



I.V. Lions

Labor

Day Festival

Meet Bill Woodbury, Grand Marshal for I.V. Lions 36th Annual Labor Day Parade

From logging with horse teams and hand saws, to using helicopters and power saws, O'Brien resident Bill Woodbury has seen it all.

And if you ask the 79-year-old how long he's called O'Brien home, he'll say "79 years."

Illinois Valley Lions Club has selected Woodbury for the honor of riding as grand marshal on Monday, Sept. 3 in the annual Labor Day Parade in Downtown Cave Junction. Besides being a club member for two years, he volunteers at Kerbyville Museum, and is one of the members at I.V. Senior Center who takes advantage of the exercise room thrice weekly.

He's seen major changes in Illinois Valley during his nearly eight decades. Although he spent time away from the valley during his logging days, he always came home.

"I was born in Grants Pass," said the grand marshal, who lives on a spread that was purchased by his paternal grandfather in 1910. Woodbury and his second wife, Shirley, enjoy their location, which includes a huge oak tree that once stood along the road from O'Brien to the coast.

Woodbury can point out where a large tavern and store once stood on his property. "Wagons would come in here with tired horses," he said, "and they'd trade their tired horses for fresh so they could keep moving."

He has become more interested in studying history since taking a volunteer job at Kerbyville Museum. He recalls attending O'Brien School where the current I.V. Fire Station 3 is located at Hwy. 199 and Lone Mountain Road. He notes that the old former station, built in 1950 originally served as a school, and replaced one that was torn down. Woodbury went through the first eight grades at O'Brien School, and graduated in 1946 from the former Kerby Union High School.

Although "retired near 15 years," his memories still are sharp about his past. "I began logging with my dad," he said. "We used a cross-cut saw and a team of horses. Fifty years later I was working with helicopters. I fell timber first; then was with cutting crews; and eventually was running logging operations." He remembers putting 150,000 to 160,000 miles on his Ford pickup trucks every three years.

In retirement he enjoys a bit of travel, having gone to Alaska. But mostly he takes pleasure in visiting his children and stepchildren; a total of two boys and four girls. They include his daughter, Debbie Malone, who lives next door. All the rest live in Medford, he said, except for a son who lives in Santee in San Diego County.

Besides visiting them, he has done "a bit of gardening" while admitting that it's "gone by the board." Mostly he likes being at the senior center and "having lunch with the fellows there" besides exercising.

Regarding Cave Junction, Woodbury feels that, "It's kinda' my town, as it started the year I was born. So I like to think that I grew up with it." The grand marshal recalls that in the mid-1930s, there were approximately a half-dozen buildings and "a lot of log cabins and houses" in the town.

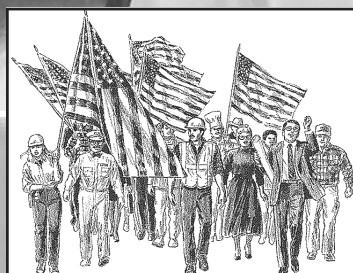
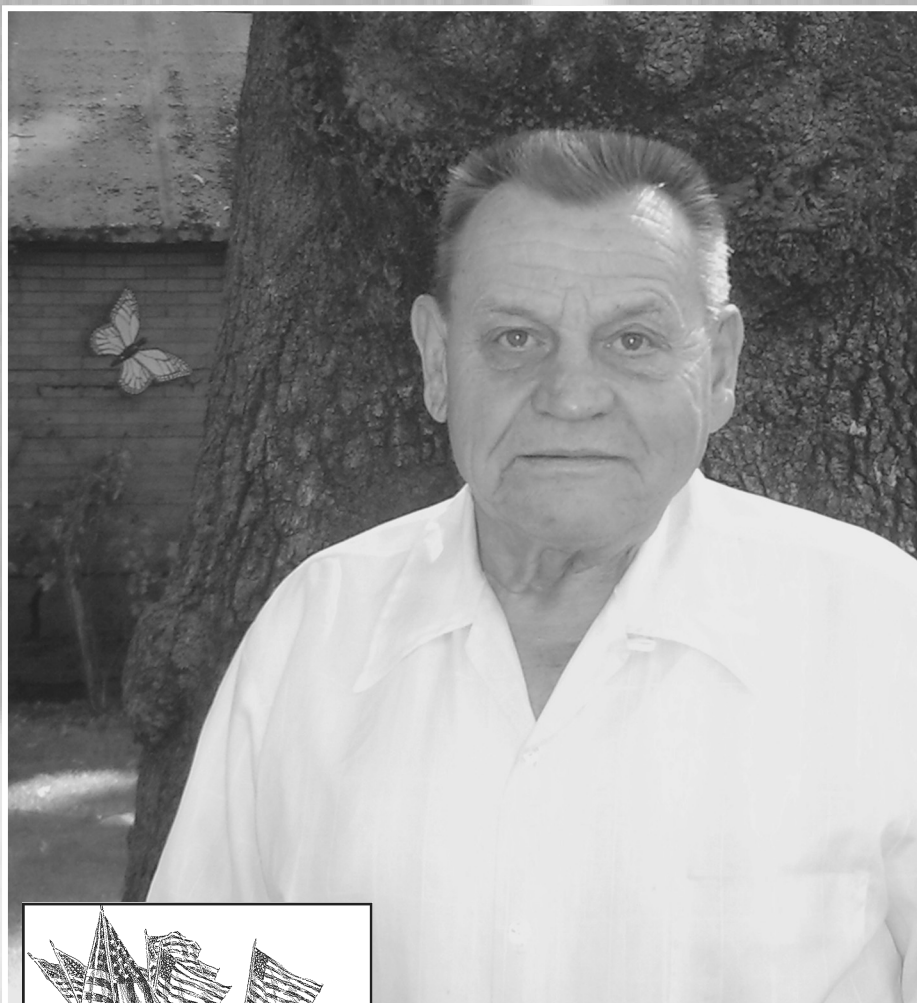
"One morning," he said, "I came to town, and the whole west side was in ashes. Fire had burned a grocery store, a hardware store, a hotel, and a small restaurant. It was all basically where Taylor's Country Store is now. The whole block was burnt."

