

Auto Club celebrates 40 years of activities and road trips

Members of the Tri-State Antique Auto Club departed Bird City on the morning of June 8, heading north on Highway 161. Dee Fries, tour guide, joined the caravan at Benkelman. After a rest stop at the Benkelman Quick Stop, it was on to Wauneta, Neb., for more pop and goodies.

On leaving Wauneta the group drove by the Wauneta Flour Mill, moving toward the north side of the Frenchman for a scenic drive on the old highways to Champion, where sack lunches were enjoyed at the Mill reservoir.

Bill Silvester and daughter joined the group at the Mill, after which they drove to the Silvester Farm 8 miles southwest, to visit with Bill's three Donkules. A tour of the "roomy" Silvester earth house afforded participants a chance to admire some outstandingly gorgeous dolls and other art productions made by Bill's late wife and his daughter. Back in Champion, a guided tour of the Mill was taken, the men of the club taking special interest in the mechanics and workings of the antiquated machinery and equipment.

At the Chase County Museum, the group was greeted by several ladies, including Jeanine Cox, a former club member, who later accompanied the group to her home to see her husband Arlyn's refurbished, better than new condition, antique car collection.

Club tours have always been major activities for the Tri-State Antique Auto Club family.

On Sunday afternoon, Sept. 5, 1962, a strange and unique occurrence was taking place in a vacant lot in the northwest part of McDonald. Four antique vehicles, their motors purring not smoothly, were preparing for an adventure. Soon the first Tri-State Antique Auto Tour, organized by Fred D. Magley, was underway, rolling down U.S. Highway 36. The destination was Bird City, a precarious 8 miles to the west. Fred Magley's 1925 Model T Ford Coupe, Don Hartman's 1914 Model T Ford Touring, Charles Draper's 1922 Model T Ford Truck and Orville Hartman's 1925 Model T Ford Fire Truck participated in the tour, with several persons accompanying the caravan in newer vehicles.

The second organized tour took place on Sunday, Sept. 19, 1962. That particular tour left McDonald with three antique cars, one antique fire truck and an eight motorcycle escort assembled by Duane Neitzel. Ralph Crawford, St. Francis, furnished radio communication between the front and back of the line of vehicles, using two modern pickups, one at the head of the line and one at the rear. Participants and their families were: Fred Magley, Orville Hartman, Don Hartman and Bill Fiedler. The happy group had lunch in the park at Bird City, where they were joined by Royce Smith of Stratton, Neb., in his 1931 Model A Roadster and Dr. J.H.A. Peck, St. Francis, driving his 1923 four-door Lincoln Sedan.

On arrival in St. Francis, at an average speed of 25 miles per hour, those in attendance visited at Burr's Skelly Service Station where Charles Draper's 1922 Model T Ford Truck, Jim Manson's 1926 Dodge Coupe and Fred Burr's 1930 Model A Ford Coupe were on display. The last stop on the tour that day was at Dr. Peck's barn where the good doctor served refreshments in that remodeled and com-

fortable old building. There was talk of organizing a club at that time, but it was deemed advisable to wait until the following spring to make the club a reality.

At 1:30 p.m. on May 13, 1963, Fred Magley's 1925 Model T Ford Coupe, Ron Lillich and Larry Cross, in Fred Magley's 1928 Model A Ford Coupe and Keith Harvey, St. Francis, in his 1930 Model A Ford pickup, left Bird City and headed west to St. Francis. They were joined, near the Guy Lamb farm, 3 1/2 miles east of Wheeler, by Ralph Crawford, driving his 1926 Chevrolet Coupe, and Elmer Felzien, behind the wheel of his 1902 Rambler replica. Fred Burr, Don Hartman and Jim Manson, whose antique autos were identified earlier, also joined the party at this location.

