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Unrivalled Excellence

Anne Marie Simmers

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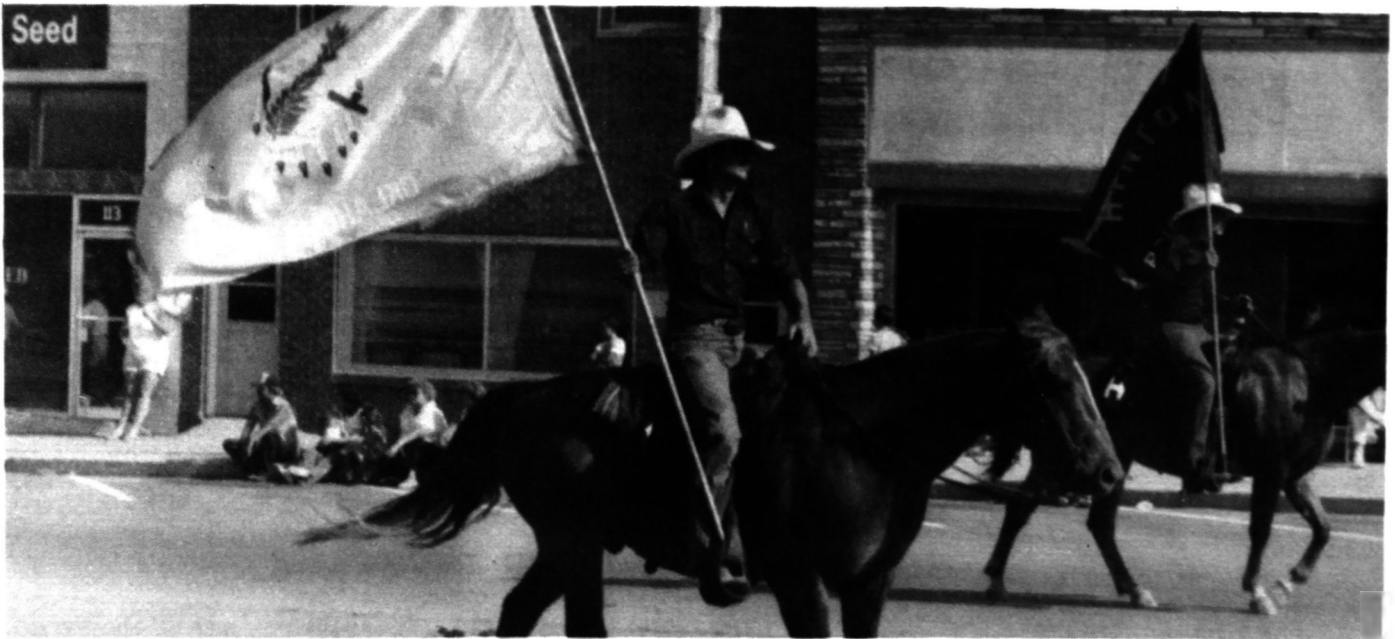
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Western Oklahoma crowd-getter

Unrivaled



The scenic and winding roads of the United States hold many pleasant surprises for the adventurer who dares tour the country by automobile. State after state bears new and exciting sources of entertainment, as well as historical sites and landmarks. Oklahoma is one such state. From water parks to art festivals, Oklahoma holds much for the traveler. The picturesque views from canyon tops and lake sides are breathtaking; however, it would be hard to

overlook the delicate changes from town to town in color and atmosphere. Bigger isn't always better, and sometimes small things contain the best offered.

A few miles south of Interstate-40 lies the enchanting town of Hinton, Oklahoma. Hinton is much like other small towns. The people are friendly and inviting, and the town holds an air of yesteryear in its buildings and streets. Cozy shops decorate Main Street, complete with the corner drugstore and soda fountain. While Hinton gives the visitor a comfortable feeling and resembles other small communities, it is quite unique. Hinton is the home of Oklahoma's oldest annual rodeo.

Just what is a rodeo? The word—pronounced *roh-de-oh* and not *roh-day-oh* is Spanish for *roundup*. Traditionally, when roundup was over, cowboys from different cattle outfits would compete in contests of skill, trying to outdo one another in the three R's: *ridin'*, *ropin'*, 'n *restlin'*. In 1883, these contests were presented to the general public for the first time. They generally consisted of seven standard events—steer roping, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, and team roping. The idea of the rodeo soon became a novelty.

The first Hinton Kiwanis Rodeo was held on August 4-6,



Excellence

By Anne Marie Simmers

1931, on a farm north of Hinton that belonged to Albert Ray. The club leased the land and set up temporary bleachers for the afternoon shows. Old timers report it was hot and dusty, but rodeos were new and unusual; so the Hinton Rodeo enjoyed good crowds from the very beginning. Today, people from all over come to enjoy the event. Such names as Gene

feature this time). Entertainers, such as Reba McIntyre and Ronnie McDowell, were present; also, a special appearance was made by U.S. Senator Don Nickles, who served as the parade marshal.

There are many rodeos across the United States, but none so charming as Hinton's. For the rodeo enthusiast, it is



Watson, Vern Gosdin, and Earl Thomas Conley have graced the rodeo guest list.

The 1986 event--held July 4, 5, and 6--was no exception to the quality rodeos of previous years. Celebrating its fifty-sixth year, the Hinton Rodeo hosted several events aside from the rodeo itself. Spectators were invited to participate in rodeo dances held each night, enjoy the parade and gun show, and to participate in the chili cook-off (new

unequaled. And for the average spectator, it's a must. Hinton has it all--charm, diversity, and an intriguing background. They say good things come in small packages; if so, the man who made that statement surely had been to Hinton. ♡

CREDITS: Ted Smith, Chairman of the Hinton Kiwanis Rodeo, helped to provide information for this article.