

OPP JAYCEES



*Silver
Anniversary*

RATTLESNAKE RODEO



March 13 & 14, 1984

3541414

Opp, Alabama



WELCOME

TO THE RATTLE SNAKE RODEO FROM YOUR Crispy Chick FRIENDS

Brewton—Evergreen—Flomaton—OPP—Union Springs

MENU AND PRICE LIST

2 Eggs, biscuit	1.39
A. White	1.99
2 Eggs, sausage, tots, biscuit	2.09
A. White	2.19
1 Egg, sausage, tots, biscuit	2.49
A. White	2.29
4 Eggs, Chicken only	5.26
A. White	6.76
5 Eggs, Chicken only	8.98
A. White	10.98
12 Eggs, sausage, salad, dozen biscuits	13.49
A. White	15.49
2 Eggs, Chicken only	12.99
A. White	14.99
4 Eggs Dinner	2.65
4 Eggs Tea	2.15
4 Eggs Dinner	3.49
4 Eggs Tea	3.15
1 Chicken Breast	1.89
1 Fruit Filler Sandwich	1.79
INDIVIDUAL PIECES	
Bread	1.19
Wing	65
Thigh	50
Leg	65
HAMBURGERS	
Small	1.19
Large	1.25
Small	45
SLAW, BEANS, SALAD	



TATER TOTS	
Small	45
Corn on Cob	45
Jalapeno Pepper	15
Apple Turnover	45
PIE SLICES	
Pecan	75
BISCUIT BREAKFAST	
Steak	55
Patt. Sausage	70
Link Sausage	55
Biscuit with Jelly	35
Juice	45
Extra Packet of Jelly	15
DRINKS	
Small	45
Medium	55
Large	65
Milk	45
Coffee	35
Fruit Drinks	60
Tea (16 oz.)	45
HOMEMADE BUTTERED BISCUITS	
Each	.29
Dozen	2.79

Crispy Chick

CHICKEN 'N BISCUITS

3541415

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EVERGREEN 578-4409
COVER PHOTO BY KENNARD HALACKER

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OPP
493-9292

UNION SPRINGS
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MAX COBBY, II, CITY CLERK

The City Of Opp-ortunity

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36487

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Welcome to Opp - The City of Opp-Ortunity!

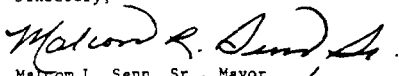
On behalf of the citizens of Opp, it is with sincere pleasure that I welcome you to the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Rattlesnake Rodeo. We share with the Opp Jaycees a great enthusiasm for this annual event.

The Opp Jaycees work very hard to make this event possible, and I extend to them my sincere thanks. It takes dedicated people like these to make an event such as this successful.

The city of Opp is fortunate to have some of the friendliest people in the country, therefore I know that your visit with us will be enjoyable. If those of us at City Hall can be of assistance to any of you, please let us know.

Again, welcome to Opp!

Sincerely,



Malcom L. Senn, Sr., Mayor
City of Opp

MLS/dc

*Please enjoy the Rodeo with Kathy,
Kevin & Harold*

3541416

The Opp Jaycees Welcome You To Opp, Alabama

We, the Opp Jaycees, would like to express our appreciation to the Opp Merchants Association, The Opp Chamber of Commerce, The City of Opp and the Covington County Commission. Without their help the Annual Rattlesnake Rodeo would not be possible.

Each year the Rodeo grows to be a larger event. Without the help of all our present and past Jaycees and their wives, we would never have grown to this capacity. On our silver anniversary a heart warm thanks to each of you. We love each of you.

Each year the Opp Jaycees produce the Rattlesnake Rodeo with many purposes in mind those being, to raise money for underprivileged children, to develop community relations, to help young people with scholarship assistance in their quest for higher education, and to develop young men into future leaders. One hundred percent of our proceeds go for these things. You, our visitors to the "Rattlesnake Rodeo" make this possible. We, the Opp Jaycees thank you! Welcome to the greatest "Rattlesnake Rodeo" of all.

The City Of Opp-Ortunity

Opp is a progressive city and has earned the title, The City Of Opportunity. It is located in Southeast Alabama on gently rolling land ideally suited for industrial and agricultural development.

Her people are proud of the dedication and hard work that has built Opp from a small, dusty town in the early 1900's to a hallmark of pride and development that marks the city today.

The elevation of the city is 326 feet and a warm gulf breeze helps maintain a comfortable all year temperature. Snow and ice are seldom on the ground and the city's moderate climate is conducive to comfortable, economic living.

Opp has much to offer those living in this area from modern shopping centers to a splendid array of recreational activities and facilities.

Industrially, the city has made great strides. In the 1960's a 67 acre site was purchased for industrial development. Since then, industrial growth has made it necessary for the location of a second industrial park of 80 acres. Both parks are well located adjacent to a four lane highway and the L&N Railroad.

An abundance of electricity and water combine with a large labor force in making these parks an attractive place for industrial growth.

Industrial financing is available through the Wallace Act and the Cater Act of The State of Alabama. In addition to this, government S.B.A. Loans may be served through local industrial boards.

The Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake

To the people of Opp and surrounding area, when someone says rattlesnake, they usually mean the "Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake". Although this is the most common rattlesnake in this area, there are 39 different species and 70 subspecies, all of which are found only in the Western Hemisphere. In order to identify the rattlesnake that is the subject of the Opp Jaycee Rattlesnake Rodeo, we must get right down to specific scientific description: *Crotalus adamanteus*. Our rattlesnake is of the family *Crotalidae*, or pit viper, named for the pit shaped sense organs located in the head. It is of the genus *Crotalus* and the species *adamanteus*.

Now that you have met our subject by his proper name, we will call him rattlesnake again and tell you a few things about him. The rattlesnake is basically a creature of the lower coastal plain, commonly found in the coastal lowlands of the southeastern United States. The Alabama distribution is generally distributed and locally common in the lower coastal plain. The local habitat consists of the relatively dry pine and scrub oak flats and rolling sand hills common to south east Alabama. Abandoned farm land and other typical areas holding a population of small rodents such as rabbit and squirrel along with field mice and rats provide the best area to find a sizable population of diamondback rattlesnakes.

The eastern diamondback rattlesnake gives birth during late summer and early fall. The liveborn litters will range in number from twelve to fifteen and the newborn rattler will be about twelve inches long at birth. The newborn rattler is fully equipped with both fangs and venom at the time of its birth. The venom is the same as the adult snake carries and is not stronger to compensate for the size of the snake as is commonly believed. A young rattler will show more willingness to strike, than an adult. It is only his shorter fangs and smaller supply of venom that makes him less dangerous than an adult, but his volatile temperment helps him compensate for his lack of size. The young are born with a thick layer of fat and can survive for several months without food. But they usually begin hunting immediately, feeding on small lizards, mice and other small animals.

