

Long Grove History

LONG GROVE LIVING
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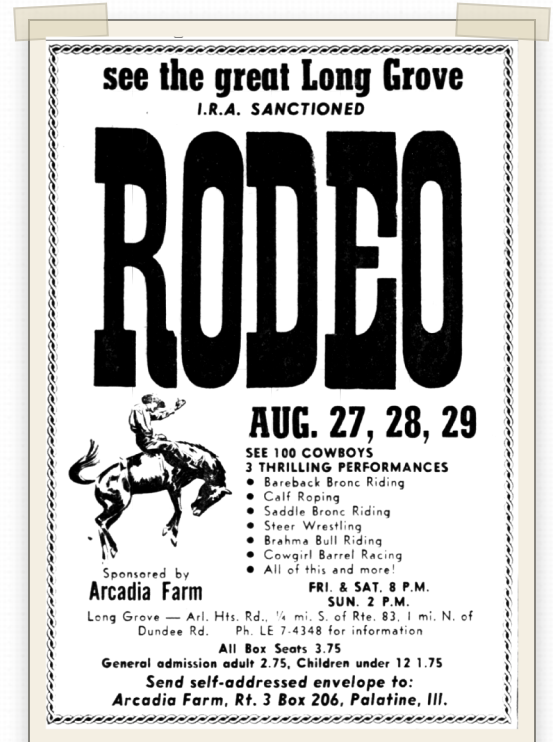
VANISHED LONG GROVE • AN OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED
RODEO, 1965

The *Great* Long Grove Rodeo

By Aaron Underwood • Long Grove Historical Society

You probably live on a quiet street or lane with several other residents in what could be generically termed a subdivision. Much of this sub-dividing happened relatively recently. Fifty years ago, Long Grove was a very different place with very different kinds of activities. Take rodeo, for example. Did you know Long Grove had one?

Blanche Kloman was born in White Plains, New York and studied voice at the Conservatory of Music in Boston. She married Fred Kloman in 1942 and worked at a Chicago radio station singing children's songs. When children and motherhood entered her life, they removed to Skokie where she took up a career in real estate. As a child, Blanche suffered from polio, and grew a fondness for horses which were part of her recovery therapy. In 1959, she and her husband bought Arcadia Farm in Long Grove, where she operated a horse farm, riding school, and boarding stables. She obtained sole ownership of the farm in 1963 as part of her divorce settlement.



ARCADIA FARM • AUGUST 1965

Original handbill for the only year an officially-sanctioned rodeo was held in town. Note the period phone exchange — LE 7-4348 — and the box-seat price: \$3.75.



Blanche envisioned a big annual event at the Farm every fall and kicked it off in 1965 with an officially sanctioned Rodeo. While I don't know of other Rodeos in subsequent years, there was usually a fall event with some local competitions, hay rides and such.

Three thrilling performances.

ARCADIA FARM · AUG. 27 · 28 · 29

BOX \$3.75 · ADULT \$2.75 · CHILD \$1.75

**Bareback Bronc Riding · Calf Roping · Saddle Bronc Riding · Steer
Wrestling · Brahma Bull Riding · Cowgirl Barrel Racing · *and more.***

Fri. & Sat. 8 P.M. · Sun. 2 P.M. · Send a self-addressed envelope to **Arcadia Farm, Rt. 3 Box 206, Palatine, Ill.**

So where was Arcadia Farm?

It was on Arlington Heights Road, between 83 and Checker. Today we know it as Temple Chai and the Le Savanne subdivision. Most people probably don't know that the stables are still there, adjoining the south-western edge of the subdivision. When Blanche originally decided to sub-divide the farm in 1973, the plan was for 189 townhomes similar to what was across Arlington Heights road (part of Buffalo Grove). As this was in conflict with Long Grove's zoning, many years of lawsuits with the Village ensued, with the Village eventually prevailing and a new plan of lower density being worked out (43 homes). The official plan simply calls the subdivision Savanne of Long Grove, so I'm assuming there's another story lurking somewhere about how the 'Le' got added to the name.

She loved Knopf cemetery.

During her time at Arcadia Farm, Blanche took up an interest in the Knopf cemetery, which was across Arlington Heights road from the farm. She led an effort to get it restored and was buried there when she passed away in 2002. The epitaph on her tombstone reads, 'She loved Knopf cemetery.'

IN MEMORIAM

She loved Knopf cemetery.

BLANCHE KLOMAN · ? — 2002
