



This year the Iosco County Agricultural Society dedicates the Fair Book to

Jim and Lois Carmichael

Jim and Lois Carmichael are familiar faces to those of us attending the Iosco County Fair. That is because they are in charge of the Welcome Booth each year, and have been since 1982.

Jim grew up on a farm in Warren and Lois was raised in Hazel Park. They met at a dance just after Jim was discharged from the Army Air Force. They married June 10, 1950 and celebrated 60 years of marriage this year. Redford Township is where they settled down to raise their five sons: Dan, twins Terry and Tim (who graduated from Hale), David and John. They have eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Jim retired from Burrough's where he had worked for 38 years as a Senior Analyst. Lois is a stay-at-home wife and mother.

Lois's aunt and uncle, Verne and Edith Erb, owned property in Hale, and in 1976 the Carmichaels purchased 200 acres from the Erb's. In 1982 they decided to call Hale home. While reading the newspaper, they noticed an ad asking for interested persons to help the Iosco County Agricultural Society. That's all it took to have Jim and Lois volunteer. They asked what needed to be done and were given the duties of the Welcome Booth. Each year they staff this booth with smiles and warm greetings, along with balloons filled with helium and give-away items. "This is the best job. It is so much fun playing small games with the kids and then giving them toys. We really enjoy the kids," said Lois. And the kids really enjoy the Carmichaels because the Welcome Booth is where they sign up for the bicycle give-away. "The smiles on the kids faces when they win a bike is really something else. You always remember those smiles," replied Jim. The Carmichaels could not do this job alone. Jim's sister and her husband from Royal Oak, Ruth and Art Fougne, and Bruce and Gloria Billeter are a big help. They make a great team. Jim is extremely proud of being instrumental in getting the historic log cabin from the museum in Tawas moved from the Senior Center to the Agricultural Society. This cabin is now our Fair Office.

Jim and Lois know the meaning of volunteer. They are past Board members of the museum and Soil and Conservation in Tawas, helped the Salvation Army Radiothon in Detroit for 26 years, are charter members with Habitat For Humanity in Hale and are members of the Hale Garden Club. Jim is past President of the the Wayne County Master Gardeners, past President of the Redford County Little League and is currently on the Reno Township Zoning Board. Jim also owns his own business, Hale Income Tax Service, and still goes to the metro area to do taxes. Jim is an Elder at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and President of their mens club. When asked why they volunteer both Lois and Jim replied, "People should volunteer. It is a way of giving back to your community." They want everyone to know that they were shocked, surprised and honored to be considered for this dedication. "There are people who do more work than we do. We are thrilled."

Thank you, Lois and Jim Carmichael, for volunteering your time at the Iosco County Fair!