Information on the growth rate of the rattlesnake is generally unreliable, since snakes in the wild are difficult to observe and those in captivity do not grow as they would under natural conditions. However, it has been determined that the diamondback rattlesnake in this area will shed their skins from three to four times a year and increase their length by about one foot. The growth rate of one foot a year will continue until the snake reaches about six feet in length which is considered to be a usual maximum. However, specimens of over seven feet have been turned in at the Opp Jaycee Rattlesnake Rodeo and we continue to receive reports of even larger rattlers being killed; such reports have never been confirmed by the Opp Jaycees. Each year we receive reports of rattlesnakes that have been weighed at thirty or forty pounds, although none ever approaching that size have ever been produced, either dead or alive, for confirmation of weight by the Opp Jaycees during the past 25 years. The average weight of the rattlers turned in at our rodeo has been in the range of seven pounds. The largest, that is the heaviest rattler ever turned in to the Opp Jaycees was 13 pounds 8 ounces.

The rattlesnake's most famous identifying characteristic, his rattle or rattle string, is simply a connected series of hollow dry lobes, one being produced each time the snake sheds his skin, which give off a buzzing sound when the tail is rapidly vibrated. The rattle seems to be primarily a warning mechanism, sounded as a defensive gesture or in nervousness. But it is a reliable warning for persons in rattler country. Other snakes also vibrate their tails in similar fashion and circumstance and may be mistaken as rattlesnakes by the unobservant person. The rattles have no relationship to the age of the snake. The rattlesnake gets a new rat-

(Continued to Page 4)

He sheds his skin each time the skin is shed and as has been mentioned before the rattler in this area will shed three or four times a year on the average. The rattles are brittle and easily torn off after the string of rattles reaches any extra long length.

Like all reptiles, the rattlesnake is a cold blooded reptile, that is he has no internal mechanism for adjusting his temperature. To raise his temperature, he must crawl to warmer surroundings. Therefore much of his activity is influenced by the ambient temperature of the air and ground, the intensity of sunlight, winds, humidity, etc. Below about fifty degrees the rattlesnake becomes sluggish, although he will still strike and move about. He can survive freezing temperatures in sheltered areas and has been known to have been frozen solid and then gradually thawed, with no outward signs of permanent damage.

The rattlesnake is a generally inactive creature. He usually mates once a year and he needs relatively little food. So much of his time is spent resting. But he is a remarkably efficient mechanism when he becomes active. His eyesight is relatively dull, but is particularly suited to identifying movement. And although its range seems to be limited to about fifteen or twenty feet, it can detect small movements within that range. He has no ears, but he is very sensitive to vibrations. Footsteps, movements of brush or objects striking the ground are readily detected. Snakes in captivity have been known to be able to detect footsteps on concrete or sand from as far away as twenty feet.

The first indication that a snake in the wild has sensed something approaching is usually the flicking of the tongue. The tongue is part of the rattlesnake's sense of smell. A pair of pits in the roof of the mouth, known as Jacobson's organs, serves as the receptors of smell. It is this that accounts for the snake's forked tongue: the tips of the two forks fit into these pits. The snake flicks its tongue out and whips it through an arc up and down. In effect, it is combing the air for scent particles. As the tongue picks up minute particles of scent, it rapidly carries them back into its mouth and upward to the Jacobson's organs, where the organs serve as an identifying link with the brain. The scent along with sight and sensitivity to vibration, aids the rattler in identifying the approaching disturbance and identifies it as food or danger.

The final and most remarkable, sensing ability of the rattlesnake rests in the two pits toward the end of its snout. These were long the subject of speculation, and it was not until 1931 that they were positively identified as heat seeking organs. It is these pits that give the rattlesnake its designation as a "pit viper". The pits are temperature-differential receptors. That is, they identify the differences in temperature of objects in

(Continued to Page 5)

Congratulations to the
Opp Jaycees on
25 Years of Success

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the snake surroundings. They are so sensitive that the snake can sense as little as one third of a degree of Fahrenheit. These pits are located one on each side of the snake's head. They not only identify an object of different temperature but allows the snake to zero in on the precise location of the object in question. These organs allow the rattlesnake to hunt and accurately strike prey in absolute darkness.

The keen specialized senses of the rattlesnake lead us to the most fascinating aspect of the rattlesnake. Its bite. The senses only locate the victim: the incidence of bite by the rattlesnake. The U.S. Public Health Service combines the data on all venomous bites, but informed estimates put the number of rattlesnake bites in the U.S. at around 1,000, with perhaps thirty fatalities each year which account for 60 to 70% of total snake bite fatalities. So your chances of a rattlesnake bite are relatively slim on a per-capita basis. But if you spend much time in rattlesnake terrain, the odds will increase considerably.

Like all pit vipers, the rattlesnake has a series of small, solid teeth and two highly specialized fangs. The fangs, hollowed like hypodermic needles, are folded back in sheaths at the roof of the mouth and fed from poison sacs at their base. At the time of the bite the snake swings the fangs down and forward, and they are slightly curved to provide leverage for maximum penetration into the body of the victim.

There are actually two different forms of rattlesnake bite. One is the true bite, occurring when the snake is being held, or stepped on so that it cannot move its body freely. In this instance the snake simply opens its jaws and bites the victim, clamping down as other animals might. But the snake has the unique ability of swinging its fangs independent of one another. If one fang has trouble penetrating, as when it strikes bone, the rattler can arc it forward or back to find an easier point of penetration.

The most famous method of delivering the venom is the strike. Actually a combination of a stabbing motion and a bite. It is awesome in its speed and effectiveness. The entire sequence, from coiled position to strike and injection of venom and back to the coiled position can take place in as little as 1/10 of a second. High-speed cameras have shown clearly the following strike sequence.

The strike begins with a rapid straightening of the coils. The action is much what a person might use in bending an index finger against the thumb, then suddenly releasing it to flick an object off a table top. As the coils in the snake's body snap straight the head is thrust forward with lightening speed and accuracy.

The jaws are closed at the beginning of the strike. But as the head nears the target the upper jaw hinges upward until it reaches a vertical position, or even past vertical. At the same time the lower jaw hinges downward and the fangs swing forward. By the time the head reaches the target the jaws are open almost 180 degrees and the fangs are pointing almost straight forward.

When the target is struck the jaws begin pivoting back together, driving the curved fangs forward and down into the victim. The actual "bite" may last no more than 1/50 of a second, although in some cases the rattlesnake may hold on for several seconds. Usually, however the snake releases its victim and immediately returns to the strike position, ready to hit again if necessary. As the head returns, the jaws close, coming fully together before the snake gets back to position.

Normally the rattlesnake strikes its victim only once. And he even measures out the venom, knowing instinctively the approximate dose necessary for the size of that particular prey. In the case of a victim like a rabbit the snake makes no immediate effort to do anything more at the moment. He simply waits, giving the venom time to work, then begins tracking, using his tongue to follow the scent particles along the trail. When the rattlesnake reaches his victim he again uses his tongue to touch the victim to make sure he is immobile, and determine the size and orientation of the body.

