



WHEAT IS PULLED FROM one of the buildings at the Thresher Show Grounds to be taken to the display area and separated. Large crowds viewed a variety of events at the 51st show.

Times staff photos by Casey McCormick



DOING LAUNDRY— Hollis DaProne helps this little visitor with the washing machine that is on display in the Egger's building.

# 51st Thresher Show welcomes many

By Casey McCormick

The 51st Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show came and went but not without special memories.

"We haven't had a chance to count exact numbers," said Stan Dorsch, Association treasurer, "But the attendance at the gate was good."

The weather was unseasonably comfortable, as it had been for much of July, but it changed as the show weekend progressed. By Saturday and Sunday typical, high temperatures along with the high humidity made for miserable conditions.

However, this did not slow down the steam engines, tractors and antique automobiles and their

operators. Each day various machines were paraded or performed different farming tasks.

Visitors enjoyed passing through the permanent buildings to travel back in time. Displays were set up to demonstrate everything from washing clothes in an old-fashioned, hand-crank washer to operating an old-time, type set printing press.

Young and old filled the dining hall with trays of food from the country kitchen and enjoyed fresh squeezed limeade and lemonade with cherries or cooled off with ice cream. Saturday night's barbecue, hosted by the McDonald Lions, was a big hit and preluded the lively entertainment of Deans Duckson and the Turkey Snorts.

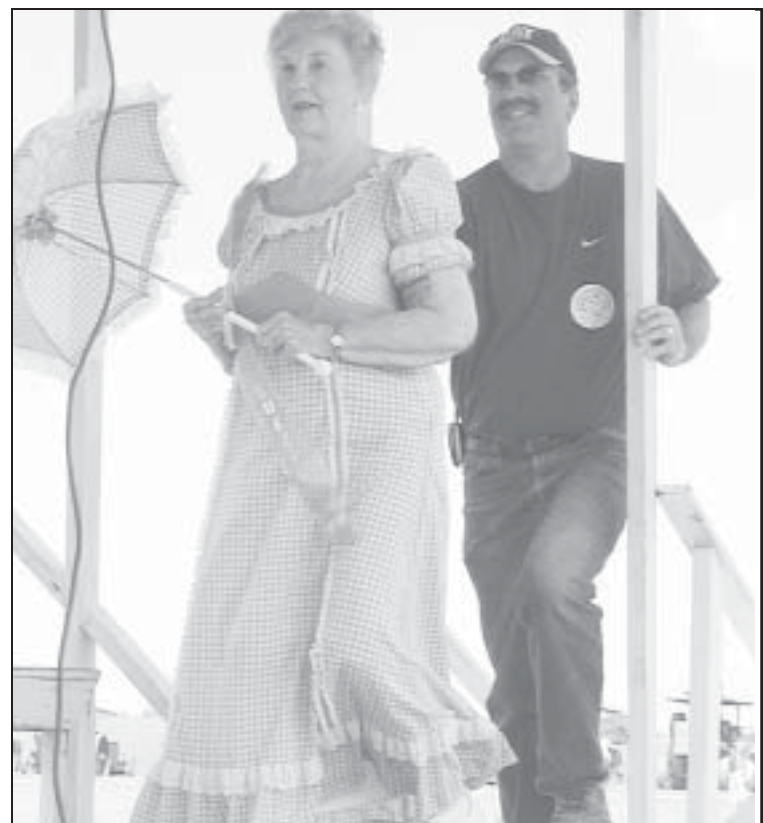
Presiding over the show was this year's Thresher Queen, Irene Kehlbeck. Mrs. Kehlbeck, of Colby, becomes the 32nd Thresher Show Queen. She was joined on Thursday by Chelsey Weeden, the reigning Cheyenne County Junior Miss from St. Francis, who was crowned Thresher Princess. The Auto Club Queen was named on Friday and this year's honor went to Norma Butcher of Bird City.

Quilts are "tied in" with the show, being displayed in their own building and each year a special quilt is auctioned off with the proceeds going to the Thresher Association. This show's quilt was donated by Phyllis Wingfield of McDonald. The lucky winner

was Bird City's Barb Smith.

Something that was completely unique at this show, but drew from all previous shows, was the introduction of the book, *Fifty Years*. The beautiful, hardbound edition tells the story of the Thresher Shows beginning at Roy Kite's farm in 1953 and leading up to the 50th show of last year.

Jennifer Dorsch Erickson, who authored the book, was present at the show to autograph copies. Mrs. Erickson, of Des Moines, Iowa, is the daughter of Stan and Dee Dorsch. Copies of the book are available, with the proceeds going to the Thresher Association, through Mr. Dorsch at (785) 734-2785.



THE 2004 THRESHER QUEEN, Irene Kehlbeck was escorted up the stairs by her grandson, Royce Kehlbeck.

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