Another recollection involves Otis Hussey, son of Elwood Hussey, one of the town fathers. "Otis and I were good friends," said Woodbury. "His dad told us we could have some lumber to put up a building. So we went and got to it; used a team of horses going right up the main street to Lister Street.

"The main street then was two lanes wide, and had in-curb parking. Well, we made five or six trips with the support poles, and got the job done." The structure still stands at the southwest corner of Lister and Caves Avenue.

During his logging days, he often lived in a 30-foot trailer. "I'd just get settled, and we'd have to move to the next logging site," he said.

But he always came home to O'Brien and Illinois Valley.



**Grand Marshal
Bill Woodbury**

Labor Day Festival Schedule

Daily Events - Jubilee Park

- 7:00 Breakfast by Kerby Belt Masonic Lodge
- 8:00 Softball
- 10:00 I.V. Lions Train
- 11:00 Dunk Tank Beer Garden, Lion Burger, & Vendor & Food Booths open
- Noon Bingo by American Legion Post 70 & Auxiliary
- 5:00 50/50 Drawing winners announced (must be present to win)

Saturday, September 1

- 10:00 Grand Opening - Dawna Crocker
- 11:00 Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest - Kids
- 11:45 Ventriloquist - Misty Rhodes
- Noon Talent Show - Junior (12 & younger)
- 2:00 Tough Truck Races
- 5-8:00 Music by "Broadway Phil & The Shouters"

Sunday, September 2

- 9-11:00 Music by "All Church Gospel"
- 11:00 Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest (12 & younger)
- Noon Talent Show - Intermediates (13-18)
- 2:00 Tough Truck Races
- 5-8:00 Music by "Valley All Stars"

Monday, September 3

- 11:00 Parade - Downtown Cave Junction
- 1-2:00 Music by "Dale Hopper"
- 3-4:00 Talent Show - Adults
- 5:15-5:45 Talent Spotlight (right after 50/50 drawing)
- 6:00 Drawing for Harley-Davidson



I.V. Lions Club 2007-08 Officers

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| President | David Anderson |
| 1st Vice President | Steve Culver |
| 2nd Vice President | Sam Michel |
| 3rd Vice President | Dennis Reviea |
| Secretary | Steve Lyons |
| Treasurer | Lewie Spencer |
| Lion Tamer | Blake Peterson |
| Tail Twister | Vale Hatch |

Board members: Sam Michel, Vale Hatch, Lew Lyons, Shawn Hardy, Jerry "Zorro" Sommers, and Tom Lindewahl

Helen Keller Benefactors: Blake Peterson and Tom Lindewahl

(The I.V. Lions Club each year donates \$1,000 each on behalf of two of its outstanding members in connection with its Sight & Hearing Fund.)