



The Rio Blanco County Pioneers Association
Spirit of the Pioneers Award
Conferred Upon
Harold John Anderson
in recognition of
Distinguished Leadership and Service
This Third Day of June, 2023

The legendary Pioneer Spirit of the hardy and brave men, women and children who experienced great dangers, hardships, illness and uncertainty to journey West into the beautiful White River Valley continues in many of their descendants today. There, they created homesteads, farms, ranches and businesses requiring a great deal of courage, grit, determination and faith to endure, to do the right thing and to greatly succeed. Their enviable and proud legacy lives on in their pioneer descendants, some of whose families have remained through many generations in this wonderful country.

Harold John Anderson is a third generation native of Rio Blanco County in Meeker, Five of the original Anderson siblings emigrated from Sweden in the 1880s. They all settled in Aspen until the silver bust. Olaf Anderson first homesteaded property in Powell Park in 1886, followed by his brother, August, in the 1890s and John and sister Johanna in the early 1900s. An Anderson family reunion of Swedish descendants was held in 2014 reuniting sibling families at the Powell Park Ranch. The Olaf Anderson property is still owned by Harold's daughter Tracey and husband Josh. Harold was born November 11, 1940 to Carl and Margrete. After graduating from Meeker High School in 1958, Harold remained active on the family Ranch and started his family life.

The Anderson Ranch qualified as a State of Colorado Centennial Farm and Ranch which requires continuous ownership and operation by the same family for more than a century.

Harold Anderson was married to Winona Sefcovic. From this Union were born John Travis Anderson and Tracey Dawn (Anderson) Olmsted.

Harold later met Patricia Ann [Collins] George. The couple was married in September of 1981. The family then included 6 children: Edy Lynn George; James (Cheryl) George; Jo Anna (Lonnie) Tate; Thomas (Jennifer) George; Travis (Teresa) Anderson; Tracey (Josh) Olmsted, 18 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, sisters in law Donna (Joe) Collins and Sally (Richard) Collins, as well as many other family members and friends Harold and Patty served on the Range Call celebration Committee for decades, and were selected as Grand Marshals for the Range Call parade. He is a Past President of Rio Blanco County Stockgrowers and a Past President of Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau. Harold and Patty served as officers and attended every Pioneers Association reunion for four decades. Harold and Patty researched many rural grave sites in Rio Blanco County, restored and provided suitable grave markers.

In witness whereof, the Rio Blanco County Pioneers Association proudly confers this distinguished servant leadership recognition.

Jonny Murray, RBCPA President 2023