On a cold, windy Sunday afternoon, June 9, 1963, the fourth tour, with autos driven by Fred Magley, Elmer, Don Charles, Keith, Bill (in Ralph's 1926 Chevrolet), and August Wahl of Kanorado, driving his own 1912 Detroit Touring car, departed from Majestic Service Station, St. Francis, intending to tour to Benkelman, Neb., by way of Bird City. On reaching Bird City, those persons traveling the open vehicles were exceedingly cold, so the tour stopped for coffee at the Dairy King and decided to complete the trip to Benkelman on a nicer day.

On Sunday, July 14, 1963, Fred Magley, Don, Elmer, Bill and Royce Pettinger, driving his 1929 Ford Coupe, met at Majestic Service Station and toured to Atwood, where they visited with antique auto buffs in that area.

A Mock Auto Show, sponsored by the car enthusiasts, was held in the then vacant lot west of Majestic Service on July 1, 1963. The vintage vehicles of regular participants: Fred Magley, Don, Keith, Fred Burr, Ralph, Jim, Elmer and Dr. Peck were on display and participated in old car games during the day. Three new antique car owners were at the show. Linden Welle of Arapahoe, Colo., displayed his 1928 Ford Coupe and was declared Champion of the Show by a popular vote. Robert Helman of Goodland brought his 1923 Model T Ford Coupe. Ken Stout, also of Goodland, brought his 1924 Model T Ford Coupe. Following what turned out to be a very successful day, antique car owners and their families took a turn around St. Francis, their last stop being the upstairs Trophy Room in Dr. Peck's barn, where, following refreshments, the Tri-State Antique Auto Club was formally organized.

After a proper election of offic-

ers, the first item of business to come before the club was the appointment of several persons to serve as judges at the antique Auto Display during the St. Francis Diamond Jubilee, which was to be observed on Aug. 8, 1963.

The first slate of offices elected included: Fred Magley, president; Sylvia Felzien, secretary/treasurer; Ralph Crawford, tour director; Keith Harvey, director of public relations; Henry Hilt, membership chairman; Elmer Felzien, Don Hartman, Robert Helman and Linden Welle, directors of the board. Formation of the club was truly a climax to an outstanding day - and will long be remembered by those who took part in the first informal antique car show in the tri-state area.

At the second regular meeting, on Sept. 21, 1963, the 10th annual Thresher show was in full swing at the Roy Kite farm, north of Bird City, when Tri-State Antique Auto Club representatives arrived. Members of the 70-day-old club in attendance that day were: Fred Magley, Ralph Crawford, Henry Hilt and Keith Harvey. Duane Hawkins, McDonald, a prospective member, was present with his 1931 Model A Ford. Since that day, 40 years ago, the Auto Club has devoted untold hours to the successes of each yearly Thresher show and, in 1976, became an associate organization of the Thresher Association.

Charter memberships were made available through December 1963. Those who had become members by that date were: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Vaughn, Anton, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence W. Beamgard, Atwood; Mr. and Mrs. Linden Welle, Arapahoe; Mr. and Mrs. Al "Bunt" Reining, Benkelman; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brubaker, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Horvath, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Magley, all of Bird City; Mr. and Mrs. Harold B. Welle, Cheyenne Wells, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Reed, Colby; Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Bane, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Helman and Dr. Richard Taylor, all of Goodland; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hilt, Haigler, Neb.; Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Covert, Holyoke, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. August Wahl, Kanorado; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Reuber, Ludell; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hallagin and Mr. and Mrs. Orville Hartman, McDonald; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burr, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Crawford, Larry Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draper, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Felzien, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Fiedler, Mr. and Mrs., Don Harman, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Harvey, Marlin Lillich, Ronald Lillich, Wendell Lillich and Dr. J.H.A. Peck, all of St. Francis; Mr.



2003 TRI-STATE AUTO QUEEN Jane Brubaker was crowned Auto Queen this year. Mrs. Brubaker received a special ride during the Cheyenne County Fair Parade.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

and Mrs. Royce Smith, Stratton Neb.; Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Cranmer, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Speicher and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, all of Wray, Colo.; and Oliver Koffed, Yuma, Colo.

