

Oklahoma Living's

Best Festival : Guymon Pioneer Days

Featuring ProRodeo Hall of Fame Event



Join us in 2017 for the 85th Anniversary of Guymon Pioneer Days, held in the Saddle Bronc Capital of the World. Photos by Shawn Yorks.

By Miranda Gilbert
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GUYMON – With 20 events, Guymon Pioneer Days ropes in thousands from across the United States. After 81 years it's now "where cowboys become legends."

Suffering through the Dust Bowl amidst the Great Depression, pioneers gathered on the anniversary of the Organic Act which joined "No Man's Land" to the territory of Oklahoma for fun.

"It started in 1933," Jim Quimby, Rodeo Chairman said. "Everyone was broke, deprived and wanted a celebration to take people's minds off that."

It grew to a 30 block parade, dances, competitions, a carnival, mercantile, golf tournament, Old Timers' breakfast, Rotary Barbeque, tractor pull, and a Rodeo pageant.

Quimby recalls visiting as a child. And he isn't alone.

"Kasey Hayes remembers watching the bull riders, saying, 'That's what I want to do' and he did it," Quimby said the Top 20 Professional Bull Rider from Kansas.

"We have over 900 contestants," Quimby said. "These guys are fighting to be the top in the world and they all come to Guymon."

Slack performances begin on Monday featuring saddle bronc, steer roping, bull riding, bareback, team roping, tie-down roping and barrel racing. Mutton bustin' starts at age four. Weekend performances include a Tough Enough to Wear Pink show on Friday.

The rodeo won the Justin Boots Best Footing Award by the WPRA in 2011 and the WPRA Rodeo of the Year in 2012. It was also inducted in the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in 2015.

"There truly is something for everyone. If you've never been to Guymon for the Pioneer Days Rodeo, this is where you need to be on the first full weekend in May, every year."