



Ken Beougher was at the Thresher Show grounds working on his 1944 Ford Ferguson Tractor that his grandkids have paraded in the Thresher Show for 10 years. It was running, but had to be pulled to start. In the 100 degree heat he was working on the battery.

Thresher show starts next week

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show is just a week away and there are still people trying to figure out who the new thresher queen is.

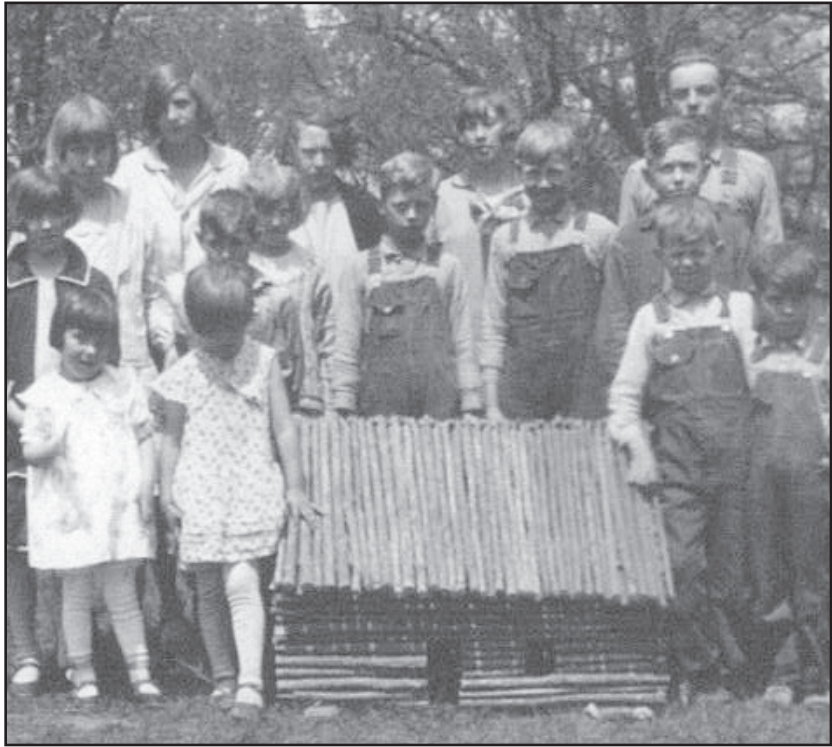
This week's clue tells about the queen attending a one-room country school from grades one through eight.

I loved going to school so much that I could hardly sleep from excitement a week before school started in the fall," she said.

Is it any wonder that she became a teacher?

When her story is told at the unveiling of the queen Thursday of the show, some people will probably hear their family names mentioned.

The thresher show begins Thursday, July 28 and runs through Saturday. Check out the special section in this week's issue of the Bird City Times and The Saint Francis Herald for some of the featured events that are going on during the show.



2011 Thresher Queen

Kids create banks

Eight pre-school through fourth grade students make piggy banks during the Summer Reading program at the library last week. This week found 22 children divided amongst three tables making spiders.

Beside the crafts each week the children have read books, ate snacks, and ended with playing games such as musical chairs, and balloon toss. It has been reported that everyone has had lots of fun.

Jessie Smith and Deb Smith are directing the group, with Trace Waugh, Joslyn Ketzner, Kayla Bursch, and Danae Magnani as helpers.

For those wanting to join the program there are still two sessions left: July 25 and Aug. 1.

Cancer relay begins Friday at the park in Saint Francis

Beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, the Cheyenne County Relay for Life will kick off at Sawhill Park. A free-will donation barbecue will be served by Pam and Jim Bolin out of their Hobo Shack Wagon.

The Cheyenne Shrine Club members will have their Candy Wagon in the park supplying drinks, cotton candy, popcorn and snow cones. All proceeds from both groups will be donated to the American Cancer Society for the county's Relay for Life.

Everyone is urged to join us at the park as we celebrate, remember and fight back, said Betty Loudon, one of the committee members. We need to remember those who have suffered with cancer and survived and honor those who did not.

Survivors are to register with Susie Walz at the Shrine pavilion from 5:30 to 6:30. At 7 p.m., opening ceremonies will begin followed by the survivor's lap, then the caregiver's lap, and the

teams then begin walking around the park. The teams will have at least one member walking the track all night, past midnight and on to the dawn.

