

Parade Marshals for 2008 Colorado County Fair Parade Named

(continued from front page)

two years. He farmed and ranched in Colorado and Wharton Counties before beginning his banking career in Houston in 1968. He later returned to Eagle Lake where he became the president of First National Bank in 1979. He retired as bank president in 2006 and currently serves as chairman of the board.

In addition to being the first fair president, Harrison is a Life Member of the fair and has served as an advisory director. He also helped organize the Colorado County Ag Complex, a non-profit corporation formed in 1993 to acquire a site and permanent facilities for the County Fair. He is currently serving as a member of the board of directors for the Ag Complex. He and his wife are both Founders Club Members of the Ag Complex.

The Fair and Ag Complex are far from being the only organizations to benefit from Harrison's dedicated service. He helped organize the Eagle Lake Industrial Foundation, serving as a director. He helped organize the Revitalize Eagle Lake, Inc., serving as treasurer. On the county level, he helped organize the Colorado County Economic

Development Organization, Inc., serving as its treasurer, as well. He has served as a member and on the boards of numerous other banking and professional organizations. He is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Eagle Lake. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake serving as vice-moderator, deacon and Sunday School teacher.

Jerry Henneke has nearly 30 years of involvement with the Colorado County Fair. His introduction to the fair came in 1979 when he and his two brothers Larry and Robert formed a team and participated in the Go Texan Hay Hauling Contest at the first one-day fair, held December 15 of that year. Since working with the dairy show in the early years, he has chaired various livestock divisions working to develop rules and guidelines for the fair's livestock show and sale. He was instrumental in the development of the arena events program, which today includes a full-fledged CPRA Rodeo on Friday and Saturday nights. Henneke was elected as the association's president in 1993 and served six years. Under his leadership the fair grew in all areas, especially in youth involvement. In

2002 he resumed the presidency of the association and led it through its 25th Anniversary in 2003. He was elected president for the third time in 2006 and currently remains in that position. His focus always remains "what is best for the fair".

Along with Harrison, Henneke was part of a county wide committee of some 40 individuals who organized in the early 1990's under the leadership of county agent Rick Jahn to secure a site to become the permanent home for the fair. Their efforts evolved into the Colorado County Ag Complex and led to the purchase of the 75-acre tract on the Highway 71 Bypass, which became the fair's permanent home in 2000.

Henneke served as a director on the board of the Texas Association of Fairs and Events from 2001-2003. In this capacity, he chaired and revamped the TAF&E's Excellence in Advertising and Marketing Awards. He encouraged the TAF&E's board to increase the number of scholarships they award annually to youth involved in county fairs across the state. Henneke was presented with the 2006 Texas Association of Fairs and Events Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award at the organization's annual convention held at the Hyatt Regency in Houston January 12-15 of that year.

Henneke was a member of the Columbus High School Class of 1962. He has devoted his life to farming and ranching on family land located near Cat Spring. He currently lives in the family home, which has been on the property since the late 1800's.

Henneke is both a life member of the fair association and a Founders Club Member of the Ag Complex. As fair president he has served as an ex-officio member of the Ag Complex board of directors. He has been active with various groups and organizations in the Bernardo/Cat Spring area of the county over the years. He is a member of St. Roch Catholic Church in Mentz.

Koree Robinson is the daughter of Mark Robinson and the late Sandra Robinson of Columbus. She lives with her sister and brother-in-law, Kaylee and Daryl Brune of New Ulm. She is a junior at Columbus High School.

Robinson has been involved with the Colorado County Fair since she was very small. Both of her parents have been members of the fair's board of directors. Her father served as fair president in 2005 and her mother served as a director from 1999 until her untimely death August 26, 2005. She began participating in fair events at a young age and was chosen Little Miss Colorado County Fair in 1997.

She has raised and shown lambs and heifers in the fair's livestock show and has been an exhibitor in the creative homemaking department. She is a member of the Junior Fair Board serving as the group's vice president in 2007-2008 and is currently serving as president for 2008-2009. Robinson is also a member of the fair's rodeo committee. She helps with paper work, phone calls, putting out posters, working gates, cleaning up around the fairgrounds and more.

Robinson has been a member

of the Colorado County 4-H Horse Club for 13 years. She has been treasurer and is currently club vice president. She has been the top raffle salesperson for the group numerous times.

Robinson is very active with the Columbus High School FFA Chapter. She served as Greenhand Sentinel in 2006-2007. She received her Greenhand Degree and Horse Proficiency Award in 2007. She served on the officer team as Junior Advisor in 2007-2008 and holds the same office for 2008-2009. She received the Chapter Degree, Horse Proficiency Award and second place sales award for 2007-2008. She also served on the Horse Judging Teams from 2006-2008. Robinson has raised a lamb the last two years through the FFA. She won Reserve Showmanship and the Herdsman Award in 2008.

In addition to her involvement with the above organizations, she is active with the Bleiberville Volunteer Fire Department. She is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Columbus.

Robinson is currently running for 2008 Colorado County Fair Queen and says she looks forward to being involved with the fair for many years to come. She would someday like to take over the rodeo and ultimately become fair president.

The fair's board of directors in remembering "Yesterday", embracing "Today" and anticipating "Tomorrow" is pleased and proud to be able to honor Harrison, Henneke and Robinson for their unselfish devotion to the fair and its success.



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