

*Track needs fans' support to keep races

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property. "Oberlin is not allowed to sell beer to its customers, which hurts gate sales," Salem said. Fans want to be able to sit back and enjoy a beer while they watch the races. Without a brewing company sponsorship, promoters are handicapped to start with.

"It only makes sense that if the stands are full, other businesses will benefit as well."

The Oberlin Speedway Racing Commission moved to salvage this year's season with a race by Colorado promoter Joe Bellm coming up Monday night, but Monday is a tough night to draw a crowd.

"The commission has put together a deal with Bellm from Broomfield, Colo., to race the Blood, Sweat, and Tears modified racers," said Dave Bose, a commission member. "Everybody wants a win-win deal for our community, but without the support of everyone involved, including other local commissions, the backing of sponsors, and the local community through gate receipts, it makes it difficult to keep going."

"It seems that each commission involved (city and county) has a different opinion on the matter."

Bellm said he was guaranteed a \$3,500 purse for his visit to Oberlin.

"We are interested in promoting this sport," said Bellm. "If fans are interested, we are allowing a few to ride along in our team race cars to see what it feels like getting a first-hand experience."

Bellm hopes his efforts will improve attendance here.

"Other communities draw fairly sizable crowds, upwards of 500 fans per race," said Salem. "The last race in Oberlin ... drew mostly out-of-town fans."

"These guys put on an entertaining show. It is a great way to entertain the family."

Thanks to Salem, the speedway was open to "Fun Days" twice in April so racers could tune their cars and hone their driving skills. Area drivers were allowed to test their skills on the track to help promote the season.

"I have been in this business over 30 years, following in my father's footsteps," said Salem. "I am not sure if people realize just how nice this speedway is compared to others in the area."

"It seems that the only time Oberlin seems to draw well is during the fair, when it puts on a demolition derby," said Bose.

The racing commission wanted a race during the fair, said Bose, but because the track is so close to the carnival rides fair organizers worried about safety, especially for kids, said Dana Marintzer, Amusement Authority spokesperson.

The Decatur County Amusement Authority asked the racing commission to sponsor races the day after the fair because of safety issues, Marintzer said. Even though the speedway has safety guard rails and fence, the possibility of a wreck or a wheel flying over the fence into the carnival area was an issue.

"The Amusement Authority, which runs the home-owned carnival, just doesn't want someone

Racers here on Monday

The Blood, Sweat and Tears modified racers of Broomfield, Colo., will make their inaugural trip to the Oberlin Speedway with action starting at 7 p.m. Monday.

Colorado promoter Joe Bellm will be offering free race-car rides for passengers starting about 5 p.m. If you're interested in riding in a team modified car, report to the promotion office.

For information, see Bellm's website: www.bstracing.com.

hurt," said Marintzer.

The Decatur County commissioners require that all racing events at the fairgrounds have proper insurance.

"All fairground events except Oberlin Speedway events are covered in an umbrella liability insurance policy to protect the county from being sued upon an accident," Commissioner Doyle Brown said.

Price seems to be part of the problem.

"It seems to me that is part of the problem," said racing fan Jim Gamblin. "Oberlin raised the admission price from \$8 to \$10. Norton and McCook didn't raise their admission fee this season. With the economy the way it is and the price of gas, it makes it tough on families. One thing I would like to see is more of the community leaders getting involved."

Not every fan is so dedicated.

"As a town resident, I don't go there much unless a friend asks me to go, but I enjoy it," said Frank Black Jr., who said he was a part-time racing fan.

"I went to a race either last year or the year before, I don't remember, but I don't go to the trap shoot, either," said Mayor Joe Stanley. "As far as the city goes, the city donates the water to prep the track."

A dedicated crew keeps the track running.

"We volunteer our time," said Ron Uehlin, water truck operator for the track. "It's a two-mile round trip to the well on the southeast side of town. It takes two days to prep the track, and that means we have to take off work Friday before the race. We lose a day's pay and with the cost of gasoline going up, it's more money out of our pockets."

Competition for business sponsorship is also a problem.

"I think the reason the races stopped years ago was because they couldn't make enough money," said Deb Bryan, manager of Pizza Hut. "There is only so much sponsor money that each business in town can afford. When each organization or event that comes along asks for money, only so much can be handed out. We get hit by everybody."

With the price of gasoline at record highs, people must take a hard look at how they can get the most bang for their buck for entertainment.



A 1952 MASSEY HARRIS, owned by Tex Shaw of Selden, stood next to a smaller model, looking a little like a mother and child during the 14th Annual Antique Tractor and Car Show in Selden on Sunday. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Selden welcome tractor show

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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More than 70 cars and tractors and numerous small engines and motorcycles were on display Sunday in Selden for the American Legion's 14th Annual Antique Tractor and Car Show.

Registration started at 9 a.m., with no fee for entering or viewing the show. Plaques were awarded to the top 10 tractors, top 10 cars and top three small engines.

While participants looked over the vehicles, they could enjoy barbecued beef, hamburgers, hot dogs and chips in the city park while Rose Bainter, Vic Wagoner, Joe Bainter and friends provided musical entertainment.

Contests included horse shoe pitching, a youth basketball free-throw, a kiddie pedal tractor pull, a barrel-rolling competition and a washer drop contest.

