



ENJOYING THE SCENERY on the midway as he rode high in the air on an adult swing was a happy fairgoer.

Over 30 years acquired new

By **MARY LOU OLSON**
mlolson@nwkansas.com

Adults have been swinging around the Decatur County Fairground for 33 years, since the second run of the home-owned carnival.

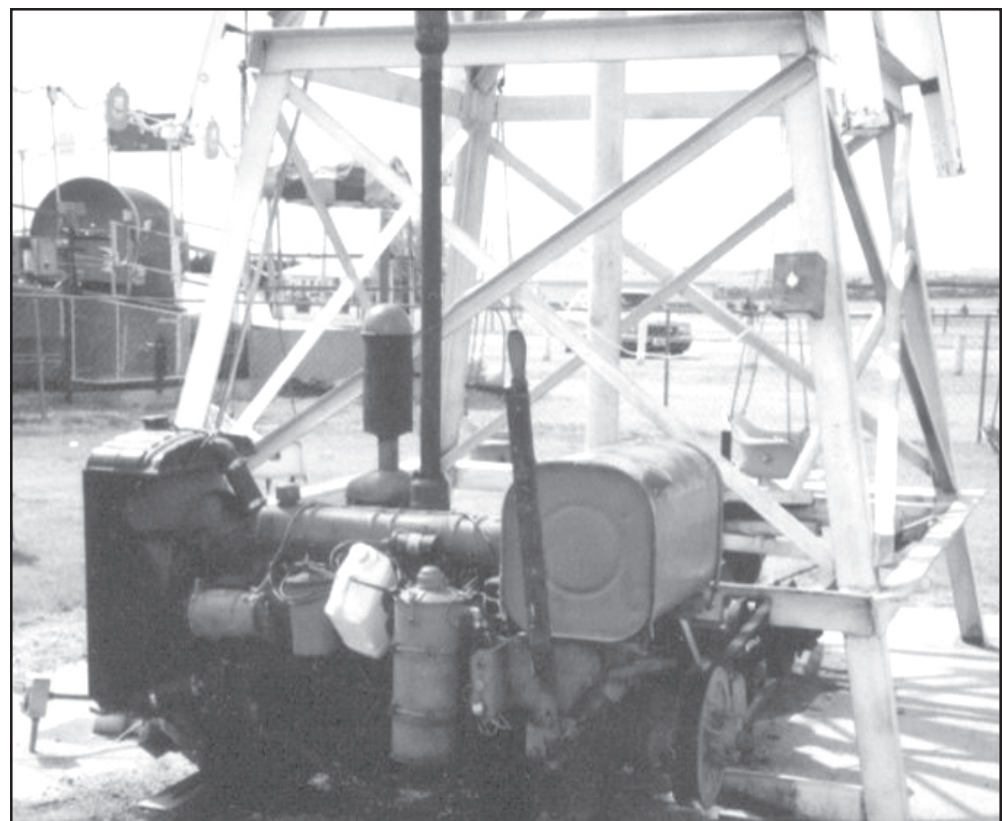
The Ferris wheel and kids' swings came first, but carnival organizers were looking for something more.

"The first run of the Decatur County home-owned carnival got off to a good start in August 1973, with the Ferris wheel, kiddie swings and kiddie rides, the latter two being built at Bill Matchett's welding shop," said Floyd Lotker, who was serving as president of the Decatur County Amusement Authority at the time.

"The midway also included several concession stands, and we took in \$4,000 that year," he recalled. "By September, the Twist Over had been found, but the carnival board decided one more ride was needed for the growing project."

He said that Mr. Matchett told the board that he would build adult swings and Jimmy Applegate offered a motor and gear box from an old combine for the project. The board removed the motor and took it to the high school, where FFA members overhauled it.

By spring, the tower and all the parts for the upper wheel were made and ready to be assembled, Mr. Lotker said. The tower legs were set in four-foot holes, then covered with ce-



THE COMBINE MOTOR AND GEAR BOX (above) was donated by Jim Applegate for the adult swings, then was overhauled by the Decatur Community High School FFA class before being installed by Bill Matchett. —Floyd Lotker photo



Ultimate Fertilizer Co.

139 W. Hall • Oberlin, KS 67749
785-475-2121 • 800-536-2720

Need Phone Accessories?

We Got Em!

Bluetooth Headsets

- Data Cables
- Car Cradles
- Phone Skins
- Phone Bling
- Car Antennas
- Phone Cases
- Ear Buds
- Batteries
- Chargers



Nex-Tech Wireless is eligible to receive support from the Federal Universal Service Fund in designated areas. As a result, Nex-Tech Wireless must meet reasonable requests for service in these areas. Questions or complaints concerning service issues may be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-662-0027.

HANSEN'S PLUMBING HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

103 N 4th Street
Atwood, KS
(785) 626-3778

LENNOX
AIR CONDITIONING • HEATING

Carrier
CUSTOM MADE INDOOR WEATHER™

118 East Commercial
Oberlin, KS
(785) 475-3154

HELL
HEATING & COOLING PRODUCTS

Keeping you
Cool AND
All Summer Long!

Keeping you
Warm
All Winter Long!