Snakes can swallow prey of surprising size, including animals several times the size of the snake's own head. This is possible because of the unusual structure of the jaws and arrangement of the solid teeth. The rattlesnake's upper and lower jaws are hinged separately and can be moved a considerable distance apart. Moreover, the two sides of the lower jaw are flexibly attached to each other at the front and can be shifted sideways and around the prey. The bones in the jaw are elastic, giving further possibilities of stretching. As the victim begins to go down head first, the four sections of short teeth on the jaws begin to work independently: one section pulling and holding while a second section moves forward and begins to pull the victim in. In short, the four sections of teeth 'ratchet' the victim down the throat while the throat and body stretch to several times their normal size. The pressure of the jaws and throat squeezes the victim and constricts him to make swallowing easier.

The venom of the rattlesnake does more than simply dispatch the prey; it helps digest him as well. And this fact makes the venom doubly dangerous. The venom of a pit viper is a complex mixture of substances having several different purposes. Despite the common belief that the venom of a rattlesnake 'attacks the blood' and that of a coral snake 'attacks the nervous system', the two venoms do both, although in varying degrees. But they also do more. The venom of the rattlesnake is a combination of various proteins, with smaller amounts of salts, carbohydrates, water, and microorganisms. Each of the components has a different effect on the body of the victim. There are neurotoxic elements that immediately begin attacking the

(Continued to Page 6)

cells of the central nervous system. Hemorrhagins destroy the lining of the walls of blood vessels. Other constituents produce clots within blood vessels, while still others begin destroying red blood corpuscles and cells of other tissues. Yet other elements slow coagulation of the blood and begin fermenting body cells for digestion. And because a snake's mouth is a natural reservoir for bacteria, infection is immediately introduced into the site. In fact, one of the common dangers of snakebite is the threat of gangrene coupled with bacterial infection.

There is no one single set of symptoms universally present after a rattlesnake bite. Differences arise because of different allergic responses, psychological reaction, and even differences from one snake specimen to another. But in general the following symptoms have been observed following rattlesnake bite: immediate, intense pain; swelling; weakness and giddiness; difficulty in breathing and swallowing; nausea; hemorrhage; weak pulse or even heart failure; paralysis; unconsciousness; partial blindness.

First-aid treatment for snakebite has been widely publicized. But too little attention has been given to the other side of this treatment: frequently the treatment proves more damaging than the bite. In the first place, a person suddenly struck by a snake somewhere in the woods is apt to believe, seeing only a dark-colored mottled snake sliding off through the bushes, that it was automatically a rattlesnake. It may have been a non-poisonous variety, which is also capable of inflicting a wound and may even leave the appearance of two fang marks. Too-hasty incisions, usually done improperly, can damage nerves and blood vessels and introduce a nasty infection. Tourniquets applied improperly frequently cause gangrene themselves. Moreover, even actual rattlesnake strikes frequently do not inject venom. Many so-called "miraculous" recoveries from rattlesnake bites have come about because the snake simply did not inject venom, either because the venom was depleted or because the snake somehow knew the victim was too big, and so did not waste its venom. This fact, too, accounts for the supposed success of certain old-fashioned "remedies" for snakebite. The best treatment for snakebite is prompt, qualified medical care with anti-venom serum. Only lacking that, and only with certainty that a poisonous bite has occurred, should anyone attempt treatment as drastic as incision. If medical attention is not too far away, then a simple snug tourniquet or ice pack is sufficient emergency treatment.

The only sure relief for snakebite is to prevent it in the first place. And since you don't care to tangle with a rattlesnake, take comfort in the fact that the rattlesnake does not want to tangle with you. His diet is mice, rabbits, squirrels, birds, eggs, lizards, frogs, and other snakes, not humans. He strikes at a person only as a last resort, when we come walking blindly upon him. But since his usual hunting habit is to lie still and wait for prey, not to go seeking it, he may be waiting under that log or bush as we go stepping over. Common sense and care, perhaps combined with a good pair of snake-proof boots or leggings, can keep us out of the jaws of *C. adamanteus*.

Finally, it is worth noting that a great many snakebites in the U.S. are what is known as "illegitimate" bites. That is, they occur while someone is handling a snake or attempting to catch or kill it. And the rattler, like other poisonous snakes, has a little trick that has surprised more than one ignorant person trying to chase it down. In attempting to escape a pursuer a rattler, coming upon cover like a log or animal burrow, ducks its head in the cover and immediately turns the head back toward the pursuer to defend itself, even before the rest of the body has been pulled inside. Thus the head can be at the opening of the burrow while over half the body is still outside. A person chasing what he thinks is the tail of the rattlesnake may be running right up to easy striking distance of the fangs.

NOTES ON THE DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE

Ross Allen, Silver Springs, Florida: "Comparing the diamondback (*C. adamanteus*) with other rattlesnakes I have handled, I find it, on the average, to be the most dangerous and most persistent striker of all. The western diamondback (*C. atrox*) is the only close second. I have seen diamondbacks that would continue to rattle and strike at me dozens of times each day for a month. Like other snakes, their temperaments and reactions vary, according to the snake and conditions.

"If a diamondback has a chance to crawl away respectably, and hide from an intruder, he will do so, but if approached, certain individuals will coil and rattle and blow and strike viciously. I have never known the diamondback to attack, but have seen them strike with such force as to slide forward. I have seen diamondbacks, after striking in vain and becoming discouraged, crawl away, nevertheless assuming a defensive position as they crawled backwards or sideways into the brush. I can safely say that the eastern diamondback rattlesnake, as a general rule, will stand his ground and fight rather than retreat or escape."

STRIKING DISTANCE

The distance a rattlesnake can reach in its strike depends upon several conditions, such as the posture of
(Continued to Page 7)

the snake, the terrain, and the snake's irritability. Numerous observations have shown the snake able to strike up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ its length, but there are reports of snakes striking a distance equal to their lengths or even slightly greater. A mature 4 or 5-foot rattlesnake will usually begin its strike with the head from 8 to 12 inches off the ground, aiming slightly downward. However, the rattlesnake can strike straight up or in any direction around with surprising speed. One recorded incident documents the strike of a 6-foot *adamanteus* that went upward at a 45-degree angle and hit a man in the leg 22 inches above the ground — and above the victim's snake-proof boots.

CLIMBING

Rattlesnakes seldom climb trees, but they are perfectly capable of doing so. Because of his stout body, he cannot climb as swiftly as the more slender snakes, but numerous reports exist of rattlesnakes found in trees, up to 15 feet above the ground. Rattlesnakes have also been found sprawled in the tops of low bushes. Presumably, the snakes climb in a search for food: birds, eggs, lizards, etc.

SNAKEBITE

Many cases of rattlesnake bites are thoroughly documented in medical literature. Following is a brief account of an *adamanteus* bite inflicted on Ross Allen, struck in the side of the leg near the knee cap:

"This was the worst snake bite in the history of the Reptile Institute. Due to the great quantity of venom injected, different and heretofore undescribed symptoms were experienced. Twenty-five minutes after the bite he could not walk and it was difficult to breathe. Every muscle of the body jumped and twitched spasmodically, due to the neurotoxic effect of the venom. This continued for five days and was the most dreadful and exhausting experience of any of his many injuries. The hemolytic effect of the venom caused his right leg to swell and turn black from the ankle to hip. During the fourth and fifth days, which the doctor said were the most critical, Ross was too weak to talk. The hemolytic effect also caused an anemic condition by the fourth day, in spite of four blood transfusions. On the sixth day, like a miracle, a marked improvement was evident."

CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK OF OPP

THANKS OPP JAYCEES FOR
25 YEARS OF RATTLESNAKE
RODEOS AND SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY.



MEMBER F.D.I.C.

"DEAD" RATTLESNAKES

Rattlesnakes remain dangerous long after they are supposedly dead. One man was bitten by a rattlesnake that had been cut into three pieces; the head segment was still able to strike and bite. In studies made of decapitated rattlesnake heads, researchers have found the jaws capable of opening and closing at the mere approach of an object. Numerous reports exist of persons bitten by a severed rattlesnake head and the body of a rattlesnake can strike at a touch up to several hours after supposed death. In fact, research has shown that even a decapitated snake retains a heartbeat for at least 24 hours and sometimes for 48 hours or more.

FOOD

Eastern diamondbacks feed mainly on rabbits, squirrels, rats, and birds. Their preferred food is the cottontail rabbit. But they have been observed feeding on quail, woodpeckers, and young turkeys. A full-grown diamondback has no difficulty swallowing a large rabbit. Usually the rattler consumes his prey at the site of the kill, but they have been known to drag the victim back into the shade of a bush before commencing the swallowing process.

CONCEALMENT

Rattlesnakes are ideally colored and patterned to blend in with the typical surroundings of the coastal plains. They prefer to lie in wait for their prey to pass by, rather than hunt. They usually lie near a place of retreat, such as a burrow, log, or brush pile. If you suddenly hear a rattlesnake while walking through the woods, don't panic. Stand perfectly still until you can locate the snake. The direction of sound may be misleading, and if you try to escape blindly you may walk right into him. Remember that the rattle is his method of letting you know that he is on the scene, so you can avoid him. Once you have him spotted, back straight away. There is no convincing evidence that a rattlesnake will deliberately attack a human. Rattlesnake bites occur because people walk into the snake, not because the snake comes after people. But a rattler on his own territory is a fairly confident animal. He will not go crawling off simply because he sense your approach. Instead, he will usually hold his ground and depend on you to avoid him.

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SNAKEBITE IN THE U.S.

Over 6,000 cases of snakebite are treated annually by U.S. physicians, but deaths only average around 15 per year. The greatest number of bites is reported in Texas, around 1,000 annually. But on a per-capita basis the rate is highest in North Carolina. Arizona, Texas, Georgia and Florida lead in the number of fatalities, primarily from the rattlesnake.

In foreign countries snakebite is highest among adult males, but in the U.S. it is highest among children and teenagers. Most persons are bitten within a mile of their homes. Comparatively few bites are reported among hunters, campers, or swimmers. However, there have been several reports of water skiers bitten by cottonmouths. The New York Metropolitan area reports around 10 snakebites each year, virtually all involving snake collectors, sideshow performers, and religious groups.

TOXICITY OF VENOM

The eastern diamondback rattlesnake accounts for many of the snakebite fatalities in the U.S. This is due to the relative abundance of the diamondback, the toxicity of the venom, and the amount of venom produced. However, in a contest of venom toxicity alone the diamondback would not even be in the running. The table below shows approximate venom toxicity of several snakes of the world, beginning with the most toxic. The figures are expressed in milligrams; one ounce U.S. weight contains approximately 28,000 milligrams.

Snake	Country	Estimated Lethal Dose for Adult Human, in Milligrams
Beaked sea snake	South Asian waters	1 1/2 mg
Indian krait	India and Pakistan	2 to 3 mg
Australian brown snake	Australia	2 to 3 mg
North American coral snake	North America	4 to 5 mg
Brazilian rattlesnake	South America	10 mg
Mojave rattlesnake	North America	10 to 14 mg
Asian cobra	Asia	15 to 20 mg
Sidewinder	North America	40 to 50 mg
Eastern diamondback	North America	75 to 100 mg
Cottonmouth moccasin	North America	100 to 150 mg
Copperhead	North America	150 mg or more

3541424



SATURDAY MARCH 3RD, 1984

Tentative Schedule Of Events
GATES OPEN 8:00 A.M.
CHANNELL-LEE STADIUM

- 9:00— Parade (Downtown)
- 10:00— Kick-Off Festivities
— Stadium · with Arts & Crafts Open
- 10:05— Welcome & Introduction
- 10:10— Band Starts
- 10:45— Snake Show
- 11:15— Snake Race
— First Heat
- 11:30— Bounty to Snake Hunters
- 11:45— Karate Demonstration
- 12:30— Snake Race
Second Heat
- 12:45— World Championship
Buck Dance Contest
& Guest "Clogger" Groups
- 2:00— Introduce Queen & Court
- 2:30— Snake Show
- 3:00— Sky Divers
- 3:30— Final Snake Race
- 3:45— Presentation to
"Snake Race" winner
- 4:00— Ala. High School Stock Rodeo
Opp Saddle Club Rodeo
- 7:30— Gospel Sing
— Opp High School Auditorium



SUNDAY
MARCH 4th, 1984

Tentative Schedule Of Events

GATES OPEN AT 12:00 NOON
CHANNELL-LEE STADIUM

- 12:00 Noon— Gates Open
- 1:00— Introduction & Welcome
- 1:15— Snake Show
- 1:30— Introduction of Queen & Court
- 2:00— Rattler 100 Stock Car Race
South Alabama Motor Speedway

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Saturday, March 3rd
8:00 til 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 4th
12:00 noon til 5:00 p.m.





STATE OF ALABAMA
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, since 1959, the OPP JAYCEES have promoted and sponsored the annual "Rattlesnake Rodeo" event held the first week in March each year; and

WHEREAS, the rodeo attracts approximately 20,000 visitors from all 50 states and many foreign nations, and

WHEREAS, the OPP JAYCEE RATTLESNAKE RODEO raises funds for many charitable, scholastic, civic and community programs, benefiting the citizens of the City of Opp and the State of Alabama; and

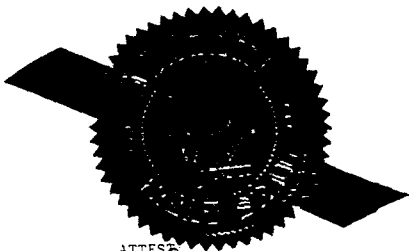
WHEREAS, OPP JAYCEE RATTLESNAKE RODEO continues to grow and bring pleasure, entertainment and other benefits to growing numbers of Alabamians and honored guests, and at the same time, to achieve national and international recognition and publicity favorable to the City of Opp and to the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the 25th ANNUAL OPP JAYCEE RATTLESNAKE RODEO has been scheduled for March 2, 3, and 4, 1984, and will be held in the City of Opp, Alabama on those dates;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George C. Wallace, Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 2, 3, and 4, 1984 as

OPP JAYCEE ANNUAL RATTLESNAKE RODEO WEEK
SILVER ANNIVERSARY

in Alabama.



