

Myra Baska chosen Grand Marshall for 2001 parade

That Myra Baska was selected as Grand Marshall of the 45th Vernonia Friendship Jamboree is appropriate; 2001 also happens to be the 45th anniversary of her family's arrival in Vernonia.

Myra brought considerable baggage to Vernonia, including six children from her marriage to Frank Dinger in Grano, North Dakota, and two children from her second marriage to Earl Baska, in 1948 in Mohall, North Dakota. Six of her children live in Oregon, four of them in Vernonia.

Myra's parents homesteaded in Donnybrook, North Dakota, in the late 19th century, raising the family on a farm. Myra had 15 siblings, 6 boys and 9 girls, 12 of whom survive.

In this great family, a tradition of reunion is held by the clan every two years. She is looking forward to the next gathering in Minnesota. Five of the 12 survivors of her sibling family are older than Myra, who is now 90.

Life as a Vernonian has, both intentionally and of necessity, created strong family ties, with Myra as matriarch.

She recalls her involvement with West Oregon Electric, which, early on, had board meetings once a month, at



Grand Marshall Myra Baska

which she made sandwiches and pies to feed the board members. She retains a long-held reputation as a superb pie baker.

Her life is still active, including bowling in Longview, sitting

in on card games at the Vernonia Senior Center and helping serve food at the center.

She is a grand old Dame, loved and admired by the community and fitting Grand Marshall for Friendships Forever.

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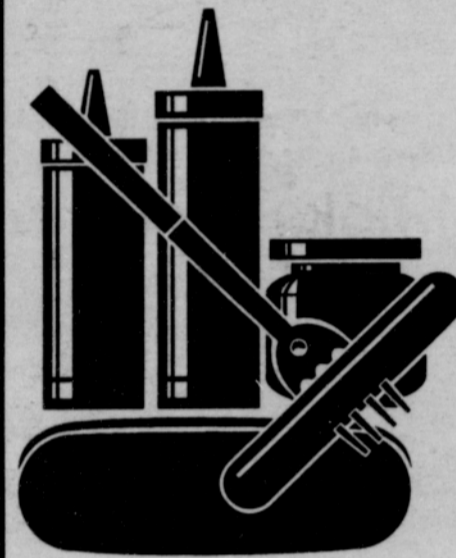
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