

The History

The Klickitat County Sheriff's Posse, one of the oldest mounted organizations in the State of Washington, was organized in April of 1941. On April 3, 1941, a group of interested men from Goldendale and White Salmon met at the Klickitat County courthouse in Goldendale to discuss the possibility of such an organization. In Goldendale to explain the purpose and benefits to be derived from such an organization was Sheriff Harold Sexton, of The Dalles, Oregon.

Appointed at this meeting to work out organization plans were, Russell Woodward, E.C. Kaiser, Frank Riley, Ted Guinan and Harold Fariello. No time was lost in drawing up the constitution and by-laws and on the following Friday, April 10, the organization was officially organized with the following officers and directors elected: Russell Woodward, president; Carl Twidwell, vice-president; Harold Fariello, secretary-treasurer. E.C. Kaiser, Frank Riley, Ted Guinan, Fay McNabb and Bob Overbaugh, were elected in the Board of Directors. C.R. House, who was Klickitat county sheriff, automatically became Posse Leader. Pat McEwen, Ted Guinan, Pat Morran and Glenn Lane were named to head the membership committee.

Drill practice was started immediately by members in both White Salmon and Goldendale. Invitation to enter a seven-man team in the Pony Express Race from Oswego Lake to Timeline Lodge, in Oregon, was accepted.

The race was run on Sunday, June 29, with our Posse winning the event in a spectacular photo-finish. The 71-mile distance was covered in five hours, 44 minutes and 21 seconds for an average of 12.7 miles per hour. Riders in the race, which received nation-wide publicity were Paul Davenport on "Wrangle", Harry Dunn on "Donna Rica", Ted Guinan on "Rita", Loren Triplett on "Tony" Frank Riley on "Smokey", Oscar Scherer on "Lad" and Sheriff House on "Ted".

Thousands lined the exchange stations and highways as the riders made their way over the 71-mile course. The event was climaxed with a big party at Timberline lodge, where the trophy and individual buttons were presented to the riders.

Despite an accident during the race the following year, our Posse made an exceptionally fine showing, placing third.

The Klickitat County Sheriff's Posse has staged several horse shows and rodeo events in Goldendale and are always cooperative with other clubs throughout the Mid-Columbia area. Several times they have been called to active duty as deputy sheriffs. It was through the organization of the Posse that a lasting friendship and goodwill feeling between all communities through the Mid-Columbia area has been built.