

County

Visitors can enjoy vintage airplanes or steam threshers

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MUSEUM

The Cheyenne County Museum is a good sample of the county's history and those who tilled the soil, made sacrifices and endured drought, the Dirty Thirties and years of seeing their crop harvested by a hail storm.

There are 21 different rooms filled with items which depict eras, or businesses (post office, soda fountain, dentist and doctor office and print shop), and furnished rooms from a home in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The museum also has information concerning the activities of Cheyenne County including a number of pamphlets with detailed instructions on getting to many of the places to see in the county.

STEARMAN FLY-IN

The activities begin with the Stearman Fly-In which is held at the airport in St. Francis. The Fly-in is held the second weekend in June but planes begin flying into the airport the Friday before. And that evening, if the weather allows, about 20 skydivers fill the air over St. Francis. Their colorful parachutes coming from high above are a spectacular sight.

The Stearman Fly-In features World War II vintage open cockpit and fabric-covered bi-

planes powered by radial engines. Last year, there were 14 Stearman planes as well as around 110 other aircraft. Early Saturday and Sunday morning, hot-air balloons fire up for a different view of the Cheyenne County countryside. Throughout the two days, there are tandem jumps where a novice passenger rides with an expert skydiver, both sharing a single canopy.

Food is served on the grounds and best of all, admission to the show is free.

TRI-STATE ENGINE AND THRESHER SHOW

The last weekend in July marks the beginning of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show in Bird City. People come from all over the United States to see these huge steam engines in action as races are held, wheat is threshed and parades are held daily. The Tri-state Antique Auto Club has a display of vehicles and, for those looking for anything from old tractor or vehicle parts to hats, antiques, or books, there is the Swap Meet and Flea Market.

This year's show is July 26, 27 and 28 and activities run from morning to evening.

The thresher show takes people back to the days of long ago when cows were milked by hand, butter was churned, fields were often farmed with horse-drawn machinery and life, while often more difficult, was far less hectic.



HUGE THRESHER MACHINES compete in races at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show, which is held the last week in July at the show grounds in Bird City.

Each day of the show, there are demonstrations and exhibits, lines of antique engines are on display and the sod house, old church and school house are open to the public. There is the old cook wagon, a printing press, blacksmith shop and a quilt show, just to name some.

Each year, the Thresher Queen and Tri-State Antique Auto Queen are crowned.

In the evenings, special entertainment is held including an old-fashioned literary at the country schoolhouse and a barbecue.

Pay a small fee to enter the grounds each day or buy a pass for the entire show.

Many people like to bring their families to the show so they can better see what life was like

in the days of their grandfathers and great-grandfathers.

FAIR AND CARNIVAL

The first week in August is the Cheyenne County Fair and home-owned carnival. The activities begin on Wednesday and end late Saturday evening.

People come from around the area because the rides and game booths are well-kept and are run by volunteers, and tickets are 25 cents each. Many former residents bring their families back at fair time as their children can enjoy the whole evening on \$5 and take home prizes. It is also a time when they can visit with people they

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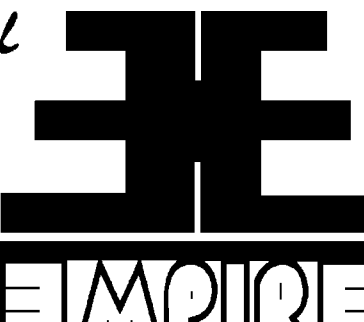


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