

TRI-STATE ANTIQUE ENGINE & THRESHERS ASSOCIATION



From the Board of Directors,

What an amazing year we have had so far! The 71st Annual Thresher Show featuring Gibson Tractors was a huge success. We had 186 exhibitors this year and great attendance through the gate.

We have broken ground on the Koons-Webber building. This will be a 7,200-square-foot building featuring crawler-style tractors and the family's collections.

In October we are breaking ground on the long awaited Brent Family Building. This building is going to be 16,000 square feet and packed with the Brent Family's collection of rare tractors and automobiles.

We are getting ready for the 8th Annual Tri-State Mule & Draft Horse Show! We hope you are planning to attend on October 11th & 12th, the gates open at 10:00 am. Don't forget you get in free with your membership button or it's \$10.00 admission for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under.

Our Semi-Annual Membership Meeting will be on November 9th at 10:00 am at the visitors center on the grounds. This is a great opportunity to have your voice heard and to share your ideas for the association.

Sincerely,

**The Tri-State Antique Engine & Threshers Association
Board of Directors**

Officers:

Willy Martinez - President
785-332-4059

willisbird9@gmail.com

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970-630-0185

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Growth@threshershow.org

Board of Directors:

Lonnie Coon
Howard Raymond
Rex Weishapl
Gerald Wright
Dave Flemming

More Information:

Association Phone Number
785-734-2291

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Youth Restoration Program

Two tractors have been set aside for restoration in our shop here at the Thresher Museum.

Howard Raymond is spearheading a program to encourage local youth to be involved in preserving artifacts within our goals of showcasing early life on the High Plains. Students will be taught basic mechanical skills, perseverance, patience, and responsibility, which in turn will strengthen their self-worth, pride, and sense of accomplishment. We will stress safety and proper procedures in using various tools and also in operation of the tractors themselves. It is expected that students in the program will be able to operate and demonstrate the machines during the annual Thresher Show and other special events.

The first tractor is a 1948 Allis Chalmers B donated to the Association by Richard Hill. Restoration has begun on this machine with Taysen and Tevin Delano taking hold with great enthusiasm. They have the engine removed from the tractor and are in the process of overhauling it. Parts have been ordered thanks to the generous donations of Association members and friends. Watch our Facebook group, Bird City Thresher Friends, for progress reports.

A 2nd tractor slated for treatment is a 1930 John Deere GP (General Purpose) donated by Howard. The tractor is in non-running condition and we expect it will be an extended project over the entire winter.

We invite all local youth to join us in completing these two tractors. Work schedule is flexible utilizing evenings after school and Saturdays. Adult mentors are needed to assist with technical advice and training. All volunteer hours will be documented and can be used towards your public service requirements.

All interested youth and parents should direct inquiry to Howard at 308-650-1527



Kansas Antique Tractor Preservation Day

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly proclaimed August 22, 2024, as Antique Tractor Preservation Day. So we thought it was a good idea to celebrate the occasion.

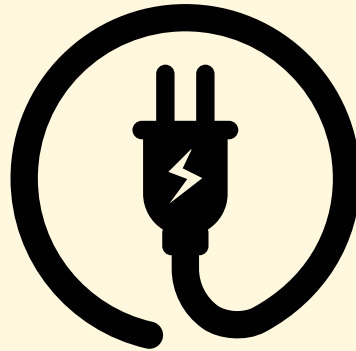
Our friend Michael Hinton of talkingtractors.com had an event in Hutchinson, KS and we did the same here in Bird City. We were open all day and invited the community out to talk tractors with us. The best part of the day was when our local elementary school brought the 2nd grade class over!



Special Meeting Announcement Concerning Electricity

We are having a special meeting after the November 9th Semi-Annual membership meeting to discuss our electricity usage, bills and to see if we can come up with a solution.

Please plan to stay for the special meeting. We need your input!



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
- electrical help
- restroom cleaners for each show
- painting
- parade coordinator
- marketing
- story writers
- tractor drivers
- show set up
- mowing & grass maintenance
- general cleaning
- kitchen help
- merchandise sales
- photographers and videographers
- if you have a skill, we will find a job to use it!

Norman Dorsch

It's with great sadness that we share that our former President and board member passed away on August 17, 2024. In 1977 Norm joined the Board of Director until 1983 when became the president. He served as president until 1993. After he served as president he stayed on the Board of Directors and faithfully served until 2019. Norman dedicated 42 years to the Association a he will truly be missed. The following is the obituary that was published in the St. Francis Herald/Bird City Times on September 5, 2024:

Norman George Dorsch, 97, passed away on August 17, 2024. He was born March 3, 1927 in the farmhouse his parents established in 1916 seven miles northeast of Bird City, KS. He was the fifth child of George Christian and Emma Selma (Henkel) Dorsch. He grew up on the family farm and attended rural grade school in a oneroom school-house about one mile west of the farm. He enjoyed High School sports and graduated with the Class of 1945 from Bird City Rural High School.

