

## **Pioneer Days June 6-7, 2008**



### **Queen Janis Handley**

2008 Pioneer Reunion Queen Janis Handley was born in Pendleton, Oregon, to James May and Rose Warner May. She was the youngest of seven children. Her dad liked to move around a lot, so they lived all over Umatilla County, mostly in Milton-Freewater. He moved the family to Weston in 1950 and Janis attended 5<sup>th</sup> grade there.

They moved again, then moved back to Weston her junior year in high school when she started going with her husband-to-be, Harrison Handley. The couple married in 1947 and have been married 60 years.

Janis and Harrison had two children, William and Linda. They both went to school and graduated from Weston High.

Janis worked for the telephone company for 35 years. She worked in Pendleton 33 years for Pacific Northwest Bell and in Walla Walla the last 3 years where she retired from US West as a manager. While working, Janis requested a grant for the Weston Historical Society for \$1500. She also

obtained funds for the Weston Senior Center and worked on food baskets for the needy in Weston. Janis received the Weston Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award in 1985.

While her children were in school she was President of the Weston PTA and through PNB had a telephone pole donated to the school parking area.

Janis had the thrill of a lifetime when she assisted the telephone Pioneers with the Olympic Torch Run, following the torch runner in a pilot car from LaGrande to Pendleton.

After Harry and Janis retired, they had their own boat and spent a lot of years fishing at the ocean and lakes around the area.

They are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

### **Grand Marshal Harrison Handley**

2008 Pioneer Reunion Grand Marshal Harrison Handley was born November 2, 1928, in Walla Walla, Washington to Harrison G. and Marie Ferguson Handley.

Soon after, they moved to Texas and Oklahoma. He went to first and second grades at a country school out of Shattuck, Oklahoma. His parents then moved back to Washington and Oregon.

He attended his third and fourth grades at Valley Chapel School, which is across the Oregon border in Washington.

In 1937 the Handley family moved to Weston, where he finished grades five through twelve. He graduated from Weston Union High School in 1947.

On December 30, 1947, he married his school sweetheart, Janis May, in Vancouver, Washington. The couple have two children, Bill and Linda, who also went to school and graduated from Eston High.

Harrison has lived most of his life in Umatilla County. He moved from Pendleton to a little hobby farm up on Wild Horse Creek for seven years, before moving to the Claude Price place at the edge of Weston. He has lived there for 44 years.

Harrison was President of the Weston Chamber of Commerce in 1969. He served on the Budget Committee for Weston School District 19-R for two years, then was elected to the School Board for five years.

He worked for the Umatilla County Road Department for 42 years and 6 months before retiring in 1993. Since then, the Handleys have been traveling and doing lots of fishing.

The couple have five grandchildren and eight great –grandchildren.

*Thank you to Melanie Hall and Valley Herald Newspaper for the photo and biographies!*