



WESTERN DAYS

OVER THE DECADES PAST & PRESENT





1969

THE BEGINNING



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1970s



1977 Elgin Western Days' Queen
MISS GINA McVAY



BEARD CONTEST WINNERS -- Front row, 1 to r, Roy Morris, 3rd place, best trimmed; Paul Morris, first place, longest and best trimmed; Noel Clark, second, longest beard and Marvin Farris, 1st place, straggliest. Back row, 1 to r, other contestants, Paul Greenhaw, Emil Mogonye, Eddie Fails and Robert Dumbek.



1978 TINY TOT QUEEN
KERRY KING



1975 BEARD CONTESTANTS
Front row, l-r, Paul Greenhaw, James Bird and Harry Mead. Back row, 1 to r, Roy Morris III, Jamie Kisamore, David Fenske and Jim Moore. It was a hard decision to make, but the judges came up with a 1st for Harry Mead; 2nd, Jim Moore; 3rd, Paul Greenhaw; 4th James Bird and 5th and Scroungiest went to Jamie Kisamore. All seven of these men went through an ordeal that many men would not subject themselves to. They have been growing and scratching all of this hair for nearly four months and now they can shave it off. The Chamber of Commerce appreciates this type of enthusiasm for our Western Days. It really makes Western Days a lot of fun.



1972 ELGIN STEERING COMMITTEE – PACKER JACK AND CENTENNIAL QUEEN
L to r, Lawson Rivers, W.E. Arbuckle, Jr., Packer Jack Wallace, Ray Arbuckle, Jr., Theresa Griffin, Rhonda Lundgren, Rosemary Meredith and Rev. James Witschorke.



1974 ELGIN WESTERN DAY QUEEN
Linda Janca, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. G. Janca, has been elected Elgin's 1974 Western Day Queen. Linda is head twirler of the Elgin High Band and will be a junior at EHS this fall. Miss Janca will represent Elgin at various activities throughout the following year. She represented the Elgin FFA in the queen's contest.



1975 "SUNSHINE" BROUGHT SMILES AND SUNSHINE
Sunshine The Shriners Clown came to town Saturday to help in our parade. He is shown with a group of young people who were on Main Street to enjoy the parade. He comes to our parades every year and we really appreciate his enthusiasm for parades and people.

Western Days Golf Planned

The Elgin Golf Association will be hosting its fourth annual Western Days' golf tournament July 20, at the Pine Forest Golf Club in Bastrop. Tee off time will be at 1 p.m.

Entry fees will be \$10 per person for members of the Elgin Golf Association and \$20 per person for non-members. Monday, July 18, is the cut off date for all entries. Fees can be paid to W.E. Arbuckle Jr., Dee Lane and Gary Owen.

This year's tournament has been designated as a memorial tourney to honor all the late golfers in the Elgin area. The Golf Association voted at its last meeting, to have a four (4) man select shot for the Western Days' event.

All fees received will be the purse for the tournament awards. Money will be paid to the first and second place teams in addition to first and second place pitching contest winners.

A note to non-members: It will be very helpful if you would furnish your handicap when signing up for the tournament. Teams are chosen by a blind draw to insure equity among teams.

Again, please remember the cut-off date of July 18. Golf carts are reserved in advance and Pine Forest must have an accurate head count. Whether you are a golfer or not, come out on the

