

MELVIN & CAROL CASH SERVE AS GRAND MARSHALS

They may never have got to hear Johnny Cash in person, but they are related to him.

"He's a cousin," smiled Carol (Smith) Cash. She found that out through her genealogy research and some networking.

Melvin was born and raised in White Bird while Carol was born in Washington and moved to Grangeville where the two met in high school. He graduated in 1952 and she in 1953, marrying soon afterwards. The two eloped, saying their vows in Weiser. "It was the first town we came to that looked like a good place to stop," Melvin smiled. "The judge didn't have a witness, so he went out and arrested a guy for not paying his parking meter, and he became our witness," laughed Carol.

He worked in a sawmill until it burned down and then they moved to Joseph, Oregon, where Melvin hauled wheat for Carol's uncle. Then they moved unto Enterprise, Oregon, where he loaded box cars.

Melvin soon joined the Navy which took the family all over. "He hadn't been out of Idaho until we got married," Carol said. They spent time in a variety of places including Falcon, Nev., San Diego, Texas, Oklahoma, Washington state, Memphis and Hawaii. He spent 20 years in the service and then another 20 in civil service continuing in electrical engineering.

The couple raised four boys, however, one son was killed in a bicycle accident in Poulsbo, Washington in 1982. They spent time shuttling cars for whitewater companies and Carol is a past Rebekah member.

They returned to White Bird 16 years ago when family members were ill and needed caring for. They have 5 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and enjoy hunting and fishing. "It's a great place for those hobbies," they agreed. They belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Melvin is now 82 and Carol is 81. They are celebrating 64 years of marriage this year. What's the secret? "I am very independent, but you have to be able to overlook a lot of faults & discuss your problems," Carol said. "And you cannot run home to mama! Don't let things boil, & know forgiveness is the key." Melvin smiled and agreed.

The two enjoy living on White Bird's main street, across from the IOOF Hall, where they can watch the parades and other town activities during White Bird Days. They have even had the sawdust dig in their large front yard.

They both are excited to have been chosen as this year's Grand Marshals for the White Bird Days and Rodeo. They welcome everyone to our small town and hope you will join them for a fun-filled weekend.

