



CONTESTANTS OF ALL KINDS joined the fun at the 32nd annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show at the fairground this weekend. Gary Orr (above) entered his homemade "horseless carriage" into the contests,

Reva Marshall and Maxine Wright presented a quilt for the raffle (below right) and 7-year-old Tristan Martin of Indianola, Neb., got to pick entries for the winners.

History comes alive during weekend show

Grandparents, parents and children came together this weekend to see prairie history through machinery at the Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show at the Decatur County Fairground.

Engines, threshers and vehicles of all kinds were demonstrated and shown off after being restored and spit-shined like new. Unlike some previous years, the show was blessed with perfect weather and a strong crowd, even drawing state Sen. Allen Schmidt, from Hays.

"I've always loved these kinds of shows," the senator said, smiling in the sun with his wife, Ellen. "They're a special part of our history in western Kansas, and I'm just happy to be able to come and see it for myself."

Those showing their machines came from Nebraska and neighboring counties in northwest Kansas. Demonstrations showed the crowd how their grandparents and great-grandparents would use their Industrial Revolution-era engines and tractors to power equipment that cut logs, baled hay, shelled corn and threshed grain.

A parade was held both days for those who had restored classic vehicles, ranging from a home-made "horseless carriage" to classic pick-ups from the 1980s, shining like they had just driven off the lot. Quilts, both classic and modern, were showcased in the 4-H Building, with George Brown of Jetmore winning the raffle for a prized quilt made by women of the club. Richard Steinke of Logan won the raffle for the John Deere tractor.

Results from the two-day show include:

Top 5 tractors, Saturday: 1959 830 JD, 1941 McCormick I-H, George and LaDonna Brown, Jetmore; 1944 AC D, Ray and Sandy Mies, Ness City; an AC G, Harvey Wright, Atwood; 1947 Farmall A, Richard and Greg Macy, Lebanon, Neb.

Top 5 cars/pickups/trucks, Saturday: 1967 Chevy Impala SS



convertible, Dana Marintzer, Oberlin; 1931 Ford Model A, Melvin Smalberger, Oberlin; 1932 Ford 5 Window Coupe, Wes and Jeanette Bencken, Rexford; 1927 Chevy Landau, 1928 Whippet, Reva Marshall, Oberlin.

Top 5 tractors, Sunday: 1931 Ford Model A, Elmer Ward, Oberlin; 1967 Chevy Impala, Wayne Goltl, Oberlin; 1950 Ford F5, Tom Solko, Herndon; 1973 Chevy pickup, Everett Shuler, Oberlin; 1914 Ford Model T Speedster, Nik and Lisa Martin, Bucyrus.

Top 5 cars/pickups/trucks, Sunday: 143AC, Norman Wendall, Almena; 1967 JD 4020, Joel and Tami Shaw, Oberlin; 1954 JD R, Richard Macy, Lebanon, Neb., 1959

AC D17, Gary Orr, Oberlin; 1952 Case LA, Herdt Farms, Oakley.

Tractor Games

Slow race: Lowell Holmberg, first; Doug West, second; Richard Macy, third.

