

Whistle marks start of the Thresher Show

By Karen Krien

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The shrill whistle of the steam engines start the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show east of Bird City on U.S. 36 on July 30 through Aug. 1. There are antique steam engines, tractors, combines, plows, reapers and numerous other pieces of early-day harvest equipment to be seen.

There is almost every kind of tractor imaginable. Norm Dorsch says some are donated, some loaned and some are there for the show. Every tractor is restored and in working condition.

The mighty steam engines race down the show grounds at 11:45 a.m. each day of the show. There is the parade of antique cars, followed by the antique tractors and steam engines at 1:30 p.m.

A kids tug-o'-war with the small steam engine

will start at 1 p.m. each day. At 1 p.m. on Thursday, the Thresher Queen will be announced and on Friday, the Auto Queen.

Each day there is a swap meet. People can find anything from parts for cars and tractors, to dishes and dolls, to hats and antiques.

The Eggers Building has different "rooms" set up to show people how the house might have looked in the early 1900s.

New on the grounds this year is the David Clark Memorial Toy Museum. There are toys, souped up tractors and other memorabilia which were collected by David and his father Craig.

Don't forget to eat! The Country Kitchen has sandwiches, potato and macaroni salads, baked beans and home-made pies.

Today, wheat is harvested completely different with combines. In the early days of the steam engine, the grain was bound in bundles.

The grain will be threshed each day. This is a highlight for many.

At 7 p.m. on Friday, the Heart City Heart Warmers from Valentine, Neb., will be entertaining at the Legion hall. Supper, served by the Community Club, will start at 5 p.m. Paul Bader, brother of Meta Dankenbring, will be playing.

A church service will be held at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning with Pastor Dan Carson giving the message.

Free transportation is available to and from the airport.

The quilt show has been moved from the show

grounds to the American Legion hall in Bird City. People are welcome to come by and view the quilts at their leisure.

The old-fashioned literary will be held at the schoolhouse at 7 p.m. on Thursday. "Grandma, the Economist" and how Grandma "made do" is the program.

Saturday, the McDonald Lions Club will hold a barbecue from 5 to 7 p.m. and the antique tractor pull will start at 6:30 p.m. that evening.

There are many other activities throughout the three-day period. See the schedule on Page 2 of this section.



NORM DORSCH operates the sawmill located on the southern part of the grounds. The equipment was purchased about 20 years ago.

Sawmill, unique part of show

By Karen Krien

About 20 years ago, Tom Sawyer and Norman Dorsch saw an ad while they were in Lincoln. The ad was for a belt-driven sawmill.

Now that would be unique for this area. There were very few trees in the early days and not many today. Most people would be interested in seeing how a sawmill worked.

Tom and Norm made the deal for \$750 and took Tom's pickup to Idaho Springs, Colo., to pick up the equipment.

The American Made sawmill had been used by a man who cut wedges to be used in the mines to shore up the walls. The trees were given to him

by the Forestry Service.

Loaded, the sun was going down as they started home. The sawmill weighed so much in the back of the truck, weighing it down so the head lights shown up high. Cars they met were blinking their brights at them.

Getting it to the show grounds, they placed it on the south side of the grounds and erected a building around it so they didn't have to move it each year after the show.

Norm and some of his helpers, Troy Burr and Dan Sower's sons, can be found each day during the show, sawing up logs and making shingles at the shingle mill.

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