



THE RIO BLANCO COUNTY PIONEERS ASSOCIATION

proudly confers the

Spirit of the Pioneers Award

upon

Marge Rogers

The Spirit of the Pioneers Award was created for the purpose of honoring those hardy and determined individuals and families who exemplify long-term servant leadership representative of the early day pioneers who travelled in challenging, trying adversity to ultimately settle in the White River Valley. Their proud legacy lives on in the pioneer descendants; some of whose families have remained continuously throughout many generations in Rio Blanco County.

Marge is a fourth generation descendant of two native pioneer families having great-grandparents on both sides of the family. In the spring of 1880 her great-grandfather John F. Hay and his Brother Henry came into the White River Valley, just months after the Ute Indian uprising in 1879. Journeying through the Powell Park site of the White River Ute Agency, they found a plow and horse harness which would serve to help develop their homestead in lower Powell Park. Marge was also the great-granddaughter of Alfred and Sara Harp Rees who came from Kansas. In 1901 they came to the White River valley eventually buying land on the banks of the White River. In 1905 Nellie Rees Russell and husband Rob bought land adjacent to the Rees Property. In 1929, Son George and wife Mary took over management of the Russell Ranch, and obtained a grazing permit on the Blanco District of the White River National Forest. Marge received her grade school education at the Mesa Rural School. She rode her horse two miles through the fields from White River to the school

Marge graduated in 1948 from Rio Blanco County High School and attended Western State College. Marge taught for 30 years in the Meeker School District. Following her marriage to Allan Rogers, they operated the Russell Ranch now managed by son Ben and wife Jamie.

Marge originated the 40 Rural Schools research project of the Rio Blanco County Historical Society. In 2014, the committee nominated the 1892 Coal Creek School as the first county rural school, to the National Register of Historic Places. Marge and the committee received a State Historical Fund Grant to authentically restore the school to its original appearance. The school is now utilized for historic presentations to school children and visitors. History Colorado awarded the RBCHS Rural Schools Committee the Stephen H. Hart Award for outstanding preservation in 2018.

The RBCPA is honored to recognize Marge for her distinguished service to youth as an educator, historian, and community servant leader, and for special contributions to the citizens of Rio Blanco County, State of Colorado and Nation. She is a humble, significant member of our Rio Blanco County community and will forever remain an icon and a legacy of its history.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Second Day of June,
2018

Voni Stewart

Voni Stewart, Co-President, RBCPA