

Bird City Thresher Show begins Thursday

By Karen Krien

The sound of the steam engine whistle on Thursday, July 28, will mark the start of the 52nd Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show in Bird City.

People come from near and far to attend the four-day event which features the ways of the "good ole days." Last year, around 4,000 people attended the show which was a better attendance than year's past.

Ken Beougher, vice president of the Association, said more people were able to attend the show because the temperatures were a little cooler.

On Tuesday, he said they were busy getting everything ready for opening day.

There are 14 buildings on the grounds along with a place for a swap meet which generally has a number of vendors. It's hard to tell which building is visited the most but the Eggers Building generally has the most going on.

Eggers Building

In the Eggers Building, rooms are set up to look like they did in the late 1800s and early 1900s. There is a kitchen, parlor, wash room and a bedroom. Maynard Wright's player piano is on display and sometimes can be heard playing those delightful tunes. Collections are displayed and demonstrations can be watched much of the show.

Phyllis Wingfield, McDonald will give a craft demonstration on Saturday morning. Friday afternoon Dan Busse will tell about archeology. On Thursday and Friday, Phil Crawford will be singing.

During the show, there will be drawings for gifts at 3:30 p.m. followed by the sing-a-long led by Martin Busse.

Bonnie Burr, committee member, said there will be a display of favorite family cookbooks and another display of pictures of the past.

There is the display of antique vehicles, the caboose, the blacksmith shop, the creamery, the steam engine building, the quilt and printing press and the antique tractor museum.

On the grounds

People may tour the sod house, the country schoolhouse and church.

Dorothy Mast and Rosemary Powell are heading up programs and entertainment for the sod house and schoolhouse. In the early days, the sod houses were often referred to as the "light on the prairie," as when someone was lost, they were guided to help by the light showing from the sod house.

The ladies will be featuring those who lived in sod houses each morning at 11 a.m. in the schoolhouse.

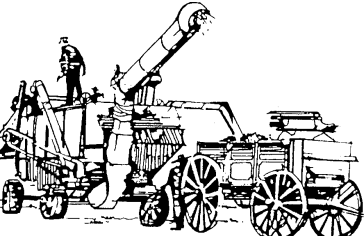
Helene Landenberger will be interviewing the person (portrayed by Mrs. Mast) who came from the east and lived in the sod house. That afternoon, there will be more talk of the past.

On Thursday evening at 7 p.m., the old fashioned literary will be held at the schoolhouse. If someone has a topic they would like to debate, it will be put on the agenda. Otherwise, people will tell stories, recite poems and sing songs. It is an easy-going program enjoyed by everyone who attends.

Regular activities during the show

Each morning, the princess and queen are introduced and the princess throws the first bundle of wheat in the antique thresher machine.

Throughout the morning, there is corn shelling, Prony brake and Baker fan testing and a parade of old machinery and early-day harvest equipment. At 11:15 a.m., the pyramid stunt is performed with a huge



Show activities

There are special activities held during the Thresher Show.

Thursday

One of the highlight of the show is the crowning of the 2005 Thresher Queen. She is a mystery until the noon-day program on Thursday when she is recognized in front of the office building.

Friday

Friday, the new Auto Queen is crowned and she will make her rounds during the parade. This crowning also takes place during the noon-day program.

That evening, the CYO barbecue is held from 5 to 7 p.m. Following the barbecue is the special entertainment provided by the Pearce Family. This program begins at 7.

Saturday

Saturday, during the noon-day program, all former queens are recognized. If one is not present, she can be identified in the Eggers Building as each queen has a doll which resembles her.

The McDonald Lions Club members will be providing a barbecue from 5 to 7 p.m. The evening entertainment will be the antique tractor pull which begins at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday

Sunday is the "wind-down" day and those attending the show will be able to go to worship in the little country church on the grounds. There will be two services: one beginning at 9 a.m. and the other at 9:30 a.m. Dr. Tim Beougher, Louisville, Ky., will be preaching.

thresher machine, and the steam engine and thresher talks are held.

Following lunch, is the kid's tug-of-war with the small steam engine. The parade of antique cars, tractors and steam engines is enjoyed by all those finding seats along the sidelines.

