

June 3-4, 2005 Pioneer Queen and Grand Marshal

Marion Culley

Marion is truly a daughter of pioneers. Her great-great-grandfather was Johann Jacob who came to the Oregon Territory in 1857. At the age of 17, he left Germany as a stow-away on a sailing vessel that landed in New York Harbor. He stayed there for two years working as a picture gilder. In 1855, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to California. He was transferred to Fort Lane, Oregon, and walked the entire distance on foot. As a soldier, he fought in the Indian Wars. He mustered out in 1860 and was given a land grant in the Walla Walla area on Mill Creek.



Queen Marion Aden Culley

That was the beginning. Many years later, Queen Marion was born to a pioneer family in 1920. She grew up on Mill Creek and went to a one-room school. Her family moved to Walla Walla where she started high school. After high school, she attended the University of Washington for one year. Then she returned to Walla Walla and entered Nurses Training at St. Mary's Hospital. Marion received her degree from St. Mary Hospital School of Nursing.

She met her husband to be, Herb Culley, in 1941. He was one of the patients she was caring for. They were married shortly thereafter.

She took time off to have six children: Kimberly, Cliff, Kathleen, Maureen, Colleen, and Bob. She returned to work at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton during the Vietnam War years, in the ICU/CCU Unit, retiring at age 72. Marion also has eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She still lives on the farm where she and her husband raised their children.

She enjoys sketching and painting. She has also made many beautiful antique reproduction dolls. Marion continues to do volunteer nursing from Athena to Milton-Freewater. Marion previously tasted festival fame as a Walla Walla County Fair Farmerette in the 1930s.

Don Smock



Grand Marshal Donell Smock

Donell James Smock was born in Walla Walla, Washington, in the year of 1932 to J.L. Smock and Atrass McCorkell Smock. He was reared on Reed and Hawley Mountain where his family has lived on a ranch they purchased 100 years ago as of this year. He attended the first grade at Weston Grade School, second through eighth at the one-room schoolhouse on Reed and Hawley Mountain, and graduated from Weston High School in 1950.

In 1953, he joined the Navy and was stationed on Guam. He also married Mary Warren that year.

They have three daughters: Donita Smock, of Bay City, Oregon; Dorothy Beckwith of Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Angela Kelly of Denver, Colorado; and one son, Tim Smock of Weston, Oregon; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Don has farmed and logged on the family ranch for fifty years and continues to maintain it. The ranch has been designated a Century Farm.

He was Sexton for the Sexton at the Weston Cemetery for 30 years, following his grandfather, Alec McCorkell, who served for 15 years.

Don served as Mayor Pro-tem, a council member, a city budget committee member, a member of the Planning Commission, Director and President of the Weston Chamber of Commerce, Weston Cemetery Board member, President of the Weston Alumni Association, and has helped with the Pioneer Picnic over the last 50 years.

He was selected Conservation Farmer of the year in 1964 and Weston Citizen of the Year in 1987.