# Harold Peck Grand Marshall parade

Harold 'Shorty' Peck

The 1995 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Grand Marshall, Harold K. Peck, is a native son. Affectionately know as 'Shorty', he says he'll feel six feet tall as a familiar figure driving his 1906 antique "Sears Buggy" as the honoree at the head of this year's parade.

Born in 1912, Harold's childhood was spent on his father's homestead on upper Rhea Creek during that horse and buggy era. He and his wife, Edna, continue to reside at that location during their retirement years.

After his primary education in the one-room country school of Willoughway, the family leased a wheat farm southeast of Lexington. By the time he graduated from Lexington High School in 1931, he was driving a twenty horse team pulling a combine.

This self-made man of many talents worked at various occupations starting out in the midst of the depression of the '30's when jobs were scarce. In addition to working the land and harvesting crops he also became a carpenter, construction worker and a highway and mill employee. He was employed by Boeing Aviation Company in Seattle during World War II, earning $1.41 per hour. He eventually returned to his father's homestead and leased additional land. After turning 1,000 acres of sod to farm ground, Harold developed a stock and wheat ranch on 6,000 acres.

Harold married Edna Crump on June 20, 1934. He claims "a very good knot was tied as it hasn't frayed in 61 years." They have three daughters, Patricia Hardy, Salem; Shirley Palmer, Heppner and Majorie Church, Troy, Montana. There are nine grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

The county fair became an important event when the Peck daughters became active in 4-H sewing and livestock. Harold served as a leader of a livestock club that grew to include pigs, sheep, dairy and beef cattle.

An incident that stands out in the Pecks' memories happened during the years when calf scrambles were held during fairs. Youngsters who were fortunate in catching and holding onto a calf were given that calf to grow out and bring back to show and sell at the following fair.

When Patricia and Shirley entered a calf scramble they came away empty-handed with battered bodies and torn clothes. Consequently, local ranchers Don Greenup and Ebb Hughes generously gave these youngsters steer calves to raise, show and sell.

Harold's involvement with 4-H and the county fair grew. The Pecks were superintendents of the Collector's Corner for many years. A chairman of the 4-H council, he was also a fair committee member before a long-term commitment on the fair board, beginning in 1980.

Harold devoted those years to working on anything that needed upgrading on the fairgrounds. When that complex was modernized by merging with the city waste water system, he spent most of one summer working on the project. Harold also converted a fomer barn on the grounds that now

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## Carnival rides for the little ones

Jack Davis Carnival company will be at the fair Wednesday, August 16, through Sunday, August 20. The rides will include a large swing ride. For the little tykes, there will be a merry-go-round, ferris wheel and airplane.

The Jack Davis Carnival will bring along a petting zoo, which features a large number of animals, including camels, kangaroos, zebras and foxes.

The "All Star" petting zoo is the largest petting zoo "West of the Mississippi" and has entertained well over a million people. Davis believes that by taking positive action through hands-on education, we can bring an understanding to young and old of the importance of preserving the animals of the world and that we share with them.

## Petting zoo brings wide variety

The "All Star" petting zoo is comprised of domestically born, hand-raised exotic animals with over 100 animals of over 35 species.

## Still time to register for parade

The time has come to register for the 1995 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Parade, scheduled for Saturday, August 19, at 10 a.m. The parade will run through downtown Heppner. Judging starts at 8:30 a.m. at Green Feed and Seed.

The pre-registration deadline is Tuesday, August 15. Organizers stress pre-registration because it makes the parade run much smoother. A registration form is located in the back of the Fair Premium Book, or may be obtained at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce office.

This year's parade theme, "Look What Kids Can Do", "opens the door for some unique parade entries," said a parade spokesperson.

For registration or more information, call parade chairman, Bill Karwacki, 676-9128 days, or Donna Moeller, 676-5101 evenings. Registration forms may also be mailed to the Chamber office, P.O. Box 1232, Heppner, 97836.


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