At 2:30 p.m., there is threshing, plowing and straw bailing. The saw mill and shingle mill will be in action at 3:15 p.m. The race is on at 4 p.m. with the steam engines line up. There will also be the stationary engine demonstrations and the antique auto displays at that time.

Ending the afternoon activities will thrill many as they will be treated to a ride on a steam engine.

Queen to be crowned

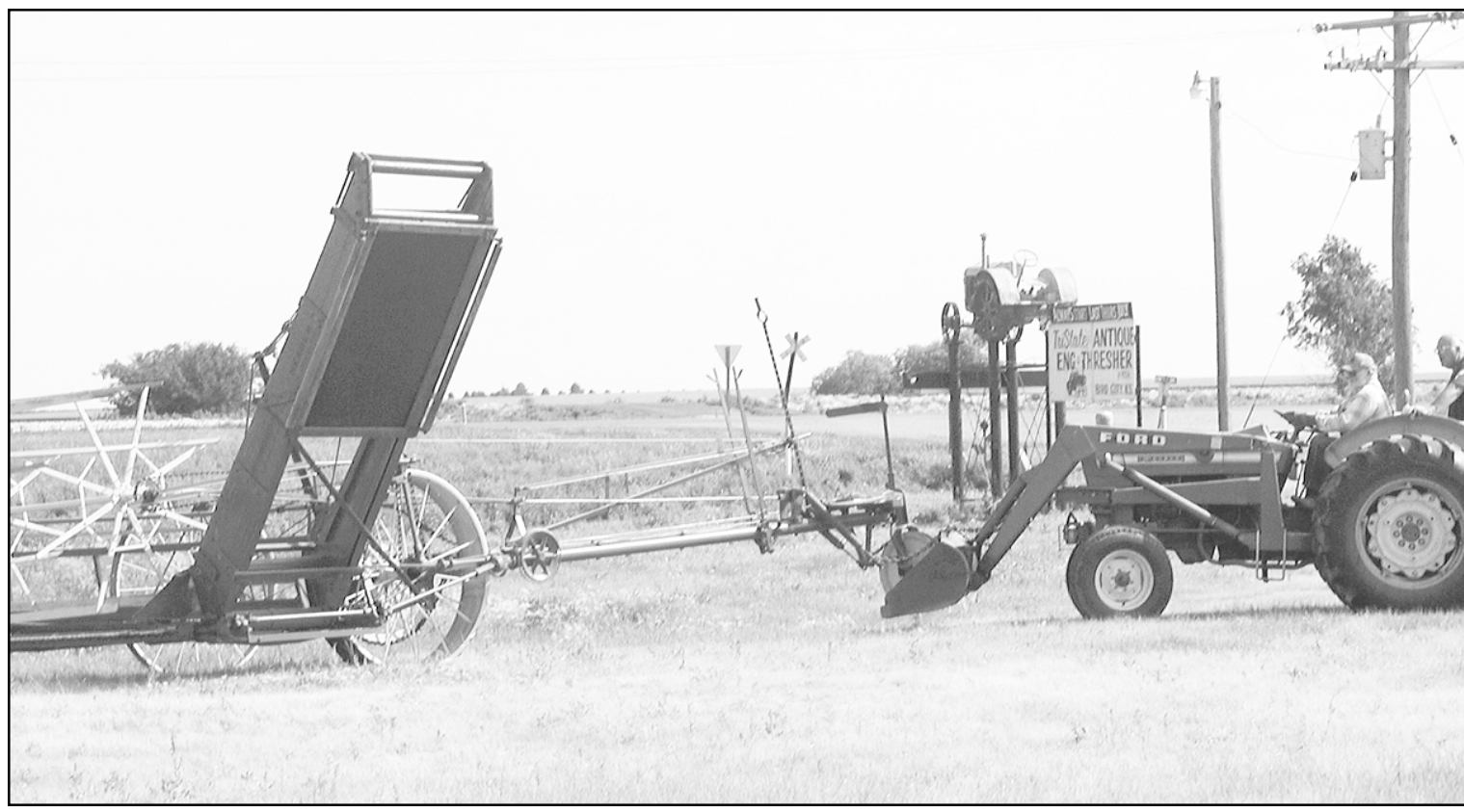
The 2005 Thresher Queen will be crowned Thursday, July 28, during the noon-day program at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show, Bird City.

