

Ruby and Larry Manweiler known for quiet charity

By KAREN LA PIERRE

Ruby (Nuss) and the late Larry Manweiler have been chosen to be this year's grand marshals of the Hoisington Labor Day celebration for their contributions to the community.

"I love Hoisington. It's a small town," Ruby said. "People are very courteous. You know everybody. Perfect town to raise children."

"We have a wonderful school system, wonderful churches, and wonderful police department."

Faith, family and work were the cornerstones of the Manweiler family, and those are still the hallmarks that Ruby stands by today. Her Bible stands open on the kitchen table in the home.

Much of the contributions were done quietly. "Service is important," Ruby said. "When I grew up we were helped."

"We helped many families without recognition," she said. "Only did it to honor our God."

Ruby has been a resident of Hoisington for 63 years after graduating from Great Bend High School in 1952. She was born on a farm north of Hoisington as one of 13 children, but moved to Great Bend when she was four years old.

"We were a very close family," growing up, Ruby said. "We never seemed to lack in food. Mother made all of our clothes. There was so much love in our family; we didn't feel like we were missing out on anything."

Ruby's volunteer service is wide and varied. She was a past Boy Scout den mother, Girl Scout Brownie leader; and is on the board of directors of the Hoisington Commu-



RUBY (NUSS) AND THE LATE LARRY MANWEILER

nity Food Bank, actively helping in distributing food to the needy. She is an active member of Concordia Lutheran Church, past treasurer, church council member, choir, teacher for 30 years in the Mid-Week School Program, Lutheran Women's Missionary League serving as president and secretary, organized the LWML Young Women's Circle and the Prayer Shawl Ministry and helps each year with Christmas baskets for needy people.

The LWML has one purpose. "We help people here in town," Ruby said. "We do it without having any personal recognition."

Normally, the work is done through a pastor. "We've helped many families who are in need," Ruby said. "But we also told them that it is between you, us and our God. Because we only did it to honor our God."

"When I grew up, we were helped," Ruby said. "I always thought

that if the Lord blesses me, I will help others.

"He has blessed Larry and I very well."

Larry and Ruby are the parents of Gene of Hoisington, Kathryn of Wisconsin, Diana of Goddard, and Jerry of Lawrence. They have nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and seven step-great-grandchildren.

Ruby is known to her grandchildren as Grandma Coco—short for cookies. She makes eight or nine varieties and whenever the grandchildren come to her house, they ask for the cookies.

She also loves counted cross-stitch, and the walls of her house show her work. She loves to crochet, and makes shawls, baby blankets and just recently made her first afghan. She loves her dog, a small Shih Zhu.

Ruby and Larry met on a blind date. Ruby was 18 and Larry was 20. They dated two years before

they married.

Larry Manweiler was a lifelong resident of Hoisington, a graduate of Hoisington High School and the University of Kansas. He was president and dealer operator of Manweiler Chevrolet, being the third generation owner.

He was known to hire people who needed a second chance in life and was rewarded with faithful employees. He provided business leadership for 60 years.

Larry enjoyed most visiting with his customers and assisting them with a car purchase. "He had the satisfaction of knowing he was helping someone," Ruby said. Larry would wait on customers that the other salesmen wouldn't wait on. Once, Larry waited on someone who came in with ragged clothes, and the customer turned out to be the fleet buyer for a firm, who did much repeat business with Larry.

Larry was past president of Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club; and member of Concordia Lutheran Church, being past president, treasurer, church council member, choir and Bible study teacher. He died Sept. 25, 2013.

While Larry was busy, he loved to be in

the outdoors, enjoying fishing, hunting and gardening vegetables, which Ruby froze. Ruby says his children and grandchildren enjoyed time with Larry. "They have very fond memories being with him," she said.

Larry was known for his jump suits, and wore them constantly his last 20 years. At his funeral, the grandchildren made a video, each wearing a jump suit, and shared a special memory of their grandfather.

In the age of the selfie, Ruby exhibits the humility known to older generations. In fact, her son Gene asked her to do it for Larry, which made her decide to go ahead, she said. She is overwhelmed by the honor.



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Car show to continue

By KAREN LA PIERRE

The Hoisington Labor Day car show has been a tradition for for 30 some years. After organizer Rich Fox died several months ago, his son, Rich Fox Jr. decided to take over and continue the show.

"My dad has always done it and a lot of its going to be in remembrance of dad," Rich Fox Jr. said. "Dad always put it on since before I can remember."

The show will be called the "Rich For memorial" Car Show downtown after the parade. The parade starts at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 5.

The car show has approximately 50 different vehicles of varying types

including vintage and antique cars, motorcycles, trucks and farming equipment. Fox said there is a wide variety of muscle cars and vehicles that car enthusiasts would enjoy.

"My dad was always trying to start new car shows and getting people together," Fox said.

"People were all ready gathered for the parade on Labor Day and people were already getting their cars out anyway."

Fox Sr. loved cars. "He grew up with them just like I did," Fox Jr. said. "He spent evenings and weekends working on other people's cars."

Fox Sr. had a '37 Chevrolet and 100s of others cars he worked

over the years, Fox Jr. said. They also rebuilt a '32 Ford for Fox Jr.'s sister.

Fox Sr. worked in the automotive industry.

"We're going to continue doing this in his name," Fox Jr. said. "We're going to continue what he started and loved doing."

"It would make proud," said Carol Fox, Rich Sr's wife.

"The Labor Day Car Show has been a tradition for so long here in Hoisington, and we ar thrilled to continue that tradition this year while honoring a friend with the Rich Fox Memorial Car Show," said Kristi Lovett, Hoisington chamber of commerce executive vice president.

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hand in hand.

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