

# Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Assn, Inc.

VOL. 46, NO. 1

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015

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Michael Sager

More Information: [www.ThresherShow.org](http://www.ThresherShow.org)



[www.birdcity.com](http://www.birdcity.com)

Facebook Page = Tri-State Antique Engine and Threshers Association



## MEAL AND ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday July 30th ★ American Legion Hall  
Heart City Heartwarmers from Valentine, Nebraska  
Meal: 5:30pm ★ Entertainment: 7:00 - 9:00pm



## 3RD ANNUAL BIG ED'S HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY AUGUST 1ST

Enjoy playing horseshoes? A popular addition added to our Thresher Show 3 years ago is a Horseshoe Tournament held at the Thresher Grounds on Saturday during the show.

Additional information and start time will be available closer to event date.

Great News! The horseshoe pit area will be expanded this year to accommodate the additional interest in participation!



## TRACTOR AND STEAM ENGINE PULL

Friday July 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm



Once again the Kiddie Tractor Pull will be available for the youth. This year it will be a sanctioned event which will allow kids to go on and compete at the State Fair.

# Country Church

By Ken Beougher

The Neville Methodist Church will celebrate its 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the church at the show grounds this year. It was moved to the show grounds in 1984 after serving the Neville area for 74 years.

The show is proud to display the church that was so important in the lives of our early settlers. The church will be open during the show. Stop by and visit.

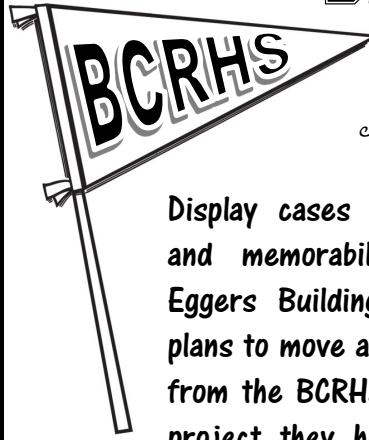


The Neville Methodist Church service will be:

**Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**9:00-9:30 a.m.**

What better way to conclude the Show than with Sunday morning worship!

# Bird City Rural High School Memorabilia



Display cases housing BCRHS trophies and memorabilia were put into the Eggers Building last year. Additional plans to move and incorporate the photos from the BCRHS graduating classes is a project they hope to complete by this year's show. Make sure to stop by and take a look at these nice displays honoring the BCRHS Cardinals!!

# Kiddie Corral

In 2014, a new section was added in the Eggers Building to benefit parents with young toddlers and infants; giving the young children a confined area to play.

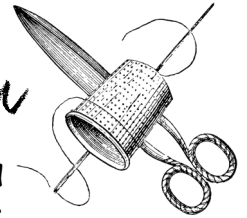


Special thanks to Beverly Smith for organizing and providing several items to create this play area.



New Children's Play Area in the Eggers Building

# Fiber Arts and Quilt Room



The year has passed quickly and plans are underway for the 2015 Thresher Show. Many people spend long hours getting ready for the show, and their efforts are always appreciated. Last summer, Rod Klepper and Willy Martinez spent many hours putting drywall in the Quilt Room. What a difference that made! Mike Boyson donated his time painting it and also created a "Barn Quilt" block by hand on the outside of the building. We cannot thank Rod, Willy and Mike enough for all the improvements and hard work.

The Fiber Arts and Quilt Room is still located next to the Print Show and we are looking forward to another great show.

Lucille Price, the 2014 Thresher Queen donated a beautiful quilt to the Association. We were honored that she entrusted it to us. Stop by and see it in the Quilt Room.

If anyone would like to display their fiber art items, please call Marcia Hickert, 785-734-2522. We had a wonderful variety of items in 2014.

*By: Marcia Hickert*

# Calliope and Steam Engine History

By Carl Bergman

My interest in steam started in the year 1970 when a friend told me about a steam engine from the silver mining era of 1879 which had been abandoned on Independence Pass above the Ghost Town of "Independence". Back in 1878, Leadville had discovered silver and miners were eagerly mining and creating fortunes. Word came that silver had been discovered in Aspen and some of these miners crossed Independence Pass with mules, tools, etc. to take advantage of this new "strike". We brought this engine down to Aspen to be refurbished.



We removed the 24 tubes, contacted a boiler company in Denver and had new ones installed. It was tested by the State of Colorado Boiler Inspector and has been inspected and licensed ever since. It is name the Catherine Marie, after my wife.