ATTEST

Don Stegeman
DON STEGEMAN
SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Alabama to be affixed by the Secretary of State at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this the 16th day of February, 1984.

George C. Wallace
GEORGE C. WALLACE
GOVERNOR

3541427

VENOM EFFECT ON HUMANS

There is a wide range of symptoms from a rattlesnake bite, and not all of them may be evident in every case. But the following are the most frequent reported symptoms.

PAIN The pain usually begins immediately, with great intensity. Victims report a fiery sensation around the area of the bite. However, some victims reported little or no pain until considerable time had passed.

SWELLING Virtually all reports describe a severe swelling, and this is considered one of the key diagnostic signs of poisonous snakebite. The swelling usually begins rapidly, at the site of the bite, coupled with blue or black discoloration of tissue as the venom breaks down the lining of blood vessels. The swelling gradually spreads toward the heart and can become so severe that the skin ruptures and splits. If the bite is in a limb, swelling may reach the trunk of the body within 24 hours or less.

DIZZINESS Victims report weakness, giddiness, faintness, and even loss of consciousness. These are probably complicated by fright and shock. Nevertheless, this is one of the great dangers to a person who is alone when bitten: he may find himself physically unable to seek help.

DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING This usually occurs rapidly, and may persist for a day, or even several days, depending upon the severity of the bite and the promptness of treatment. It is frequently accompanied by a numbness in part of the body, or even an entire side of the body.

HEMORRHAGE The wound frequently oozes fluid and blood because of the anticoagulant action of the venom. In addition, bleeding may be evident from the mouth, nose, and internal organs.

CIRCULATORY PROBLEMS The pulse becomes very rapid, as much as twice the normal rate, and feeble and erratic. There is usually a lowering of the blood pressure and the temperature. Severe anemia is generally seen, and may last for a long period after the patient has otherwise recovered.

MISCELLANEOUS Rattlesnake bite frequently brings with it a range of nervous disturbances, including temporary blindness, local paralysis, difficulty in swallowing, cold sweats, thirst, facial tics, and general lack of coordination. In some cases these symptoms have persisted for up to two years after the bite.

Standard treatment for snakebite uses the "three A's": antivenom, antitetanus, and antibiotics.

RECOMMENDED READING

RATTLESNAKES: Their Habits, Life Histories, and Influence on Mankind in two volumes, by Laurence M. Klauber of California Press, published for the Zoological Society of San Diego, 1972.

THE RATTLESNAKE'S NEIGHBORS

Although the Opp Jaycees have tried to reduce the rattlesnake population in this area, it recognizes the urgent need to support wildlife protection and conservation in general. For this reason the Club urges compliance with state and Federal fish and game laws, and respect for our natural resources. Some neighbors of the rattlesnake need our protection, and we hope the public will join in guarding the threatened animals and plants of our state.

Rattlesnakes frequently hibernate in the burrow of the gopher tortoise, *Gopherus polyphemus*. This animal is still fairly common in South Alabama, but his existence is now seriously threatened. Once plentiful throughout the entire southeastern United States, his population has dwindled so that substantial numbers now exist only in north-central Florida, Southern Georgia and Southern Alabama.

The gopher tortoise is one of only three true tortoises in the United States. With his shovel-like forelimbs he digs a burrow up to 35 feet long and 10 feet deep. This burrow provides a refuge for over 40 species of animals. The gopher tortoise has been protected by laws in South Carolina and Florida. This peaceful, plant-eating animal has been around for 60 million years, but it will probably take the protection of man to save him from extinction now.

Another threatened animal found in rattlesnake country is the eastern indigo snake, *Drymarchon corais couperi*. This snake is found only in parts of Florida, Alabama and the Georgia Coastal Plain, and his numbers are declining. He is protected by both state and federal laws. Because the indigo snake is a large, slow-moving snake, he is frequently killed by people who automatically kill any snake. This is a double tragedy, because the indigo is not only a beautiful and rare animal, he is a natural enemy of the rattlesnake. Auburn University has re-stocking projects underway at the present time.

The Florida Pine Snake, *Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*, is another frequent victim of man. Found only in the Coastal Plains of the southeastern states, he feeds on such small mammals as rats and mice. But he is a large snake, up to 7 feet long, with dark blotches and an appearance that some people confuse with the rattlesnake. When disturbed he pulls himself up into a defensive posture and hisses loudly. But he is harmless to man and a valuable part of Alabama's outdoor life.

Another neighbor of the rattlesnake is the gopher frog, *Rana areolata*. This little creature, with a large head and a plump body, is about 4 inches long and commonly lives in the gopher tortoise burrow. He is found in the lower and middle coastal plains of Georgia. He breeds in ponds and his call, which sounds like a deep snore, can be heard up to a quarter-mile away.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

OPP, ALABAMA

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, the Jaycee Club of Opp, Alabama, has through its indefatigable effort since 1959 elevated the Eastern Diamond-back Rattlesnake to a high level of interest throughout the nation by the establishment of the Opp Jaycee Rattlesnake Rodeo as an annual event held every March in Opp, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Jaycee Club of Opp, Alabama, has invited and hosted in Opp, Alabama, as many as 20,000 spectators and participants from all states and many nations to attend and enjoy the Opp Jaycee Rattlesnake Rodeo; and

WHEREAS, the Opp Jaycee Rattlesnake Rodeo has raised a considerable amount of money which has been donated and granted to many charitable, scholastic, civic and other projects and programs benefiting the citizens of the City of Opp and the State of Alabama; and

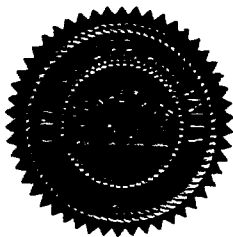
WHEREAS, the Opp Jaycee Rattlesnake Rodeo continues to grow and to bring pleasure, entertainment and other benefits to growing numbers of Alabamians and visitors, and, at the same time, to achieve national and international recognition and publicity favorable to the City of Opp and to the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Twenty-fifth Annual Opp Jaycee Rattlesnake Rodeo has been scheduled for March 3-4, 1984, and will be the Silver Anniversary Celebration for this event in the City of Opp, Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Malcom L. Senn, Sr., Mayor of the City of Opp, Alabama, do hereby proclaim the first week in March as

OPP JAYCEE RATTLESNAKE RODEO WEEK

in Opp, Alabama.



ATTEST:

Myrle J. [Signature]
CITY CLERK

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this city of be affixed on this the 15th day of February, 1984.

Malcom L. Senn, Sr.
MAYOR

3541429

The use of snake venoms in many ways which greatly benefit man may seem at first to be a contradiction in view of the less than favorable effects which venoms have on man when directly delivered by the bite of a venomous snake. While the consequences of a venomous snake bite has been known and feared since the very beginning of man, the positive aspects of man's relationship with venomous snakes through the use of venoms have only been recently realized. The most common and an use of snake venoms in the treatment of patients for treatment of snake bite, a use which was first developed less than 100 years ago and which has only come into general use within the last 40 years. Although antivenin can be undeniable value to a victim of snake bite, mankind stands to benefit to a much greater degree from the recently developed uses of snake venoms in the research laboratory, and from present and future uses of snake venoms to treat disease.

