

2017 GRANT COUNTY FAIR

Grand Marshal Jean Kline

in memory of her husband, Dave Kline

Our introduction to Grant County was in 1952 when Dave took over the management of the Bridge Creek Ranch in the north end of Silvies Valley. We arrived in the fall and moved into the old stage stop. We soon found out what winters were like in this area. However, Dave enjoyed our time spent there as everything was done with horses – feeding with a team and a wagon, and all the cattle work was done on horseback. Dan and Nancy joined our family while we lived there. In 1957 the owners leased the Flying Hat Ranch in Mt. Vernon and we moved there. Dave continued to manage both ranches, moving the cattle to Mt. Vernon for the winter and back to Silvies for the summer. The move was the old-fashioned cattle drive

with two nights camping out and a chuck wagon with a cook who made his biscuits in the top of the flour sack. (Rusty Clark probably remembers those cattle drives). Susan joined the family while we were in Mt. Vernon. We always attended the Fair and Nancy

and Dan rode in their first parade in 1960. The ranch also had a team and wagon in the parade.

In the late 1960 the ranches were sold and we moved back to Ontario. We spent 7 years there before we found our way back to Grant County. In 1967 we moved to Prairie City with children Dan, Nancy and Susan and so this makes my 50th consecutive year of attending the Grant County Fair. We immediately got involved in 4-H, horse show and parade activities and thus began my long history of sitting in the bleachers and grandstands. I spent many years cheering my own children and other 4-H members, then grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren. Dave became the leader of Prairie City 4-H Livestock Club in 1967 and enjoyed helping many young 4Hers with their projects over several years. In those days we spent many hours helping young people in the poultry, pig and sheep and beef barns during the Fair. Dave also spent many years instructing with the horse show and Jr. Rodeo. I was a leader of the Prairie City 4-H Sewing Club for a few years. I also entered pies, cookies, vegetables, fruit and flowers throughout the years.

Dave opened a real estate office in Prairie City in 1970 and retired in the late 90's, but he always preferred the ranching activities, owning an interest in a ranch on the Middle Fork and a small acreage in Prairie City. In 1977, Dave built a cabin on Vinegar Mountain and spent many years packing and hunting with his beloved mule, Molly.

He served on the Grant County Planning Commission, the Prairie City Council, and many other community activities.

I am thrilled to be Grant Fair Grand Marshal to honor Dave's contribution to the Grant County Fair and the community.

– Grand Marshal Jean Kline in memory of her husband, Dave Kline

