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Train became popular attraction at county carnival

(Continued from Page 5F)

Strasburg, Colo., who builds trains. However, after checking the cost, they knew that adding one would probably be impossible.

"However," Mr. Lotker said, "one day I was walking down the street and Dwight Wenger, who had an electrical shop, stopped me and said, 'What would you say if I told you I knew of someone who would buy you a train?'"

"I was taken back about like I was when Ward called me up and asked if he could buy a merry-go-round."

Mr. Lotker said that several days later, he was in Dwight's shop and Harry Schrammel, who was working for Dwight part-time, walked over and said, "I'll buy you the train."

After he told the board of Mr. Schrammel's generous offer, they and Mr. Schrammel went to Strasburg to check on a train. The owner, Marvin Uhrich, showed the group blueprints of a steam engine, but said that he felt what was needed for Oberlin was one with a gasoline-powered engine.

By mid-afternoon, the contract had been drawn up and signed to be delivered to Mr. Uhrich.

Although Mr. Schrammel agreed to buy the train, he said it was up to the Amusement Authority to furnish the track and the railroad, so that put another project on the authority's agenda, Mr. Lotker said.

"Building the track was quite an interesting undertaking for volunteers," Mr. Lotker said. "Then the next project was building a station."

After it was completed, plans were made for the dedication and Gov. John Carlin was invited.

Ken Rydquist served as master of ceremonies. Sharon Kessinger, co-publisher of *The Oberlin Herald*, who had gone to Hydro, Okla., with the board and wrote all of the articles and took pictures to promote the carnival in its early stages, was also an invited guest.

Machinist Charles Springs, who spent many hours working on the train parts, said one of his prize pieces was the brass bell and decorative brass light fixtures which were mounted on the locomotive.

Highlighting the Decatur County Fair opener on Tuesday evening in 1980 was the dedication of the authentic scale locomotive and cars donated by Harry and Betty Schrammel. Gov. Carlin drove a golden spike as part of the official ceremony.

Throughout the years, the train has been one of the most popular rides at the fair.

Stuart Euhus, one of the first Amusement Authority board members, summed up all of the effort that went into the carnival this way:

"Our home-grown carnival would possibly be the ultimate in community cooperation. It took a great deal of effort on the part of those who had an interest in seeing it succeed.

"A commitment to make it work was there, too. It didn't always come together easy or as planned, but with hard work and lots of research, it finally came to completion. . .

"Now, we look at the carnival as part of the Decatur County Fair every year, offering local people a chance to go to a good, clean, well-run carnival, as well as out-of-town people who come and bring their families and have a great time...."

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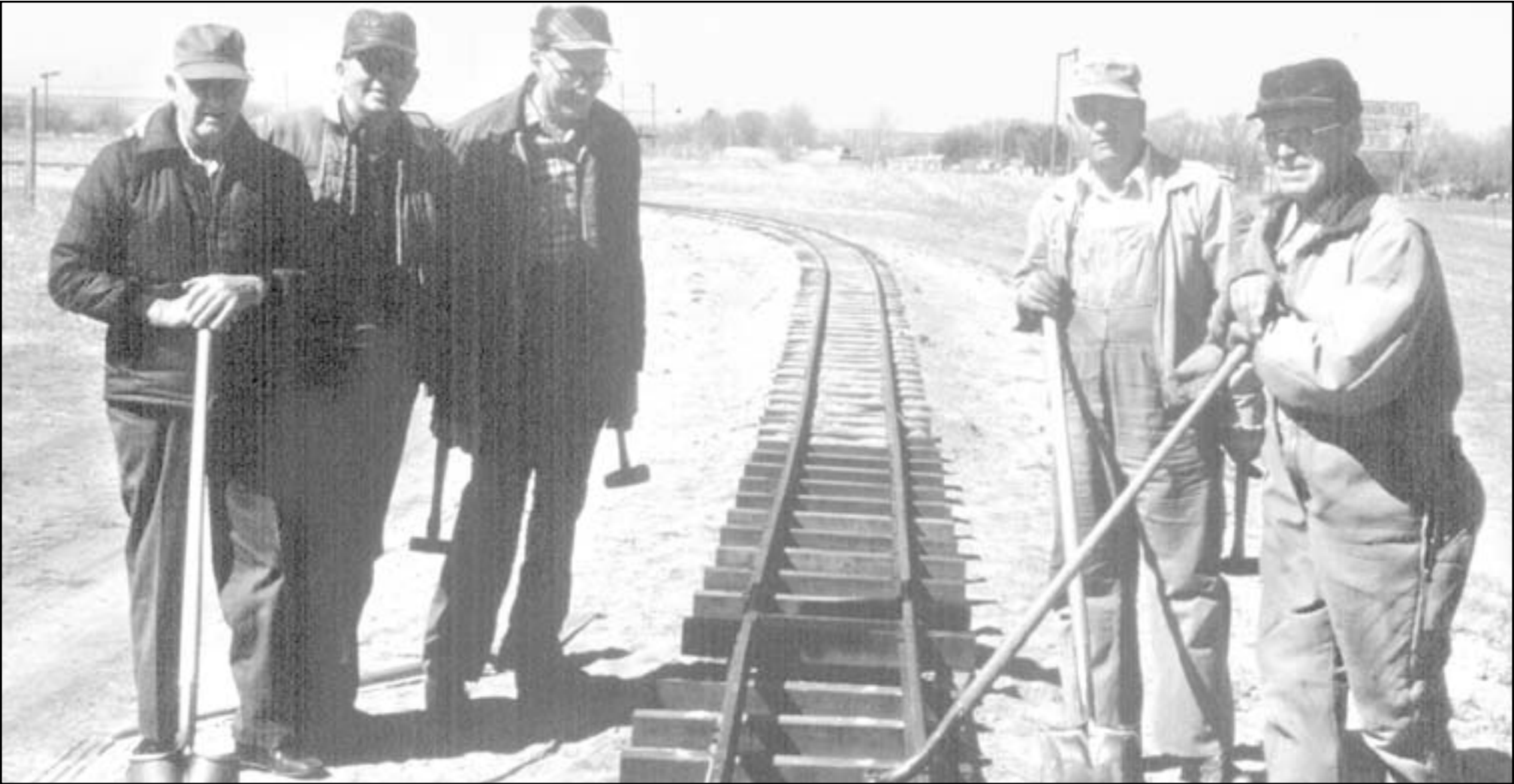
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BETTY AND HARRY SCHRAMMEL are shown with the caboose for the train, which they donated to the Decatur County Fair. —Photo courtesy of Floyd Lotker