In the research laboratory, certain toxins and enzymes which can be purified from various snake venoms have been used by scientists to learn more about the way cells and nerves work, this knowledge potentially leading to medical treatments for various human disease. For example, enzymes obtained from the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake are used to study the chemical structure of proteins such as polypeptides which have the potential for use in treating disease. The venom produced from the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes brought in last year (and this year) to the Rattlesnake Roundup sponsored by the Odd Jobscees was used and will be used in research of this nature in laboratories throughout the world.

Venoms from snakes found in other parts of the world also have important uses in the research laboratory. Cobra venom and venom from a Southeast Asian snake known as the many banded krait have proven to be indispensable to the study of nerve cells. Although they have proven as effective for use in man, cobra and krait venom are now being tested as a possible medication to relieve symptoms of such diseases as multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis. A preparation derived from cobra venom is now used in some parts of the world to relieve pain in terminally ill cancer patients. An anticoagulant prepared from the venom of a viper found in Malaysia is widely used in Europe and Asia. Hospitals in the United States use a Middle Eastern viper venom to test blood coagulation rates of patients suffering from certain diseases.

While this brief review only skims the surface of the literally hundreds of uses which now exist for snake venoms, it is to be recognized that almost all of these uses have been discovered within the last 20 years. Almost certainly, hundreds of additional uses remain to be found by chemists and medical researchers. It is not only probable but even likely that programs now in progress or programs which will be undertaken in the relatively near future will prove to be of even greater benefit to mankind than the work which has already been done. The fearsome serpent which is associated in some regions with man's fall from grace and which is undeniably responsible for much human death and suffering over the ages is now proving and likely will further prove to be of great assistance in improving man's knowledge of his own body and in treating diseases which have plagued man since the dawn of time. The sum of man's experiences with venomous snakes in particular will likely on balance prove to be of greater benefit than detriment.

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Andalusia, Alabama

OPP RATTLESNAKE RODEO HISTORY

By George Johnson and Jerry Kirkland

Diamondback rattlesnakes have been rattlin' their rattlers since the beginning of time to attract attention. And that's exactly what they have done in South Alabama in the County of Covington and more specifically in the City of Opp. They have been getting attention! The first weekend in March is a magic time for thousands of people who make their way to Opp for its annual Opp Jaycee Rattlesnake Rodeo.

Granddaddy of the Rattlesnake Hunters

J.P. Jones, who has the honor of being the "Granddaddy" of the Opp Rattlesnake Rodeo, envolved the Opp Jaycees in the rattlesnake endeavor in 1959. Previously, he had displayed rattlesnakes at his Parkmore Restaurant which also sported a small zoo. In the zoo was a "friendly" bear who would wrestle Mr. Jones or a volunteer from within the circle of watchers. He mostly wrestled with J.P. There were very few volunteers to "wrestle" the bear.

Jaycees Welcome a Chance for Action

Mr. Jones said that he worked for years trying to find a organization that would work with him to rid Covington County of the dreaded menace, the rattlesnake. He couldn't have found a more supportive group The Opp Jaycees were young in age and inquisitive in nature. The snakes, like the mountains in some areas to be climbed, were out there and this was a new experience and challenge to match their eagerness.

Jim Williams was president of the Jaycees at the time and Fletcher Rodgers was made chairman of Opp's first rattlesnake Rodeo. Dr. R.E. Howell, an Optometrist and rattlesnake authority from Geneva County, presented a program to the Jaycees and assisted in setting up the procedures for its first rattlesnake rodeo. For the 1959 effort 44 rattlesnakes were turned in, the largest weighing 8 1/2 lbs.

It was done this way

Once the project was accepted the hunters of snakes took to the woods seeking its goal, the diamond-back rattlesnake. Sometimes hunters went in groups of a dozen, it was more fun that way, and sometimes as individual hunters. Prizes were offered. For the largest number of snakes Eastern Diamondback rattlers, there was a prize. Heaviest Eastern Diamondback Rattler retriever would also get a cash prize. The money,

(Continued to Page 17)

was good and the challenge even more exciting.

In the beginning the hunting was simple. Just take an orange which has been filled with gasoline and roll it down in a gopher hole, the abode also of the rattlesnake. Or take a teaspoonful of gasoline and pour it down a length of garden hose which has been placed in the gopher hole, listen for the rattle and get out of the way. The fumes will drive the snake out of its burrow and onto the ground surface. Then carefully, very carefully, take snake hook and secure the snake just behind the head to the ground, pick him up and dump him in your duffell bag or other safe container.

Environmentalists step in

The environmentalist will not go along with the gasoline system today saying that other species of wildlife were being destroyed in the process. Today, the hunter has to dig up the snakes by means of a shovel. Of course the hunter wants to make sure that snake is in the hole before he does the digging. This can be ascertained by a probing garden hose inserted into the gopher hole. Its rattle will let the hunter know that he is there and has been distributed. Environmentalists are mainly interested in protecting Indigo Snakes, Gopher Crickets and Terrapin Gophers. At the present time they are in plentiful supply, but the concern being present, hunters abide by the rules. Dispite the annual harvesting, Diamondback Rattlesnakes elude the searchers and continue to survive in abundance.

Lure of the Wild

The lure of the snake hunt is great. It's the call of the wild to grown, bearded men. It's the frontier to the city man, atop a fine horse, deadhead mule or striding through a briar patch while tearing fashion jeans to shreds. It's a restless husband spending three weeks in the woods drinking black coffee and eating burnt bacon and smelling like a pole cat and sleeping on rocks and twigs at night while his soft bed in an air-conditioned room lies unrumpled at home, and his wife worries about his health. It's bugs and ants biting and chewing, and the rain falling in the face - and it's fun!

And its beautiful girls

A festival of any kind is incomplete without beautiful girls, and throughout the celebration, the Rattlesnake Rodeo has had its fair share of beauty. 1965 was the beginning with the first queen being Patricia Dillard of Opp, followed by another Opp girl in 1966, Dianne Eiland.

Continuing the listing of Opp Rattlesnake Queens: 1967, Rita Thomas - Blakely, Ga.; 1968, Nelda Mathews - Dothan, 1969; Dianne Nelson - Crestview, Fla.; 1970, Cathy Renfro - Montgomery; 1971, Jo Ann Williams - Milton, Fla.; 1972, Faye Allen - Tallapoosa, Ga.; 1973, Glenda Gail Kelly - Elba; 1974, Beth Little - Andalusia, 1975, Diane Adams - Troy; 1976, Jan Scofield - Opp; 1977, Cindy Anderson - Daleville; 1978, Gina Phillips - Opp; 1979, Lynn Whitehurst - Elba; 1980, Deborah Williams - Daleville; 1981, Panda Kelseo - Brantley, 1982, Leslie Canter - Bessemer and 1983, Wanda Gillman - Defuniak Springs, Fla. Winners receive a \$1,000 scholarship to the college of her choice.

