow, each child was paired with a PRCA rodeo cowboy who was competing in the rodeo during the weekend or with a rodeo queen. There were several stations they could go through as they chose – face painting, roping, taking a ribbon off a goat's tail, ride a "bucking" barrel, and ride horses. Each child also got a picture with "their" cowboy, got a marshal star, handkerchief, a trophy, and after the challenge rodeo, every one was invited to a free lunch, which was delicious, and an inspirational speaker shared his story. I was touched by the little girl I was paired with, but can't begin to tell the story on paper, so next time you see me, ask about Izzy! It truly is rewarding to see a child smile!

So here we are, October is rushing by, I am trying to prepare for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant, as well as finish up on the road! In the next few weeks, I will be going to the Dodge Prairie Circuit Finals in Kansas City, the Texas Stampede in Dallas & Cowgirl Hall of Fame Inductions in Ft. Worth, as well as spending some time with a few more of my sponsors!

Mark your calendar – November 17th or November 18th! I will be having two "Send Off" parties! November 17th is to be held at the Haythorn Ranch north of Ogallala, NE; November 18th is to be held in Burwell at the Legion Club at 12:30! So, mark your calendar – it's going to be a great time, filled with fun & games! I can't wait to see you there!

Erin Robbins, MRN 2007

