

BLANCHARD PROUDLY ANNOUNCES Blanchard Daze "Country Style"...

2010 GRAND MARSHAL MAE CANNON



One of the most valuable assets a community can have is it's people. A community is only as good as those who live within it. As the saying goes, "It's what's inside that counts" and the community of Blanchard is a testament to that statement. Extraordinary people, like Mae Cannon are at the heart of making Blanchard a great place to live.

Mae's "never give up" attitude and positive outlook is the reason that she was chosen as the grand marshal for the 2010 Blanchard Daze Celebration scheduled for August 13th and 14th. This year's theme, "Blanchard Daze, **Country Style**" is a fitting tribute to her good 'ol fashion **country** beliefs and lifestyle. Mae's "**country style**" is reflected in her contentment for simple **country** things and gentle ways.

Mae Evalee Miller was born in Priest River, Idaho and was raised on a family farm purchased a month before her birth in 1938. She was the fourth of five siblings, having two sisters and two brothers. Mae and her siblings grew up in a religious atmosphere, attending church regularly and raised by a mother who believed strongly in the power of prayer and love. Music was also an important part of their upbringing. The family sang in talent shows and carried the harmony for their church in Priest

River. As a young girl Mae had an interest in singing, girl scouts, and, of course, boys.

Mae was married twice and had three children, Dawn, Jan and Ted with her first husband, Cliff. She married Jack Cannon in 1965 and acquired his two daughters, Becky and Vicky. Jack and Mae enjoyed a wonderful marriage for 41 years. They settled in Coeur d'Alene soon after they married and opened J and M Auto Body Shop which they owned and operated for 32 years.

In addition to hard work, Jack shared Mae's passion for music. He was a great harmonica and steel guitar player. He taught Mae to play the guitar and together they started the Cannon Family Band and played at the Ivalee Dance Hall for 7 years. After the children were grown, Mae and Jack started, "Juanita and Friends", a band that continued for over 20 years. They entertained at many community functions and volunteered their musical services at senior centers and charity events. Mae and Jack were active in Campfire Girls for several years. Jack built a float that was used for many years in Campfire parades.

In 1993 Jack and Mae purchased 2 ½ acres in Blanchard. They began clearing the land and so, Mae learned to use a chain saw. They moved into their Blanchard shop in 1997 prior to the construction of their house that was completed in 2000. They loved Blanchard so much that they got involved in nearly everything. It seemed the best way to meet people (*and to share their **country spirit***). Mae was the instigator for being involved with community activities and she usually had to drag Jack (kicking and screaming) to things. But, in spite of his resistance, once he got there he had a great time and everyone loved him. Jack built the gazebo that is now at the Blanchard Grange and Mae organized the first Blanchard Daze ten years ago. Community activities kept them both busy especially with their music and their undying talent for spreading infectious love, humor and warmth. This spirit...their ability to make a difference is their gift to Blanchard and to those touched by their time together.

Jack passed away Sept. 8, 2006 and, as Mae says, "life has not been the same". We all miss him terribly but Mae has continued on with a positive attitude in knowing she will meet Jack again when her heavenly father calls her home. Mae was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992 and was not expected to live more than five years. In keeping with her positive energy and faith she says, "My wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ has extended my time to 15 cancer-free years." She proved the doctors wrong for all these years but recently she had a reoccurrence of cancer and is undergoing treatments again. Despite this diagnosis

and recent trials she delights in life (*no matter how long or short*) as well as in friends and family. She says she has chosen to live in a state of happiness, to share good times and to continue giving out hugs to all she knows.

Over the years, Mae has enjoyed writing stories and poetry especially for the pleasure of preserving fond memories and family history. She has even had some of her stories published and keeps a diary to someday hand down to her children. Writing is a way of re-living meaningful times in her life. She has great insight that helps those who she confides in. She once advised me to always keep my eye on the goal. "No matter what anyone says or does to the contrary keep striving toward that goal no matter what." says Mae. That is what Mae is doing now. Mae says, "Life is only our journey. Heaven is our goal" and she has kept her eye on it. Faith has seen her through good times as well as bad times and her course remains steady.