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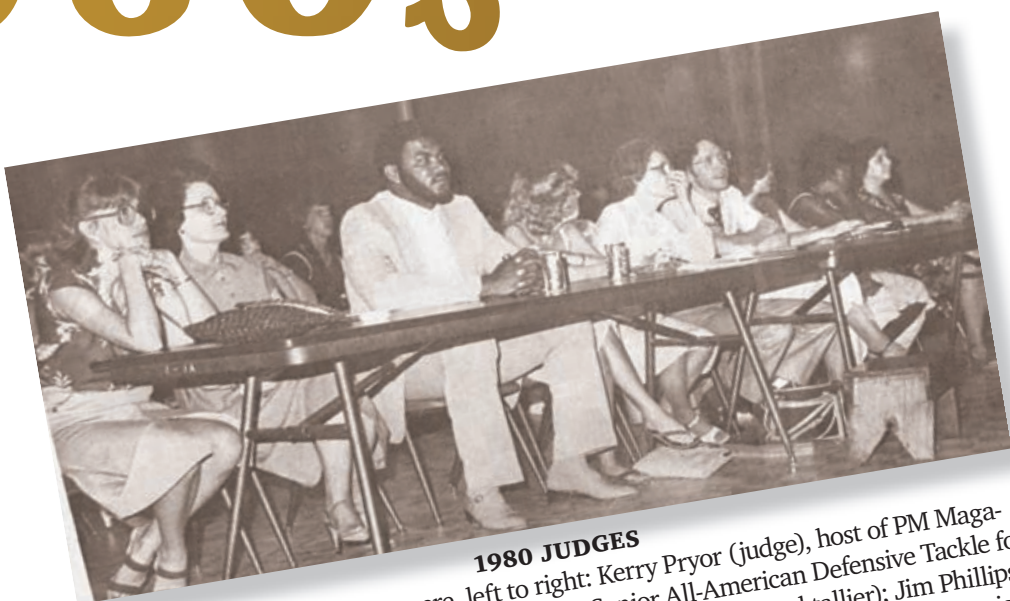
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1980s



1980 AG BAND TO PERFORM

If you happen to get downtown before the parades start, you'll be pleasantly surprised-and entertained! The El-Hi Ag Band will be performing on the street beginning at 8:30 a.m. prior to the Kiddie Parade which begins at 9, and prior to the regular parade which begins at 10. Members of the award-winning band, pictured left to right, are Pat Rogers, Clifford Ferguson, Todd Brown, Cynthia Chambers, Brian Moczygemba and Russell Krause. -Staff Photo



1980 JUDGES

Judges, and those assisting, were, left to right: Kerry Pryor (judge), host of PM Magazine; Doris Stach (assisting); Ken Sims (judge), Senior All-American Defensive Tackle for the UT Longhorns; Sue Bledsoe (assisting); Etta Mae Carter (head tallier); Jim Phillips (judge), Deputy Comptroller of the State Comptroller's office; Betty Lynn Meyer (assisting), Leslie Hill (judge), TP&L district secretary; and Isabelle Chavarria (assisting).



1983 CRAYOLA KIDS

The Crayola Kids received a first place ribbon in the costumed division of the Elgin Western Days' Kiddie Parade Saturday. Members of the winning group included: (l-r) Jacie Kastner, Jennifer Nelson, Lisa Nelson, Destany Carter and Trent Carter.



1985 CONGRATULATIONS SIS!

Most six-year old boys would rather be hung by the toes than to be caught kissing a girl, but exceptions are sometimes made in the case of royalty – especially when the royalty happens to be your sister. Doug Keeling did not even seem to mind the camera snapping away as he congratulated big sister Terrie on her newly acquired royal status as the 1985 Miss Western Days' Queen. Doug was quite curious, though, to find out if having a queen for a sister meant that he was now a prince. That will be a tough one for mom and dad, Dr. and Mrs. Michale Keeling, to explain.



1988 KAWANIAN FAJITAS

KIWANIAN FAJITAS are always a hit during the Western Days festivities. Kiwanian Ross Meredith serves up a fajita to Randy Worley. Elgin Western Days food booths traditionally feature a variety of good food for visitors. Many organizations find it's an excellent way to add to their treasury. -Staff Photo



1988 LYNDY COCKE GRAND CHAMPION

Lynda Cocke captured both: Grand Champion and Reserve Champion titles at Sunday's Food Fair held in conjunction with Elgin's Western Days. Her pecan pie won the desserts category and the show. Competing in as Reserve was her first place vegetable entry, marinated carrots.



1982

Terry Godfrey of Leander and Gary Mallicoat of Austin compete in the light-heavyweight arm wrestling division. Rudy Hernandez emcees the event. Ted Ott was the tourney chairman.



1989 QUEENLY REGALIA

Beaming with pride was Nickie Dorsett, (l), as she received the "queenly regalia" from 1988 Miss Western Days Kerri Wynn. Dorsett was named 1989 Miss Western Days on July 18. Congratulations and good wishes came with the transfer of title which represents a busy and successful year for Wynn. Wynn is the daughter of James and Lu Wynn. Dorsett's parents are Bob and Betty Dorsett.



