

2008 Grand Marshall – Prima Valverde



Prima has lived in Biggs for the past 55 years. She went to work for Migrant Education in the Biggs, Gridley and Manzanita School Districts as a migrant services aide, where she helped countless children over 31 years. She retired in June of 2000.

Prima helped many families over the years to find whatever their need upon coming to the area, being jobs, clothing, food or shelter.

Since retirement Prima has continued to lend a hand to the schools and the city in decorating for the holidays, delivering Thanksgiving dinners to the needy, wrapping presents for area churches to pass among let less fortunate.

Prima says, “I was glad to be there to help out so many kids and to see them grow up to be such outstanding young adults now.” Many of her past students and families continue to thank her for all she has done for them.

Prima’s prime hobby is her flower garden. She keeps busy filling her yard with beautiful and colorful flowers. At 84 years old, Prima is still going strong.

Prima raised three children here in Biggs, Peggy Bascom, Lannie Lucas and Raymie Valverde. She also has two grandchildren who graduated from Biggs High School, Becca and Patrick Mayo.

Prima is well known and loved in our small town of Biggs – She will forever be remembered as “the lady with the heart of gold.”

Car Show Dedicated to Susan Ladara & The Memory of Frannie Ladara

Francis Ladara, or Frannie as many of us know him, was born to Frank and Mary Azevedo Ladara on October 30, 1935 in Chico, CA. He resided all of his life in the Biggs and Gridley area. Raised on the largest dairy farm between Biggs and Gridley on Azevedo Road, as a young boy, he worked on the dairy with his father. He went through school in the Biggs school district and finished his education in the United States Navy when he joined in 1954 during the Korean Conflict. He served as an electrician and fireman on the Naval ship General Breckenridge. Francis owned and operated an auto repair shop in Biggs, then worked for Point 4 and Butte County Rice. Recently, Fran had reopened his auto repair shop “Over The Hill Auto” specializing in Hot Rods and Cruisers.



Frannie was extremely knowledgeable of the older engines. He was an amazing inventor! One of his most ingenious inventions before its time was the creation of the high compression piston of a Honda 90cc motorcycle. In 1967, Frannie was the third best 100cc short flat-tracker in the United States! Fran's passions included hunting and fishing as a young man, building and racing cars and motorcycles all of his life, and in his later years traveling with his loving wife/partner of 19 years, Susan. He was a generous contributor to many local and national charities. He was a proud member of the Gold Country Cruisers.

Frannie was the loving father of four sons Ron, Bryan, Steve, and Michael and three step children, 12 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren. He also enjoyed spending time with his brother, Victor Wedge.