In 1974 as I was having coffee with a friend from eastern Colorado, he told me about a gas/steam show just over the border into Kansas, and I was very interested. My father from Indiana was coming out to visit so we planned to attend. I took my dad, my son, Bob, and his friend, David Woodward, to the Roy Kite Farm. We spent the entire day there, checking out everything, having fun and talking with all of the participants, not just attenders. A year or so later, we had acquired six hit and miss engines and my son and some of his friends (in grade school at that time) took these engines to Bird City, KS to be a part of the action. In those days, we tented and used the pool/showers there. A fun experience!

Then in the year 1977, "Live Steam" magazine had a full page picture of a steam calliope on the cover which caught my attention immediately. The tie in with the steam engine was obvious. We had the power source and it looked like a sure thing. I sent for the plans and set up to build the calliope from scratch. As it turns out, it took us a full year of off and on spurts to get the brass metal for the 10 whistles, to make the pipe manifold, and all of the details worked out. As it turns out, our neighbor was still cutting out the wooden keys the morning of the first 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade we participated in. Only 6 out of the 10 whistles worked, but we were thrilled that it worked! We have never missed a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade since and our friend, Jim Jenkins, played for us for 30 years. He even flew over to Bird City a number of years and played for us there. Now the Bergman boys are playing! Jim has passed on. The calliope is name Patricia Jane, after our dear friend.

Another important segment must be mentioned as well. Ken Beougher of Bird City, has let us use his 1934 John Deer D tractor to pull the rig for all of the show parades. Tim Beougher and Ken refurbished the JD and it could not look better for the shows. And more, Sharon Beougher, Tim's wife, took time from all she does to write special music for our 10-key calliope, even enabling harmonious chords! Over the years, our son and grandsons have developed improvements to the whole set up. Our team at present: Grandson Justin Bergman, Calliope Player; Grandson Daniel Bergman, Tractor Driver; Son Bob Bergman, Calliope Tuner; and yours truly, Carl Bergman, Fireman.

The calliope is an on-going affair with many people involved. We hope many future generations will keep her tooting!



## Projects Accomplished

2014 – SUMMER 2015

- \*City of Bird City Donated all of the dirt required for the Wright Building pad. Cheyenne County Road and Bridge Department provided all the equipment and manpower to complete the Wright Building pad.
- \*James Mellinger and Bruce Hening removed the twisted post and preplaced the main support fort the west door on the Brubaker-Fikan Building.
- \*Junior Magley donated the chemicals and did the sandbur spraying all summer.
- \*Willy and Ray Martinez, using mud and straw, repaired the exterior walls of the Sod House.
- \*Both restrooms received a new coat of paint, new privacy curtains, new towel dispensers and new waste baskets. Bruce Hening and James Mellinger built and installed baby changing stations in both ladies restrooms.
- \*We purchased and offered for sale Logo Caps during the show.
- \*Norman Dorsch, Ken Beougher and Leslie Thomas repaired, sanded and applied two coats of paint of paint to all the portable bleachers.
- \*Ken and Norm removed, located a replacement and reinstalled the large airplane tire on the old self-propelled combine. Bob Hay, of Baldwin City donated the tire.
- \*The two center church bells have been cleaned, primed and painted by Dennis Whitmore. The slab has been completed for the tower and bell placement.
- \*Century II donated 3 large turbine blades from the tower at Bird City Dairy. The concrete piers and anchor bolts are in place for those blades to be installed.
- \*Willy Martinez, Mike Boyson, Rosanna Underwood and Marsha Hickert remodeled the Quilt Building
- \*With the guidance of Bob Golding, we held our first Tractor Rodeo. We received positive response from participants and spectators. It appears it will help with future attendance.
- \*We had our first Garden Tractor Pull and found it may help to try it at another time of day.
- \*We had our first Tractor Convoy from Wheeler to the Show Grounds. It brought us a lot of additional news coverage and participants. The “3” Corner Antique Tractor Club has become an affiliate and their goal is to organize and conduct several Tractor Convoy’s this year.
- \*Gerald Wright and Rex Weishapl helped remove and reinstall the large bull gear in the Nichols & Sheperd Steam Engine.
- \*Rex, Gerald, and Brendon Haack installed a large section of storage steel shelving in the Bacon Building.
- \*With the help of Don Wright and his bucket truck, the Steam Engine Crew installed the large overhead gym lights in the Bacon Building.
- \*The Steam Engine Crew, with the help of Dawn Petty, painted the wood and replaced the canvas on the back of the Holt Combine.



