



WESTERN PLEASURE?

Launching into orbit, Sgt. Girard Tanguay, MCAS Yuma, experiences his first ride on a horse during the bareback bronc riding event at last week's Silver Spur Rodeo. Tanguay claimed he wanted

to ride and, with a little help from his friends, the Stockholm, N.J. native took on the pros. His last quote was, "If you're going to start — you might as well start at the top with the rough ones."

(Photo by Sgt. Bill Henderson)

'Don't check size of the bronc and it won't bother you to ride'

By Sgt. BILL HENDERSON

MCAS, YUMA — Before last Sunday, the wildest ride Sgt. Girard Tanguay, Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD), Armament Section, ever had was in a New York City taxi. Sunday, Sgt. Tanguay, who hails from Stockholm, N.J., just outside New York City, took his very first ride on a horse. Unlike most whose first riding experience is on a gentle saddle horse, Tanguay's initial effort found him clinging to the back of a wild rodeo bucking bronc in bareback riding competition at the 31st Annual Yuma Jaycee's Silver Spur Rodeo.

He could have drawn a "not so wild" bucking bronc, but Tanguay drew one of the wildest — a horse used in competition during the

National Finals Rodeo recently conducted in Oklahoma City, Okla.

The young Marine didn't stay on long, needless to say. He claims it was due to a borrowed bucking rig that was too small for his hand. "I couldn't get my hand all the way under the handle without it becoming stuck. I could only get my fingers in as far as my knuckles," he claimed.

Most cowboys begin their rodeo career as youngsters in junior events, growing up, more or less, in the dusty rodeo arena. Their first time on a bucking horse is usually backed-up by many hours riding saddle horses. Therefore, it is highly unusual for a 22-year-old man, who has never been on a horse in his life, to embark on a rodeo career in such a startling way.

Cpl. Everett (Paul) Reed, who works in the same AIMD

section, is a close friend and primary catalyst involved in kicking Tanguay off on the rodeo riding circuit.

Tanguay said, "I became interested in rodeos from listening to the tales Cpl. Reed would tell about his latest rides. It sounded like a real challenge. I had never been in a rodeo and I'll try anything at least once."

Reed explained that Tanguay's interest in riding finally got the best of him. "I needed a ride to Brawley, Calif. to compete in a 'buck out.' Sergeant Tanguay wanted to go and offered to take me. On the way over, he told me he wanted to ride. I told him there was only one way to learn, and that was to ride."

Tanguay said, "After we got to Brawley, I saw how big the horses and bulls were, and I backed out. Although I watched that day, I still

wanted to ride. We got back to Yuma and I went over and put up my \$38.50 entry fee for the Silver Spur Rodeo. This time I didn't look at the horses, so it didn't bother me. The first time I saw the horse I was going to ride was when I got on."

Reed and Tanguay had planned on using Reed's bareback riding gear, but through some quirk in scheduling, both Marines were slated to ride back-to-back. "I didn't know what to do. I wanted to ride...I didn't want them to turn the horse out because I didn't have any gear," Tanguay explained.

"Just before my time to ride, gear started appearing from nowhere. Everything happened so fast. One minute I was standing there wondering what to do and the next, a cowboy came up with a pair of spurs. While I was putting the spurs on, someone was strapping chaps around my legs. All this time, other cowboys were putting the flanker strap and bareback gear on the horse. The next thing I knew, I was in the chute, on the horse's back and shaking my head for them to open the gate," Tanguay related.

"I saw the horse's head go down and then I realized what was happening — too late. The next thing I knew, I

was on my back wondering where the horse went," Tanguay concluded.

Tanguay's only knowledge of bareback bronc riding came from an article he read on the scoring, proper form and riding procedures plus what Cpl. Reed had advised him to do.

He said, "It seems easy to understand when you read about bronc riding. And, from the spectator's point of view, it doesn't look hard either. But the truth is, reading about it doesn't make it easier and it is a lot harder than it looks."

Tanguay says he will ride again and he will eventually stay on. "It is a great challenge to stay on for those long eight seconds. I'm going to some more 'buck outs' and rodeos and ride barebacks. If I am free from duty toward the end of the month, I'm entering the Tucson Rodeo...hopefully, this time I'll stay on," concluded the air station's New Jersey cowboy.

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Crane Menu

Here is this week's lunch menu for Crane School Dist. 13.

Monday—holiday.
Tuesday—beanie wienie, potato chips, boiled cabbage, citrus Jello cup, roll, butter and chocolate milk.

Wednesday—spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, applesauce, garlic French bread and milk.

Thursday—green chili burrito over lettuce, Spanish rice, hot sauce, turnover and milk.

Friday—pizza, green beans, salad, peaches and milk.

Yuma City Schools Menu

Here is this week's lunch menu for Yuma School Dist. 1.

Monday—holiday.
Tuesday—bologna and cheese with lettuce on a bun, tators, peaches, peanut butter cookie and milk.

