

## 2012 Pioneer Queen and Grand Marshal



### Queen Rosella (Koch) Humbert

Rosella was born December 1, 1938 in Kalispell, Montana to Carl and Opal (Mogstad) Koch. She is the youngest of five siblings and will forever be the baby sister of Arlene, Bill, Jack, and Jim.

For the first nine years of Rosella's life, her family lived in four different areas to follow the work, as her father was a blacksmith, fabricator, and welder. They finally settled in Milton-Freewater, Oregon in 1947 and made it their home. Her mother, Opal, had a green thumb and raised amazing flower and vegetable gardens.

In 1961, Carl Koch (Rosella's dad) purchased Craigen's Welding Shop in Weston, Oregon. The business set where the Baker Boyer Bank building is currently located in Weston. Carl was the local blacksmith, farrier, and plow sharpener. He also enjoyed creating items made out of old iron and railroad tracks.

As a child and young adult, Rosella's love was horses. She was active in the Pioneer Posse by riding in their drill team (Square Dancing on Horses) and participated in team events and parades. In 1953, she was a Princess on the Pioneer Posse Court and was the Queen in 1955.

While in high school, Rosella was active in Future Homemakers of America. She graduated from Mac-Hi in 1957.

In September of 1957, Rosella married her husband, Sam Humbert, and will soon celebrate 55 years of marriage. She then devoted her love and time to her husband and family. She was busy behind the scenes fixing her famous macaroni and potato salads or whipping up a batch of brownies for the variety of functions or occasions that accompany being a mother of four.

She worked in the local canneries until signing on as bookkeeper for the family businesses including Humbert Logging, Humbert Construction and the most recent venture of purchasing Rahn's Refuse Service in June of 1996. Family is everything to Rosella and she continues to count her blessings with her four children working for Humbert Refuse & Recycling.

Sam and Rosella have four children: Marie Sallee, Mike Humbert, Don Humbert, and Cindy Granger; eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Rosella looks forward to planning Christmas dinner every year because all of the families still come home! She has been collecting old time tractor seats and transforming them into brightly colored furniture for her patio. It will be a "forever" project since her family keeps growing and will always need another seat.

A passionate supporter of her family and communities is the best way to summarize Rosella's love for the valley. Every time she leaves Eastern Oregon, she cannot wait to get back and see the beautiful patchwork quilt Mother Nature has created at the base of the Blue Mountains and of course to see and hug her family. Sixty-five years later, Rosella is still proud to call this valley her home!

Rosella would like to thank the Umatilla County Pioneer Association for the honor of being selected as Queen of the 120th Annual Pioneer Reunion.

## **Grand Marshal Sam Humbert**

Sam was born February 17, 1937 in St. George, Kansas to Glen and Dorothy (Groves) Humbert. They moved to Bend, Oregon when Sam was six months old and stayed there until making Milton-Freewater, Oregon their permanent residence in 1955. It was then that Humbert Logging was established with his father and brother, Guy.

When Sam moved to Milton-Freewater, his initial task was to help move the first sawmill into Weston, Oregon which was located at the top of the hill on Main Street. The mill was owned by Stallings. It was then moved to Milton-Freewater and was known as the Milton Lumber Company.

Sam is the sixth of 14 siblings. His brothers and sisters include Glo Duckett, Glen Humbert, Beth Stanphill, Guy Humbert, Louise Baumann, Ned, Bob, Lloyd, Joe, and Dan Humbert, Joannie Tanner, Sally Ryan and Linda Humbert.

Sam graduated from Bend High School in 1955, where he was honored as the first four-year letterman to graduate from the school, which was built in 1917. He received his letter in wrestling. When he was not in school, Sam worked on the family farm.

Sam and Rosella were married September 29, 1957 in Milton-Freewater. They have four children: Marie Sallee, Mike Humbert, Don Humbert, and Cindy Granger; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In 1974, Sam and Guy founded Humbert Construction. They primarily built roads for the US Forest Service in the Blue Mountains and built countless miles of terrace for local farmers.

In 1996, Sam and Rosella purchased Rahn's Refuse Service and continue to provide refuse collection to the local valley. Sam and Rosella are very proud to say that their company is "family owned and operated." Marie and Cindy work in the office, while Don and Mike drive the trucks as well as run the landfill. Their grandson, Sam, also drives truck for the company.

Every year they look forward to Customer Appreciation Days, "Dump Dogs", and seeing the customers come to the landfill. They also look forward to being in the Adams Days, Pioneer Reunion, and Caledonian Games parades each year and handing out Tootsie Rolls to all of the community members; showing support for the local youth and businesses.

Sam and Rosella have always been devoted supporters of the community youth and the local 4-H and FFA programs and love calling this valley their home. For over 60 years this has been home not only to Sam and Rosella but their children and grandchildren. They look forward to many more years of being active and supportive of our wonderful, small communities.

Sam would like to thank the Umatilla County Pioneer Association for the honor of being selected as the Grand Marshal for the 120th Annual Pioneer Reunion.

(Editor's Note: In 1999, Sam was added to the Milton-Freewater Junior Show Honor Roll for all of the volunteer work he had done for the show and in 2009 Humbert Refuse & Recycling was added to the Honor Roll for their support of the local 4-H and FFA fair. In 2010, the McLoughlin High School FFA Chapter presented Humbert Refuse & Recycling with their Honorary Business Award for their support of the FFA. At

this year's Milton-Freewater Citizens of the Year Awards Banquet, Sam and Rosella where honored with the 2011 Golden Pioneer Award.)

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