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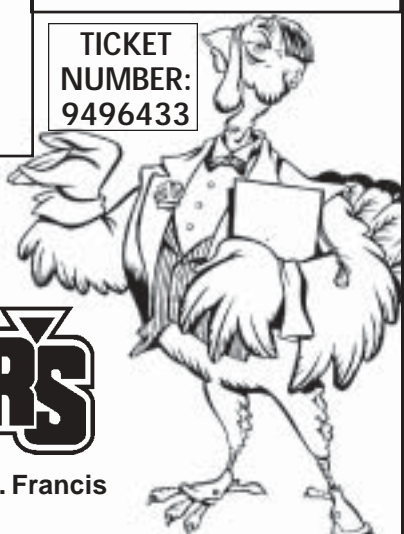
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WINNING TRACTOR FINDS A NEW HOME — Radean and Velda Wright, on tractor, gave the tractor they had won from the Mini-Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show to the Bird City Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association. Two of the Association members, Norm Dorsch, left, and Larry Henry, right, were there to accept the gift.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Winner gives 1946 John Deere tractor to Bird City Association

By Mary Lou Olson and Karen Krien

When three Oberlin antique lovers decided to do something to help raise money for the Mini-Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show this year, the result was a beautifully restored 1946 John Deere A tractor.

The winners were Radean and Velda Wright of Bird City.

Mr. Wright said they had gone to a family reunion the weekend of the Bird City Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show, returning on Sunday. He said they had been able to walk around the grounds that day and someone had asked him if he wanted to buy a chance on a tractor that would be given away at the Oberlin show. He bought six tickets for \$5 and thought that would probably be the end of that — that he had donated \$5 to the cause.

However, a month later, he and Mrs. Wright had come in from fixing fence when the phone rang. The caller informed him that he was the winner but he needed to come pick up the tractor that day.

They brought it back to Bird City and dropped it off at the Tri-State Antique and Engine Show, it's new home.

"We already had several other tractors at the show and we just decided to give it to Association," Mr. Wright said. "The people at the Oberlin show were especially happy that the tractor was going to be at the Bird City Thresher show as they didn't want to see it be auctioned off."

Mr. Wright's father, Melvin was one of the early members of the Association.

"He (Melvin Wright) was active in the Association and really enjoyed restoring the machinery," Mr. Wright said.

Mr. Wright said he didn't have a 1946 John Deere but his first row tractor was a 1952 and it is now restored and is at the show grounds.

More about winning tractor

Ray Kircher, Calvin Ufford and Jim Marshall, who have been restoring vehicles and tractors for years, said they decided to buy the tractor from Bernard Corcoran, who had been farming with it; restore it; then donate it to the show for a fund raiser.

When the three men decided to restore the tractor, they had no idea how many hours they would spend on it. The work began last November at J & R Trailer Repair, owned by Jim and Reva Marshall, then the tractor was moved to Mr. Kircher's building in west Oberlin when the Marshalls left on a winter vacation.

Mr. Kircher said restoring cars has been his hobby for over 30 years. His first restoration was a 1928 Model A Ford pickup.

"I cut my eye teeth on a Model A," he said. "My dad bought his first Ford in 1913 from a dealer in Indianola. My first car, however, was a 1948 Ford Sedan, a six cylinder, which I bought when I married my wife, the former Eleanor Lytle, and needed a vehicle."

He was a charter member of the Mini-Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Association, so when it came time to retire from the farm near Indianola, Neb., in 2000, he and his wife decided to move to Oberlin, where they had made many friends who also enjoyed restoring vehicles and tractors.

Mr. Marshall said that the first car he owned was a 1929 Chevrolet, which he bought for \$25, after his grandfather, Andy Penn, loaned him \$15. He started restoring vehicles and tractors in 1973.

"My wife says it keeps me out of

trouble," he said.

His first good car, he said, was a 1950 Ford, which he bought in Wilsonville, Neb., and completely restored in 1970. He opened Jim's Odds and Ends on East U.S. 36 after he retired from Koch Oil in 1991 after 25 years. Tractors he has restored include a Case VAC and a John Deere B.

A 1931 Chevrolet was the first car Mr. Ufford owned, and he said he drove it back and forth to school in Oberlin.

