



32nd Annual Yankton Riverboat Days & Summer Arts Festival

Dick and Joyce Lane Set To Serve As Captain And Belle

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The Riverboat Days Board of Directors have selected Dick and Joyce Lane as the 2015 Captain and Belle. The Lanes have both been volunteers for the event, with Dick taking part in the first Riverboat Days fireworks show.

One of the highlights of each Riverboat Days celebration in Yankton is the fireworks display. Thousands of people line up on the riverside to watch the colorful lights dance across the August night sky.

But there hasn't always been fireworks on Riverboat Days. There is now, thanks in part to Dick and Joyce Lane.

The Riverboat Days Board of Directors have selected the Lanes as the 2015 Captain and Belle. The selection was announced during Monday night's exhibition baseball game at Tereshinski Stadium.

The Lanes were chosen because of their love of Yankton and their involvement in Riverboat Days, especially the vital role the couple played in the annual fireworks show.

According to Dick, he joined the Riverboat Days Board of Directors about 20 years ago and suggested a fireworks display.

"I realized they didn't have any fireworks on Friday night," Dick said. "So we talked them into a small fireworks show."

Now, the fireworks display is anything but small.

"Now it's one of the biggest ones in the state," Dick said. "It's come a long ways."

But to put on a 20-minute fireworks show takes a lot of work, especially when the weather isn't cooperating, Joyce said.

"If it gets wet, it doesn't work. So we have to cover up all the fireworks," she said.

Dick said it takes three to four days to set up the fireworks, so the crew needs good weather in order to have a good show.

"It's a lot of work putting it together," Dick said. "It didn't used to



be. We would hope for good weather and shoot the fireworks by hand. Now, it's all electronic. But when it's all over and you hear the cheering, whooping and hollering — it's all worth it."

Dick has helped with every fireworks show since then up until 2014, while Joyce had also helped with many of the shows.

"Really that was our only bonding we have at Riverboat Days," Dick chuckled.

But that will change now that the couple have been named this year's festival ambassadors.

"We will have to go to many things we have never been to before," he said. "We have a list of parades and events that we need to go to starting in June. We also have to go to the (bull riding event) during Riverboat Days — which I have never done

— the amphitheater and the Boy Scout races. We get to go everywhere together."

In past years, the two would volunteer for different Riverboat Days events and barely see each other.

"He would be working at one place and I would be working at a booth or dance," she laughed. "I would go home after I was done and he would show up eventually."

"It's going to be some real bonding," Dick added winking at Joyce. "I might have to behave. But it will be fun."

The Lanes were nominated by Chopper and Marlene Johnson, 2014's Captain and Belle.

"Chopper kind of hinted at it throughout the summer," Dick said. "He told me to, 'Get ready for it, because I think I nominated you.'

And we knew something was up when (Chopper) called me every day and asked me if we want to go out for supper."

After much deliberation, the Lanes decided they would do it.

"It's going to be fun and it's an honor to do it," Dick said. "We are going to have a good time and try to be the best ambassadors we can for the event."

The theme for Riverboat Days 2015 is "We Salute You." This year's Riverboat Days is set for Aug. 21-23.

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