*\*The Cheylin Weight Class moved the Bird City High School trophy cases to the show grounds where James and Bruce built bases to accommodate the cases in the Eggers Building. Candy Glasco and Sherry Carmichael prepared the trophies for display.*

*\*The Ron Lucas Family of Goodland donated two John Deere cabinets full of gaskets with appraised value of \$10,000 to the association.*

*\*The Dale Lydig Family of St. Francis donated ten horse drawn implements, six restored corn stack drills and a large assortment of antique hand tools with an estimated value of over \$6,000. Norm cleaned and painted the chain boomers.*

*\*The owners of the Bird City Times donated a larger printing press and two racks of lead type, a book binder and a hole press. All in excellent working condition.*

*\*New electric cords and lights were installed for our Christmas decorations.*

*\*Rodney and Roger Neitzel organized and executed an unbelievable Fourth of July fireworks production on the show grounds.*

*\*Max Keltz and the Cheylin FFA Charter organized and hosted a regional dairy cow judging competition on the show grounds.*

*\*The L.J O'Neal and Leroy Thomas families demonstrated wheat harvesting on the plains using antique self-propelled combines.*

*\*Tri-State Irrigation donated the pivot, pipe and one tower of a Valley Antique Sprinkler formerly owned by the Wright's.*

*\*Norm and Ken reorganized and cleaned up a large portion of the Anderson Building.*

*\*Beth Klepper and crew primed and painted the dining tables in Building #1.*

*\*Gerald Wright and crew inspected six Steam Engines prior to the show.*

*\*Purchased a new ultra-sound tester for the Steam Engine boilers.*

*\*A new overhead heat system was installed in the shop.*

*\*Norm repaired the large riding mower and installed new blades.*

*\*Siruta Pedal Tractors provided the tractors and conducted the Kiddie Tractor pull.*



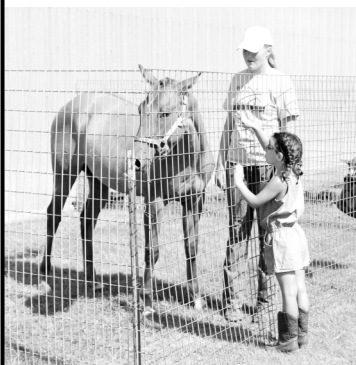
## petting zoo

New to the show last year was the Petting Zoo; definitely a hit for all ages!! Special thanks to the Max Keltz Family for

providing the animals and supervising them for this event!

There was a colt, pigs, bucket calf and chickens available for the kids and adults to interact with.

We are fortunate to have them, as well as a few new additions, at our show again this year!



**TURTLE RACES** held behind the grandstands each day of the show. See program for times.



## Wright Building

The major portion of the building has been completed. We are waiting for replacement stairs to be installed, wiring, shelving and heating & air conditioning prior to this years show. To date we have received \$178,000.00 in donations and grants that have been used towards construction of what will become the 'Crown Jewell' of the show grounds. It appears we will need an additional \$20,000.00 to complete the building. Any donation you would like to make to help us complete this major project would really be appreciated.



## 7TH ANNUAL FUN RUN

Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

Race starts at 8:00am at the Thresher Grounds



1 Mile, 2 Mile and 5K Races

Registration details available as date gets closer [www.birdcity.com/upcoming-events](http://www.birdcity.com/upcoming-events)



We had another good year, with show attendance increasing again last year. As of Feb. 28th, 2015 our checking account showed a balance of \$21,472.00 which does include the additional funding donated by Rod & Jane Young to be used for a cement slab in the Bressler Hangar.

## THRESHER ASSOCIATION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Thresher Association Endowment Fund was established in 2013 with a \$1,000 grant on behalf of Midwest Energy, which was then matched by Bird City Century II Development Foundation as seed money to help grow this endowment fund. This fund is an avenue for donors to make tax-deductible contributions to the Association with the vision of benefiting and growing the annual Thresher Show; becoming a permanent source of funding.

