

Montgomerys honored as 2003 Grand Marshals



Bob and Lorrene Montgomery

It's time to "cowboy up" for the 2003 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, Aug. 13-17. Heading up the action for the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo this year are Grand Marshals Bob and Lorrene Montgomery, long-time rodeo-minded enthusiasts and supporters.

The Montgomerys have devoted countless hours to local rodeos and other horse events during past years. Bob served on the Morrow County Rodeo Committee from 1974 through 1982 as a livestock director and he was committee chairman for three years. He also served on a board for junior rodeos when they were held in Heppner. Bob continues to wear a fancy, engraved belt buckle given to him in appreciation for his dedication.

Bob and Lorrene, who were married in 1964, became Morrow County residents when they moved from Beaverton to Ione in August 1969 to work for Swede Carlson on his Ione ranches. They chose to

relocate where they could raise a family in a small-town atmosphere and enjoy a country lifestyle. So it was natural that this horse-oriented family became involved in Wrangler Riding Club events and the 4-H as well as community events including school activities and sports.

"I liked this area best," says Bob, who experienced many parts of the country during the 42 years that he drove trucks through seven western states. Besides working at farming and with livestock, he drove large truck for highway construction in different areas. They now live in a home in Lexington.

Attracted to rodeos, Bob became hooked on roping events. He learned to "pitch a fast loop" under the coaching of Rod Murray. Bob once partnered with roper Ron Currin to place third in the team roping at the Heppner Rodeo. At the 1971 local rodeo, Bob won third place in the Morrow County Calf Roping event.

"Outstanding memories are of those events when everyone from little kids

to grandparents had so much fun participating," Bob says. The Montgomerys recall the years when the rodeo events took place in the very large Heppner rodeo arena where ropers needed a fast horse and a long rope. During Bob's board membership this rodeo changed from being sanctioned by the NRA to PRCA. The new smaller arena built at Heppner in recent years makes for a faster show, they say.

Lorrene now devotes her spare time to crafting, turning out many decorative and useful items. Previously she worked outside of home for many years. She was a 4-H sewing club leader in Ione from 1970 through 1975. Before her retirement she served 13 years as Deputy Tax Collector at the Morrow County Courthouse.

Bob is a long-time Elks Lodge member and Lorrene is a supporter of the Lexington Volunteer Firemen Fund. During recent years, golfing has replaced square dancing and horses, yet rodeos always find the Montgomerys in the cheering section. This year they will be up front and center heading up the fair and rodeo parade, making arena appearances at rodeo grand entries and cheering on both local and PRCA contestants. As grand marshals, Bob and Lorrene Montgomery are being honored for their dedication and past contributions.

Included in their family rooting section are Lorrene's

two children. Kathy and her husband, Mike Prater, who live in Nampa, Idaho, with daughter, Melissa. Son Rick Gilbert and his wife, Jennifer, live in Etna, California with daughters, Brittany and

Rachel. Bob's adult children are: Robert Jr., from Tangent, Linda Montgomery, Albany, and Sharon Perdue, Everett, Washington. The couple has grandchildren, Christina, Zackery, and Carolyn Perdue, plus great-grandchildren Mackenzie and Alexia Purdue.

OTLD and Friends of the Library to hold book signing

The Oregon Trail Library District and Friends of the Heppner Library will be holding a book signing, Aug. 16, immediately after the Morrow County Fair Parade. The book signing will be held at the St. Patrick's Senior Center.

Doug and Kathy Jory will be in attendance sharing stories and cowboy poetry, as well as, signing their book "From Pendleton to Calgary," an oral history of Rodeo. Also, look for the Jorys on the OTLD float during the parade.

During the gathering, the Heppner High School cheerleaders will be serving a beans and hot dog meal, with drink. The cost of the meal is \$3 per person.

This event is sponsored by the OTLD and Friends of the Heppner Library.

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