

Way We Were  
Wednesday, July 23, 2014  
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Ride 'n Tie

Summertime in Park City is busting at the seams with events, concerts and recreational activities; being bored is just not an option!

In the summer of 1978, an event known as the Ride 'n Tie was held for the first time in Park City. The event was created in 1971 by Bud Johns, the public relations director for Levi Strauss & Co. He wanted to create a sporting event that encompassed the company's 'rough-and-ready' image. Although riding and tying had been written about historically by author Henry Fielding as well in *The Life of Samuel Johnson* and *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett*, the credit goes to Levi Strauss and Co. for turning it into a difficult sporting event.

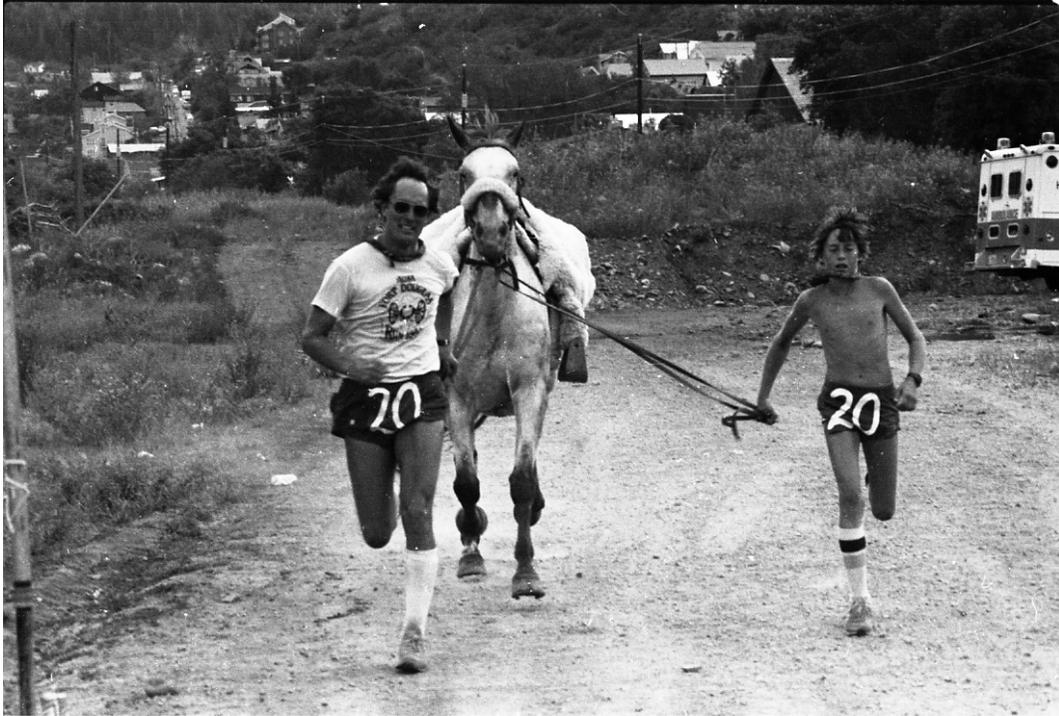
Ride 'n Tie is a combination of running, riding, endurance and strategy. Each team has two runners and one horse that race anywhere from 20 to 100 miles on a trail course using a technique called 'leapfrogging.' Leapfrogging is where one team member starts out on the horse while the second team member is on foot. Once the rider gets to a certain point on the course they get off and tie the horse to a tree, and then take off on foot. When the first runner finally catches up to the tied up horse, they mount and catch up to the runner. At this point the person on the horse has two options: to either get off and switch with their teammate or continue on and tie the horse to another tree. This continues on the full course until the finish line. For the safety of both horses and humans, there were mandatory vet checks along the route and ambulances were on hand for emergencies.

Park City welcomed the new opportunity for friendly competition with open arms. Along with the Ride 'n Tie race, the Kimball Arts Center displayed an exhibit highlighting the history of the Levi Strauss Co.

The community had a great deal of backers who supported the event coming to Park City. It was well known that J. Warren King (of Royal Street Land Co.) was one of the most supportive individuals in the town and per the *Park Record* was 'instrumental in opening the doors for the first Park City Ride 'n Tie...by most graciously consenting to the use of his land for a good part of the course.'" The land used was part of what is now Deer Valley Resort.

While the Ride 'n Tie is no longer a summer event here in Park City, there are other equally exciting activities occurring, so make sure you don't miss out and enjoy the beautiful summer!

The Park City Historical Society & Museum is celebrating 30 years of preserving, protecting, and promoting Park City's history and heritage.



Image#2011.14.4

Credit: Park City Historical Society & Museum

Caption: One of many Ride 'n Tie teams here in Park City. In this photograph, the "rider" (on the right) chose to run alongside his horse to give the horse a bit of a break. If anyone knows who these people are please contact the museum!