

Young rodeo queen breaks stereotype as ambassador

by COLLEEN MUNRO
Sun Staff

The tiara on her stetson hat and the silver belt buckle declare that Kelly Fredell is indeed Miss Rodeo Canada 1987.

But the hat is black, the boots are low-heeled red ropers, and the coat is a canvas long-rider with a smoke-blue corduroy collar; not exactly the pastel hat, polyester western suit and pointy-toed boots one envisions as the uniform of the average rodeo queen.

The tall, lithe young woman looks every inch a beauty, but the firm handshake, like the manner of dress, adds substance to the image.

And when Kelly Fredell talks, it's apparent that this Williams Lake, B.C., native is not stereotypical rodeo royalty.

Of her role as the chief ambassador of professional rodeo in Canada, the 19-year-old says: "I'm a lot more on my own than I expected to be. The association has been really trusting."

"There's certain unwritten rules that I'm expected to follow, but the atmosphere changes from place to place. I'm really having a lot of fun."

"At first I thought that I might have to act the angel, but I've learned just to be myself. . . none of this fake garbage," she adds with a laugh.

The Rotary Club in Williams Lake sponsored Kelly when she won the William's Lake Stampede Queen title, and again when she decided to enter the Miss Rodeo Canada competition. The pageant is held in conjunction with the Canadian Finals Rodeo in Edmonton every No-



FREDELL: Rodeo Queen.

ember. The contestants are judged on their public speaking ability and horsemanship.

Miss Fredell, who is appearing at the Provincial Exhibition, admits she had some reservations about trying for the title. She was anxious to start university and work toward getting into chiropractic school. "I didn't want to give up a year."



But in retrospect she thinks she's gained far more by traveling and meeting people all over Western Canada.

She was also hesitant because she felt her Western wardrobe wasn't appropriate for the pageant. The Rotarians helped her to replenish her closet, and the Williams Lake Stampede committee kicked in for her plane ticket to Edmonton. "If I'm going to go for something, I'm going to do it well," she told them.

One can't help but wonder whether that attitude helped Kelly to win the title.

Kelly cites attitude as the key to getting along with the rodeo competitors. "I thought I'd get shrugged off, but whether you're accepted or not has to do with your attitude," she says.

Most of Kelly's activities centre around promoting the sport of rodeo. She rides in the grand entry of many rodeos, carrying the Canadian flag. She also works alongside some of the CPRA cowboy spokesmen, doing public relations work.

After her reign is complete, Kelly hopes to work and earmark the money for her education. Some modelling might be her ticket, as an agency in Calgary has approached her. But Kelly has no illusions about the fashion world. "I think it would be an awful way to make a living, I'd just be in it for the money," she says.

And farther in the future, Kelly thinks she'll return to the ranch life in Williams Lake.

"I really love that country," she says. "I'm definitely going to live on a ranch. I'm a country girl at heart."

Manitoba horses dominate at show

A majority of the entries for this year's heavy horse competitions at the Provincial Exhibition are from Manitoba, says George Learmonth, the chairman of the shows.

Only nine of the 130 horses entered in the 30 events designed for the draught classes are from out of the province, Mr. Learmonth said.

"But we didn't plan it that way — it's just the way things turned out," he said.

Mr. Learmonth said the competition among the horsemen during the summer fair is not as

intense as it is at the winter exhibition.

"It's more of a family atmosphere kind of thing," he said. "Many of these guys come to take a look at what's available, because they've got to get horses for their hitches."

But he said just because the competition is less intense, that doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

"We're all friends here," he said, pointing out the horse owners in the stables. "But the friendship ends when it's time to compete — we wouldn't be here if we didn't want to win."

Following are partial results

from the heavy horse competitions:

Belgian (filly or gelding) 1-2 years — 1. Jody Strain, Carberry; 2. Neil Jardine, Brookdale.

Percheron (filly or gelding) 1-2 years — 1. Elkview Percherons, Elkhorn; 2. Thomson Family, Virden.

Percheron (filly or gelding) 3 years — 1. Jim Lane, Birtie; Lloyd Robinson, Virden.

Light draft Belgian mares or geldings — 1. Schatz Crossroads Truck Stop, Minot, N.D.

Light draft Percheron mares or geldings — 1. Ken and Audrey Wilson, Pilot Mound; 2. Lloyd Robinson, Virden; 3. Ken and Audrey Wilson.

Light draft Clydesdale mares or geldings — 1. Clarence and Blaine Martin, Strathclair; 2. Clarence and Blaine Martin; 3. Churchcroft Farms, Killarney.

Credit card bite less painful if consumers sharper: Andre

CHARLOTTETOWN (CP) — The federal government hopes to lower interest rates on credit cards by producing a sharper, more educated consumer, says the federal minister of consumer and corporate affairs.

Speaking to reporters after a two-day meeting with his provincial counterparts, Harvie Andre said the ministers wrestled with the problem of high credit-card interest rates.

They discussed the possibility of Ottawa stepping in and setting rates for banks and institutions. There was a general sense, he said, that that would not be the "most effective way to go."

