

Cool temps bring people to the show

By Norma Martinez
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The 60th Annual Antique Engine and Thresher Show was deemed a success. The weather was great compared to last year's high temperatures which were in the high 90s and 100s. It was a little humid, but the temperatures were in the mid 70s and 80s.

On Thursday the show's schedule was running behind. The sawmill-wood planking- shingle making demo was canceled when it grew colder and it began raining. This was very disappointing to Bob and Georganne Anderson from Independence, Mo., who saw the ad in the American Profile and came mainly to see the sawmill work.

Friday was a perfect day all day long, and Saturday was very windy and cool after the night's rain. John Shafner still served 150 chuck wagon breakfasts consisting of pan-fried biscuits and sausage gravy. The sun came out in the late afternoon.

Sunday was cool and wet with a misty rain. By then the only thing left was putting all the antiques away. Gerald Wright and his crew were out on Sunday putting steamers away for another year. Ken Beougher, Norman Dorsch and a few others tried to put the tractors away on Monday but the ground was too wet for the antique equipment to move, and they had to give up until the ground dried out.

Hal Sager, convalescing from his recent surgery, was able to be on hand during the events of the show. His son, Michael, from Denver, took over the stage and did all the announcing. After Michael's introduction on Thursday, he gave the microphone to Phyllis Wright, who introduced Bailey Merklin as the Thresher Princess. She was presented with her ribbon and a bouquet of wheat. Manette Henderson, the 2012 queen, presented her queen doll to Bonnie Burr to display with all the past queen dolls in the Eggers Museum.

Phyllis Wright then revealed her secret which she said she even keeps from her husband, Gerald. She presented Carol (Oliver) Peters as the 2013 Thresher Queen. Carol's daughter, Vicki Harshburger, read her speech to the crowd (see article elsewhere in this issue).

Carol handed out gifts to 3-month-old Josiah Dodrill from Jackson, Tenn., the youngest boy present; 18 month old Elizabeth Pardee from Colby as the youngest girl present; 84-year-old Loyd Koehn as the oldest man present; and 99-year-old Pearlina Rath from St. Francis as the oldest woman present.

This year's added attraction for the grandstand events on Friday and Saturday was Norman Hughes from McDonald, the owner of an 1861 6lb field canon. It was fired

during the flag raising ceremonies. It was fired after warning everyone sitting close to the canon to watch their ears. He fired it off with the assistance of Ryntha Johnson and Leonard Molbery. It did make a loud boom. Hughes and Molbery are members of the 4th U.S. Artillery, B Battery in Lakewood, Colo., and Colorado Frontier Army Band.

Parade of antique machinery

During the parade of antique farm machinery in the afternoon the younger children had the opportunity to steer the antique steam engines and tractors with plenty of adult supervision and help. Last year, a featured picture used several times was of a little engineer, Riley Neff, walking along beside his father's Burlington 20-horse Advance Steam Engine. This year, Riley was allowed to be the engineer steering it during the parade. His father, Randell Neff, was working the gears and making sure he was steering on course.

Tractor and steam engine pull

Friday evening was a perfect evening for the antique steam engine and tractor pull. Lots of people were there to participate in setting up the sleds. Brendon Haack was driving the John Deere Tractor his great-grandfather had when he moved to Bird City in 1935. Vernetta Haack was sitting on the side line with her son, Roger Haack, and his wife, Sharon. They ushered Vernetta out and onto the sled. This was her first time to experience being a weight. When she got off she said, "As we were moving, I heard noises under that sled that I have never heard before."

With the added attractions of Mark Berry's presentation of sitting up a teepee and buffalo camp, corn treasure dig, two kid's inflatables to jump on, stagecoach rides, and other added attractions to entertain the kids, everyone left feeling excited about attending next year's event.

Tug of war with steam engine

Kids were scarce on Thursday for the tug of war to give much competition to the little steam engine. Friday gave the driver a little more of a struggle keeping it pulled back. Saturday drew a very large group of both children and adults and the engineer had to finally give into their strength.

Scavenger hunt

Century II sponsored a scavenger hunt for the kids to locate items in the different buildings on the thresher show grounds. Those who turned in their answers were entered into a drawing for the choice of a girls or boys bike. The winner of the bike was Andrew Weist from Imperial, Neb.

"The exciting thing about him winning," his mother said. "Sunday was his birthday, he was excited to get a bike for his birthday."



ANY RIDE ON A STEAM ENGINE is lots of fun. Young Jake Rath was trying to figure out how things worked. Adam Deeds is riding beside him. Gerald Wright was riding the antique road grader behind the steam engine. He later showed how to smooth out roads.

Times staff photo by Tim Burr

Children enjoy country schoolhouse

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The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show country schoolhouse is always enjoyed by the children as well as the adults. Many of the adults remember how it was when they went to school in the one-room country school.

Each year, Dorthy Mast and volunteers find activities for children to do so their parents can enjoy the show. This year, Mrs. Mast and several volunteers took turns in assisting the young children with making covered wagons in the old country schoolhouse after Dorthy had talked to them about what it was like to travel in a covered wagon during those days.

In the afternoon, Dorthy tried something different. She held a session with the adults talking about the Land Seekers Program. Several people showed an interest in attending and listening to what Dorthy and Denise Stinnard had to say. Rosemary Powell manned the registration table and handed out brochures on homesteading.

Looking through the approximately 20 pages of signatures of visitors to the schoolhouse, it was very interesting to see that the publicity outreach for the 60th anniversary of the thresher show paid off. There were people registered from Alaska, Missouri, Canada, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Texas, Tennessee, Minnesota, Michigan, New York, Wyoming, Iowa,



MAKING COVERED WAGONS in the old schoolhouse were (left to right) Lillian Rippe, Allison Rippe and Michaela Rippe. Helping put the wagons together was Coleen Catic.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

North Dakota, California, Florida, Arizona, Singapore. A lady from Kiev, Ukraine wrote, "I really liked this small town and people here are very friendly."



ANITA BURTON and her son Brent Wilkins, Garrett Wilkins, Libby Kish, and Colby Wilkins, grandchildren of Anita Burton and Rod and Beth Klepper sold snow cones for the blood drive while mom, Trisha Dart gave blood.

Kids raise money for blood drive

Anita Burton, her son Brent Wilkins and Anita's grandchildren and nieces were in front of Century II selling green apple, blue raspberry, cherry, watermelon and tropical punch snow cones while the American Red Cross Blood Drive was going on next door.

They contributed a total of \$148.41 to the American Red Cross. At the time this photo

was taken, Leisha Kish, Libby's mother and daughter of Rod and Beth Klepper, was inside the Legion hall donating blood.

The goal for the blood drive was 30 units. Catherine Younger, the director for this drive reported there were 22 donors present and 20 units of blood were given.