

TRI-STATE ANTIQUE ENGINE & THRESHERS ASSOCIATION



Officers:

Rodney Klepper - President
785-734-7369

Rodklepper@gmail.com

Willie Martinez - Vice President
785-332-4059

willisbird9@gmail.com

Brenda Johnson - Secretary
785-626-6046

Thresherassociation@gmail.com

Kris Oldsen - Treasurer
785-772-5266

BCThresher.Treasurer@gmail.com

Will Clark - Grant Writer
785-443-8530

Growth@threshershow.org

Board of Directors:

Lonnie Coon
Norm Hays

Howard Raymond
Rex Weishapl
Gerald Wright

More Information:

Association Phone Number
785-734-2291

www.threshershow.org
Thresherassociation@gmail.com

From the President,

WOW! 2023 has been an unbelievable year for our Association!

The following are examples of projects completed this year.

It all begins with Kris Oldsen's vision for the EGGERS building and in January Larry Shultz, Willie Martinez, and Wayne Erickson, working in an unheated building begin the process with Larry and Willie removing all unneeded shelving, building divider walls, and installing new electric wiring and lighting throughout the building. Wayne was in charge of the shelving, designed and built the brackets required, plus supervised their installation.

Kris designed the permanent cabinets, Wayne spent days drilling shelving bracket holes and the crew spent several weeks drywalling, painting, and installing cabinets and shelving.

During the construction, Kris with the help of Sarah Mellinger were cataloging the thousands of items in the building.

Thanks to all of Kris' family, the final clean-up and displays were completed just in time for our Show.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Mary Smith Family we were able to insulate, install paneling and pegboard, paint the walls, and install LED lights in the East part of BUILDING #2.

Howard Raymond with the help of Dave Fleming completed a complete upgrade of the DORSCH- SAWYER building by removing all the tractors, having Roy Shrader level and install asphalt millings, building a four-foot-wide display shelf along the west wall, and arranging a large portion of our steel wheel tractors in the building for better viewing.

Royce Chambers and Duane Waller, with the help of several volunteers, installed a steel pillar, refurbished the stand, built a platform, and installed the telescope in our OBSERVATORY.

Our summer interns, Domenic and Conner power washed, primed, and painted the interior, including the floor of our Kid friendly and popular CABOOSE.

Prairie Land Electric donated and installed the poles, Norm Hays provided the track, carriage, and hay hooks, and Willie Martinez built the beam, and frame and installed our new HAY TROLLEY DISPLAY.

**Sincerely,
Rodney Klepper**

The Gibson Story

By Howard Raymond

The Gibson Manufacturing Corporation, Longmont, Colorado, was founded in March 1946 by Wilber Gibson. This company was an offshoot of the original company which had been formed by Wilber's father, Harry Gibson, in Seattle, Washington. The Seattle plant was building special rail cars called speeders, which could haul work crews and were self-powered. Harry had also begun experimentation with tractors. The decision to produce tractors at Longmont was, at least, partially motivated by the desire to escape a setting where pressure to unionize was great. Longmont, located 40 miles northwest of Denver, was a small agricultural community with little or no industry at the time. The millions of dollars invested in the land, plants, and equipment coupled with the job opportunities for hundreds of local residents meant that Gibson was welcomed with open arms. Gibson began production in Longmont in 1946, with about 100 men on two eight-hour shifts. From a later newspaper account, we read, "A tour of the Ninth and Third Avenue plants is most interesting if not amazing. Equipment is modern and equal to any to be found anywhere. In a day's time from 60 to 70 finished tractors come off the assembly line. The Gibson Manufacturing Company, with its payroll of 200 men, means much to the economic life of Longmont."

The first production tractor was a model 'A' which was equipped with a six horsepower Wisconsin air-cooled model AEH Engine. Under maximum load, the fuel consumption was one and one-half quarts per hour. The Model A was followed by the D and later the SD. The first 10 Gibson tractors built left the factory by truck on February 28, 1946, bound for a dealer in nearby Denver. Other models were added later as farmers demanded greater power and versatility.

