# 5ports



Walla Walla's G.L. Longgood, who roped calves in last weekend's Morrow County Rodeo in Heppner, will ride in this week's Southeastern Washington Fair and Rodeo

## Longgood rides hot streak into WW rodeo

By JIM BUCHAN

Rodeo always has been, and probably always will be, a part time way of life for Walla Walla's G.L. Longgood.

But on occasion, it has been a lucrative

The 33-year-old Longgood, who competes in all of the timed events and wisely stays away from the bulls and bucking horses, has been on a hot streak in the month of August. He hopes it continues this week in the Southeastern Washington Fair and Rodeo here in Walla Walla.

'I've been doing very well, drawing well lately," he admits. "But I won't make any kind of predictions . . . that might jinx me.

Longgood has made around \$3,500 competing on the rodeo tour in August. His total for 1977 is \$4,560 and he leads the Columbia River Circuit in the allaround standings

He says it isn't his best year — "I won \$8,000 in 1973" - but it could be if he finishes the season with the kind of surge he has displayed this month. But, again, he refuses to make any predictions.

Cowboys, it seems, are a superstitious lot.

"It's a drawing contest," he says. "Every cowboy in Walla Walla this week will have the ability to win. It just depends on the cattle they draw. I've been hot lately, and I don't want to change my luck by making any predictions. I stay away from that.

Longgood says he competes in about 20 to 25 rodeos each year. He maps out a schedule, plans his vacation around the Calgary Stampede and maybe one or two other big rodeos and spends

many of his weekends on the road.

with him on his rodeo schedule.

'Most of the rodeos I enter are weekend affairs, within 200 miles or so from home. I imagine I travel about 10,000 miles in a year's time.

'It gets to be expensive," he adds. "I figure I have to make about \$200 a rodeo to break even. Longgood, who is an installer-repairman for Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone, says his

employers have been "just great" in cooperating

'They've helped me adjust my work schedule free at certain times to compete in rodeos. Their cooperation has been 100 per cent. I

couldn't do it (rodeo) without that cooperation.' Ironically, Pacific Northwest Bell in Walla Walla is the sponsor of a trophy that is annually awarded to the all-around champion of the

Southeastern Washington Fair and Rodeo. Longgood says he would like to win that trophy

and "keep it in the family." The telephone trophy is a rotating trophy. If a cowboy wins the award three times, he is allowed to keep the trophy on a permanent basis

We began this in 1970," explains Dick Tarver, manager of PNW Bell's Walla Walla branch. "It didn't take us long to give away our first trophy. Olin Young from New Mexico won it for the third time in 1975 so we had to buy a new one.

Tarver says that his company used to have an exhibit stand at the fair each year. "We decided to drop the exhibit and go with the trophy for two reasons. First, it is less expensive, and second, it is something that the fair board believes adds prestige to the rodeo and is more of a contribution.

That was our thinking."

In addition to the trophy, the telephone company awards a silver belt buckle to each allaround champion.

Longgood, who has worked for the telephone company since 1965, says he had no influence on the company's decision to become involved in the

After graduating from high school in 1961, Longgood attended college at Fresno State where he first became involved in rodeo.

"I was always interested," he recalls. "Even as young boy, I was always roping fence posts and what not. But I never had the opportunity to get involved in it until I went away to school.

After one year at Fresno in which he spent uncounted practice hours in the rodeo arena, Longgood returned to Walla Walla where he began pursuing his rodeo career as an amateur. He joined the RCA (Rodoe Cowboys Association) ranks in 1964 and has been competing as a pro ever since.

"I've had some good years and some bad years," he says. "I've had two not-so-good years in a row before this year. It's a hot-and-cold business.

G.L. — he started going by his initials (Gene Lane) when he was young to avoid confusion between him and his brother Dean - counts himself as just one of many successful cowboys who make their home in the Walla Walla area.

'There's a lot of us," he says. "As a group, we do pretty darn good. We may lack the consistency of some of the world's top-ranked cowboys, but our bests are about as good as their bests.

The list of Walla Walla cowboys is long. It includes Longgood's team roping and traveling partner, Dick Kelly, and many others. Such names as Leland Kelly, Ken Frazier, Tom Bergevin, Monte Thomas, Gene Hassler, Tom Maycumber, Chuck Matteson, Steve Jessee, Tom Smith, John Biagi, Joe Talbot Sr., Joe Talbot Jr., Ted Millgard, Mitch Hutchinson, Bob Bloomberg, Gary Duncan and Lou Reed will be listed on the entry sheets in Walla Walla this week.

