Grand marshalls for this year's Phillips County Fair parade, to be held July 21-26, have been announced. Harvey and Doris McCune of Amherst are being recognized for their involvement in the community as they are honored with being the fair grand marshalls.

Phillips County is a place very special to Harvey and Doris. Having lived here for 65 years, it's where they built their life together and raised their children. The two have spent many years working with and getting to know individuals throughout the county, and the Phillips County Fair is a time to show their appreciation for the town they live in and the people they care about.

Fair Board president Sherry Mari explained the grand marshalls are chosen by the board based on involvement in the community, the fair and 4-H. The McCune couple meets the requirements and goes beyond, making the board's selection of them as grand marshalls unsurprising.

Always a humble couple, the two shared that they, on the other hand, were shocked when they heard the news. "We certainly appreciate being chosen," said Doris. "Fair time is a special time when you can see people from all areas of Phillips County," she added. This year, the fair will be especially meaningful to them.

Harvey and Doris were married in 1943 near Hastings, Neb., and moved to the Holyoke area shortly after that. While they never expected to wind up here, the many who have been impacted by them in some way or another are thankful they did.

Harvey started farming when he came to Holyoke, and continues today. Doris worked for 22 years at the Amherst Coop and volunteered at the Colorado Welcome Center in Julesburg for 11 years.

Besides their careers, the McCunes have been very active throughout the community. Harvey has been singing weekly at the nursing home for nearly 20 years, and loves to sing whenever or whereever he gets the chance. Doris loves planting flowers and has entered them in the fair for years.

Of course, the two have made a habit of attending the fair everyyear. Doris noted her favorite part is the exhibits. She is impressed year after year, by the work the kids do. Harvey added he loves the livestock show and sales, and always looks forward to the various activities and performers.

When asked if they were excited about this year's fair, they both replied, without hestitation,

“definitely!” Both feel that last year was a great fair and anticipate that this one will be just as good.

While being heavily involved in the community, at the center of the McCunes’ lives was family. When their sons Robert and Byron were children it was a family event to care for the livestock and show it at the county, state and national levels.

When the boys participated in 4-H in Amherst, their father was the leader for several years. 1963 was a 4-H year especially memorable to the McCunes. When their son Robert passed away, Byron showed Robert’s steer in his honor at the county fair. The steer was very important to Robert, so it meant a lot to the family to enter it in the fair.

To this day, Harvey and Doris care about family more than anything else. They have one grandson, Jeff and his wife, and a great-grandson Joshua, who live in Cincinnati, Ohio. Byron and his wife now live in Fremont, Neb., where he is a principal.

After 65 years, Harvey and Doris McCune know Phillips County as well as anyone. They have given and given to the community, and now they are being thanked with the honor of being Phillips County Fair grand marshalls.

The two will ride in the fair parade Staurday, July 25, starting at 10 a.m.