Prize for the smallest snake

Six weeks of bad weather almost wrecked the rodeo activities in 1960. 44 snakes were turning in. John A. Burgess won a \$5.00 prize for turning in the smallest diamondback rattler.

Rodeo almost comes to a standstill

1961, 1962 and 1963 were the lean years with practically no organized activities going on. J.P. Jones kept the interest on hold with his displays at the Parkmore Restaurant.

A shot in the arm

1964 brought a brand new beginning. Cliff Kersey was president of the Jaycees and J.P. Jones was chairman of the Jaycees new revitalized rattlesnake rodeo. With these two men in charge everything was on "Go". This was the first year for the Jaycees to cook rattlesnake meat at the Parkmore Restaurant on Highway 331 South.

Eat Rattlesnake Meat! You gotta be kidding

To eat rattlesnake meat was the daring thing to do. It suddenly became the in-thing. "If you will, I will" was heard throughout the crowds watching the popular Jaycees cooking the new treat. Everyone had his own idea as to how it tasted. The Jaycees liked to hear tasters say, "It's just like good ole crunchy southern fried chicken." Some tasters didn't agree with this assessment but the small portions went like the proverbial "hotcakes". There was never enough to satisfy the demands.

Horseback rattlesnake hunting

1965 was the year that the smarter snake hunters started searching for the snakes on horseback. Largest snake taken was 10 and one-quarter pounds. Captain DeLoach Jordan of the 324th Special War Force Center from Ft. Bragg, South Carolina and a group came and put on a demonstration about snakes and the reptiles were taken back to the center to be used in jungle warfare training.

This was the year that the beauty pageant became a vital part of the rattlesnake rodeo.

(Continued to Page 18)

11 Lbs. Snake

1966 saw the biggest rattlesnake turned in up to that time, an eleven pounder. 175 snakes were harvested. Mr. J.O. Churchill of Samson, Alabama brought in 9 snakes, bringing his total up to 345 diamondback rattlesnakes turned in during the life of rattlesnake rodeos. He was 89 years old at the time.

National Media Attention

1967 was the year that national media services got into the act. Some environmentalists and ecologists criticized the events saying that the rattlesnakes were being eliminated from the area, but the rattlesnakes just kept multiplying and being more plentiful each year.

On January 19, 1967 someone raided the snake pens and stole "Big Daddy" a eleven and three-quarter pound diamondback and some other snakes, but they got "Big Daddy" at night and with no lights on.

A national wire service listed the action as the most stupid theft ever done among block-headed idiots. Over 200 snakes were turned in that year, a record for the event. A credit to president Billy Johnson and a fine group of Jaycees.

Opp Merchants get into the act

1968 saw the city merchants starting to assist with the rattlesnake rodeo. Mrs. Virginia Benton was chairman of the Retail Merchants Association. Snake activities were brought into town. This was the year of the first snake race. Rapid Rattler no. 1, owned and operated, maybe pushed, by WAMI Radio won the race. This race was the idea of Opp News publisher Robert Burgess. The Gopher Hole Golf Tournament was begun. The Archery tournament along with square dancing were popular. Over 220 snakes were registered, the largest being eleven and three-quarter pounds.

Most Snakes

1969 was the event of 375 rattlesnakes turned in for the rodeo. Andy Anderson was president of the Jaycees; he later became a state officer for Jaycees.

(Continued to Page 19)

**CONGRATULATIONS OPP JAYCEES ON YOUR
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Miss Canada comes to Opp

1970 was the year of big exposure. President Billy Scofield arranged for Miss Canada, beauty queen, to visit the rattlesnake rodeo in her royal capacity. Some Japanese movie makers were on hand with cameras rolling. Brother Lucifer, snake entry of Opp Motor Lodge, won the snake race. Over 250 snakes were turned in for prizes.

Omar, the Snakeman

1971 saw Tommy Cowden, the famous Omar the Snakeman, buried alive under dozens of live rattlesnakes for people to view. He was a crowd pleaser. Jack Smith was president and a new super snake handler. The first year that over 100 girls enter the beauty pageant. "Little Earl" won the snake race for Jones' Men Shop.

Over 200 Pounds of Cooked Rattlenake sold

1972 began the leadership of Jerry Kirkland with master of ceremonies potential abilities made known. Jerry was president of the Jaycees and initiated the World Championship Buck Dance Contest this year. The snake race was won by "Big Diamond" from Covington Jewelers.

The Big Snow

1973 was the year of the snow in Opp, the most Opp had seen in 100 years. Despite the adverse weather over 200 snakes were turned in. Kenneth Benton, as president of the Jaycees, saw a new snake trailer built and everything moved to town, the football stadium and the Four U Service Station. Winner of the snake race was "Ready Cash" for Citizens National Bank.

12 Pounder

1974 brought in the additional attraction of the Rattler 100 Car Race at South Alabama Motor Speedway. A twelve-pound rattler was brought in. "Honest Pete" the entrant of Farmers IGA Foodliner won the snake race. Paul Smith was president of the Jaycees.

DEE WYATT

1975 saw the rodeo being dedicated to Little Dee Wyatt, 4 year old son of Carroll and Mary Charles Wyatt. Dee was struck down by a rattlesnake in his own yard after chasing a ball into the bushes.

The Golf Tournament was dedicated to the late Johnny Boles.

Gerald Martin was president of the Opp Jaycees; and Doc Walls, expert snake handler, demonstrated the art of snake handling with the "King Cobra." Doc was famous for his "Kiss of Death" with the Cobra.

Football star, Tommy Nevils, from the New England Patriots was in attendance.

Also in 1975 the Opp "Rattlesnake Rodeo" was listed in the top tourist attractions nationally in February and March.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

1976 - Introduced arts and crafts to the annual rodeo. Don Childre was president; and the snake race was won by "Mighty Vitamin", entered by Clemons Drug Store.

"WEDDING BELLS FOR OMAR"

1977 brought the wedding ceremony for Tommy Cowden (Omar the Snake Man) and Geneva Webb. However, the preacher would not conduct the ceremony within the "Snake Pit." This was Omar's farewell to snake handling, I guess he finally got struck by something a little more powerful than snakes. Oh yes; there were over 275 snakes turned in this year.

"LARGEST SNAKE"

1978 found the largest rattler yet to be turned in to the rodeo. A twelve and three quarter pounder was entered. Paul Wise was president of the Jaycees.

"WASHINGTON D.C. WANTS SNAKE VENOM"

1979 saw Paul Wise continuing his roll as president. Washington, D.C. sent officials to Opp, AL to collect rattlesnake venom for medical research purposes. This also was the only year in which the "Rattlesnake Rodeo" had to be postponed a week down the road due to inclement weather. The next weekend was great and the rodeo continued its success.

