

Vernonia's Harrison is This Year's "My Fair Lady"

The "My Fair Lady" pageant is held each year during the Columbia County Fair to recognize senior women for their outstanding service to their communities. Each community nominates a princess and a queen is chosen at the Fair. This year Sally Harrison of Vernonia was named the winner.

The rest of the court this year was made up of Kay Jillson of St. Helens; Diane Grube of Scappoose; Liz Sandahl of Rainier; and Dana Harman from Clatskanie.

Harrison was nominated for her work on the Vernonia Economic Development Committee, the Vernonia Airport Committee, the Vernonia Salmon Festival, and Vernonia Pride. She has served as the Mayor of Vernonia and on the Columbia County Cultural Trust Board.

Harrison won the crowd and the judges with her charm, her stage presence, and most of all her sense of humor. *Vernonia's Voice* caught up with Ms. Harrison to find out how she feels about being Queen of the County.

Vernonia's Voice: First of all Congratulations. So how does it feel to be named "My Fair Lady"?

Sally Harrison: "Well, thank you! You know, it doesn't take much to win—you know anything I've ever won before was because I put a lot of work and effort into it and there's the reward of winning. But this was just for being and it's unusual for me."

VV: How did you prepare for the Pageant?

SH: We were given three questions that would be asked and I just thought them over, that was all the preparation I did.



VV: It seemed like your sense of humor really won over the crowd?

SH: Really? You know, I noticed they were laughing, but then I'm used to people laughing AT me! (Laugh-

ing) That's just normal for me! But you know, I do enjoy things like this—I enjoy being entertaining.

VV: The last question was the surprise question and I really liked your answer to that one-- What was your favorite age?

SH: Yes, when I was up there, I kind of went through them in my head, and you know there is something good about every age, but I thought my 40's were the best, because I was old enough to know better, but still young enough to do it! And you know getting older is OK, but sometimes your body can't keep up with your mind and do what it wants, and sometimes your mind isn't keeping up with your body—it looks like it's going to be a race to the finish to see which gives up first!

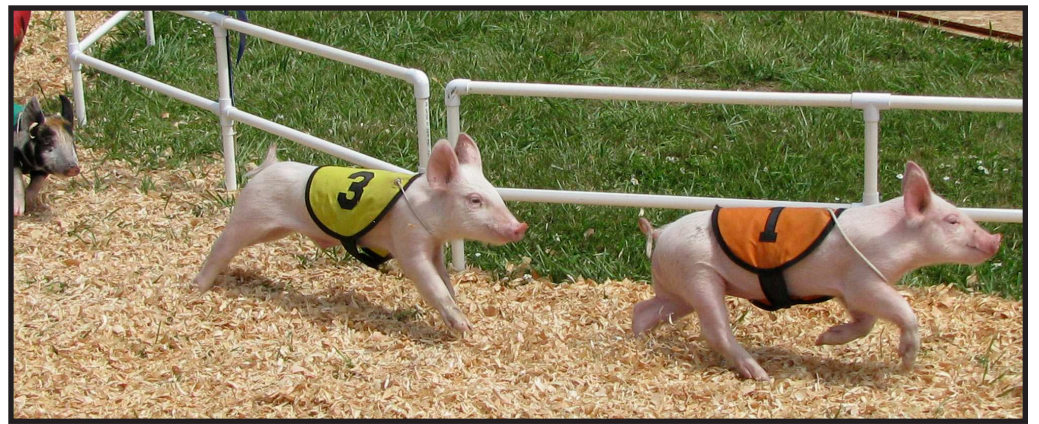
VV: What are your duties as "My Fair Lady"?

SH: I will ride in the parade during Jamboree and wear the tiara and wave to the crowd. What I like is that I represent our Senior Center and this community for the County. And that is a real honor. The other four ladies were very lovely ladies and to be chosen from that group was a real honor. You know I had to be 70 before I ever got to a princess—back in school I was always class president or the head of the decorating committee and those kinds of things. I was never in the prom court. So it's like my life has come full circle and now I've become a Princess. So, you know, if you wait long enough, all your dreams can come true! Or, if you LIVE long enough, all your dreams can come true.

2011 Columbia County Fair

Despite less than cooperative weather, it looks like the Columbia County Fair was a success. Local 4-H kids came home with lots of ribbons. Emily Nodland of St. Helens was crowned Queen of the 2012 Columbia

County Rodeo Court and Vernonian Sally Harrison was named "My Fair Lady." New activities, the All-Alaskan Racing Pigs and the Kids Tractor Pull were both a big hit and everyone seemed to have a good time!



Racing pigs and kids pedaling tractors were both new events at this year's fair. Nicole Glass of Vernonia with her prize winning steer.



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