

Thresher show held July 29-31

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher show begins Thursday, July 29, at the thresher show grounds east of Bird City. The show will wind down Sunday with church service at 9 a.m. at the Neville Church on the grounds.

Through Saturday visitors will find the antique steam engines in action, threshing, plowing, corn shelling and wood sawing. The parade of cars and tractors will be held each day at 1:15 p.m. Earlier, the parade of old machinery and early-day harvest equipment is held at 10:45.

The new Thresher Queen's identity will be revealed and she will be crowned. The 2009 Thresher Queen, Mary Dorsch, will retire and her doll will be displayed in the Eggers Building with the other former queen dolls. The princess, Mikaela Grace, will be on hand throughout the show to throw in the first bundle of wheat to be threshed.

The old-fashioned literary will be held at 7 p.m. in the country schoolhouse. Everyone is encouraged to bring poems and stories to share.

On Friday, the Erickson Family Band will be entertaining following the Walking Taco meal at the Legion hall (see related article elsewhere). The McDonald Lions Club barbecue will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday. The antique tractor

pull will start at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Activities

Kite flying will be held each day at 2:30 p.m. Everyone, young and old, is encouraged to bring their kite to the grounds. There should be some great kite flying.

There are numerous other activities for the kids and adults. The kid's favorite is the tug-o-war with the little steam engine which starts at 1 p.m.

People are welcome to visit the many buildings filled with articles used in the past. There will be demonstrations, new items to see and other activities. The swap meet will be held on the grounds. This is an attraction that draws collectors looking for certain items.

Visit the buildings

The Thresher Show special section will be inserted in the *Bird City Times* and *The Saint Francis Herald* this week. It is being delivered to subscribers throughout the United States. Extra copies are available.

The president of the Threshers Association is Lonnie Coon, vice president is Ken Beougher. They have been working with the many volunteers who make the Thresher show a success each year.

For more information, contact Lonnie at 785-890-3514 or Ken, 785-734-2555.



COAL ARRIVES! 25.5 tons of coal is unloaded and will power antique engines for two to three years.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Workers busy getting grounds ready

By Karen Krien

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Throughout the year following the last day of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show, there are workers at the grounds every week. However, as the time for the show begins, the work increases and men, women and children can be seen scurrying around, whether it is scrubbing, mowing, pulling out equipment and stored items.

The Thresher Show begins on Thursday, July 29, and runs through Sunday morning, ending with the service in the old country church on the grounds.

Early Sunday morning, John Keyser, driving a Richardson Consolidated semi and trailer, arrived with 25.5 tons of coal. John, who has been driving a truck since 1972, has delivered the coal for the Thresher Show many times during the years.

The coal came from Salina,

Utah, and is a good grade, hard bitumas. John said he grew up knowing the business, even burning coal at home as a kid.

The coal, which will last between 2 and 3 years, cost \$210 a ton. Coal is an expensive but very necessary item during the show as much of the equipment is run with coal.

Brenden Haack, Bird City, who was on hand when the coal arrived, explained that good, hard coal, not too big and not too small, is the best. If it is too big, it has to be broken down. If it is too small and fine, it falls through the grates. The fine coal is used to pave the roads at the grounds.

After the coal was unloaded by the semi and trailer, Brendon began pushing it into the shed with a tractor and blade.

Others on hand for the unloading were Gerald Wright, Marcus and Brady Colson.



COAL TALK — Brenden Haack (right) shows Brady Colson pieces of coal.



2010 Thresher Queen

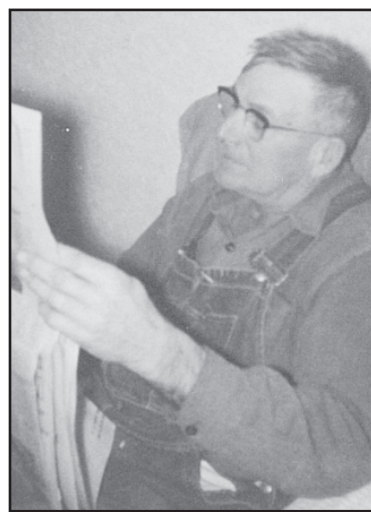
Clues for queen are told

The Bird City Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show starts Thursday, July 29. With all the activities, one of the highlights of the show is the announcement and crowning of the 2010 Thresher Queen.

Each year, clues and photos of the queen's identity are published in the *Bird City Times* and *The Saint Francis Herald*. This year's queen has only a few clues so it may be hard to guess who she is before the announcement is made.

The new queen moved to Rawlins County from Campbell, Neb., in the mid 1930s. The photo this week shows her dad, who, she said, is responsible for starting the whole family's involvement in the Thresher Show.

The queen graduated on May 19, 1945, from Pleasant View District 56 country school.



Queen's Dad

The graduation was held in the present Atwood High School Auditorium.

She married in 1950 and she and her husband moved to Thomas County. They have lived there since then.

Who is she?

Last year's queen, Mary Dorsch, Bird City, will present her queen doll, a replica of her. The doll will be on display in the Egger's Building with other queen dolls. Everyone is encouraged to stop by and check out the dolls and all the other displays in the building.

Family band to entertain the crowd

Threshers, tractors, steam engines, wheat shocks, smoke and whistles aren't the only thing at this year's thresher show.

Every year, the association provides free entertainment for attendees. This year, the Erickson Family Band from Des Moines, Iowa, has been booked.

The Ericksons will entertain in the air-conditioned Legion hall following a donation meal provided by the Community Club. The walking taco meal, also called taco pie, has proved very popular with hungry thresher goers.

The Ericksons are a four-piece string band specializing in blue grass music. Jennifer, daughter of Stan and Dee Dorsch, plays bass, husband, Scott, and daughter, Emily, play guitar. Anna, their other daughter, plays fiddle.

They recently headlined the opening of Heritage Farm in Des Moines. They also play at blue grass festivals in Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota and Nebraska. They have a monthly date at the Bickford in Urbandale, Iowa. The Boone County Fair in Iowa will be having them for entertainment in August.

Anna's CD, "Love 2 Fiddle" was recently awarded the "Best Young Fiddler Album of the Year" by Music Commission. Anna recently attended a national fiddle camp at Johnson City, Tenn., and came home inspired with new ideas and techniques.



THE ERICKSON FAMILY BAND performs for the 125th Celebration and will be back to entertain during the Thresher Show.

Emily has a beautiful voice and does a lot of vocalizing during the show. Emily and Anna are members of the Des Moines Christians School Show Choir.

All four Ericksons play additional instruments. Among them, the piano, mandolin,

banjo, trumpet and French horn, so don't be surprised if some of these instruments make a guest appearance.

The Ericksons provided the music for the recent church service held at the celebration in Bird City on June 13 for the 125th birthday

party. Those in attendance were amazed at the good music.

Jennifer grew up in Bird City and graduated from Cheylin in 1985 and Kansas State University in 1989. Be sure to stop by and renew friendships and meet her family on Friday, July 30.

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