"TV'S REAL PEOPLE SHOW UP"

1980 elevated Johnny Wayne Blair to president of the Opp Jaycees and the popular TV show, "Real People" checked on the rodeo activities. Over 200 rattlesnakes were turned in again this year.

"P.M. MAGAZINE FOCUSES ON US"

1981 puts P.M. Magazine personnel in Opp, AL to film the celebration. Each year since then a show has been filmed for viewing by the P.M. Magazine audience. This year Kenny Wood served as president.

"RATTLESNAKE 100 NASCAR STOCK CAR RACE"

1982 brings a new activity to the rodeo. The South Alabama Motor Speedway, located between Opp and Kinston, took on big names in stock car racing. Ronnie Sanders was winner of that Sunday's stock car race. Jay Mikel took over as president this year. Mayor Emory Folmar, of Montgomery, was beauty pageant M.C. over 87 entries.

"RODEO GAINS IN PROMINENCE"

1983 - The "Rattlesnake Rodeo" began to make giant strides toward establishing even greater recognition. The rodeo was no longer just a stadium event. To rodeo week was added "Press Night" by Robert Booth. A gospel sing headlining "Wendy Bagwell and the Sunlighters" was begun. The largest group of arts and crafts to ever attend lined the stadium. The snake race was won by "Wet Ink", who was entered by "The Opp News." 1983 found the first CPG (Chairman's Planning Guide) to be written by the Opp Jaycees, and submitted for statewide competition. The Opp Jaycees won 2nd place in the judging -Great for first year competition. Jay Mikel served as chapter president and Kenn Howell served as Rattlesnake Rodeo chairman.

1983 also produced the largest rattlesnake ever turned in to the Opp Jaycees. A record of 13 pounds and 8 ounces of rattler was turned in and has his picture on the cover of this program.

In 1983 a bill was introduced into legislation to exempt the Opp Jaycees from paying taxes on money we

(Continued to Page 21)

earn from the rodeo and spend on underprivileged children and continued education. Senator Crum Foshee and Representative Seth Hammett introduced the bill and it was passed and became law with no opposition.

"AND THE BEST GOES ON — THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY IS HERE"

1984 will find the Silver Anniversary of the Rattlesnake Rodeo taking place. More and bigger events are scheduled for this year. So big, and so popular, that Mayor Malcolm Senn of Opp, Alabama and Governor George Wallace have jointly declared the first week in March as "Opp Rattlesnake Rodeo Week." This is an honor bestowed upon the Opp Jaycees for 25 years of entertainment with the rodeo, service to the community, and development of young men and women into future leaders of our nation.

The snake handlers get better each year. The events of rodeo week get bigger and the word of the "Rattlesnake Rodeo" in Opp, AL and its great people still continue to grow and spread. Each year more and more guests from all over the United States and several foreign nations appear in Opp, Alabama the first week in March for the Opp Jaycees Annual "Rattlesnake Rodeo." We, the Opp Jaycees, and the City of Opp, welcome you to our 25th rodeo, and hope you will do us the honor of returning next year for our 26th annual "Opp Jaycees Rattlesnake Rodeo."

Have fun, come back to see us.
And God bless you one and all.

THE OPP JAYCEES

Congratulations Opp Jaycees on 25 years of signs of progress with the "Rattlesnake Rodeo" and service to the community.

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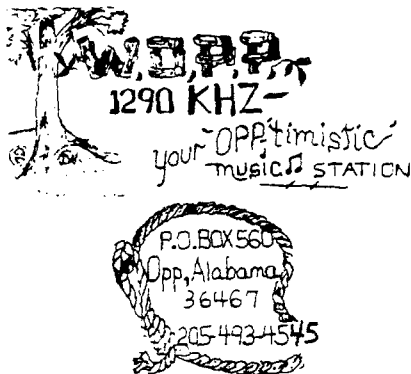
Opp Jaycees Rattlesnake Rodeo

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Silk Screened Rattlesnake Rodeo shirts and caps are available from us throughout the year.

Congratulations Opp Jaycees past and present for 25 years of Rattlesnake Rodeo and community service.



Robert Boothe, General Manager

1984 OPP JAYCEES SILVER ANNIVERSARY RATTLESNAKE RODEO COMMITTEE



Standing - Left to right - Jay Mikel, Lamar Holliford, Dave Lummas, Ronnie Mallory, Randy Brown, Olin Harden (nearly hidden), Lex Colquett, Rev. Jerry Kirkland, George Whitten, Therrell Wise, Ronald Hall, Paul Wise, Robert Booth, Buddy Wise, Kenn Howell and his daughter Magen, Mike Bowman, Grant Dozier, James Hall, Dennis Cunningham, Gary Brooks, and Jerry Hartzog.

Ladies - Left to right - Jane Davis, Gail Mallory, Mrs. Lamar Holliford, T.D. Lummas, Mrs. Randy Brown, Dr. Faith Howell, Dianne Whitten, Patti Hartzog, Jackie Bowman, and daughter Nickki, Ladonna Wise, and Cathy Mikel.

Jaycees working on the rodeo not pictured: Auston Davis, Ed Bess, Don Childre, Larry Davis, Mike Gent, Billy Scofield, Tommy Wood, George Johnson, Carol Childre, Teresa Harden, Polly Benton, and Pam Northey.



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- *Steer Wrestling
- *Calf Roping
- *Cutting

Follow the signs from the stadium to arena

4:00 P.M. - Saturday, March 3, 1984
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National High School Rodeo Association

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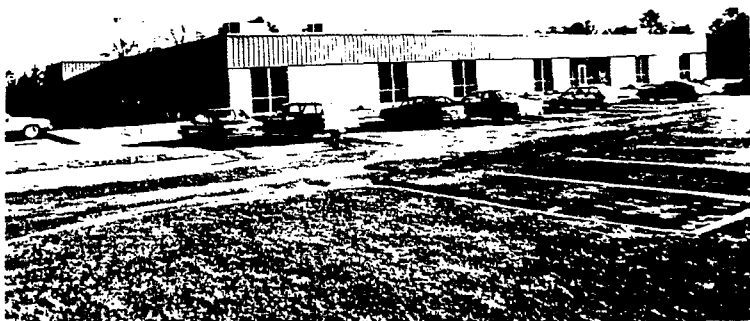
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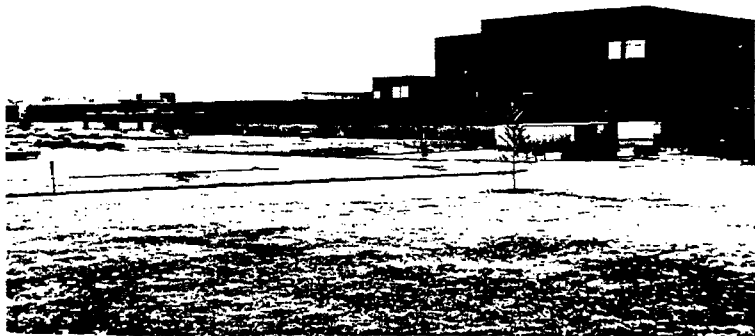


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