

## Earnest J. Haney selected as 1982 Parade Grand Marshal

The Umatilla County Pioneers Association is very happy to announce the selection of Earnest J. Haney as the 1982 Parade Grand Marshal. Mr. Haney had served once 1946 (over 30 years) as the Pioneer Reunion's Secretary-Treasurer. Many local residents can remember his many efforts as Secretary-Treasurer and recognize that he is deserving of the present honor.



Earnest Haney was born in Walla Walla, April 12., 1893, in a house on Sumach Street. His father was William John Haney, who had come to this area from Vermont. Mr. Haney met Ernest's mother, Ella Strayor, as he drove a butcher wagon on Eureka Flats where she cooked for a local rancher. After their marriage, the couple moved into Walla Walla where William Haney worked in a lumber yard. Earnest Haney had give brothers and two sisters. At the age of 12 years old, Mr. Haney moved to Valley Chapel (near the Whitman Monument) where he farmed 40 acres. The family primarily raised hay and milked 10 head of dairy cows. Earnest recalls making the butter and delivering it into Walla Walla once a week. The children attended a one-room country school where 40 children, grades 1 to 8 were taught by one teacher.



In 1909 the family moved to the Echo area where William Haney bought about 60 acres from the "Umatilla Ranch" and raised grass hay and later alfalfa hay. Earnest remembers that they were able to put up three cuttings of hay by utilizing flood irrigation from the Umatilla River. The farmers used 2-horse teams to pull the hay mower and the buckrake. Then the hay was picked up by hand and hauled in horse wagons to a stationary baler operated by 2 horses. The bales were hand tied into 100-pound bales and mostly shipped to Portland on the railroad.

At the age of 22 Earnest Haney moved to Athena and worked on the Joe Sheard ranch. In 1918 he married Joe Sheard's daughter, Lizzie, and the couple moved to the Saling place on Wildhorse Mountain. This farm is located near the present Don Smock farm is now farmed by Lelan O'Harra. While farming on Wildhorse Creek, Earnest recalls using a 9-horse team while pulling a two bottom plow. He also remembered that the grasshoppers nearly wiped out his first crop of spring oats until they were controlled by spray.

On the mountain he usually came to town about once per week, in the winter even less. In the summer he had to haul water in a 250 gallon wooden tank about once per week from a

nearby spring. In the winter they used a 4-horse team to plow snow with a wooden pull grader. During the harvest they used a 3-horse team on the grain binder, then the wheat a hand-shocked and hauled to a stationary threshing machine with two 2-horse bundle wagons. Generally, he could make only one trip per day with a 6-horse farm wagon to haul 50 sacks of grain to the elevator in Athena.

In 1920, Lizzie and Earnest Haney moved back to Lamar Gulch and farmed 160 acres on the Joe Sheard ranch. While harvesting here they used a 16 head-small pull combine to thresh the wheat. There were two "sackers" who filled the sacks with grain and then dropped them onto the ground in rows to be picked up later. Earnest recalls having 40 bushel per acre crops.

In 1962, Mrs. Haney passed away and in 1965 Earnest married Mrs. Rose Ross, a former Queen of the Pioneer Reunion, and moved into her Weston residence. About this time he retired from farming and became much more active in the Pioneer Association and civic events. Both Earnest and Rose have been given the Weston Chamber of Commerce "Outstanding Citizen Award", he in 1968 and she in 1971. Earnest Haney was also Secretary-Treasurer of the Weston Chamber of Commerce, from its conception until just a few years ago. Mrs. Haney passed away in January of 1980.

Recently, Earnest suggested that the State Highway Commission put in a viewpoint overlooking the Umatilla River Basin just a few miles west of Langdon Lake on Highway 204. Thus, with his suggestion, an auto viewpoint was installed at the beautiful location and it was named the Earnest J. Haney Viewpoint. It has a spectacular view of the mountainous area.

The Pioneer Association is very proud and honored that such a deserving man can be recognized by reigning as the 1982 Grand Marshal.