Mae Cannon has not always been able to follow through with all that she proposes but when she doesn't have the energy or time she plants the seeds of thought in others so that they can make her ideas and well-wishes a reality. We are proud to have Mae as a contributing member of a community that is better because of her presence (presents). Mae's "**country style**" of living and her words of encouragement will remain with those she has touched with her kindness. It is her spirit and enthusiasm (and that of Jack's) that will live beyond her years spent here on earth. We are honored to have Mae as our grand marshal in celebration of Blanchard Daze and the gifts she unselfishly and lovingly brings to our community.

The Blanchard Daze Celebration will be held in Blanchard, Idaho located off of Hwy 41 between Newport, WA and Spirit Lake, Idaho. The event begins on Friday, August 13th with a 7 PM variety show on the lawn of the Blanchard Community Center. On Saturday, August 14th, festivities include a pancake breakfast from 6 AM-11 AM at the community center, a parade through town starting promptly at 10:30 AM (line-up at 9 AM), a luncheon and old engine display at the Blanchard Grange, stick horse races sponsored by Stoneridge Resort at high-noon, food/arts/crafts/entertainment vendors, a cakewalk, games, prizes, music, art for kids, Tipton Motor Sports simulator car, Ronald McDonald and much more throughout the day. For general or vendor space info. call (208) 437-1037. For parade entry/info. call Jenett at (208) 437-3137. Please come and join the fun in true "Country Style" in honor of Mae Cannon. ...written by Barb Hornby

BLANCHARD DAZE SCHEDULE "Country Style"

Friday, August 13th

Variety Show, 7 PM held outside on the lawn of the Blanchard Community Center. No admittance charge. Some chairs will be provided however, bring your own lawn chairs just in case we run out. Dessert concessions immediately following. Call Dee Ann Boydston 437-1060 to be in the show.

Saturday, August 14th

PANCAKE BREAKFAST, 6 AM-11AM at the Community Center. Don Bishop, Larry Reichert, Joe and Vicki Hutchison will be doing the honors of cooking and serving.

VENDORS IN PIONEER PARK, 10 AM-5 PM (Arts, crafts, entertainment, and food booths) Set up 7 AM.

PARADE: (*co-hosted by the Blanchard Grange & BASIC*) **Line-up 9 AM, Judging 9:30.** The parade **starts promptly at 10:30 AM.**

GRANGE: Activities throughout the day plus small engines display plus ol' time flour mill & can crusher. Luncheon starting after the parade. The menu includes loaded baked potatoes, chili dogs, watermelon, corn on the cob, nachos, soda and ice cream. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

STICK HORSE RACES: Begins promptly at **high noon** on the lawn of the community center. This activity is for young and old alike & is sponsored by StoneRidge Resort with gunshot start by Fred Ghio.

CHILDREN'S ART WORKSHOP with Clancie Pleasants (*made possible through a grant from the Florence Wasmer Fund for Arts and Culture of Inland Northwest Community Foundation*). Inga Simmeral and Cindy Thomas (and Clancie) are the horse head helpers. Make your own take-home stick horse and other fun art activities using recycled materials throughout the day in front of the community center.

CHILDREN'S GAMES with the Pena and Edwards' families will be held at the community center throughout the day following the parade. Games include: book walk, water balloons toss, water brigade, three-legged race, log race, nail pounding competition, watermelon eating, hula hoop and bubble gum contests

CAKE WALK at the community center organized by Janet Lammers. Time to be arranged. If you can donate a cake (or two) call Janet at 447-3561.

MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT with DJ Ron Goodbrake from 1 PM-4 PM outside the community center.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS: Ronald McDonald, Tipton Motor Sport Simulator Car, CDA Fire Pipes and Drums, bounce castles, face painting and more.