This symbolizes, Mrs. Loudon said, the awful fight with cancer, as the dark night settles in, and they walk toward the dawn, as the sun rises and victory over cancer can be won.

Cara Hunt will sing the national anthem. Toni Keller, Nikki Rose and Dale Rose are helping with games and entertainment for the team members during the evening and night.

Because of the extreme heat, said Pat Rose, coordinator, there will not be as much entertainment in the band shell. Displayed in the band shell are the many baskets that will be auctioned off by the Western Auction crew.

The highlight of the night is always the luminaria service. The luminarias will be lit at dark and placed all around the park and band shell. These have been



purchased in honor of those who have survived cancer, and in memory of those who did not. Each name will be read.

Those wanting to purchase a luminaria can do so at the park before dark or contact any member of the committee. Tammy Grice is the luminaria chairman and can be reached at 785-332-2910.

Help us fight back with your donations, Mrs. Loudon said.

For further information about Friday night, call Pat Rose at 785-332-5348.

Meetings end with Village talk

By Karen Krien
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There were two meetings last week that ended up with people talking about the Good Samaritan Village and what people will be voting on in the upcoming election on Aug. 2. The first was at the Kansas Rural Health Works meeting on Wednesday, and the second was the county commissioners meeting on Friday.

In short, the two commissioners, Dale Patton and Ernie Ketzner, at the Friday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting agreed that having the Good Samaritan Village nursing home was a must in the county. Mr. Patton went as far as to say he was voting "yes" to the question on the ballot. It should be noted that Andy Beikman, the third commissioner, was unable to attend.

The ballot reads "Shall the county of Cheyenne County levy a tax not to exceed 6 mills for a home for the aged?" In the resolution which ran the same time in May 19 Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times, essentially, it gives the commissioners control to make the best decisions for the county.

Voting for this proposal, said Kari Gilliland, county attorney, is a vote for having long term care in the county.

The vote has nothing to do with ownership or building on.

As Les Lacy, hospital administrator said, several times, all the vote does (If it is approved) is removes the barrier. At this time, the Good Samaritan Society needs to know if the county residents are interested in supporting a nursing home. The Village is the only nursing home in the area that is not supported by the county.

The society's representative, Randy Fitzgerald, had earlier given the commissioners a sample lease but it was only a sample, Mrs. Gilliland pointed out and it did not have Cheyenne County or Good Samaritan Village listed. The commissioners were not in favor of signing this lease but, with a positive response from the public, they would be able to negotiate as to whether or not the county would take ownership of the facility.

A "yes" vote at the Aug. 2 election, Tom Keller said, is the first step in obtaining control of long-term care in the county.

Terry Miller, county election officer, said he didn't understand why there were questions now as it had been clearly published two

months ago.

A question asked was: it has been said that the Village made money in May so, why does the Good Samaritan Society want to relinquish ownership? Mr. Fitzgerald had stated earlier, that the society was not interested in owning a nursing home in the rural areas.

Mr. Lacy said that even if 22 beds at the nursing home are making money, it doesn't take in to account the things that could take place including repairs, equipment, costs and changes in Medicaid. Even at 32 beds, he said, there could still be problems.

"What the people need is a nursing home that is stable and long term in Cheyenne County," he said, "and this is exactly what we need to be voting on.

"Once the vote passes, then the commissioners will need to make the decision of owning the nursing home but, because of inadequate information from Good Samaritan Society, they need to be able to address the needs of the Village one step at a time."

History indicates that Cheyenne County residents will maintain vital services through county ownership, said Mr. Keller. Prior to 1953, hospital services in the county were provided by the private sector. When doctors would no longer provide hospital services, the county took control. In 1992, when the last private medical practice closed in the county, the residents again took control of providing primary care providers.

At one time, there were several long-term care facilities in the county. Today, there is one privately-owned, long-term care facility in the county. The Good Samaritan Society, the owner, is no longer committed to ownership of their facility in the future.

"Maintaining a long-term care facility in the county is important to our future," Mr. Keller said.

"What is our best option for maintaining long-term care in Cheyenne County?"

Public meeting

There will be two public forums next week. Everyone is urged to attend so they can be well informed before they cast their vote.

The first forum will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday at the Legion hall in Bird City. On Tuesday at 7 p.m., there will be a public forum at the St. Francis high school auditorium.

58th Annual Antique Engine & Thresher Show



The Saint Francis Herald
July 2011 Bird City Times

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