Wednesday—sloppy joe on a bun, garden salad, carrot stick, Jello with pears and milk.

Thursday—fishwich with tartar sauce, coleslaw, tators, pumpkin pie with topping and milk.

Friday—burritos, hot sauce, applesauce, corn, lettuce and milk.

Yuma horse is expensive but he's also a winner

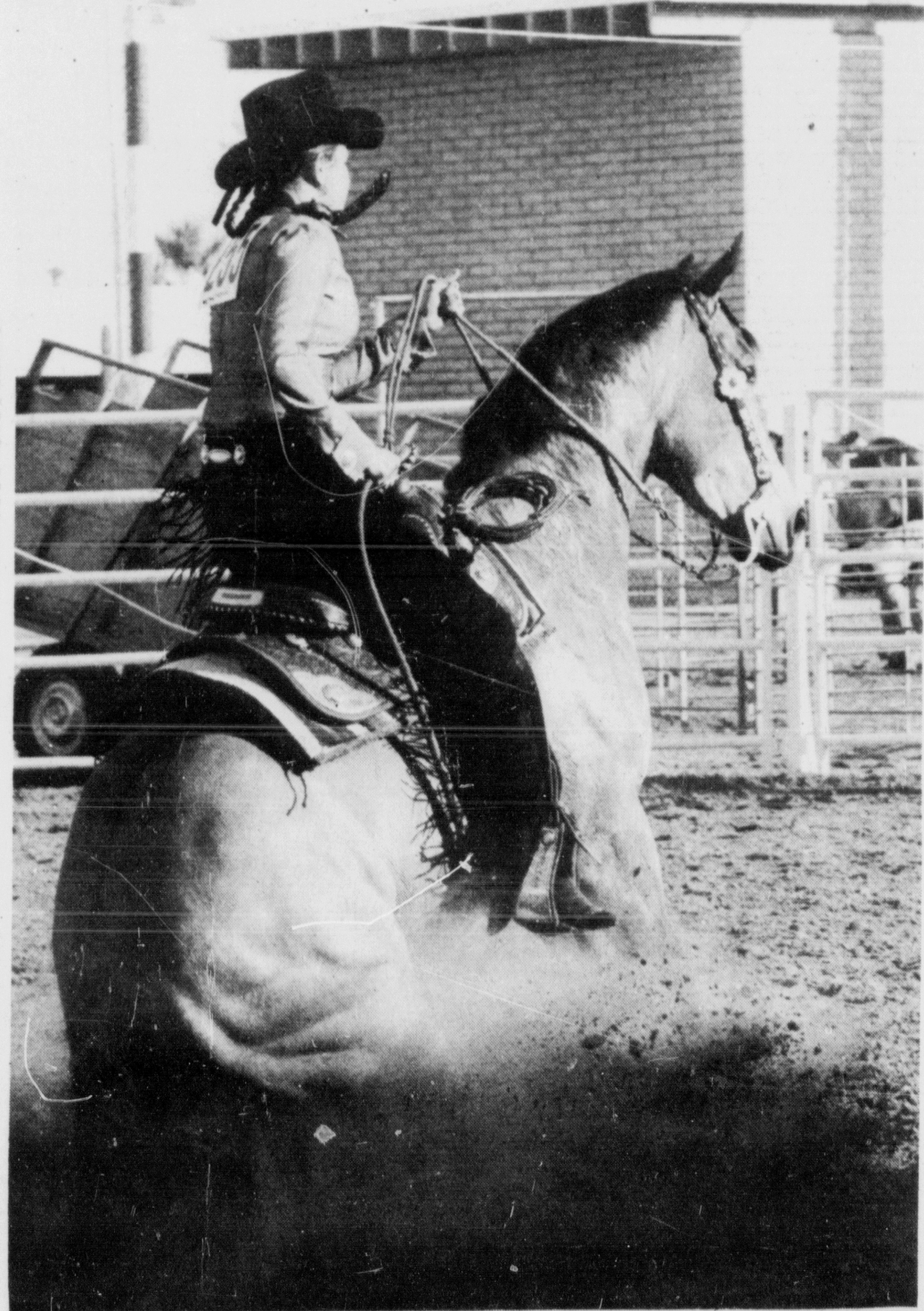
They call the horse Expensive Hobby and it is rapidly becoming known as the top reining horse in the Southwest.

The horse, owned and ridden for the most part by Georganna Stewart of the Gila Valley, ended 1975 as the top hackamore reining and pleasure horse in Arizona. This year looks even better. The horse needs just one more point to be eligible for the World Championships to be held this year in the Astrodome in Houston.

To get this far so fast, Expensive Hobby was the champion senior reining

horse at the Arizona National Livestock Show in Phoenix. Also it is reserve senior reining horse on the Arizona Sun Country Circuit and grand champion senior reining horse on the Nevada Silver Dollar Circuit in Las Vegas.