Many tours and activities have occurred in the years since the Auto Club was founded. In addition to touring to many sites within 100 miles of home, members have appeared in various annual and special parade events, rod runs and car shows. They have made many further trips, like to Pioneer Village, Minden, Neb., Sternberg Museum, Hays, Palo Duro Canyon, Canyon, Texas; the Rex Bressler home, Happy, Texas; Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, Amarillo, Texas; The Great American Road Race, Oakley; Tarado Mansion, Arriba, Colo.; the Antique Care Museum, Stratton, Colo., among them. Club members, in younger years, even did some camping at annual Beecher Island observances. In June 1990, members Wes and Cindy Herdt, via antique vehicle, accompanied the Eisenhower Five Star Tour from Kanorado To Abilene, commemorating the 100th birthday of President Dwight David Eisenhower, whose boyhood home was in Abilene. Auto Club founder, Fred Magley, served as Western Chairman of the Five Star Tour.

There was one day in particular, while on tour in St. Francis, that Auto Club members will never be able to forget. According to the July 14, 1966, issue of the *St. Francis Herald*: "Nine touring antique cars, all members to the Tri-State Antique Auto Club, and their occupants were hauled into court Sunday afternoon during their tour of St. Francis. They were charged with touring without a permit."

When they were ordered to the courthouse and then taken before acting judge Bud Jennings, some really began to wonder just what was taking place. They did not know that tour director, Ralph Crawford and Elmer Felzien had prearranged the arrest, and when the charges and sentences were read, all realized that a good joke had been pulled. "Police Chief Jennings and Patrolman Jack Joffiffe had a hard time keeping straight faces while in the process of arresting and bringing to the courthouse the nine cars and all the families involved."

"When the large group left the



MEMBERS COULD be found working on antique cars at the Fred Magley farm during January, 1980.

Photo courtesy of Marsha Magley

courthouse, they were much happier than when they went in, for many felt the arrest had been 'on the level'..." There were 35 in attendance that day, including the families of Keith Harvey, Royce Smith, Henry and Ervin Hilt, Dale Crist, Dr. Douglas M. Fair, Fred D. Magley, LeRoy Ginther, Ralph Crawford, Elmer Felzien, Darrel Weber and Milo Smith." Linda Hilt. Linda Hilt said she must have really been affected by the episode as she gave birth to a 9 pound baby boy that night."

In 1976, Mindy Kite, St. Francis, became the first Auto Club Queen during ceremonies at the Thresher show in Bird City. Several other ladies have been so honored. There have also been five male members of the club honored as Coil Box Boys.

The roster of other Auto Club Queens and Coil Box Boys includes: Gladys Beamgard, Atwood, 1977; Minnie Crawford, St. Francis, 1978; Hazel Hartman, McDonald, 1979; Hattie Toth, Atwood, 1980; Bessie Persinger, Atwood, 1981; Marsha Magley, Bird City, 1982; Dee Fries, Benkelman, 1983; Carol Brubaker, Bird City, 1984; Jane Burns, Bird City, 1985; Betty Golding, Stratton, 1986; Evelyn Harvey, St. Francis, 1987; Vada Leach, Bird City, 1988; Carol Harvey, St. Francis, 1989; Cindy Westbrook Herdt, Oakley, 1990; Gina Herdt, Apache Junction, Ariz.; 1991; Janelle Bowers, Bird City, 1992; Rosemary Powell, Bird City, 1993; Kristin Burns, Bird City, 1994; Belinda Boyson, Bird City, 1995; June Herdt, Oakley, 1996; Myra Miller,

McDonald, 1997; Ralph Crawford, St. Francis, 1998; Fred D. Magley (wife Marsha), and Glenn O. Neitzel, Bird City and St. Francis, 1999; Terry Burns (wife Jane), Bird City, 2000; Wesley D. Herdt (wife Cindy), Oakley and Bird City, 2001; Tanya West, Oakley, 2002; and Jane Brubaker, 2003.

