



THE THRESHER SHOW is ran by many volunteers, young and old. David Burns, left, and Elsa-Craig Burr knew what they were doing as they ran the Holt combine.

Show draws many despite hot temperatures

By Norma Martinez
normamartinez@wildblue.net

The heat held out for the 58th Antique Engine and Thresher Show on Thursday until around 4 in the afternoon, then the heavy rain and hail hit. Things were winding down at the time, but everyone was drenched scurrying around to get things covered up and put away. After the storm, the temperatures cooled things down about 10 degrees for Friday.

First main event for the show was when the outgoing queen, Kathleen O'Neal, relinquished her doll to Bonnie Burr for displaying in Building 8 with the past queen dolls, and saying "We'll see you around," as she exited.

After Queen O'Neil left, folks were still trying to guess who the queen was. Bev Higgins thought she had figured it out, but when they showed the queen with another girl that threw her, thinking she was the new queen's sister, and Vonetta was an only child. The added girl was Vonetta's cousin.

The secret was finally out at 1:15 when the fire truck came and Norman Dorsch introduced Vernetta Haack as the 2011 Thresher Queen.

After Mrs. Haack gave her speech she gave out gifts to 85-year-old Maynard Wright for being the oldest man present; Frieda Black from McDonald,

as the oldest women; 2-year-old Elisa Haack as the youngest girl; 2-year-old Jamison Haack as the youngest boy; Oksana Arkhulik from Ukraina as coming from the farthest; the couple married the longest was Lucille and Maynard Wright at 72 years, and the person who lived in a sod house was Mary Dorsch.

Waiting in the crowd was Pat and Don Helton from Pueblo, Colo. Vivian Reade Lanham, her grandmother, was queen in 1987. They had brought their grandson, Lloyd Stover, to the thresher show for the past 13 years. "He likes to drive the tractor and getting dirty," she said. "For years, he has saved the money he earned doing odd jobs. This year he was only a couple hundred dollars short, so his parents helped him out and he bought a 1941 John Deere tractor and was driving it in the parade.

Frieda Black has lived 2.5 miles north of McDonald since she was 1-years-old, but was born in Atwood. I was a city girl at heart, she said, and was not going to live in the country, but someone (Harvey) stole my heart and changed my mind.

The Thresher Princess, Kaitlyn Figgins from St. Francis, was waiting for Gerald Wright to hook up his steam engine to the thresher so she can throw in the first bundle of wheat. Entertaining her were Middall

Adams, Nathan Sowers, Cory Andrews and Ellie Sowers.

Norma Garretson from Smith Center, and Donna Garretson from McCook, were on their way back from the cool Colorado mountains and stopped to check things out. They were sitting on a tractor trying to keep cool and adjusting from the cold mountain temps in Taylor Lake, Colo.

During lunch time and between events Jacob Brubaker and Derek Vandike entertained the kids with turtle races. They had 15 turtles with numbers on their backs for the children to race. During the summer they collected them from north of Atwood, one was found in a Bird City yard, but most of them were found by Rob and Susan Jensen.

The boys kept them in a big cattle tank until time for the show. Jacob assured everyone they were not abused, by saying, "It might sound like cruelty, but they were fed very well, and had lots of grass in the tank."

On Thursday Jacob and Darek held three races. Those who selected the winning turtles were Blaine Burns, Derek Vandike and Justin Michaels.

Jacob was a busy boy, as he also worked in the Golf Club booth selling, cinnamon rolls, breakfast burritos, and beverages. All proceeds from this booth went to help pay the Cheylin Golf Club expenses for this coming year 2011-2012. Other members who

helped out in this booth were Tristan Archer, and Ruben Razo. Jane Brubaker was there as she said "for emergencies."

The "Klepper Connection" served the best lemonade in town. Serving lemonade and cherry limeades, they have never raised the prices from \$1 since 1974.

Anita and Julie Wilkins started out selling Water Weenies at the Thresher Shows. These were handmade water guns made out of tin. Kids loved them, but they had to quit selling them after the kids started getting into trouble getting the ladies' long dresses wet. Back then most all of them

dressed in long dresses. Julia now owns the Parkhill Restaurant in Atwood.

These two girls are now married and have grandchildren. Their children and grandchildren come every year and help run the stand as a three-generation business.

Why Not Travel to Denver for Your Dentistry?

*Especially when we'll pay for your hotel! **



As a mature adult, your dental needs are more complex. If you have a healthy smile but want to enhance it, Dr. Barotz is known for his exquisite cosmetic dentistry including **perfection in porcelain veneers** and **Invisalign** clear orthodontics. If you have serious concerns about the health of your mouth, or have loose or missing teeth, Dr. Barotz, with his 30 years experience, can provide **Total Dental Solutions** which will eliminate the need to be referred from doctor to doctor to doctor if you want to save your teeth, beautify them, or replace missing teeth with bionic dental implants. Call us today for a complimentary consultation.

Barotz Dental provides:

- **Laser Gum Therapy**, which eliminates the need for cut and stitch gum surgery for patients with gum disease who want to save their teeth.
- **Custom Drop Dead Gorgeous Dentures** which provide denture wearers the same exquisite cosmetics provided for people with natural teeth.
- **Dental Implants** to lock down or eliminate dentures or replace one or more missing teeth.
- **No Fear Sleep Dentistry** if fear has been keeping you away from the dentist.

Your care can be completed much faster since it is all done by one doctor in one location.

Immediate appointments available.

Call today for your complimentary consultation!



Charles Barotz, DDS
303 16th Street Mall, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado 80202

Visit DenverDentist.com or call us at (303) 532-1151

**Hotel stay included for patients with extensive treatment.*



THRESHER PRINCESS, Kaitlin Figgins, threw the first wheat bundle into the thresher each morning of the show.

Herald staff photos by Norma Martinez.