When Georganna isn't riding Expensive Hobby her trainer is. He's Al Donning of Scottsdale. Georganna is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G.E. (Buddy) Stewart of the Gila Valley. She is a 17-year-old senior at Yuma High School and was an attendant to the Silver Spur Rodeo queen.



EXPENSIVE HOBBY IN ACTION

Georganna Stewart, 17-year-old Yuma High senior, handles her horse, Expensive Hobby, in expert fashion during competition at the Arizona National Livestock Show in Phoenix. The horse

won the title of champion senior reining horse and already is just one point shy of qualifying for the world championships.

(Photo by LeRoy Weathers)

Floatdown theme is announced

Like the first signs of coming spring, planning is already underway for events to take place July 3 on the Colorado River.

Bob Denman, who will head the Caballeros de Yuma-sponsored Lower Colorado River Floatdown Parade, which annually is a companion event to the World's Championship Inner Tube Race, announced today that the theme will be "200 Years of Freedom."

Denman said that the theme is being announced early to give opportunity for plenty of long-range planning for those who will be participating in the "greatest year of our nation and our floatdown parade."

The festivities, which will take place just a day before the nation's 200th birthday, are expected to be totally dedicated to the bicentennial. It will be the eighth consecutive year for the parade of floats and the tenth anniversary of the inner tube extravaganza.

Denman said he is planning an entry which "will be a real challenge" and that it will relate to Yuma's colorful history.

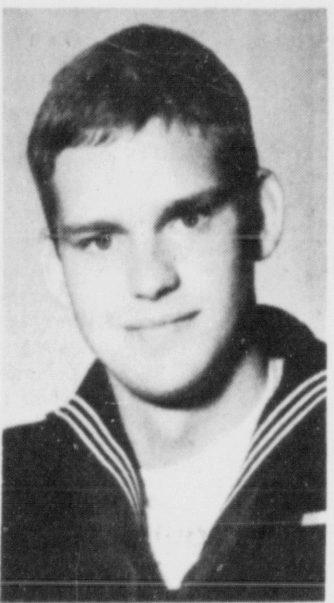
The first planning session of Yuma Chamber's Inner Tube Race Committee is expected to be held in late February, according to a race official.

American Cancer Society American Cancer Society American Cancer Society



IT'S ALEX AND DON

Actor Alex Karras chats with Yuman Don Cordery, Arizona Division Crusade Committee chairman, during the Cancer Society's National Crusade Kickoff meeting in Houston. Karras, a former all-star tackle for the Detroit Lions, is now an actor and tv commentator. He starred as George Zaharias in the tv special on the life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias. Cordery, a Yuma photographer, has been a local and state official for a number of years. (Cancer Photo)



MICHAEL MAKEPEACE

Yumans in The Service

YUMA—Pfc. Daniel B. Cross, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Cross of 2703 Mesa Ave., has been assigned to the 80th Field Arty. in Aschaffenburg, Germany, and has been promoted to private first class. He enlisted in the Army from the Yuma recruiting station in June.

WELLTON—Michael Makepeace was voted "Sailor of the Year" at Lemoore Communications Center in California. He will complete his fourth year in the service in July.



CRIM'S CORNER

By KATIE PANCAZZI
YUMA HIGH SCHOOL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY — Dear George, Martha and the kids from Yuma High wish you a happy birthday, and a special thanks for the holiday tomorrow.

CHORALAIRS — Don't winter at Valley Forge, instead winter in Yuma and see the Choralairs give their bicentennial concert.

The concert begins Wednesday and runs through Saturday. Wednesday will be senior citizens night and their admission will be 76 cents. Thursday night is bicentennial costume night. Friday night is VIP night when the dress will be semi-formal. Saturday night is everyone come night. Be sure you see the concert one of these nights.

MENU — Yankee Doodle come to Yuma riding on his

pony, stopped at YHS for lunch and ate our macaroni. So we'll have the following instead this week.

Tuesday: fried chicken, mashed potato and gravy, mixed vegetable, tossed salad, bread and butter, fruit Jello and milk.

Wednesday: tostadas with hot sauce, spanish rice, shredded lettuce, and diced tomato, cranberry cake and milk.

Thursday: hamburgers, lettuce, tomato and dill pickle chips, french fries, coconut pie with whipped topping and milk.

Friday: tuna noodle casserole, buttered green beans, tossed salad, hot rolls with butter, orange half and milk.

NEWS — Uncle Sam may want you, but so do I, for your news at 783-1013.



YUMA LANDING 1876

The Cocopah, the Gila and a barge were tied up at the Yuma Landing when this picture was taken in 1876. They'll be featured when "Steamboating on the Colorado" is presented by the Yuma County Historical Society Wednesday

at 7:30 in the auditorium of the Yuma City-County Library. Tickets are available at the Century House Museum, 240 Madison Avenue, or by calling 783-8020.

(Photo courtesy Yuma Co. Historical Society)