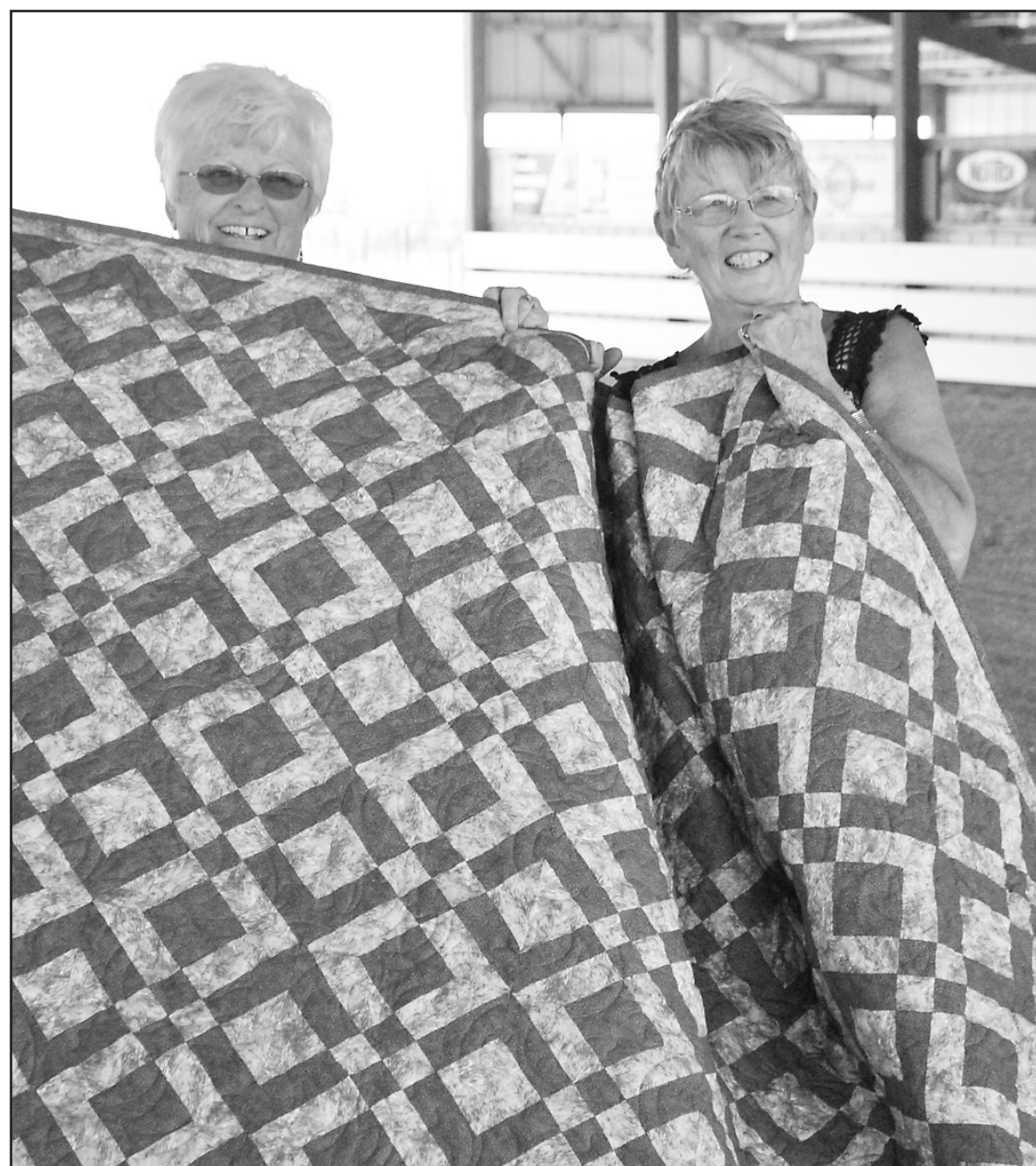
Barrel race: George Brown, first; Eldon Huff, second; Nik Martin, third.

Washer drop: Lowell Holmberg, first; Richard Macy, second; Harvey Wright, third.

Kids' pedal tractor pull, age 3: Eric Kuhlman.

Kids' pedal tractor pull, age 6: Tara Sue Larsen, first; Tristan Martin, second; Colin Shield, third.

Kids' pedal tractor pull, age 7: Kiana Martin, first; Zoey Shields, second.



A TINY TRACTOR WAS PRESENTED by Dan Lippelmann, president of the Mini Sappa Antique Engine and Thresher Club, to Richard Macy of Lebanon, Neb. Everyone who won a tractor competition at the club's show this weekend got to put their names in a hat for the toy.

— Story and photos by Stephanie DeCamp