How can you contribute to this fund? An outright gift of cash, stocks or bonds, grain, real estate or equipment qualifies for tax advantages under federal law. By designating a portion of your estate to the Thresher Association Endowment Fund, you can, in some cases, receive a substantial reduction in federal gift and estate tax. For more information on making a charitable contribution, please contact the Bird City Century II Development Foundation office.

## Yes, I want to invest in the future of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please list my contribution as ANONYMOUS



107 West Bressler Phone: 785-734-2556  
PO Box 593 Fax: 785-734-2536  
Bird City, KS 67731 E-mail: [cathy@birdcity.com](mailto:cathy@birdcity.com)



Please make check payable to:

*Bird City Century II Development Foundation*  
- Write **THRESHER ENDOWMENT** in the memo  
You will be sent a receipt for income tax purposes.

## 1919 RUSSELL STEAM ENGINE

Thanks to the generous members who donated money, the Bacon Family Foundation and a generous matching grant from Bird City Century II we were able to purchase another Steam Engine. This Engine was originally purchased by the Brubaker Brothers in the 50's. It has been a part of our show since the



formative years and has been one of the main features over the years. Thank you Brubaker's, for allowing us first chance to purchase this Russell Steam Engine.

## Bressler - Young Hangar

Rod & Jane Young have donated and moved the Ernie Bressler airplane hangar in preparation of it being located on our show grounds. The City of Bird City donated the dirt and Cheyenne County Road and Bridge Department hauled and prepared the pad. This is a Bird City landmark, and due to the many years the Bressler family has been involved in our association, it is an important part of our history.



## HERE WE GO AGAIN • STEAM ENGINE NEWS

By: Gerald Wright, Boiler Inspector

On Friday, March 13th, Lloyd Stover from Pueblo, CO, and I, left for the March 14<sup>th</sup> KAESSA safety show meeting at the Kansas Fly Wheelers in Salina, KS. Our Avery Undermount operator from Olathe, KS, Mike Levin, joined us for the night. Randall Neff and son Riley, joined us for breakfast before the meeting.

Discussion got quite heated when the 5 to 1 ratio was brought up. No decision was finalized on this ration problem we have here. Our boilers were built with a 4 to 1 ratio, and if this was implemented, our boiler pressures would be reduced to a none operative condition on some engines.

Then 100 PSI for all lap seam boilers was brought up. Then the heat was on. Looking back through the archives of minutes, nothing could be found as this "hear say" was conformed to be hog wash. Lap seam boilers should be checked and rated for pressure as any boiler using the boiler codes for lap seam boilers.

The men from Missouri that repair/build boilers were present and gave us a lot of input and information on boiler laws and had a computer presentation on boiler building. This is very hard hot work, forming 3/8 and 1/2 inch sheet metal over rounded curved forms.

Another problem was encountered after the retiring of Donald Jenkins, Kansas State Boiler Inspector and his secretary. The new recruits didn't recognize us as legitimate Kansas Antique Engine Safety Show Association. Many thanks to Cliff, as he forced his way past the new secretary to see the new Kansas boiler inspector to show him the law, things got cleared up real fast.

Officers: President - Ted Housa (Salina, KS), Vice-President - Craig Shilks (Missouri), newly elected Secretary/Treasurer - Brad Smith (Jamestown, KS). After 12 years as Secretary/Treasurer, Cliff Silsby retired.

You are more than welcome to help with this year's show. Any questions feel free to call Gerald Wright, 785-734-2502; Brendon Haack, 785-443-4120; or Rex Weishapl, 785-332-4261.

Tri-State Antique Engine & Threshers Association

PO Box 9

Bird City, KS 67731-0009

## Join us for our 62nd Annual Show July 30, 31 and August 1 2015

We have twelve 30 amp electric hookups available for RV's in the lot southeast of the church. Anyone interested in reserving a spot, please contact Mary Smith at 785-443-1702 and make a \$40.00 deposit. There is also a very nice RV Park along Hwy 36, about 1/4 mile from the show grounds that has full hook-ups, including 30 & 50 amp. electric hookups and water. They are offering a show special for only \$20.00 per night. For reservations contact T-N-T RV Parking at 785-734-7100



### WASH HOUSE



Seeing a need Mr. Stan Wamhoff has generously offered to pay for the construction of a new shower and restroom building located on the south end of the show grounds. The wash house will be located near the RV camper trailer parking area.

This will be a major improvement to the comfort of our guests while demonstrating that we continue to make every effort to make our show enjoyable for everyone who attends. Thank You Stan!