VOLUNTEERS SPENT HUNDREDS OF HOURS building the railroad track at the Decatur County Fairgrounds. Like the bigger railroads, a golden spike marked the completion of the track. Shown, from left, Bill Warren, Floyd Lotker, Ray Calson, Alvin Jording and Wes Gaumer. —Photo courtesy of Floyd Lotker

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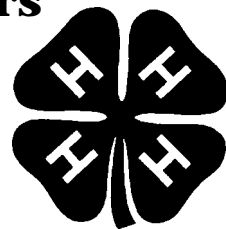
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IN FRONT OF THE CHICKEN COOP Wade Juenemann held a fluffy chicken with two hands. Wade said he didn't know if he would be taking that chicken to the fair or another one.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Brothers ready to pigs and rabbits

Gray, oranges, white and black chickens are being raised by the Juenemann boys for this year's Decatur County Fair.

For Wade, 12, and Brent, 9, this will be the first year they have taken chickens to the fair.

This is the second year the boys have been members of the Stick-to-It 4-H Club and the second year for fair exhibits.

Last year they just took pigs, which they are going to do again this year, but they are also ex-

panding.

"We have a lot of chickens on the farm," said Brent, "so we decided to take them to the fair."

Wade and Brent will take their chickens and each will take a rabbit.

The boys started out with several variety of chickens in the coop. At fair time, said Gary Juenemann, their father, the decision will be made on which ones they will take. Only the best looking chickens get to go to the fair.



WITH A BIG smile on his face Brent Juenemann held his chicken with black and white feathers.
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

show off chickens at the county fair

The boys have yet to name all their poultry, but plan to do so before the fair gets here.

One of the orange birds carries the name of Banana Boy. Troy, one of the younger brothers, said the bird is named that because he is yellow. Jennifer Juenemann, their mother, said the bird used to be yellow.

Both Brent and Wade are responsible for taking care of the animals meaning they have to check each day that they have water.

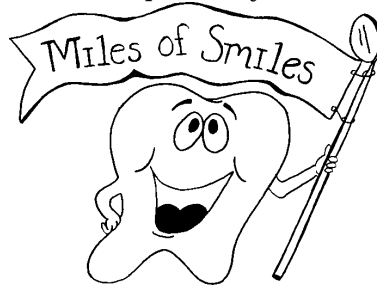
Wade said they dump out the dirty water and then put in clean.

Both of the boys plan to take two chickens each and are hoping to come home with blue ribbons.

Two of the varieties found on the farm are Sultans and Blue Silky.

Congratulations, Decatur County 4-H'ers

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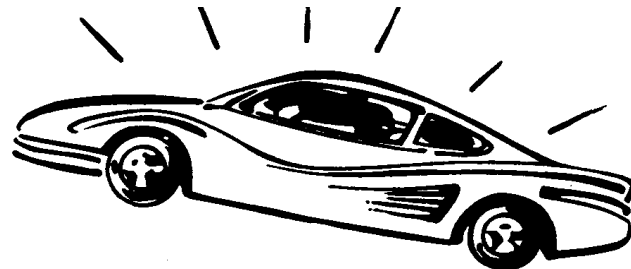
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