



Dick Streissguth, 2005 Clark County Fair Volunteer of the Year, in front of one of his eight restored fire engines.

Clark County Fair Names Volunteer of the Year

The Clark County Fair Association named **Dick Streissguth** Volunteer of the Year, honoring him for 50 years of service to the Clark County Fair and his work with Fire District 6 and the Hazel Dell/Salmon Creek Business Association. This tribute coincides with a special exhibit of fire engines and firefighting equipment at the 2005 Clark County Fair, August 5-14.

Dick moved to Clark County in 1951. He worked for the Washington State Corrections Department after graduating from Washington State University in Pullman with a sociology degree. Later he earned a master's degree in Public Administration from Portland State University. But it didn't take him long to return to two of his favorite interests—fairs and fire engines—a fondness he's had since childhood. As a boy, Dick enjoyed attending the Puyallup Fair with his family and remembers his fascination as he watched with a crowd of excited onlookers as his hometown's first fire engine rolled out of a railroad boxcar in 1936. Its fresh paint smell is still fresh in his memory.

Dick began volunteering at the Clark County Fair in 1955, the same year the Fair moved from Battle Ground to its current location in Ridgefield. He provided volunteer fire service during the Fair through Fire District 6, an organization he joined when it was established the previous year. At that time the Fair was open just three days a week. Dick would work all day and then spend his nights sleeping in the hose bed of the fire engine. As the Fair grew, Dick continued to coordinate volunteer fire services. In 1978 he became the acting fire chief for Fire District 6. After retiring in 1981 from the state, he assumed the fire chief role full-time until his second retirement in 1993. Despite retiring in from two jobs, his service to the Fair continued. Dick has been a member of the Clark County Fair Board since 1993, representing the Hazel Dell/Salmon Creek Business Association, an organization he's been involved with since the early 1980s when Fire District 6 began assisting with the annual Hazel Dell Parade of Bands.

Dick continues his love for fire engines by restoring them. He owns eight fire engines built between 1914 and 1965. All will be on display at the 2005 Clark County Fair in a new and unique exhibit that will fill Commercial Building #1 with a total of over 30 fire engines, from antique models to a brand new, state-of-the-art fire engine that's making its debut at the Clark County Fair.

"The Fair is a terrific thing," said Dick. "The history and the future of the community are on display. You can learn about how things were and how they are going to be." This year's fire engine exhibit is a perfect example of just that.

While we honor Dick's 50 years of service to the Fair, he is also celebrating another golden anniversary this year—fifty years of marriage to his wife Marilyn. This is a joy they share with their daughter Kay Jacobsen and two sons, Steve and Rick, both who, inspired by their father, have made firefighting their life's work. Steve is deputy fire chief for the Vancouver Fire Department, and Rick is a firefighter with Fire District 6, where he began as a volunteer, just like his father 50 years ago.

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