"When I was in high school, many old cars, trucks, tractors and steam engines went to the scrap drive for the World War II effort. I remember well the big scrap pile that was located near the railroad tracks in Oberlin, waiting to be shipped out by train. Our football queen was chosen from the class that brought in the most scrap iron.

"My dad donated a 1925 Model T pickup, and I drove it to the scrap pile, then caught a ride home," he recalled.

His interest in restoring antiques increased after he retired from the Soil Conservation Service at Overbrook and he and his wife, the

former JoAnn Lincoln, moved back to Oberlin. He said he still owns the first tractor he restored, a 1949 John Deere MT.

The men said that the annual show costs a lot to operate and most of the income comes from gate receipts and food served by their wives, so they felt it was worth a try to buy and restore the tractor to help raise some money. The club sold chances at \$1 each or \$6 for \$5 on the tractor and then had a drawing to give it away.

Mr. Marshall said that Jim Abbey has donated corn for several years to the association and each year Mr. Marshall picks it with an old-fashioned corn picker, formerly owned by Joe Ruzicka. The corn is ground and shelled during demonstrations at the show.

The restored tractor was painted by Mr. Kircher's grandson, Nik Martin, of Herndon, a mechanical engineering student at Kansas State University.

The men all agreed that the restored tractor is in top shape and is field ready, and they're happy that the new owners do not plan to sell it.

Home heating safety is important

Winter is fast approaching. The weather turns cold and its time to turn on our furnaces, portable heaters and light the solid fuel appliances. Every year fires are inadvertently started by putting a heater to close to combustible material. We've seen lives destroyed and homes burned to the ground.

Heating devices are the leading cause of fires in the home during December, January and February. In 2003 there were 228 heating equipment related home fires in Kansas, one death, and three injuries. Property damage exceeded \$1.2 million.

These fires don't have to happen. To prevent problems, heating devices should be inspected and cleaned on a regular basis according to the manufacturer's instructions. Have your appliances checked by a qualified technician to be sure it is safe for use.

Most fires with space heaters are preventable if key safety measures are followed. To avoid problems, keep portable heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including furnishings, bedding and clothing. Turn the heater off when you leave the

room or before you go to sleep.

Wood stoves, fireplaces and chimneys also need special care. Fires occur in these because of lack of cleaning, leading to the buildup of creosote, which is the residue of unburned fuel. Use only seasoned hardwood and don't burn trash in a fireplace because the fire could burn out of control. Keep sparks and embers inside the fireplace with fire screens made of heat-tempered glass or sturdy metal.

Fuel fired equipment not only presents fire related incidents but is also a potential source of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, poison gas that is created when fuel burns incompletely. It is recommended that people install carbon monoxide alarms in their home to provide them with an early warning if carbon monoxide is accumulating.

So when the temperature drops, go ahead and use your heating appliances. We want you to be warm and cozy. But we also want you to be sure you're safe. Install and maintain smoke alarms and CO alarms throughout your home.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Tuesday, Dec. 14 • 9:30 a.m. (MST)
 at the Prairie Vista Cafe • Idalia, CO

1135 Acres in Southeast Yuma County, CO IRRIGATED-DRYLAND-GRASSLAND-HOME & OUTBUILDINGS

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Parcel#1: NW1/4 & E1/2 Sec. 28-5S-42W (480 acres m/l)
 Parcel #2: Lots 3-4 & SW 1/4 Sec. 22-5S-42W and Lots 1-2-3-4 & W 1/2 Sec. 27-5S-42W (655 acres m/l)
LOCATION: East of Bonny Res. on the N. side of Yuma Co. Rd. 1 and W. of Yuma Co. Rd. SS (state line)

AUCTION TERMS: 10% earnest money in good funds day of auction; balance due at closing within approximately 30 days. This will be an absolute auction with a minimum bid. The property will be sold as-is with no contingencies. All inspections and financing arrangements should be done prior to the auction. A cash at closing purchase agreement shall be signed on auction day.
 Parcel #1 consists of 122 irrigated acres; 189 drd acres; 155 grassland acres, and a 14 acre farmstead.
 Parcel #2 consists of 484 dryland acres and 171 grassland acres.

Notice to the prospective purchaser: The information contained herein has either been given to us by the seller or from sources we deem reliable, but we do not guarantee it. The prospective purchaser should verify all information contained herein. Colorado Land Investments I, LLC and all other agents of the broker are or will be acting as transaction broker.

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