After World War II Gibson was finding it difficult to compete with the full line manufacturers such as IHC, Deere, Allis Chalmers, and others and was also building forklifts for the U.S. Navy at the time. In 1952, the decision was made to halt tractor production at the Longmont plants, and the Gibson firm was sold to Helene Curtis Industries, who folded it into the Fox Metal Co. in Denver.

We are pleased to be showcasing the Gibson line for our 71st annual Thresher Show. Several collectors from the Front Range have committed to bringing their tractors and the well varied Art Wilkens collection is housed on our grounds. We have 3 consecutive serial numbered Gibson I models which will be on display.

Renew your membership today!



The 2024 Membership Button

You can renew your membership during the semi-annual membership meeting on March 2nd, mail a check to PO Box 9, Bird City, KS 67731 or visit <https://threshershow.org/membership/>

Work to begin on the Drilling Rig

A few years ago we were donated a water drilling rig. This rig was used right here in Bird City for many years. Bob Gallo and Gerald Wright are going to start taking it apart and replacing all of the wood. The next newsletter will have more on their progress. If you are interested in helping them, please call Gerald.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers! It takes a lot of volunteers to keep this association going. We have a job for everyone and can accommodate just about anyone's availability. Even if you can only help for one hour during the show it will help more than you will ever know. Think you don't have the skills we need, well we can find something for you, just ask.

Currently, we need volunteers for the following:

- fun run coordinator
- plumbing help this spring
- restroom cleaners for each show
- painting
- parade coordinator
- marketing
- story writers
- general cleaning
- kitchen help
- merchandise sales
- photographers and videographers
- if you have a skill, we will find a job to use it!

Semi Annual Membership Meeting

Attention members of the Tri-State
Antique Engine & Threshers Association

Semi-Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 10:00 am
at the visitor center on the thresher
grounds 1375 Rd 29, Bird City, KS

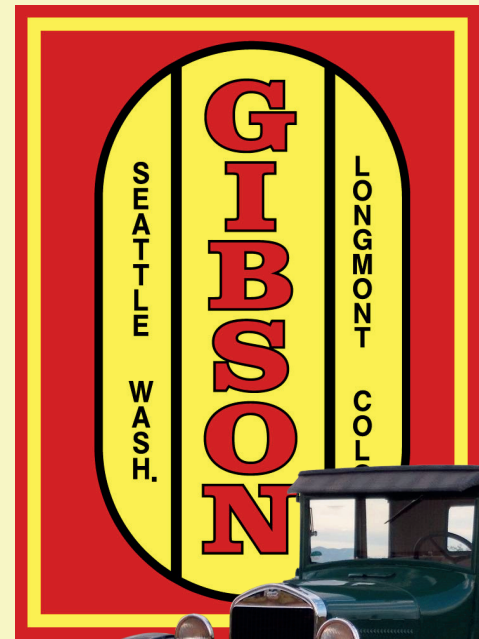
Please join the board of directors as we
discuss our plans for the future. We will
have officer elections and the new 2024
membership buttons will be available.

Join us for lunch after the meeting

If you can not attend in person but would like to attend via Zoom, please email
BCThresher.Treasurer@gmail.com to request a link

Tri-State Antique Engine & Threshers Association

71st Annual Show July 25-27 2024 Bird City Kansas Featuring Gibson Tractors and a bonus feature of Pre-World War II Automobiles



17 Operating steam engines, 200 + Tractors, 100 + Pedal Cars.

Visit our historic buildings and museums. There is something for everyone. Daily demonstrations of wheat binding, threshing, plowing, sawmill, blacksmithing, and tractor pull. See the gas engines, quilts, and printing press. Enjoy the chuck wagon breakfast and food vendors. Local vendors and parts swap. Kids activities, pedal car races, scavenger hunt, and pedal tractor pulls.

Fun for all ages!

Admission is \$10.00 per day for adults, kids 12 to 5 are \$5.00, kids under 5 are free. 3-day passes are available for \$25.00 and 2024 paid members get in free.

Gates open at 9:00 a.m. Located at 1375 County Road 29, Bird City, KS

Inviting all collectors to bring items for display!