Andre said Ottawa will try to establish a uniform method of dis-

closing the true cost of borrowing and ensuring that consumers are informed of those costs. Increased competition should then help bring down rates, he said.

"Government, business and consumers must share the responsibility to ensure fairness and equity in the marketplace," the ministers said in a communique issued after the talks.

The House of Commons finance committee recently recommended that the federal government set rates if institutions did not lower them on their own. The Tory-dominated committee accused credit card issuers of everything from excessive charges to not spelling out what transactions really cost.

Andre said the ministers estab-

lished a working group to deal with the cost of credit. It will report back to the ministers at their February meeting in Calgary, recommending a consistent standard for the disclosure of credit-card rates, terms and conditions.

The ministers also agreed that consumers need more information on services such as special financing programs offered by car manufacturers.

The ministers announced the establishment of two other groups — one to deal with third-party extended warranties and the other to examine computerized gaming and the methods employed by commercial fund-raisers operating on behalf of charities.

Strings attached to trade deal

by NORMA GREENAWAY
WASHINGTON (CP) — A group of congressmen warned chief U.S. negotiator Peter Murphy on Wednesday that a free-trade agreement with Canada won't get Congressional support without a string of conditions being met first.

Fifteen Congressmen from the U.S. Northeast and Midwest told Murphy that the final pact must correct the imbalance in automotive trade between the two countries.

It must also tackle unfair subsidy practices, eliminate tariffs and provide a guarantee the provinces will abide by the deal.

They also said it's too early to vote on Canada's proposal for a binding trade disputes settlement mechanism that would remove Canada-U.S. trade from the grasp of existing trade remedy laws.

However, Democratic Representative Howard Wolpe predicted "major resistance" in Congress to the idea.

Murphy agreed. Wolpe, co-chairman of the Northeast-Midwest congressional coalition, said there's only a 50-50 chance an acceptable free-trade agreement can be reached.

"Certainly, if some of the thorniest questions are not resolved in a fashion that we feel meets Americans' economic interests, it's not going to get approved by Congress," said Wolpe, who represents the auto-producing state of Michigan.

His views were echoed by Michigan Democrat Sander Levin, who said the surplus Canada has enjoyed in automotive trade with the United States in recent years cannot continue.

The question of whether the auto pact should or will get reopened in the negotiations has caused heated debate in Canada.

Canada had a \$5.1 billion Cdn surplus with the United States in automotive trade last year, down \$374 million from 1985. It was the fifth consecutive year Canada had a surplus.

Automotive trade accounts for almost one-third of the total value of Canada-U.S. merchandise trade, worth \$173 billion Cdn last year. Canada enjoyed an \$18.4 billion surplus in its merchandise trade with the United States.

Levin singled out as unacceptable duty-remission schemes for non-North American car manufacturers that set up plants in Canada or buy some Canadian-made parts; and production safeguards requiring North American manufacturers to produce as many cars in Canada as they sell there and meet a 60-per-cent Canadian content level.

Wolpe, Levin and Jim Leach, an Iowa Republican, said the free-trade agreement must be as comprehensive as possible, warning that the more sectors exempted from the pact the greater the chance it will be rejected by Congress.

Canadian and U.S. negotiators, who resume talks in Washington next week, are aiming to submit the guts of an agreement to Congress by Oct. 5.

Congress will then have 90 days to review the package and try to influence its shape before a final pact is presented by Jan. 3, a deadline set out in U.S. trade law.

No security check required for most tax employees

OTTAWA (CP) — Thousands of Revenue Canada employees, who have never been put through any security screening other than a check of their references, will continue to have access to confidential and sensitive tax information, a senior department official said Wednesday.

A new security check, which includes fingerprinting, is limited to new employees who will have access to such information, and those current employees who now don't have such access but are promoted to positions where they do, said John Rama, assistant deputy minister of taxation.

That excludes most of the department's 20,000 employees who have access to sensitive tax documents but have never gone through the new security checks.

A report on Revenue Canada security was obtained earlier this week by the Toronto Globe and Mail under the Access to Information Act.

It said a former employee charged with theft last October of microfiche containing personal tax information on 16 million Canadians was never screened to determine whether he was a security risk, even though although he had a criminal record.

The microfiches — index-card-sized sheets of transparent plastic — contain names, addresses, social insurance numbers, dates of birth and personal financial information.

Alberta drops price of milk for producers

EDMONTON (CP) — The Public Utilities Board has approved a decrease of one cent a litre in the minimum price to be paid to producers for fluid milk, a reduction which will be passed on to consumers.

The reduction will go into effect next Monday.

The board said Wednesday the new minimum retail price for one litre of homogenized milk will be 84 cents, down from 85 cents.

The price applies only to fluid milk products processed and sold within the controlled areas of Calgary, Camrose, Crownsnest Pass, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer.

The decrease occurs from the application of a pricing formula which was adopted by the board in 1976 as a guide in fixing the minimum price to be paid to dairy farmers.

The board said the latest one-cent reduction reflects decreases in the price of hay and feed in Alberta.

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