



STILL ABLE TO COMPETE WITH THE NEWER TRACTORS, the 100-year old Avery Undermount participated in the tractor pull during the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show. *Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*

Cool temperatures for show attendees

By Linda Schneider
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The 56th annual Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show proved to be successful with cool temperatures and calm breezes. Visitors arrived each day to begin the daily events with an innovation from Pastor Becky Davison, followed by the flag salute.

On opening day, the 2009 Thresher Queen Mary (Harrison) Dorsch was crowned. She wore a traditional prairie woman dress and straw bon-

net and greeted show attendees, along with Norman her husband of 59 years.

Mrs. Dorsch received her crown from last year's Thresher Queen Lucille Wright, who also donated her own Thresher doll to the museum. The doll was beautifully dressed to look like her. After the presentation of the new Thresher Queen Mary Dorsch, Mrs. Wright placed her doll on display along with the previous Thresher Queen dolls.

One of the newest events was the

Fun Run! On Saturday, over 50 runners of all ages participated in one of three courses that wove through the city of Bird City and a "Go Fish" course. Each will receive a Fun Run! t-shirt.

Another new attraction to the Show was the David Clark Memorial Toy Museum. On Friday, family, friends and visitors attended the ribbon cutting and the opening to the public ceremony.

The tractors, steam engine tractors, farm equipment and antique

automobiles parades were the highlights of the Show as some equipment from the 1800's. In addition, the Thresher Show button tractor, the Massey 55D Twins took part in the parade. The star of the show, a 100-year old 1909 Avery Undermount, making several appearances and took part in the tractor pull on the Saturday.

The Antique Car Club named their 2009 Antique Car Queen Peggy (Thompson) Ertler of Wheatridge, Colo. She then rode in the parade in

a 1931 Model A Ford.

The events announcer for the weekend show was Hal Sager and during the Tractor Pull event on Saturday, Mr. Sager paid a tribute to Terry Burns as long-time coordinator because this would be the last year Mr. Burns would be participating. His grandson, David Burns, filled-in at times while grandpa rested.

"Next year, I am going to be watching from the bench," said Mr. Burns.

Mr. Sager also gave special rec-

ognition to Maynard Wright. Mr. Wright is the last of the original Thresher Show coordinators, which began in 1952.

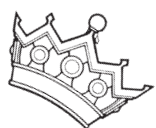
There were many new and returning swap meet vendors with rare and antique items to sell, as well as items to use around the house.

This year's Antique Engine and Thresher Show was made possible by the many men and women who donated their time and money throughout the year to make this event happen.



PEGGY ERTLER TAKES A RIDE with Fred Magley after being crowned the Auto Club Queen for 2009. Queen Peggy is headed for the car parade in a 1931 Model A Ford. *Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*

Auto Club selects queen



Peggy (Thompson) Ertler was crowned as the 2009 Auto Club Queen at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show on Friday. She is a long-standing member of Tri-State Antique Auto Club.

Mrs. Ertler is the daughter of Peg and the late Dee Thompson, formerly of Bird City, and sister of the late Bill Thompson. She and her husband of 33 years, Chris Ertler, live in Wheat Ridge, Colo.

Born in 1950, her first car was a midget racer powered by a washing machine engine and made by her dad in 1953. She was "The Terror of Lowell Boulevard" in Denver, Colo.

Peggy had her own ATV and accompanied brother Bill and his buddies on numerous motorcycle adventures. When she was dating her husband, he was in the process of building a 1967 Nova late model stock car and she had a lot of painting chores.

In 1982, she helped Chris and some of his friends build a 1932 Chevy modified stock car which went on to win a championship in Colorado.

In 1996, reconstruction was completed on her own 1934 Chevy modified stock car which was then raced at Denver's Second Creek Raceway. The two cars

have appeared in numerous car shows in the Denver, Colo. area as well as being on the race track at Colorado National Speedway in Erie, I-76 Speedway in Fort Morgan, and Big Country Speedway in Cheyenne. Both of these cars are in their garage along with a treasured 1967 Camaro.

Peggy started coming to the Thresher Show while in her teens, with her family. After Bill's death, she helped her dad finish restoring the 1938 Chevy flatbed that now resides in the Thompson Car Museum on the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association show grounds.

Thresher queen crowned

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The 2009 Thresher Queen was crowned and surprisingly, no one guessed who it was. It was Mary (Harrison) Dorsch.

"I had talked to Lucille (Wright) recently and she asked me if she knew who the queen was this year," said Mrs. Dorsch. "I told her she knew her alright!"

Mrs. Dorsch's daughter, Pat Traffas of Merriam, Kan., read to the crowd her mother's story. Also present were her grandson Levi Traffas Kansas City, Mo., James and Amanda Dorsch from Wichita, sister, Betty Miller, nephews Rodney Bracelin and Bob Dorsch and friend Connie all of St. Francis.

Mary Esther Harrison was born in 1929 in Benkelman, Neb., to parents, Robert Leroy Harrison and Bertha Rebecca (Yost) Harrison. She was named after Mary Petrey, who with her husband, Joe, owned a café in Alma, Neb. where her mother worked for one dollar a day. Esther is for Esther Jones, the nurse who helped deliver her.

Mrs. Traffas continued to talk about her mother living in a sod house and a time when there were no locks on the doors or window, and the "dirty thirties" when Mrs. Dorsch's mother would hang wet sheets on the windows to stop dust from coming into the house.

Mrs. Dorsch went to school in the same building that served as church. She recalled they all played a "mean" game of softball and lots of running games.

She had her first date with her husband on New Year's Eve and soon after went into the Army, and how he would hock his high school class ring to buy a bus ticket from Colorado Springs, Colo., for his dates with Mary and his parents would give him the money to get the ring out of hock.

Mrs. Dorsch grew up to see the birth of radio, television, and electricity on the farm. She has gone from pumping and carrying water to an automatic dishwasher, to having a refrigerator, microwave, and cell phones. She has seen a man walk on the moon, and she believes that whatever may be achieved will be reevaluated and whatever accumulated will erase. All that will really last is the love that is shared with others.

"I know I have lived through exciting times. And do you know what?" said Mrs. Dorsch. "I think the best is yet to come!" In addition, one of the antique tractors, a 1937 Farmall F20, which had been restored by Norman and could be seen in the tractor parade, was the first tractor her father owned.



2009 Thresher Queen Mary Dorsch.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider