

win all the games that she entered. About tea time a fancy dress competition was held that was enjoyed by all. In the evening we once again cooked hotdogs and beef burgers whilst another group called 'Country Fresh' entertained us.

Monday morning we had a totem pole where the prizes for the various competitions from the weekend were given out and the closing ceremony was held.

Whilst the vans started to slowly leave site, we held a meeting to find out that we had made a profit. We then made the great decision that it had all been worth while and we would continue the following year!!!

Keith Smith

Jim & Mavis Booth

Started as customers but liked us all so much-they joined us!

They are also two of the few who have camped all 19 now to be 20 meets and have stewarded many. Jim later became a Chairman of the D.A.

Thank you Jim & Mavis.

May Bank Holiday 1985 Mavis and I and our friends, Ted & Jan, were looking for somewhere to go that was different, so, out came the C&C Out & About and we find Dorset D.A. have got a Country & Western Meet down in Wareham Forest in Dorset. It was touch and go at first on whether we would go as the weather for May that year was not very good, but we saddled up and hitched our wagons and headed into the wild West Country. We were made very welcome by the Sheriff and townsfolk on our arrival and escorted to our pitches by the fence under the pine trees. By the time we arrived the site was quite full, a good turn out.

One of the most outstanding items on the site was the pig roast. There was this very large and deep hole filled with burning logs. Suspended above this fire on a pole was this large pig, surrounded by sheets of corrugated iron to trap the heat. An outstanding effort by the D.A. members, and as far as I can remember, after 20 years, it was good.

It was at this meet we first saw the Portsmouth Wild West shows with their re-enactment of events from the past and town shoot outs. Very different from the Civil war battles we had seen at the Warwickshire D.A. Dodge City. PWW shows were much more entertaining, as you were closer to the action.

In fact as far as I can recall, the weekend was very well organised for entertainment what with the Penny Fayre and the evening groups on Saturday & Sunday and the Fancy Dress, when it seemed that everybody dressed in some form of Western Garb. Mavis and I have attended all 19 C&W meets and we have noticed that the spirit of putting on the gear has vanished, which is a great shame, as it adds to the atmosphere, as it did on this first Dorset D.A. Country & Western, and for a few that followed.

It was a great effort for a good weekend, the start of many more to come.

Jim Booth

DA members for many years, Dennis & Dorothy were an important part of the team. Dennis was, as you have read, the 'Town Hobo' who ran the sports for us. He is a legend in his own lifetime as the man who can eat & eat & eat anything and everything and not get fat.

Hence the challenge to eat the 'Pigs snout'.

Yes!! It was this man. His sharp sense of humour always kept us laughing. When he and Dorothy left to concentrate on being Standard Bearers for the British Legion it was a sad loss to the D.A.

Unfortunately Dennis & Dorothy cannot re-call much of the events from 20 years ago, but as you see from the letters I have received, many of us still have very fond memories of them.

I am sending them a copy of this booklet to show how well thought of they are and to also say
Thank You.

Anne, I want you to please do forgive us for not enclosing a contribution to your booklet. You will, I am sure, find it difficult to understand but the last year has somehow taken its toll on us (I'm nearly 81 and Dot 79) and apart from anything else it's the gaps in the memory that are the most worrying!! We can both recall scattered events and happenings from those wonderful camping years - yet others - like the Country & Western Meet you reminded us of seem to have kind of fallen out of the equation. Some incidents and people appear as plain as if it were only yesterday, others have just disappeared! However, we are still in much better shape than some of our friends and so we must count ourselves lucky to have survived thus far with fairly minor 'damage'.
Warmest Regards

Dennis & Dot

'The Smiths from Wales'

Grandfather Father & Son along with their respective families, who have all enjoyed their visits to Dorset in support of the C&W meets for many years.

One of the first 150 units.

Thank you.

This was my very first Country & Western Show. I was so interested in the shoot outs. My late wife enjoyed the penny fayre and the pig roast was also something we had not been to before. All of this made our holiday very enjoyable and the one thing that still sticks in my mind is how everyone made us feel so welcome. I have enjoyed every meet I have been to since and look forward to seeing you in May.

Because it was so long ago and I have been to so many DDA western meets since, I find it difficult to remember the details of my first.

Ernie Smith.