

# The *Rose Hill Reporter*

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## **Futhey Brothers Chosen Parade Grand Marshalls**

By Christine Wendt, Rose Hill Reporter

When anyone mentions the name Marion or Marshall in Rose Hill, it is just a given they are referring to the Futhey brothers. They are as much a part of the town as the railroad tracks, although not quite as old. Yet, neither one could understand why they were chosen by the Rose Hill Historical Society to be the 2014 Rose Hill Fall Festival Parade Grand Marshalls.

One reason might be their unassuming dedication to the town as it grew and some of those who were always at hand when something needed to be done or someone needed help.

Marshall is the eldest of four sons born to Cecil and Evadne Cox Futhey in December of 1922 and graduated from Rose Hill High School in 1940. He lived on the northwest corner of 150th St. and Butler Rd. while growing up where his great-grandfather Edgar Futhey homesteaded in 1890.

Marshall served in the U.S. Army during WWII in the Philippine Islands and made his career in farming and running a dairy business after the war. Thelma Garnett became his bride in 1943. They raised three children together, sons Joe and Gail and daughter Louise who gave them seven grandchildren, all RHHS graduates.

Marshall lost Thelma in 2008 after 64 years of marriage. At age 92 he has a legacy of 13 great-grandchildren and still sits on a tractor during the wheat harvest. He was a volunteer firefighter under Shorty Cox, a member of the historical society, was on the planning committee for the senior center and has put up the flags at Dunlop Cemetery with his son Gail since 1960 and also at the Rose Hill Cemetery for many years.

There hasn't been a fall festival parade that he hasn't driven his restored 1923 Model T Ford car. He also drove many years in the Mulvane Old Settlers Parade. He and Thelma were also very active members of the Methodist Church.

Known as one of the Rose Hill historian, he keeps pictorial albums of the town's growth and history. A huge collection of antique Farmall tractors, Rose Hill memorabilia and antiques are housed on his property in a large building constructed solely for that purpose. He and his brother Marion share a love of tractors and host and attend tractor shows around the state and beyond.

Marion is the youngest of the four sons, a 1955 RHHS graduate, and had a daughter Sherri and sons Randy and Daryl with his former wife Sue McElhiney. There are six grandchildren, also RHHS alumni.

Community service is in the Futhey blood. Marion sat on the city council in the 1960's under Mayor Berlin Cox. He is also a life member of the Methodist Church in Rose Hill where he has served on every committee there is, always takes donations at the yearly church garage sale, serves as treasurer of the Scatter Good Sunday School class, the historical society, the RH Alumni Association, the Masonic Lodge, of which he is a member in three fraternities, and membership chair of the K & O tractor Association.

Marion is a jack of all trades at the senior center, bakes homemade bread for the potluck meals and cooks up the eggs for monthly breakfast which doubled the attendance. Somewhere during his life he found time to deliver milk for Oliver Nelson, work construction and retired as an electrician for Iverson Westfall which is still in business. He also farms and remembers when there was nothing north of the post office. "We farmed that ground back then," said Marion. "I also remember when Rose Hill Rd. was nothing but sand." Now he says he works on tractors for therapy and enjoyment.

“You used to know everyone in town and everybody pitched in to help when needed. Now you don’t even know if someone is in need,” said Marshall. Things are different now. Most of the Futhey clan that live in town are on S.W. Prairie Creek Rd. northeast of Rose Hill.

Look for their red tractors leading the parade and the family falling in behind them.

