

Stonyford Rodeo Camping Crew

Camping Director Germaine Burrows and her committee manages the campgrounds during rodeo week and collects the camping fees, a onetime payment of a \$25.00. The camping crew spends many hours at the camping/contestant gate and patrolling the campground to maintain a safe environment. They are the first to greet/welcome the public and promote the local festivities for the weekend.

In 1984, a group of the Horsemen's cleared and cleaned the back pasture--perhaps five or more acres—to create a camping area. From its start, this area drew in campers for rodeo weekend. Germaine Burrows has been the Camping Director since 1999, and she works at the job throughout the year taking phone orders for group camping spots. A list of names in the group with a check will get you a reserve spot for the upcoming rodeo. Germaine will then rope off the area for that reserved group.

Germaine's crew in 2019 consisted of herself, Jeanne Westcamp, Jill Swearinger, Kaleen Swearinger, Krista Swearinger, Keith Morinda, and Gail Green. This year they started on Tuesday and did not finish until late Saturday night. Their workday typically begins around 10 a.m. and sometimes lasted until 1 a.m. the following morning.

Germaine is a member of the Native-American Pomo tribe and is the daughter of Doc and Eleanor Bill. Doc and Eleanor's association with the Horsemen date from the early 1970s; Doc was a Director from 1983 to 1988, Eleanor made Indian Tacos at the rodeo for many years and donated all the profits to the Horsemen's Association—sometime as much as \$4,000. Doc and Eleanor Bill introduced sheep riding to the Stonyford Rodeo and also sponsored the first buckles.



Germaine Burrows checks in a camper at Saturday's rodeo