

The 2009 Perkins County Fair parade begins at 10 a.m. on the north side of Grant City Park, will travel south down Central Avenue, then turn west on Second Street, pass along the south side of the courthouse, and end in front of the fairgrounds grandstand.

By Jan Rahn



Managing Editor

Without hesitation, Ken Potts said, “It’s the people” when asked about his favorite thing in Perkins County.

Potts has been selected by Perkins County Chamber to serve as the Grand Marshal in the 2009 Fair Parade on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Riding with him will be Jane, his wife of 38 years.

Although not a native of Nebraska, you wouldn’t know it by his dedication to the Elsie community where he farms, his service to his county, and his love of the Cornhusker state that he has called home for his entire adult life.

Farming, 4-H, and serving on the fair board have been the core of many summers for Potts.

He has farmed with his wife’s family, the Faughts, south of Elsie for 34 years. He was an official fair board member for 12 years, but was involved long before that, helping his father-in-law, the late Chub Faught, who also served on the board.

Helping his sons raise livestock for their 4-H projects was an additional commitment.

Potts said his pet project while on the fair board was spearheading a new bingo stand between

the exhibit building and the dance hall building on the Perkins County Fairgrounds, which the fair board is pleased with and proud of.

“The fair board has worked hard over the years to keep the fair going and make improvements,” said Potts, who is also a member of other area organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, American Legion Post 206, the Elsie Volunteer Fire Department, the Perkins County Veterans Board, and the Perkins County Health Services Foundation. He and Jane are active members of the Resurrection Catholic Church in Elsie.

“Everyone knows they can count on Ken,” said a letter of nomination from Adam and Kathy Curtis. “He is always willing to lend a helping hand wherever he is needed—we have had three benefits in the Elsie community the past few years and he has had a leadership role in every one of them.”

The Curtis family is active in the fair and 4-H projects as well, noticing that Potts is always around—numerous times the first to arrive in the early morning hours and one of the last to leave when the fair shuts down for the night.

Potts moved to Perkins County upon completion of serving his country in the U.S. Air Force for four years. He was 14 when his father was killed in a hunting accident. He and his mother left the dairy farm in north central Iowa and moved to Fairbury, where he attended high school and junior college before enlisting.

He worked for his Uncle, Don Potts in Grant following the military and then he and Jane lived in Lincoln for several years where he worked for the state of Nebraska before returning to the area.

The couple has three children and four grandchildren. Daughter Michelle Ross and husband Tom live in Madrid. She is employed at Pinnacle Bank in Grant, and they have two children, Brandie and Spencer. Son Corey and wife Suzanne live in Portland, Ore., where he is a lending manager with Wells Fargo. Ryan and wife Michaela live in Grant where he is employed at Great Plains Communications. Their daughters are Kailee and Madison.

“It is an honor to be the Grand Marshal in the community I love to call home, where I raised my children, and where some of the greatest people in the world live,” said Potts.

Always upbeat and a tease himself, Potts said he thought the president of Chamber, Kandi McClung, was joking when she called announcing he’d been chosen to lead the parade while he was working on equipment in his shop.

“I was very shocked!” he said. “I couldn’t believe it!”

He laughed and said, “I called Kandi back to make sure she wasn’t pulling my leg!”

When asked if there was anything else he would like to share with the newspaper’s readers, his reply was, “I just want to tell all those who I am always scaring and playing jokes on—look out!”