The identity of the new queen is a secret until the crowning takes place. However, clues to her identity and a photo when she was younger might help people guess who she is. The 2005 queen will be recognized with the 2004 Thresher Queen, Irene Kehlbeck.

The new queen in last week's article became the family nanny after her mother died. She had always helped her father with the outdoor chores and this job continued along with the indoor household duties.

The next five years she spent as a hired girl, working for several neighboring families. Duties were to help with cooking for the family, threshing crew men, caring for children and doing laundry. Living on the farm and working together was the way of life back then.

When asked if she had any hobbies in her years as a hired girl, she



OUT WITH THE OLD—Ken Beougher and Lee Brown use a tractor to move an antique combine. The Thresher Association is busy preparing for the 52nd show.

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick

Remember when...

By DeAnza Church

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Showgrounds are bustling with activity as preparations continue for opening day on Wednesday, July 27. The steam engines are being primed for their place in the spotlight as the tractors psych themselves up for the anticipated tractor pull.

Amidst all the commotion and routine chores, association members take time to remember the shows of the past and the fond memories they create.

Delbert Powell, retired association member, began working with the show in the mid 1980s after Gerald Wright invited him to ride with him to Wichita to attend a steam boiler safety meeting.

The class lasted a day and a half. On the way home, Mr. Wright informed Mr. Powell that he was now a member of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show Association.

"So, I was kind of tricked into it," Mr. Powell said with a laugh.

Mr. Powell remembers the first year he helped with the show.

A week or 10 days before the show was to start, he and Mr. Wright were hydro-testing the steam engines by pumping water into the boiler, under pressure, to check for leaks.

As they worked, Mr. Powell decided to crawl into the fire box to clean it out.

"I got in there, all right," he said. "But I couldn't get turned

around to get out."

He was stuck in there for about 30 minutes.

"That's the last time I crawled into a fire box!" he said.

While checking his mail at the post office, Hal Antholz didn't even have to think about the most memorable show moment.

He laughed as he told about the time Stan Wamhoff had his little 3/5 scale model of the 16-48 Russell belted into the Champion separator. Mr. Wamhoff was threshing when one of the embers caught a pile of straw on fire.

Mr. Antholz said the funny story behind it is that he wanted to get the steam engine away, but he couldn't move it because everyone was behind it taking pictures.

Stan Dorsch, association member, said one of the best memories he has of any show is the way the steamers spark in the dark. To create the effect, sawdust is placed inside the steam engine.

"It looks like a candle fountain on the Fourth of July," he said.

Mr. Dorsch, as well as everyone preparing for the show, remembers a time that isn't such a fond memory. The flood.

Approximately 10 years ago, the skies opened up to deliver 4 inches of rain in one night, causing water to run into buildings and flood the showgrounds.

"It was a miserable time," said association member and Bird City Mayor Larry Henry. "Combines were under water. It



IT'S SHOW TIME! Maynard Wright (foreground) and Martin Busse warm up at the player piano.

caused a lot of havoc."

But, it wasn't a curse to the many children who came the "Bird City Lake" the following day. Donning bathing suits, they had fun swimming and canoeing in the muddy water.

Norm Dorsch recalls the many times he tried to host an event at the show but nothing would go right for him.

"We would run out of gas," he said. "We'd have to stop everything to tow the thing away. That happens quite frequently. If you really want something to work, it won't start. Then, as soon as the people leave, it starts right up."

While enjoying a cup of coffee and conversation with friends at the Bird City Dairy King, Trudy Voorhies, a life-long Bird City resident, told about when she used to work at the Thresher Show demonstrating candle wicking.

"I used to love hearing Maynard (Wright) play on the player piano," she said. "He used to sit there and play so beautifully. I really enjoyed that."