The day after graduation, Norman received his draft notice, reported to the draft board the next day, and within three days was off to the United States Army. He would earn the Sharpshooters Medal, complete Winter Mountain training in Colorado, and Victory in WW II ribbon. Norman was training to go to Korea when his father died and he was discharged to return to the family farm.

Norman and his brother Neal had purchased farm land in eastern Colorado, and they took turns operating farms in both Kansas and Colorado. During this time, Norman started dating Mary Esther Harrison from the South Fork community in Cheyenne County. They were married May 14, 1950 at the Methodist Church in St. Francis, Kansas and they enjoyed 71 ½ years of marriage. Two children, Patricia Ann and John Norman were welcomed to the family. Norman and Mary would purchase the family farm, which has been in the Dorsch family for over 100 years. Mary and Norman supported all of their children's activities, and Norman was a Scoutmaster for the Boy Scout Troop #119. He participated in one National BSA Jamboree in Morain State Park in Pennsylvania. He received the Silver Beaver, (highest award given by the Boy Scouts Council), Award of Merit, Cross and Flame from the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church, Order of the Arrow, Wood Badge, and Vigil Honor in Order of the Arrow. Norman was proud to present Eagle Scout awards to his son, John, and both of his grandsons, Levi and James.

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association was instituted in 1952 at the neighboring Kite farm. Norman's adeptness at restoring old machinery and tractors brought him much joy. He would be a loyal supporter of "the Association" from its inception and would serve as President for a decade and a half. He was a member of Free Masons for 70 years, Shriners (Isis Temple), and American Legion. In the winters, Norman honed his carpentry skills, most notably helping to build many fine homes in the community, and helped remodel and establish local businesses. He was the foreman in charge of dismantling the former Methodist Church, after the building of the Immanuel United Methodist Church in 1972-1973.

Norman was a good farmer, always a true steward of the land. The family will always remember him saying: "Take the first load of wheat to town...it's the Lord's Load" and was given to his church. The Dorsches were faithful members of Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City.

Norman was preceded in death by: his parents; his wife Mary; sisters Evelyn (Ward) Harvey, Adeline (Russell) Sawyer; brothers Noble (Barbara) Dorsch, Neal (Audrey) Dorsch; four infant brothers and sisters; and in-laws: John Benjamin Harrison, Robert Francis (Eula) Harrison, and Betty (Marion) Miller. Be-loved nieces and nephews Carol, Kyle, LaDonna, Lyle, Bob and extended family will welcome him into Heaven. Those who will forever cherish his memory are: daughter, Pat (Dorsch) Traffas; son, John Norman (Diane) Dorsch, M.D.; 4 grandchildren Levi Traffas, Mary Traffas (Aaron) House, James (Amy) Dorsch and Amanda Dorsch (Jake) Castle. Five great grandchildren are: Lillian House, Norman Charles Maxwell House, Charlotte Dorsch, Simon Dorsch and Frances Dorsch.

Services were held at the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City on Saturday, August 24, with interment in the George C. Dorsch plot at the Bird City Cemetery, with military honors. May he rest in peace, and may his memory be a blessing.

Semi Annual Membership Meeting

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

Semi-Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, November 9, 2024 at
10:00 am at the visitor center on the
thresher grounds 1375 Rd 29, Bird City
Please join the board of directors as we
discuss our plans for the future. We will
be discussing plans for the upcoming
shows as well.

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

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.threshersshow.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.



TRI-STATE ANTIQUE ENGINE & THRESHERS ASSOCIATION

4th Annual Military Show & Reenactment

APRIL 25-26, 2025

BIRD CITY, KS

Bring the whole family and experience history like you never have before! See a World War II reenactment & spend the day touring 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

TRI-STATE ANTIQUE ENGINE
& THRESHERS ASSOCIATION



72nd Annual Show



Featuring the 33rd
Annual National
Rumely Collectors Expo

July 31st to August 2nd, 2025
in Bird City, KS.



19+ Operational Steam Engines
300+ Antique Farm Tractors
35+ Antique Cars and Trucks
150+ Pedal Tractors

45 Acres * 39+ buildings * Daily
Antique Parade * Steam Engine
Races * Tractor Pull



For more information visit
our website

Daily Demonstrations:
Threshing * Plowing * Binding &
Harvesting * Corn Shelling

www.threshershow.org
or call 785-734-2291

Find us on 
Bird City Thresher Friends

Tri-State Antique Engine & Threshers Association

PO Box 9

Bird City, KS 67731-0009

Join us at our 72nd Annual Show July 31-Aug 2, 2025

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