1982

The popular Shriner clown, Spanky, visited with children along Main Street Saturday, and added a humorous touch to the parade. DO YOU REMEMBER SPANKY?!!

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1990s



1993 DUTCH WALKER STRUGGLES to keep screaming fans off the stage while Elvis performed. Making him work particularly hard was fan, Shelle Chaney. Screaming in the background is awestruck Carole Foechner. Bill Kelly doubled as Elvis Presley and did a splendid job as emcee for the evening of the Miss Western Days pageant. Marilyn Cardwell and Jamie Lundgren coordinated the event. The theme was “Rockin’ Round The Clock”.



1993 THE JORDANAIREs backed up Elvis Presley at the “Rockin’ Round The Clock” pageant. Performing were (l-r) Chuck Fromme, Larry Foechner and Scott Martin.



1995 NEEDLEWORK WINNERS in this year’s Western Days fair are (l-r) Sandra Jones, Jennifer Villarreal, Dorothy Moore; (front, l-r), Lila House and Krista Carter.



1991 Parade Marshalls for Elgin Western Days were Julius and Martha “Pete” Marek. What a celebration for Julius on his 77th birthday! They have been instrumental in the Western Days parade and rodeos since their inception back in 1971. Driving Bill Kinney’s red convertible was John Quigley.



1999 JUNGLE GIRL Decotah Jackson rode her “painted zebra” entry and captured first place in the mounted individual division.



1991 A special hug for Miss Western Days Melinda Fromme came from (l-r) Hailey and Hillary Voelker. Fromme had been their babysitter on various occasions during the past several years and they had an extra big congratulations when Melinda was named Miss Western Days on July 23.



1991 Serious business is the parade stuff! Taking honors for the Best Float in the Western Day’s kiddie parade were the Wizard of Oz group saying “There’s no place like home, There’s no place like Elgin” and including Lindsey Wing, Jon Eric Mogonye, Cody Cardwell, Toto and Megan Dildy, Tessa Dildy and Marilyn Cardwell holding Faith Cardwell. The Best Float entry called Return of Dessert Storm carried (l-r with flags) Amanda Martinez and Mariella Sanchez and was driven by Stephanie Sanchez. Most Original was the Hot Air Balloon entered by Ashley and Dustin Haisler who are cousins. More 1st place winners included Christian Johnson as Robin Hood with Best Costume. Another 1st place ribbon for Most Original went to Mario and Emilio Ramirez and Josh and James McCoy, and 1st place Best Cowboy was Cain Montemayor. Sherry Schroeder and Rosanna Church chaired the event which began at 9:15 am Saturday.



1997 The Elgin Main Street Board had a booth in the park for Western Days, promoting all things related to the October 25th Hogeys Festival! They served sausage wraps and sold pet pink pigs and Hogeys T-Shirts. Pictured are (front, l-r) Kay Wing, Brenda Brittain, Amy Stallard Miller; (back, l-r) W.C. Estes, the Hogeys mascot, Jamie Lundgren and Gladys Markert.

Boot Scoot over to Sonic for a cold drink!

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2000s



2008 ERIN RANKIN tried her best to attach herself and hold on to this 'mutton's' fuzzy wool around his neck at the rodeo this weekend. She was ready to brace her fall to the soft dirt in the Julius Marek Rodeo Arena. Erin is the daughter of Kim and Brian Rankin. A large number of youngsters participated in the event that is a favorite of the Elgin rodeo crowd.



2003 KIDDLE PARADE participants pause long enough for a picture! Pictured are (front row l-r) Peyton Martin, Brady Douglas, Brandy Massey, Randall Fields, Tionne Cook, Randall Fields, Oana Shelby; (middle, l-r) Rebecca Cavage, Malinda Cavage in wagon, Daniel Wharton, Madeline Krebs, Taylor Olson, Chloe McCall on spotted horse, Jacy and Jodi Taylor in wagon; (back) Kolby Bradshaw on Koko with great-grandfather Kenneth Johnson and Dad, Ricky Bradshaw.



