

Long-gone event was popular at fair

The closing feature of Thomas County Fair in 1951 is referred to as a production not soon forgotten. Old newspaper accounts tell about the hundreds of people who participated in the event as members of the cast. Actors ranged in age from adults, down to mere tots.

The all-county production was written by Mrs. S.A. Lutgen, and sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Organization of Colby. It told the pioneer and modern story of northwest Kansas and Thomas County.

It began with the coming of grass to the land, and continued through the developments up to 1951.

Historical accounts say mothers of the county devoted many hours to making costumes and coaching children.

Costumes were said to have cost in the many hundreds of dollars from the pageant queen's marvelous train, to the 13 township princesses, and down to the bee's wings.

Sections of the pageant had to do with the settling of Thomas County with Indians, trappers, hunters, pioneers, wagons, and the singing of "Silent Night," to draw attention to the fact that the pioneers brought religion with them to the area and participated in Christianity.

The wealth of the county was portrayed in grain, livestock and businesses that contributed to the wealth of Thomas County and the part it all had to make such a great community of people.

The historical account said the grandstand was packed from top to bottom with people standing on the sidelines.

As hard as she can



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

One of the most popular events at today's Thomas County Fair is the pedal tractor pull. Dozens of area kids are entered each year to see if they can pedal the weighted tractor farther than everyone else.

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