

Kansas Day held



GUSTAVE HESPE points to the 'KS' while Mitchell Howard tells how Kansas got it's name during the Kansas Day presentation by Cheylin third and fourth graders.

Times staff photos by Norma Martinez



PHIL CRAWFORD 'Tumbleweed' entertained the guests during the Kansas Day luncheon.



ROD KLEPPER takes notes during the thresher show meeting while Lonnie Coons and Phyllis Wright discuss the plans being made for this year's 60th anniversary.

Plans being made for bigger and better thresher show

By Norma Martinez
bc.times@nwkanas.com

Last year's Antique Engine and Thresher Show was one of the best. Plans are off and in the making for a bigger and better Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher show. The show will be celebrating its 60th anniversary and a group of 25 residents came to the meeting on Sunday with lots of good ideas for drawing in a larger crowd than last year. They plan on adding more educational and fun-type events than in past years.

Rod Klepper has been checking into the cost of expanding the outreach through different means of advertising. He hopes to accomplish this through community bill boards, brochures, radio, magazines with a broad coverage of more than just the local areas, and is asking for any other suggestions.

"Our thresher show is known as being the oldest in Kansas, so let's advertise it as the oldest," he said.

He asked that anyone who knows of magazines with reasonable advertising, or any other suggestions to contact Darci

Schiels, the thresher association secretary, so she can contact them for information and costs. Mrs. Schiels has already been sending out letters to leads that she presently has. She can be contacted at Bird City Century II, 785-734-2556.

Other discussion was the possibility of changing the days for the tractor pull from Saturday to Friday night, and the community dinner to Thursday versus Friday. The Legion Hall is reserved for Friday, but Mrs. Schiels said it could be changed to Thursday with no problem. She will reserve it for both days until a final decision is made.

Discussion was held on holding a swap meet and garage sale on Thursday only. Admission for the swap meet would be by purchasing gate admission tickets, or membership. Another suggestion was to hold a horseshoe tournament which would attract more outside people.

Mr. Klepper asked each person to come up with one thing they would like to see added or changed. There were some good suggestions including ideas of

providing more entertainment for the children, more educational opportunities and involving more of the high school students. Some of these suggestions were: having a couple tractors with qualified adults available to allow the children an opportunity to drive them, milk a cow, a drawing for children to win the opportunity to drive a steam engine, dig for buried trinkets in the sand, raffle a refurbished 1953 tractor, and add more musical performances on the grounds.

Everyone agreed that they needed to have more educational events conducted throughout the day on an ongoing schedule. This would provide a means of entertainment at all times for those not interested in the regular events and keep the children entertained.

The annual meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on March 2 at the thresher grounds. Any new ideas and suggestions can be given to Rod Klepper, Ken Beougher, or Darci Schiels to work on in preparation for the annual meeting in March.

Society seeks information on farm and ranch families

The Bird City Historical Association is seeking historical information of farm and ranch families for the historical booklet, "Stewards of the Land." The purpose of this collection of history is to honor those farm families who have continued to live on and care for the land through generations.

These families can be a relative, but do not have to be direct descendants of the original homesteader. For those who have already re-

ceived a phone call or letter, please do not be overwhelmed by the guide list you received.

This list is only to guide you in the collection of information that you wish to share on your farm or ranch family of the original homesteader. As much information as possible of the original homesteader will make your story more complete.

You will be contacted further by letter. We realize this type of col-

lection of information and research takes a lot of time and effort.

For those who have not been contacted by phone or letter, we would ask that you contact us as we do not wish to miss any eligible farm or ranch. Otherwise, we will be unable to honor your farm or ranch.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at: The Bird City Historical Association, Inc., P. O. Box 8, Bird City, KS 67731 - 785-734-2383.

Local company produces feed for top show animals

By Tim Burr
tburr@nwkanas.com

A local business, HighNoon Feeds, made a big splash last week at the National Western Stock Show, held in Denver.

According to Nick Ketzner, owner and operator, HighNoon Feeds was fed to a good number of the high-placing animals at the show. HighNoon, Nick said, was used by the grand champion and reserve champion market lamb winners, and the grand champion goat winner, along with eight of the 10 finalists in the market lamb division.

He also said that HighNoon was fed to the grand champion market steer, a crossbred that was owned by Shilo Schaake, son of well known Kansas State judging coach, Dr. Schaake. Nick said he also provided feed to a number of other local showers and exhibitors.

HighNoon Feeds was established in 2001 by the Nick Ketzner family.

"We've gone through a lot of changes, challenges and growth since then," Nick said. "We started off as a one-man operation with basically a scoop shovel and a couple of bags. Now, with equipment and processes, we feel like we can do a top rate job."

The biggest challenge for HighNoon feeds was recovering from the 2007 tornado, which completely destroyed the business, and Nick's and Heidi's homestead.

"That was a bad day," he said. "But, with a lot of work, and help from friends and neighbors and family, we are back stronger than ever."

HighNoon Feeds now produces about 60 to 70 tons of feed per week, around 4,000 tons annually.



NICK KETZNER bags up some feed for a customer.

Times staff photo by Tim Burr

The feed is sold from Nebraska to Texas, and from Iowa to Wyoming.

"We don't make a commercial feed, we specialize in show feeds

for 4-H and FFA, all the way to professional show fitters. We are excited that our customers have done so well at the Stock Show."