



ALAN Burgess and Walter Zarbowski are adjusting the gears on the re-built stroke system to the 1922 Holt Combine.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Machine repaired in time

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Last year during the Antique Engine Thresher show the 1922 Holt Combine was unable to run in the parade as it had in years past. Gerald Wright and his crew had it up and running during the week before the show began. The day before the show was to start, they had been driving it around in the morning and all of a sudden, the chain on the reel drive caught pulling against the back of the header and started making toothpicks out of the reel.

With only two spokes that were salvageable enough to be used as a pattern, Randy Hudson spent a day routing out the 32 spokes for the eight bats on the reel.

Gerald Wright assisted Brady Colson in making a new tress rod spoke protector from scratch that was missing.

Last week Alan Burgess a senior at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and Walter Zarkowski, an apprentice going to Mid Plains Community College in North Platte Nebraska for construction, assisted Randy Hudson from Hudson Construction in reconstructing this reel for the Holt Combine from scratch.

David Burns replaced the lagging on the water pump drive that helped keep the fan belt on the engine.

On Monday while David Burns was carefully slipping the clutch, Rex Weishapl, Lynn Osburn, Mike Levin and Gerald Wright were watching to make sure the chains were installed and operating correctly. With all this team work it is looking like it will be running smoothly and ready for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday parades.

Antique thresher show opens today

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher show begins Thursday, July 26, 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 Country Church on the grounds.

Through Saturday, visitors will find the antique steam engines in action, threshing, plowing, straw baling, and wood sawing.

In addition, there are many programs taking place each day. After the flag raising and introduction of personnel at 10 a.m., the pyramid stunt, steam engine and thresher talk will start at 11:15 a.m. The Steam Engine Races are at 11:45 a.m. and visitors can enjoy a great lunch with the doors opening to the cafeteria at noon.

The 2012 Thresher Queen's identity will be revealed and she will be crowned at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday. The 2011 Thresher Queen, Vernetta Haack, will retire and her doll will be displayed with the other former queen dolls. The princess, Stephanie Busse, will be on hand throughout the show to throw in the first bundle of wheat to be threshed.

The parade of antique cars will be held at 1:30 p.m., following with the parade of antique tractors and steam engines to begin at 1:45 p.m.

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 Heart City Heart Warmers will be entertaining at 7 p.m. at the Bird City Park. The Cheylin Golf Team barbecue will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday.



LARRY FIKAN is checking out the antique tool display that was recently redone.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Activities

There are numerous other activities for the kids and adults. The kid's favorite is the tug-o'-war which starts at 1 p.m. Starting at 3:30 p.m., tiny tots through second grade children are invited to participate in the pedal tractor and car parade. Registration is required for this event starting at 3 p.m. at the Wilkin's Building.

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

This is the second year for the Thresher Show special section which was inserted in the *Bird City Times* and *The St. Francis Herald* last week. It is being delivered to subscribers

throughout the United States. Extra copies are available on the grounds.

The 2012 president of the Threshers Association is Lonnie Coon. He has been working with the many volunteers who make the Thresher show a success each year.

For more information, contact Mr. Coon at 785-890-3514; or Ken Beougher, 785-734-2555.

Queen named at 1:15

The 2012 Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show Queen's identity will be revealed today (Thursday) at the program in front of the grandstands on the show grounds. For the last four weeks, clues have been printed in the Times and Herald and, there have been some close guesses but no one will know for sure until today at 1:15 p.m.

Each year, a committee selects a woman whose identity remains a mystery until the day of her crowning, which is on the first day of the show. Following is the last of the four clues as to who the queen is.

This year's queen said she graduated from eighth grade and then she and her sister boarded in town while attending high school.

Boarding in town to go to school was what country kids did then," the queen said. She and her sister went home Friday evenings, then came back to town Sunday night.

Following graduation, she worked again taking care of mothers and children when a new baby was expected. But, it wasn't long until she married a hometown boy and set up housekeeping. That was when her babies started arriving. She and her husband had six children but lost one in infancy.

I always tried to have a flower garden and grass in the yard, she said. They had a large yard which made it a great place for the neighborhood kids to play. However, having the neighbor kids didn't bother her because, "I always knew where my kids were!" she said.

She told about an older woman who once told her, "You can't raise children and grass, so enjoy your children now, the grass will come later." And, the queen said, you know



2012 Thresher Queen

she was right!

After she retired (where she worked was not revealed), she did some traveling but found that she really enjoyed just being at home.

"Now I have more time to play with my grandchildren," she said.

Last year's queen, Vernetta Haack, will present a doll dressed in similar attire as what she wore at her crowning. Her doll will be among 38 dolls on display at the Eggers "8" Museum.

The Thresher Show special section was inserted in the Times and Herald last week. The section is full of information and history of the show. Be sure to check out this special section and thank the advertisers who made it possible.

Welcome to the Thresher Show