

Festival originator named G M

The man who originated the Boardman Harvest Festival, Jim Havnaer, has been selected to head the festival during this bicentennial year as Grand Marshal.

Havnaer, a unique, sometimes eccentric fellow, makes his home in Stanfield, but heads a tabloid weekly with a home base that began in Boardman in 1972.

He has been involved with the media since the early 1900s when he ran an advertising agency in Portland. That same media was the catalyst behind the festival's start.

**'The community should
have a local celebration'**

Havnaer said he got the idea in 1972 that the community should have a local celebration. He called it the Spud Days.

He gathered up "30 or 40 dollars" from area potato farmers and began his idea... on paper. He advertised the Spud days with a parade. He put down dates and times.

The only problem was finding someone to take the ball and run.

Fortunately, someone did.

Havnaer is editor, publisher of four papers rapped into one publication. The main one is the Boardman Beacon, followed in the small weekly by the Umatilla News, Stanfield Star and Irrigon Breeze. The Arlington Review sidelines the other four when newsworthy items take place.



Jim Havnaer

Havnaer lives in Stanfield with his wife Myrl. He will celebrate his 70th birthday this week.

Havnaer lived in Eastern Oregon back at the turn of the century. He jokes that he lost a cap in the Columbia River in 1909 and is still looking for it.

He lived in Grass Valley in 1909 where his father was a Baptist minister. He moved away to big city life and didn't return to this area till four years ago.

Havnaer says the newspaper takes up most of his time but he still enjoys golf, gardening and traveling.

Havnaer, who's media history includes newspaper and radio, also had a stint as a real estate broker. He said he started scratching in the newspaper business and "is still scratching."

'Scratching' Havnaer began

Festival in Beacon in 1972

The oldest of seven children, Jim Havnaer who could be described as singular character, heads into the festival weekend with honor at his selection.

This newspaper's initial conversation was the first he'd heard of his selection.

When told, he exclaimed, "Oh, my aching back!" That's Jim Havnaer, Grand Marshal of the 1976 Boardman Harvest Festival.

Remember
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Sept.	Sept.
11	12

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Boardman Harvest Festival

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