We have RV parking, food vendors, and
an onsite shower house

For more information:

www.threshershow.org

Facebook: Bird City Thresher Friends

Show Phone: 785-734-2291

Thresherassociation@gmail.com



3rd Annual Military Show

Mark your calendars for April 26-27, 2024, and plan to join us in Bird City. This year we are planning a World War II reenactment. There will be a full day of living history. We plan to have opportunities to view Civil War Military Drills, walk through the Frontier Camp, watch a Civil War cannon fire, and join the history talk about women's roles during World War II. See a Vietnam-era helicopter land in the infield, Military gun demonstrations and have an opportunity to walk through the buildings. There will be something for the whole family to enjoy. Lunch will be available each day. 2024 Paid members will get in free!



Community Work Day April 20th at 9:00 am

Let's clean up the Thresher Grounds and get ready for the 3rd Annual Military Show!



We will have a project for everyone. We need to move equipment, do some painting, set up some displays and do some dusting and cleaning the buildings.

Bring your gloves and let's get this done together. We will be providing lunch for all the helpers. If you have any questions, please call 785-734-2291.

TRI-STATE ANTIQUE ENGINE & THRESHERS ASSOCIATION

3rd Annual Military Show

APRIL 26-27, 2024

BIRD CITY, KS

Bring the whole family and see a World War II reenactment. Spend the day and tour the grounds to see living history military exhibits and demonstrations. We have food and RV parking available. The fun begins at 10:00 am each morning. Gate admission is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 & under.

Friday at 6:00 pm enjoy a community dinner.

**For more information please visit
www.threshershow.org or call 785-734-2291**

Photo credit to R.C. Prentice

8th Annual Tri-State Mule & Draft Horse Show

Oct 11-12 2024 Bird City Kansas
Starts at 10:00 am

**Come See Horse Powered Farming.
Continuous Demonstrations Going on All Day!**

One - Two - Three - Four Horse Hitches

Starts at 10:00 am

-All Day Event-

Horse powered farming, featuring:

Walking Plows, Surrey Plows, Two-Way Plow, Single Gang Moldboard, Double Gang Moldboard, Disc Plow, Lister, Cultivators, Mowers, Rack, Straw Chopper, Single & Double Gang Disc, Road Grader, Dirt Slip, Fresno, Wagon Lift, Grain Elevator, Straw Baling, Corn Shelling & Grinding, Free Buggy & Wagon Rides, One, Two and Eight Horse Power Units Plus Sawmill Demonstration, Wheat Threshing, and Corn Picking

Community BBQ Friday at 6:00 pm

Cowboy stew served at noon Saturday

For more information visit www.threshershow.org

785-734-2291 or thresherassociation@gmail.com

Follow us on facebook: Bird City Thresher Friends

Tickets are \$10.00 per day for adults, \$5.00 for children 12 and under, and children under 5 are free. 2024 Tri-State Antique Engine & Threshers Association members get in free with their buttons. Food vendors will be on site both days.

We are located at 1375 Co Rd 29, Bird City Kansas. Please contact us if you need a camping space.





2024 List of Event:

- March 2nd Spring Semi-Annual Membership Meeting
- April 20th Community Work Day
- April 26th & 27th 3rd Annual Military Show
- July 4th Bird City/McDonald Fireworks Show
- July 20th Community Work Day
- July 25th, 26th & 27th 71st Annual Thresher Show
- October 5th Community Work Day
- October 11th & 12th Tri-State Mule & Draft Horse Show
- November 9th Fall Semi-Annual Membership Meeting

Tri-State Antique Engine & Threshers Association

PO Box 9

Bird City, KS 67731-0009

Join us at our 71st Annual Show July 25-27, 2024

Dues

Yearly Membership: \$50.00

Includes: Admission to all events & shows, large souvenir button, quarterly email and annual newsletter and voting rights at the semi-annual meetings.

Three Day Pass: \$25.00

Includes: Small Souvenir Show Button

Daily Admission: \$10.00

Children (12 & under): \$5.00 - Children (5 & under): Free