

Dr. Edward Richert and his wife Carol were chosen to be the Grand Marshals of the 2019 Fandango Days Parade in Alturas and will reign over the special event on July 6, 2019. The Alturas Chamber of Commerce selected them both due to their long-standing commitment, guidance and dedicated service to the local community. "Once again, we wanted to make sure the Grand Marshal was someone that everyone could celebrate," said Alturas Chamber member Harry Boulade.

Dr. Edward Richert was born in the Central Valley of California, the middle of three sons. His father was a school administrator and his mother a schoolteacher. He graduated from Tulare Union High School in 1965 with an ambition to further his education in mathematics, but it didn't take much coaxing to decide that math was not his forte, so he switched to a major in philosophy with a premedical emphasis at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois.

It was while attending Wheaton College that he met Carol Tallman. Both were volunteers at the student run college FM radio station. Carol earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry while attending Wheaton College. After graduation, Ed and Carol got married while continuing their education at Northern Illinois University, both earning their Master's degrees, Carol receiving hers in Teaching Chemistry. Soon after, Dr. Richert became an instructor at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Illinois teaching Biological Sciences.

After one year of teaching, Dr. Richert was accepted into medical school at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Fulfillment of medical school eventually brought him southwest to the "Golden State" of California where he did his residency in Family Practice at General Hospital Ventura County. It wasn't long before his yearning for a Rural lifestyle took shape, mainly through contact with friends who had moved to Redding and put him in touch with a doctor who was doing health manpower research in the north state.

Supervisors Mick Jones and Neil Phillips were serving as an unofficial recruiting committee at that time to help bring new physicians to Modoc County. They brought Dr. Richert to Alturas, and ultimately helped facilitate his opening of a new Family Practice office in Alturas in 1980. Dr. Richert, his wife and four children (Benjamin, Katharine, Elizabeth and Peter) packed their belongings and came to Alturas, ever so inspired and anxious to live the "good quiet lifestyle" that usually comes with a small-town environment.

When asked why he and his family chose Alturas to become their new home Dr. Richert said, "because it was a kid friendly town with good schools." His wife Carol on the other hand needed a little more time to adjust, especially with the limited amount of shopping that a small town offers. "I had to change my routine a little bit, but it didn't take long for me to make the necessary adjustments," she said with plenty of admiration. "What I could not get in the local stores I did through the Sears catalog," she further stated. Some may not know that Sears and Roebuck had a catalog store at the Corner of South Main Street and Carlos and made it easier for someone to order items that you couldn't otherwise find in town.

"When my family and I first moved to Alturas it was on July 2, 1980 and believe it or not, it snowed the night when we arrived," He vividly remembered. "And then the next day, we went to watch the "Fandango Days Parade" on Main Street and they were promoting Outhouse Races, something we've never seen before," he further elaborated. His children also enjoyed the parade, especially when they were able to collect the candy from the street that was thrown from all the floats.

Two more children were born into the Richert Family after their move to Alturas (Rebekah and Johnathan). All their children are now grown up and have since moved on into the vast world of opportunity, taking on various successful careers. Following in their parents' footsteps, five of their six children went on to graduate from Wheaton College while the other from USC.

In 2003, Dr. Richert moved to help staff the Modoc Medical Center Clinic and Hospital, where he continues to practice today. Healthcare has changed a lot over the years since becoming a young Doctor. "Things are more computerized now than the earlier days, plus more paperwork is required," He recalls.

During their time in Modoc, Dr. Richert and his wife have been seen at many Modoc High School athletic events cheering on the "Braves". If you ever attended a basketball game, you may have noticed Dr. Richert being very vocal towards the referees and the opposing team, expressing his opinion about a bad call that was made. These days, most of the banter is in jest (and perhaps to keep up the tradition). "I remember at one of the games I came down with laryngitis and was unable to shout my concerns towards the referees, so I brought along some posters that had words written on them like "foul, traveling, bad call ref and others" so I could let them know how I felt," he said. "At another game I was cautiously warned by Jay Eppler, who was also a spectator, that if the Referee warned me not to say another word or face being ejected, I should stay quiet and not agree and respond with "OK", as that was a word," he humorously remembered.

Dr. Richert and Carol are very active in our community, most notably with their church and local organizations such as the Modoc Performing Arts Theatre, where Carol is a pianist providing accompaniment for musicals. Dr Richert is Modoc County Public Health Officer and serves as a Commissioner for First 5 Modoc. They also support Modoc athletics and Carol tutors' students in Math. In her quiet time at home Carol enjoys cooking and quilting and they both look forward to spending time with their nine grandchildren.

The Alturas Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Dr. Richert and his wife Carol for being our 2019 Fandango Days Parade Grand Marshals. Your commitment and giving nature to our community did not go unnoticed. Thank you very much for all that you both do.