Youngsters dug for coins among several bushels of corn in a livestock watering trough and their were crafts and exhibit booths set up in the Sacred Heath parish hall downtown, where the Red Barn Gang from

Rexford performed in the afternoon.

The day's activities climaxed with a parade at 3:30 p.m. Brittany Ritter sang the National Anthem and Legion members presented the colors.

Winners were:

- Basketball free throw — Grades 3-4-5, Grant Spresser, first; Hailee Spresser, second; and Kain Priess, third. Grades 6-7-8, Jeff Shaw, first; Devinn Ritter, second; and A.J. Russell, third.

- Peddle tractor pull — Ages 5-6, Jake Geisinger, first; Jyle Adelman, second; and Logan Shaw, third. Ages 7-8, Stephen Harrison, first; Matt Vacura, second; and Caleb Flipse, third. Ages 9-10, Grant Spresser, first; Kade Wessel, second; and Koi Wessel, third.

- Barrel roll with tractor — Buddy Plotts, first; Don Lafferty, second; and Darrel Bruggeman, third.

- Washer Drop — Buddy Plotts, first, and Stan Kauk, second.

- Slow Tractor Race — Don Lafferty.

- Horseshoes — Dallas Jackson, Colby, and Gerald Jackson, Norcat, first; Brooks Jackson, Colby,

and Delbert Jackson, Brewster, second; and Alvin Koenig and Mike Grover, Colby, third.

- Raffle prizes — Noel Ritter and Garrett Emigh, truck banks donated by Dave's Auto Supply and Steve's Body Shop; Ashlynn Dorenkamp, pedal tractor donated by Hoxie Implement; Caleb Flipse, all-terrain tricycle donated by Frank Bouts; Deb Spresser, John Deere toy tractor donated by Taylor Implement; Jada Juemann, toy tractor donated by Southwest Implement; and LaDonna Harrison and John Kaus, bags of fertilizer donated by Ultimate.

- Top Ten Cars: Stan and Emily Strange, Colby, 1937 Ford Standard Coupe.

- Eric Moore, Hoxie, 1952 Ford F-1 Pickup.

- Alvin Koenig, Colby, 1955 Chevy Cameo Pickup.

- Diane Krayca, Goodland, 1980 Chevrolet Corvette.

- Loren McAfee, Bird City, 1987 Buick Grand National.

- LeRoy Krafft, Goodland, 1956 Chevrolet Belair.

- Royce Neitzel, St. Francis, 1958

Chevrolet 3100 Pickup.

Melvin Smallberger, Oberlin, 1931 Model A Ford.

Pete Jensen, 1939 St. Francis, Ford Pickup.

Jim and Reva Marshall, Oberlin, 1928 Whippet Model 192.

- Top Ten Tractors — Allen Pizel, Burlington, Colo., 1922 Rumely Oil Pull.

- Eugene Anderson, McCook, 1951 Farmall Super M.

- Norman Wendel, Almena, 1943 Allis Chalmers WC.

- Ralph Moore, WaKeeney, 1941 Allis Chalmers Model C.

- Doug Hagins, Utica, 1929 McCormick Deering.

- Bill Anderson, Superior, Neb., 1959 IHC Cub Cadet.

- Bob Virgil, Norton, 1953 Minneapolis Moline Model UB.

- Gordon Hawkins, Atwood, 1926 John Deere.

- Kent Ashley, Selden, 1937 Thiemman.

- Bill and Peggy Anderson, Superior, Neb., 1956 Farmall Utility, FU235.

- Small Engines — Doug Hagins, Utica, and Varlan Neal, Oberlin.

Tractors take off for Selden

The Oberlin Mini-Sappa Antique Club held its first Tractorcade on Sunday, with members driving a dozen vehicles from Oberlin to Selden for the tractor show there.

Tractors left Oberlin around 8:30 a.m. and drove into Selden for the 14th Annual Antique Tractor and Car Show about 10:30 a.m. The group made it down U.S. 83 at a speedy 10 mph, said club member Judy Rogers of Selden.

Participating in this event, organized by Bob Martin of Herndon, were:

Elden Huff, Lebanon, Neb., 1956 Ferguson TO35 Special; Mr. Mar-



THERE WERE TRACTORS as far as the eye could see on Sunday as Oberlin-area owners drove their rigs in a "tractorcade" to Selden on Sunday.

— Photo by Judy Rogers

tin, 1949 Minneapolis Moline Model R; Cecil Lafferty, Danbury, Neb., 1946 W6 IHC; Don Lafferty, McCook, 1954 Ford NAA; Gary D. Orr, Oberlin, 1959 ACD17-D; Eu-

gene Anderson, McCook, 1951 Farmall Super M; Marilyn Anderson, McCook, 1945 John Deere B; Harvey Wright, Atwood, International A; Bob Brown, Trenton,

Neb., 1958 John Deere A; Jim Marshall, Oberlin, 1952 Ford 8N; Ardell Sherry, Dresden, 1952 Massey; and Lowell Holmberg, Oberlin, 1948 Case D.

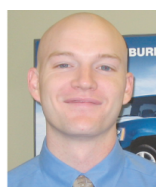


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