

# Thresher show has cooler weather

By Norma Martinez  
bc.times@nwkansas.com

The 60th Annual Antique Engine and Thresher Association 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.

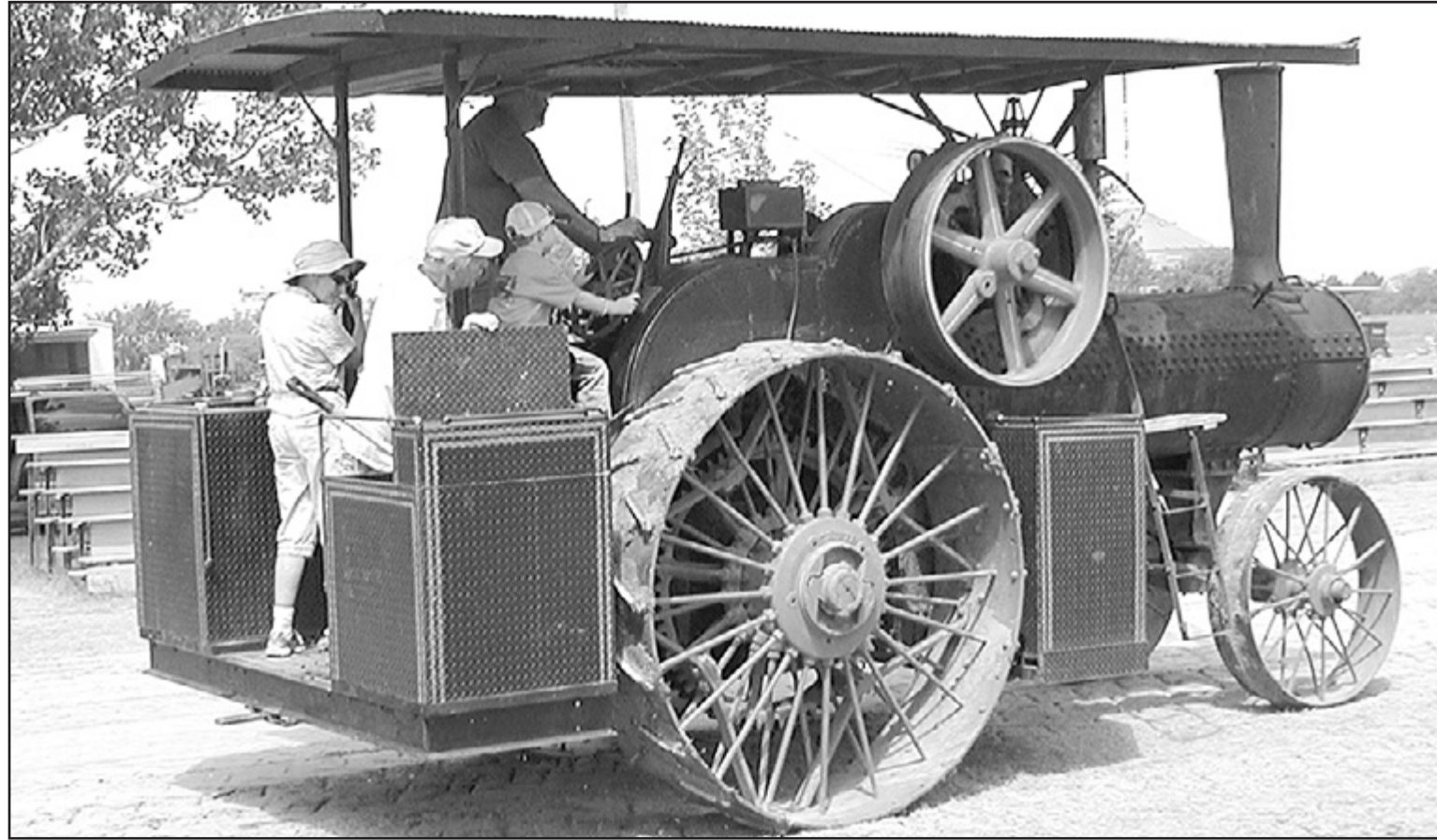
Sunday was cool and wet with a misty rain. By then the only thing left was putting all the antiques away. Gerald Wright and his crew were out on Sunday putting

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). Other family members who accompanied her



RILEY NEFF drove the huge steam engine with help from an adult. It will be an experience Riley will never forget.

on stage were her husband, Ervin Peters, son, Darrell Peters, and granddaughter, Heather. 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 Pearlline 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 farm 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. Brandon

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.

