

LOS GATOS

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Los Gatos
The Heart of Los Gatos

Living



*Chyrle
Bacon*

THE
ADVENTURES
OF MISS
WILD WEST!



Best Version Media

www.bestversionmedia.com

Photo provided by J Wong Productions



Chyrle Bacon

THE ADVENTURES OF MISS WILD WEST!

By Genevieve Laucher

We would like to thank **The Villa Galleria** for bringing you this month's cover story.

Chyrle Bacon recently returned from a trip to Las Vegas. She wasn't there to see a show, or go to the casinos, or visit with friends. Chyrle, also known as Miss Wild West, was there for a rope-spinning competition called the Big Loop Contest, which she won! Chyrle was a little nervous seeing some of the women, who were in their 20s, 30s, and 40s, struggling to build a large loop. But Chyrle, who will celebrate her 70th birthday this year, won with a huge, 67-foot circumference loop, beating almost all of the men, too!

Chyrle's exciting career had an unexpected start. Chyrle, who grew up in Escondido CA and moved to Newport Beach after junior college, modeled part-time and worked as a bank teller. This was a busy job in 1974 before ATMs, so Chyrle always had long lines of customers. One morning, two cowboys came in wearing rhinestone gear. They wanted to cash a large check, so Chyrle went to get her supervisor's authorization. Her supervisor, recognizing one of the cowboys as Montie Montana, Jr., asked Chyrle to get his autograph for her two sons.

When Chyrle returned to her customers, she gave them three pieces of paper for autographs: two for her supervisor's sons, and the third for herself. She noticed them adding some extra lines to hers, and she eagerly opened it later that day when she

took her lunch break. To her surprise, the note said, "I'm very impressed with your personality. How would you like to join a "Wild West Show" and travel? We will contact you here at the bank in a few weeks to discuss with you what we have in mind."

At first, Chyrle wasn't quite sure what to make of the note, so she continued her work. But surely enough, she received a call from them at the bank a few weeks later and agreed to their invitation to meet at a local restaurant. There, Montie Montana, Jr. formally introduced himself and offered Chyrle a job as Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show's PR person.

Chyrle had always wanted to travel, so she accepted this intriguing opportunity. She had two costumes made by Montie Montana's costume designer, and took her car and clothes to her parents' house in Escondido, thinking they would travel throughout America. Chyrle was surprised to find out that they would actually be traveling all over Asia! In her PR role, she went first, stirring up publicity in the cities that the show would be visiting by doing newspaper and TV appearances. It was her job to get people excited about the Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show coming to town. They went to Malaysia, Singapore, Bangkok, and Hong Kong. At the end of each show, Chyrle came out and thanked the audience in their native language and in English.

About a year later, when they were getting ready to travel to Japan, the performers gave Chyrle a rope for her birthday. She really wanted to learn to spin a rope, and began practicing right away. Chyrle is left handed, and since all the other performers who roped were right handed, she had to work extra hard, learning with her right hand and then shifting to her left hand. Chyrle's hard work paid off, because now she is able to do many tricks with both hands that most can only do with one. The tricks are difficult, with some taking more than a year to learn and master. Chyrle began roping in the shows, earning her title as Miss Wild West!

Chyrle traveled with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show for six years, then broke out on her own as Cowgirl Chyrle. She has performed in local places like Frontier Village and Great America, and to countries all over the world in Asia, China, South America, and Europe. One of her favorite performances was at the Reno Hilton, where she had the Philharmonic Orchestra playing behind her. It was a huge crowd, and she successfully pulled off an extremely challenging trick: whipping a button off of her partner's tongue with a ten foot bullwhip, sending the button flying out into the audience. The crowd went wild!

Chyrle has won awards for Western Performer of the Year, the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest loop spun, and more. She has had so much fun throughout her career, and would never change a thing. The whole time she was traveling, she kept journals of all the unbelievable things that happened. After getting married and while she was pregnant with her daughter, Chyrle decided to type out all her notes. She kept them for a long time, and



five years ago finally decided to write it into three children's books. All are true stories! Chyrle's daughter, Georgeann Ashley Shoptaw, is a model and is currently working for the startup company ClassPass in San Francisco. Georgeann's father, George Shoptaw, is a retired ENT doctor in Los Gatos and is doing well.

Continued on page 12

THE VILLA GALLERIA




Bring Elegance

TO YOUR HOME

Every home deserves a little elegance. Find inspiration in our showroom. From simple touches to complete designs, The Villa Galleria offers the latest styles and trends.

Our inventory includes:

Viking Appliances | Tile and Slabs | Custom Cabinets
Custom Closets | Barn Doors | Fireplaces | Lighting

We are a passionate team of renovation experts providing our customers everything he or she needs to remodel their home in one place!

Discover how to turn your home into a villa!

220 North Santa Cruz Ave | Los Gatos, California 95030

408-831-6969

www.thevillagalleria.com

Besides still competing, Chyrle is very busy with corporate events, backyard barbecues, school assemblies, and performing at senior homes. She has worked for Coyote Ranch in Coyote, CA as a marketing and sales representative and did Cowgirl Shows on the weekends for years. She loves being able to interact with people of all ages, from kids to seniors.

At schools, including Alta Vista where her daughter went, classes will read American cowboy books and then she does a show for them. She brings over 300 swivel ropes so that all the kids get to practice while Chyrle plays cowboy music. Probably the most popular part of her assemblies, though, is when Chyrle calls up teachers and whips balloons from around their waists, flowers from their mouths, and slices newspapers from their hands into stamp size pieces. She tells the kids to always put a smile on their faces, because you never know when someone will hire you!

Chyrle loves going to senior homes, too. She does her Cowgirl show with ropes, whips, gun twirling, and lots of audience participation. Seniors often remember the cowboys from the wild west, and bring their families to watch Chyrle. She loves talking to the seniors, hearing their stories, and making them smile.

Chyrle loves being part of the Los Gatos community and spending time at the local schools, senior homes, and more. She loves sharing stories from her 45 years and counting as a cowgirl, and spreading her infectious joy!

You can contact Chyrle or order her children's books on her website, www.cowgirlchyrle.com.



JW | **JWong Productions**
Jordan Wong, Owner

jwongproduction@gmail.com | 510.409.8443
JWONGPRODUCTIONS.COM



CA Lic #977688 Since 1978

SERRANO'S EXPERT TREE SERVICE

Professional Tree Care, Maintenance & Removals

- Arborist consultations
- Tree removal & stump grinding
- Large dangerous removals
- Crown reduction
- Fine ornamental lacing
- Pruning & shaping
- Chipping & hauling
- Deep root fertilizing
- Fully equipped
- Reliable & efficient
- Pest & Disease Management






**FREE
MULCH
DELIVERIES**



Call for your
FREE ESTIMATE today!
408-269-8756
serranotrees.com

**LICENSED
BONDED &
INSURED**




24 Hour Emergency Service • 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
Certified Arborist Available