



Ron Schlagel
2017
Parade
Grand
Marshall

Ron was born in a rural Longmont farmhouse to Jacob and Elizabeth Schlagel. He grew up on his family's farm west of town with his brother Robert and sister Ruth. One of Ron's favorite memories from his childhood is saddling his horse 'Chief' and herding the milk cows down the dirt road to the pasture and then later that afternoon bringing them back to the milk barn for the evening milking. As a boy, he walked almost a mile to attend Nelson School. Later, he attended and graduated from Longmont High School where he was involved in football and wrestling. Ron was an active member of FFA and 4-H, holding officer positions in both organizations while participating at the Boulder County Fair during his youth. As a teenager, Ron and his high school buddies worked for his dad and uncle during harvest on their custom threshing crew pitching bundles of wheat, barley and oats, six days a week, making two dollars an hour.

Ron farmed with his family raising sugar beets, corn, pinto beans, brew barley and alfalfa while managing a cow calf operation. He also farrowed hogs from farrow to finish. Ron was awarded the local Outstanding Young Farmer Award in 1974. During the winter months, to supplement the family farm income he worked at the Great Western Sugar Factory processing sugar beets and framed and built houses with his uncle. While living in the Prospect Valley area, in addition to farming, he was employed by Air Dusters, American Fertilizer and the Town of Keenesburg. Ron was an active member of the Longmont Jaycees and Hygiene Volunteer Fire Department. He served as trustee at Christ Congregational Church in Longmont and later at Zoar Congregational Church in Prospect Valley. He was a 4-H leader in Boulder and Weld County for several years. Ron was a member of the Southeast Weld Conservation District Board and served as president.

In 1975, Ron and his family moved to their farm in Prospect Valley. Ron was a member of the Southeast Weld County Fair Board for many years and served as president and secretary. His four daughters, Christie,

Jill, Jennifer and Brenda each completed ten years of 4-H exhibiting projects in Home Economics, Market Beef, Breeding Beef and Market Lambs. His daughter Jill has served as the SEWC Fair Home Economics and General Department Superintendent for over 25 years. Ron's grandchildren and great grandchildren have also been active participants in 4-H and FFA at the Elbert County Fair, Weld County Fair and the Southeast Weld County Fair & Rodeo. His great granddaughter Mikayla is the current SEWC Jr. Fair & Rodeo Queen.

Ron's hobbies include hunting, fishing, woodworking, gardening and collecting cast iron Griswolds. He also has a passion for old Ford cars and trucks. Ron enjoys spending time deer and elk hunting and fishing at his rustic cabin in Gunnison with his family and friends. Ron frequently spends time with his family attending activities for his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

REMEMBERING THE PAST...

Ron recalls when serving as the Southeast Weld County Fair Board President he recognized the need for a community building. At that time, the Home Economics & General projects were displayed at the American Legion Hall and Fair Board meetings were held at the old Keenesburg Fire House located on Main Street. He initiated the construction of a community building at the old fairgrounds site on Woodward Street and recollects the fair board acquiring a loan at the Citizens State Bank to fund the project. With generous donations, support from the community and hard work from the fair board members and their families continual improvements were funded and completed each year. Some of the improvements included upgrading the scale, expanding animal barns and the show/sale ring, adding additional bleachers and rebuilding the rodeo arena. The community building was later moved and repurposed as the sale arena and hog/sheep barn at the current fairgrounds location.

Another memory he recalls is all the hard work and preparation for Saturday's barbeque. The fair board members themselves would butcher, hang in a cooler and cut up the donated steer, at Daryl Arnold's place, to later be roasted and served at the fairgrounds. The sweet corn was grown, picked, shucked and donated by the fair board members and their families. At that time, the board consisted of only 15-17 members.

A comical memory Ron remembers is that a portable red wooden outhouse built by Dwight Arnold was used at the old fairgrounds location, equipped with wheels and a

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hitch! Ironically, the most recent restrooms built at the current fairgrounds location are housed in a big red metal barn.

TO BUILD OUR FUTURE...

Ron has seen many changes and improvements made to the Southeast Weld County Junior Fair & Rodeo over the years through hard work, dedication and donations from the fair board and the supportive community. He has watched family traditions pass from generation to generation, as their commitment stays steady and strong to preserve and improve the fairground facilities to build our future. He is most thankful for the lasting friendships and the many fond memories established as part of this community and serving on the board. Ron hopes that the SEWC Fair & Rodeo will continue to be a strong family tradition in our community that enhances the lives of our 4-H, FFA and rodeo families.

Ron would like to thank the SEWC Fair Board for selecting him as the 2017 Parade Grand Marshall. He is proud to share this 2017 fair honor with his great granddaughter Mikayla. Each morning Ron thanks "The Man Upstairs" for his health, happiness and another day to enjoy his family, friends and many blessings.



**DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR
RAFFLE TICKET FROM
ANY FAIRBOARD
MEMBER FOR A
POLARIS SPORTSMAN 570**

**ONLY 600 TICKETS
WILL BE SOLD**

\$20 EACH

DON'T FORGET!



**NORTHERN
COLORADO
ANTIQUUE TRACTOR
PULL
SATURDAY
7:00 P.M.
IN THE ARENA**

**THUNDER
ON THE PLAINS
RETURNS!**



**NSPA
TRUCK PULL
SUNDAY @ 2:00 P.M.
IN THE AREA**