Ily liked this small town and people here are very friendly."

### 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."

## Thresher Queen crowned

This year's Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show Queen was crowned on Thursday during the first day of the show. She is no stranger to western Kansas.

Carol Oliver was born in 1933 in Mankato in Jewell County. Her family lived on her grandparent's farm with her grandfather. Carol had six brothers and one sister.

Today, her sister and three brothers are living. The queen and her siblings helped their mother with gardening (a big one each year) along with canning the produce for the family. They also learned to milk the cows, gather the eggs, and butcher fryers.

Her father was employed by a neighbor farmer. The children gathered wood for the cook stove and heating stove. One time, when the brothers were chipping wood, little Carol wanted to help too. She laid her wood chip down; a brother swung the ax and took the first joint of her right index finger off! Ouch!

She said they carried her to the house where her mother quickly put the finger back on, wrapped it, and somehow got hold of the doctor. He un-wrapped it, examined, splinted and re wrapped it. It healed fine. Carol says that's why she's left handed now!

Carol attended country school up to third grade. Then the family moved to Burr Oak, where she completed grade and high school, graduating in 1951. Following graduation, she was employed as a nurse's aide at the Atwood Hospital.

During her employment there, she met Ervin Peters, a patient,



QUEEN CAROL OLIVER PETERS, center, was crowned at the Thresher Show on Thursday. Placing the ribbon was Phyllis Wright. Also pictured is Carol's husband, Ervin.

who became the love of her life! They married on July 16, 1952, at the United Methodist Church, Mankato. They lived on a farm near Oberlin for five years. Before they met, Irvin was from rural Bird City and had served the country in World War II during 1945 and 1946.

In 1956, they moved to El Cajon, Calif., where they operated a "Mel's Root Beer" stand. The building was shaped like a barrel and is still standing today where it houses a different business.

Carol and Ervin were blessed with their son, Darrell in 1953 and a daughter Sharon in 1955, while they lived in Oberlin. She was born with a birth defect and didn't survive surgery in 1957, while they were living in California.

In 1966, they moved to Broomfield, Colo., where they owned and operated the Dairy King in Lafayette, Colo., until

1975. While in Colorado their daughter Vickie joined them.

In 1975, Carol, Ervin, and Vickie moved to rural Bird City to take over Ervin's parent's farm. Son Darrell remained in Colorado. Then it was back to "life on the farm" where Carol raised a large garden, chickens and they also had hogs and cattle. They were a busy family. Irrigation and household chores were shared together.

Vickie attended school in Bird City and McDonald, where she graduated in 1985. The family attended the Methodist Church where Carol taught church school and Bible school in the summer. She was also a cook in Cheylin schools for 16 years. When Vickie joined 4-H she helped work in fair food stands, holiday fairs and also sewing class, and the Thresher

Show County Kitchen (36 years).

Today, as always, Carol wears a pleasant smile and is always ready to do her part. She enjoys sewing, making quilts, crocheting, knitting, and cooking and baking. Her family supports her every interest.

Carol and Ervin's family consists of son, Darrell, Broomfield, his son Darrick and wife Naomi, with their three children, Nicholas, Jayden, and Brook, all of Thornton, Colo., and Darrell's daughter, Brittany, who lives in Imperial, Neb.; and their daughter Vickie, and her husband, Dan Harshbarger, Heather and Rex who all live in Ingalls.

Since Carol and Ervin retired, they have enjoy several vacation trips and try to attend as many of their grandchildren's events as possible.

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