

Atkin named county fair grand marshal

ST. GEORGE — Rudger Atkin, prominent businessman, rancher and civic leader has been named grand marshal for the 1984 Washington County Fair.

Atkin began as a sheep rancher and cattleman on the Arizona Strip. A son and grandsons still manage and operate the business he founded.

A long series of civic accomplishments lead up to his election to the Washington County Commission in 1954. He was re-elected in 1958 and served until 1960. He was chairman of the county commission for four years, chairman of the hospital board for six years (being instrumental in the building and early management of the Dixie Pioneer Memorial Hospital) and chairman of the Five-County Organization of Government when it was first organized. He was instrumental in such accomplishments as oiling of the road from Central to Pine Valley, the building and oiling of the road from Hurricane to Colorado City and the building of the bridge across the Virgin River on the way to the Washington Fields.

Atkin helped initiate the early plans for the county courthouse built on Tabernacle Street in St. George. He was appointed by Gov. George D. Clyde to a four year term on the Utah State Fair Board in 1960. And about the same time was asked to serve on the board of the Economic Development Association sponsored by Utah State University.

Over the years, Atkin has been a financial supporter of Dixie College and community organizations. He served as president of the Rotary Club and was an original founder of Dixie State Bank and Sky West Airlines.

Atkin has been very active in his church, having served a mission for the LDS Church in England, served as a stake president and is a former president of the St. George LDS Temple.

He married Leona Cox in 1925 and they are the parents of seven children: Clayton, Mrs. Harry (Lou Jean) Lundin, Lee, Sydney, Bruce (deceased), Dennis (deceased), and Ralph. The Atkins have 33 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.



Rudger Atkin