2001 THE PERCUSSION section of the Elgin Fighting Wildcat band gave the rhythmic beat for the band's musical offerings during the parade. The Sweepstakes-winning band was a welcome addition that hundreds of spectators enjoyed on Saturday.



2000 SLADE HARRIS of Elgin lines up his shot in the horseshoe tournament in Memorial Park.



2005 THESE CUB SCOUTS from Pack 471 were towed behind a pickup in their great soap box derby cars in the parade. The derby cars are a major project for the Scouts.



2007 DOUG KEELING placed first in the steer wrestling event at Elgin Western Days with the time of 4.3 seconds. The event was actually held on Sunday due to the Friday night Rodeo being rained out. Keeling was named Champion Steer Wrestler of the entire Rodeo. He was also 2005 Champion Steer Wrestler.



2010 Think you've seen a grand ole parade before? Think again! The Elgin Western Days Parade is the best show around! Everybody has fun when those floats roll into Historic Downtown!



2006 - LADY BUGS adorned the colorful float, dubbed the Lad Bug Express, ridden by some of the members of the Elgin Garden Club. The group beautifies the triangle area at the Taylor Road and Main Street intersection in Elgin. They also select a Yard of the Month to showcase. Picture our members (l-r) Bee Crenshaw, Janice Ruthven and Janie Amescua.



We want to thank you for your continued support of the Elgin Chamber of Commerce. We understand first-hand the challenges that the entire business community is facing right now. Our team has been working since the beginning of this crisis to connect with our members and provide them, and the entire community, with the most up-to-date resources and information to help navigate these uncharted waters.

Although we are optimistic that there is recovery ahead, there is no doubt that COVID19 has impacted our community and the Elgin Chamber of Commerce. Now more than ever, the business community needs the Chamber and the Chamber needs the community's support.

With the cancellation of the Western Days Festival, the Chambers largest fundraiser, our budget has been directly impacted.

We are asking for your help, we have created a new program in hopes of replacing the Western Days income and as a way to spotlight our supporters. The **Chamber Champion Sponsorship Program** is a way you can assist us. These sponsorship funds will help the Chamber continue our work and keep staff employed. All **Chamber Champions Sponsors** receive special recognition and allows us to spotlight companies that are dedicated to the mission of the Chamber. This support will allow us to continue to offer the programs and member services in 2020. In return, Chamber Champion members receive benefits above and beyond standard membership, with the highest visibility at future Chamber events and in publications.

Thank you for your consideration to support us in this time. Enclosed are details about the Chamber Champion Program. If you have questions or need additional payment options, please contact us to discuss.

Sincerely,

Gena Carter

Gena Carter



This commemorative T-Shirt will be available soon!

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2011-2019



2015 Shelby Gordon (right), the Miss Western Days Queen in 2014, passes the title on to Bianca Ruiz (left), the 2015 Miss Western Days Queen.



2015 The Hermann Sons Lodge No. 113 from Coupland took second place in the out of town float category in the 2015 parade.



2015 Addison Harkins, Jeannette Ortiz and Kevon Alexander enjoy kids' activities such as the barrel train ride.



2016 Ava Woolery proudly poses with her trophy from the 2016 Tiny Tots Pageant.



2018 Roy Eakins and Buddy Knopp of Austin took first place at the 2018 Western Days Horseshoes contest.



2019 An Elgin High School cheerleader hands out candy during the parade.



2019 Charles Cain drives a restored 1948 Farmall Cub tractor in the parade. This entry won third place in the tractors category.



2019 Sherwood Forest, a Renaissance festival based in McDade, is one of many floats in the 2019 Western Days parade.



2019 Sarah McIntyre from Exaggerface (right) paints a rainbow on Kimber McKee's face (left).



2019 Kaliyah Roberts tosses bean bags for a prize at the Blackland Prairie Girl Scouts booth.

2020 FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT



Left to right: Front row - Kelly Koenning, Amber Garcia-Tijerina, Nine-year winner Jeanette Shelby, Sandy Smith, Kay Silkenson, Anne Pierce
Back Row - Maria Martinez and Pete Bega

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2019 Diane Meier from KB Homes, a representative from the Elgin Chamber of Commerce, cuts the cake to recognize the 50th birthday of the Western Days festival.

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