'It's like any other sport. If you have some natural ability and practice at it, you can be good at it," Longgood explains. "I have to give a lot of credit to my wife. Sandy. She travels with me, helps me practice and puts up with an awful lot of late dinners. Many is the time we haven't gotten around to eating until 11 o'clock at night.

Sandy is involved in equitation classes and the Longgoods' three daughters — 13-year-old Tracy, 11-year-old Laurie and seven-year-old Chris - are all horsewomen. They'll compete in the barrell racing this week at the fair.

Longgood also has a three-year-old son, Ryan, but it may be a while before G.L. knows if he has another cowboy in the family. Has Longgood ever considered taking to the

rodeo circuit on a fulltime basis?

"I've thought about it, but not for very long," he says. "I've never figured out how I could make a

If Longgood ever does figure a way to keep his hot streaks going, Pacific Northwest Bell could be looking for a new installer-repairman . . . and maybe, in a few years, another all-around trophy to replace the one in G.L. Longgood's trophy case.

### Steelhead plan gets approval phlet available late in September.

Winter steelhead seasons will be the

most restrictive to date, the com-

mission decided Monday, and include

a daily bag limit of one steelhead on

the 40 West Side streams remaining

There will be a delayed opening

from Dec. 1 to Dec. 15 on streams

which have an Indian reservation and

intense gillnet fishing at their mouths.

About the only exception is the Sko-

open in the Boldt Case area.

PORT ANGELES, Wash. (AP) - A river-classification plan designed to protect critically low wild stocks of winter steelhead has won state Game Commission approval.

The action, which also would encourage harvesting of hatcheryorigin steelhead, came in one of the longest and busiest commission meetings in recent memory. The commission also approved with

little debate and almost no public

comment Department of Game

recommendations for season length and bag limits for fall and winter upland-bird and waterfowl hunts. Seasons and bag limits will be listed in detail in the department's pam-

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - Mike

Hultman and Bill Martinez each

knocked in three runs Tuesday night

to propel the Portland Mavericks to a

10-1 baseball victory over the Bel-

lingham Mariners in a Northwest

Early closures will be imposed on upper stretches of many streams to allow wildstock steelhead to spawn unmolested. A catch-and-release, barbless-hook regulation will apply

Mavs' 10-1 win evens series series is tied 1-1. The deciding game of the series will be in Portland

> Bellingham Portland 100 800 10x-10 10 1 Anderson, Smith (4), Musselman (4), Lewis (8) and Arias, Bender (5); McLaughlin and Peters

Wednesday night.

League playoff game. — McLaughlin. L — Anderson. T — 2:17. A The best-of-three championship Blazers, No. 1 draft pick still far apart

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - The Portland Trail Blazers are far from reaching a contract agreement with Rich Laurel, their first-round choice in the National Basketball Association draft.

"His agent is asking for guaranteed money, and we are not in a position to give it," said Stu Inman, director of player personnel for the NBA champions. "We are not at a place where we want to guarantee him a spot on our team.

River's north fork.

Biologists reported to commissioners that drought reduced populations of local ducks. However, the waterfowl season should be about normal because of good production of local geese and expectations of large numbers of ducks and geese coming from the Far North.

The commission also:

-Heard a lengthy statement by the Northwest Steelhead-Salmon Council of Trout Unlimited which called for the Game Department to restrict the catch by treaty Indian fishermen to only 45 per cent of the wild-stock steelhead and none of hatchery

#### Acton claims NW Pro championship

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) - Rick Acton of Seattle shot a one-under-par 71 to capture a three-stroke victory in the Northwest Professional Golfers' Association Championship Richland.

Tuesday's 71 gave Acton a 143 total for the two-day meet. Runnerup with 146 was Mike Davis of Olympia.

Third was Bob Duden of Portland with 147. Defending champion Pat Fitzsimons shared fourth at 148 with Mahlon Moe, Jerry Mowlds, Fred Haney and Ted Naff.

Acton, who won the tourney two years ago, trailed Davis by one stroke after the first round.

#### Pete Eyraud scores Country Club ace

Pete Eyraud scored the first holein-one of his golfing career Tuesday when he aced the par three 17th hole at the Walla Walla Country Club.

Eyraud, playing in a group that included Ruth Kimball and Peter and Betty Brooks, used a seven iron on the 138-yard shot.



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