

Dedication and commitment describe this year's Grand Marshal

His voice has been heard at the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo for almost twenty years. Dedication and commitment are two words that help describe this year's Grand Marshal, Frank Halvorsen. He continues his commitment this year again and can be heard announcing slack at the rodeo and the Morrow County JackPot Rodeo on Aug. 21. Frank Halvorsen is the man behind the voice you hear each year

during slack and rodeo.

Frank was born in The Dalles, OR on April 1, 1951. He grew up in Morrow County and graduated from Lone High School. He continued his education at Blue Mountain and Eastern Oregon College, and then returned home to run the family's cattle and wheat ranch near Lone. He married Cathy Cannon in 1972 and they raised three children on the

ranch, Ryan Halvorsen, the late Jason Halvorsen who was killed in 1994, and Allison Halvorsen.

Frank never competed in rodeo himself. As he put it, he had all the rodeo action he needed in the hills and corrals of home. However, he was an athlete none the less. He was an active water skier and trampolinist. While growing up his family often performed all over the Pacific Northwest at events such as the Hydro Boat Races in the Tri-Cities, as entertainment for the great Cycle Oregon bike race and he could be seen yearly at the Hermiston Track meets.

The interest of rodeo has always run deep in the Halvorsen Family. Many of Frank's relatives have reigned as court members of our yearly rodeo. These include Princess Dimple Munkers, Donna Ray, Nonie Walters and Laurel Cannon. His aunt Babe Stender performed as part of entertainment with the Salem Saddle Club many years ago.

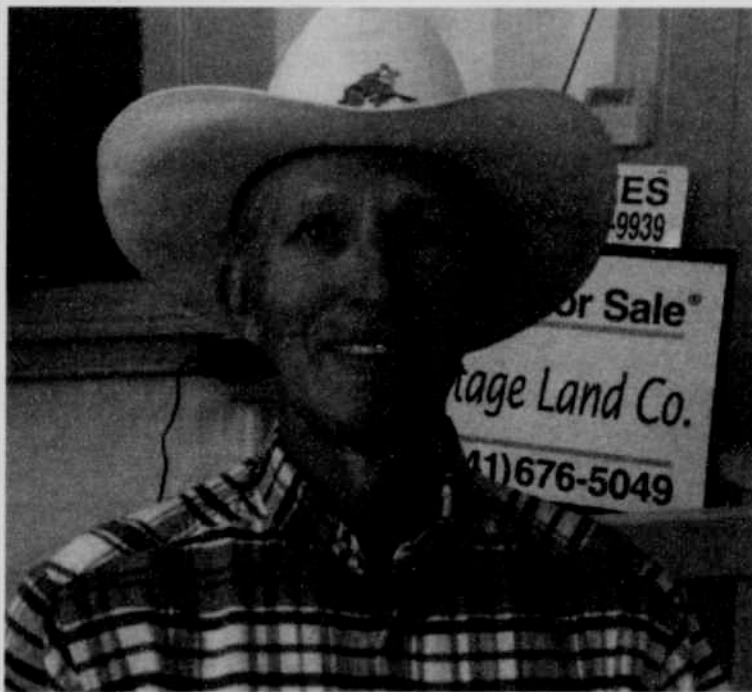
Over the years Frank has noticed numerous improvements to this yearly event. "We have facilities that we should all be proud of here at Morrow County." With time, the locations of buildings and accommodations have improved. He remembers the rodeo dances back in the 60's, "These often drew more people than the rodeo." The Fair and Rodeo has been finely tuned with community support and the changes have been grand.

Community involvement is something that Frank is still active in. He has been involved with the Cowboy Breakfast for the Heppner Masonic Lodge and is currently a member. He also has held an office at this lodge and is a life long member of the Willow's Grange. A thirty plus year member of the Heppner Elks and the Ione

Community Church wraps up his activities.

Thinking back, Frank's greatest accomplishments had to do with rodeo, supporting children and athletics. His most memorable honors include volunteering and helping at The Shriners Children's Hospital and recently being inducted into the Northwest Community College Association Hall of Fame. His team (1969-1970) was the only undefeated team ever to play basketball in a full season.

He is also very proud to be honored as the 2005 Grand Marshal of the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo. This year, you can see the face behind the voice we have heard and appreciated for so many years.



Frank Halvorsen

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