

June 3-5, 1994 Pioneer Queen and Grand Marshal

Queen Noma Herndon Tucker

Queen Noma Tucker's paternal grandparents, John and Tennessee Herndon, ma have attended the first Pioneer Picnic held May 27-28, 1892. They moved to Oregon from Missouri prior to 1880 and homesteaded on Gerking Flat West of Athena.



Queen Noma Herndon Tucker

But, because of an abundance of ground squirrels and a shortage of water and wood, the couple traded the homestead for a place on Reed and Hawley Mountain.

In 1905, Tucker's maternal grandparents, Lovejoy and Lavada Smock, moved to Reed and Hawley Mountain from Randolph, Utah.

Her mother, Ethel Smock Herndon, delivered her at the same place on the Mountain where her father, Grady Herndon was born. Tucker attended the first through eighth grades at Fairview

Country School. She then transferred to Weston High School and graduated in 1931.

In 1951, Tucker and her family moved to Crook County where she lived for 33 years. Her husband, Earl "Cap" Tucker, was also born and raised in Weston. He passed away in Prineville 17 years ago and was brought home to the Weston Cemetery.

Tucker now resides in Milton-Freewater, but considers Weston her home base. She said her final resting place will be next to Cap, her sister, parents and grandparents on the hill east of Town.

She has two sons Danny and Jerry, five grandchildren and one great-grand daughter.

Noma said the annual reunion "is a time for celebrating the past and looking forward, to watch our offspring develop ties to the future."

Queen Noma reflects on the spirit of Pioneer Days

Queen Noma Tucker says, "as long as I can remember Pioneer Picnic has been a most important rite of spring."

"As a girl I always had to have new clothes for picnic. We dressed in our best for the annual reunion. I can only remember missing two in my life.

"Thinking back, what was so much fun? I guess the anticipation is what made it so great. We watched the sky for signs of rain – didn't want to get our new clothes all ruined. The men hurried their plantings and the women cooked for the dinner. We took our food to Grandma's and ate there.

“It was hurry, hurry, hurry after the morning program, to eat and get back for the afternoon program. People usually sat in the same place every program and we had four programs over two days.

“The kids especially enjoyed the carnival and spent every cent they could get riding the Merry-go-Round. Little girls chased little boys and little boys chased little girls, just as they do today. There were baseball games and street dances with cash prizes.

“After the races and ball games, we ate again – leftovers from noon – then all got on their best clothes and went to the most important part of the weekend...the dances in the evening. Everyone went to them. Many courtships have started at these dances over the years.”

Queen Noma has a lot more memories of Pioneer Days from years of involvement with the annual celebration and other community events. For many years she served on the Program Committee with Audrey Lieuallen, Walter and Miller Rayborn.

During their years in Prineville, Noma and her husband, Cap, would bring their boys and friends to Weston each year to participate in the programs. Her boys played coronet solos several different years.

She was drill captain for the Rebekahs when they sponsored several of the Queens and was responsible for starting the High School Alumni Association, which continues today. Noma also had a big hand in starting the Jolly Circle Club, which is one of the few surviving organizations in Weston.

Mrs. Tucker is active in Loyalty Chapter #47 and Carnation Chapter #44, O.E.S; Amaranth; Daughters of the Nile; Rebekahs; Neighbors of Woodcraft; Milton-Freewater Garden Club; Extension Pioneer Study Club; Narcissa Prentis Chapter D.A.R.; High Noon Toastmasters Club and Jolly Circle Club.

Grand Marshal Duane Warner



Duane Warner said riding a horse at the head of the parade will be the highlight of his role as Grand Marshall for the 102nd Pioneer Days.

Warner was born in St. Andrews, Washington, to Hubert and Nanne Warner and moved to Reed and Hawley Mountain when he was one year old.

He attended White Fir Country School on the mountain for the first through fourth grades. He then moved into Weston with his sisters so that they could attend high school, which he graduated from in 1942.

Warner then served two and a half years in the Army Air Force as a B-29 waist gunner during World War II.

After the war Warner started farming with his brother-in-law,

Grand Marshal Duane Warner

Wendell Tucker. In 1988 he retired after driving school buses for Weston Schools for 30 years.

His 98 year old mother and his sister, Eudine Tucker, still live in Weston. He and his wife, Anita, have four children, Mike of Enterprise; Doug of Milton-Freewater; Barry of Athena; and James Mathwick of Milton-Freewater.

Warner said he enjoys living in Weston because, "I just love the country and the weather. It's not a big city. I've always been a small town guy."

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