Current Auto Club officers are Wes Herdt, president/tour director; Demi H. Shahan, first vice president; Delbert W. Powell, second vice president; Rosemary Powell, secretary/treasurer/historian; Fred D. Magley, Carol and Bob Brubaker and Wes Herdt, directors of the board; Marsha Magley, Trails 'N' Tales editor/reporter.

Past Auto Club presidents are: Fred D. Magley, 1963, '64, '89; Royce Smith, 1965, '66, '68, '72; Elmer Felzien, 1967, '73; Ralph Crawford, 1969, '74; Eric Bose, 1970, '71; Joe Vap, 1975, '76; Richard Poynor, 1977, '78; Orville Hartman, 1979; Henry Persinger, 1980; Terry Burns, 1981, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88; Jane Burns, 1990, '91, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98; Wesley D. Herdt, 1999, 2000, '03.

The club has hosted eight Show 'N Shine events in Bird City. Members have supported many long-forgotten community projects, substantial gifts were given toward the purchase of the Jaws of Life. Highway cleanup, community youth, building construction at the Threshers grounds, gifts to the Cheyenne County Museum building project are recorded within the minutes recorded in club newsletters.

In November 2003, members are anticipating sharing a 25th annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner with the Thresher Association.



MELVIN WRIGHT escorts Lillian Gorthy, Thresher Queen, during the Cheyenne County Fair Parade on Aug. 12, 1989.

Photo courtesy of Marsha Magley

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Notice of Budget Hearing

The governing body of CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS will meet on the 29th day of August, 2003 at 9:00 A.M., at the COUNTY COURTHOUSE for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of 2003 ad valorem tax.

Proposed Budget 2004 Expenditures and the Amount of 2003 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2004 budget. Est. Tax Rate* is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	2002		2003		PROPOSED BUDGET 2004		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Estimate of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2003 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	1,358,818	19.007	1,198,707	17.917	1,500,069	900,928	24.744
Road and Bridge	761,720	9.764	772,032	10.136	760,650	455,467	12.509
Bridge Building	38,760	1.149	53,000	2.046	39,000	2,197	0.060
Noxious Weed	20,731	0.000	38,630	0.064	38,000	12,537	0.344
Hospital	518,865	7.608	575,000	8.138	525,000	228,161	6.266
Bond and Interest	0	0.000	294,272	8.884	305,136	268,084	7.363
Prairie Dogs	7,834		5,325			7,100	
Special Parks & Recreation	0		1,600			5,904	
Special Alcohol	0		2,367			8,336	
Health Grants	13,440		20,000			39,710	
Solid Waste	67,094		3,824			0	
Special Machinery	2,000						
Noxious Weed Capital Outlay	0						
Spec Ambulance Cap Outlay	0						
Equipment Reserve	97,841						
Totals	2,887,103	37.528	2,964,757	47.185	3,228,905	1,867,374	51.286
Less: Transfers	147,652		190,490			200,500	
Net Expenditures	2,739,451		2,774,267			3,028,405	
Total Tax Levied	1,398,097		1,398,097				
Assessed Valuation	37,242,250		36,234,870		36,410,523		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1							
	2001		2002		2003		
GO Bonds	92,000		82,800		1,473,600		
Lease-Purchase	0		0		0		
Total	92,000		82,800		1,473,600		
Fire Districts:							
No. 1 - General	39,573	1.205	36,000	1.532	44,000	38,977	1.442
No. 1 - Equip Reserve	0						
No. 1 - Special Equip	0						

*Tax Rates are expressed in mills.

Terry Miller
Clerk

Van Allen, Inc. • Wheeler, KS.

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Fall Field Day

Aug. 26

10:00 a.m. CDT

Location: 1/4 mile N. of Van Allen, Inc.
East side of road.

Tom Stevens - Cooperator





Featuring: Krause 4830 In-Line Ripper