Vivian Seymour told of the times she carried food and water to the men at the show when it was still

held at Kite's farm. She remembers the day the show moved to town.

"It was so difficult for the women to carry everything out there. The men said that they work for us all year, the least we could do is work for them for three days," she said with a laugh. "That was about the time they decided to move it to town."

Whether the show runs smoothly or with a few snags, most members and guests accept everything with a good sense of humor. Although the getting ready and cleaning up parts of the show aren't their favorite jobs, everyone looks forward to visiting the folks that come to Bird City every year.

"They always have lots of stories to tell," said Mr. Henry.

"They've improved it (the show) so much," added Mrs. Seymour. "They have so many interesting things. I especially enjoy the quilts."

After the dust settles on the 2005 show, new memories will join the old, new friendships will be made and the preparations will begin for the next Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show.

told of helping sew and mend clothing, making quilts and learning to crochet by watching the housewives who were willing to help her learn, since her mother had died. She said this knowledge was a great asset to her in her own family life later on.

There was a young man who caught the eye of the queen!

During their courtship, they attended ball games, school programs and dances. He was fortunate to be the owner of a car which they had a few years after their marriage.

They moved into a farm house where they raised their daughters. Their girls also learned the ropes of life on the farm.

The queen and her husband lived on the farm for nearly 40 years before moving to town.

While living on the farm, the couple enjoyed playing cards with family and friends and also attended dances. In due time, their grandchil-



2005 Thresher Queen

dren came into their lives and later, the great-grandchildren. They were and still are the new queen's pride and joy!

Everyone is encouraged to be at the Thresher Show on Thursday to find out just who is the new queen. Come early and stay late.... spend the time enjoying seeing how things were done in the "good ole days."

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State of Kansas Recreation Commission 2006

The Governing Body of St. Francis Recreation Commission will meet on the 1st day of August, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Francis High School cafeteria for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of funds.

Detailed budget information is available at the USD 297 superintendent's office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

The Proposed Budget Expenditures (below) are the maximum expenditure limits for the budget year.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2003-2004	Current Year Estimated 2004-2005	Proposed Budget Year 2005-2006
General	28,183	30,422	40,000
Totals	28,183	30,422	40,000
Lease Purchase:			
Principal Balance @ Beg of FY	0	0	

Anita Marin
Recreation Commission Secretary

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NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

State of Kansas
Special District

The governing body of Cheyenne Co. Cemetery District, No. 2 County will meet on the 8th day of August, 2005 at 1:00 P.M. at Cheyenne County Courthouse for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at Cheyenne Co. Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2006 Expenditures and Amount of 2005 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2006 budget. Estimated Tax Rate* is subject to change depending on final assessed valuation.

Fund	2004		2005		Proposed Budget 2006	
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Estimate of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Amount of 2005 Ad Valorem Tax	Est Tax Rate*
General	23,500	0.988	23,488	0.885	68,225	23,224 0.816
Totals	23,500	0.988	23,488	0.885	68,225	23,224 0.816
Total Tax Levied	23,782		23,356		23,224	
Assessed Valuation	23,833,227		26,391,898		28,455,194	
Total						
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1						
	2003	2004	2005			
G.O. Bonds						
No-Fund Warrants						
Lease Purchase Principal						
Total	0	0	0			

* Tax Rates are expressed in mills.

John Opale
Clerk / Board Member

L & L Implement Co., Inc.

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Wray, CO 970-332-4141

2003 JD 7500 Forage Harvester, Loaded	CALL
2003 8420 Auto Trak Ready	\$120,000
Richardson 45' Mulch Treader, Nice	CALL
Haybuster 1000 Tub Grinder, NICE!	\$16,000
1997 JD 9400 4WD, 3 Pt., Triples	\$93,000
1996 JD 8400, 5,000 hrs., Loaded	\$75,000
JD 613 3 Pt. Mower	\$800
1995 JD 8300 MFWD	\$65,000
JD 709 7 ft. 3 Pt. Mower	\$2,250
JD 8310 MFWD, 3,000 hrs.	\$93,000
JD 8210 MFWD, Very Nice	\$91,000

MachineFinder <http://www.machinefinder.com>