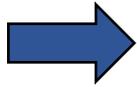


# MERIDEN ANTIQUE ENGINE AND THRESHERS ASSOCIATION

**2018 review of Cottonwood Station, written by association  
members and compiled by the historical director**

**Jess Noll, President\*\*\*Greg Coker, VP\*\*\*Emily Petesch, Secretary\*\*\*Kerril Bauerly, Treasurer**



## A Word from Association President Jess Noll



Hello all. I hope 2019 has found you and your family in good spirits and health! I'd like to take a minute to thank every one of you for all your efforts whether large or small in the past year. As each year passes, again and again I am amazed at the support and hard work by all our members, sponsors and the general public that want to help us in one form or another. I grew up at the show grounds starting when I was about 11 years old; I'm 41 now. To me, the progression over the years has been amazing; back then I wouldn't have thought we'd be where we are today. There are many members that have been here much longer than me that I think would whole heartedly agree. The efforts put in by our members and volunteers are countless and many. Our membership has an average age of around 65-68 years old. That being said, we need to keep plugging along. So, if you're reading this and aren't a current member or have been thinking about becoming a member, now is as good a time as any to become part of a special association, or family, as I like to think of it. There is always plenty to do and as the shows continue to grow, it would be handy to have some extra help to make the work light and make the shows run. We have the opportunity to pass on a tradition and heritage of days gone by for those who may or may not know about farming and how it has progressed over the years. Let's face it folks, without the farmer we'd be hungry. We will continue to strive for an entertaining experience for our visitors in the years to come. With that will come improvements whether they be large or small. Each year we try to make things better than they were the year prior. And judging by our show attendance it must be working. So, here's to an enjoyable 2019 show season. We hope to see you all at the shows!!!

### Topeka Farm Show



Our first event of the year is normally a booth at the Topeka Farm Show. Once again, thanks to coordinator Bill Bickel, the Meriden Threshers Association had a display at the 2018 Show. The Kansas IHC Club and Power of the Past from Ottawa had space next to us which made for a nice display of "olden day" farming items compared to all the new equipment displayed at the show. At

the front of the Meriden booth was a monitor displaying numerous videos taken at the MAETA show grounds. The monitor and presentation were produced and displayed by member Kevin Kirkwood. A 1944 2N Ford owned by the Gleason family of Spearville, KS was displayed. Ford was the feature tractor at our summer 2018 show. Gary Bowen displayed his 1919 Titan 10-20 tractor. Carol & Jody Kirkwood operated the booth for most of the three days selling chances on the quilt, taking applications for new members and membership renewals.

Those also at the booth during the show were: Merril Lovendahl, Jody & Carol Kirkwood, Gary Bowen, Pat & Roxie Herring, Greg Coker, Wayne Anderson, Richard Runnebaum, Nicole Klenklen, Kathy Petesch, Bill Bickel, David & Kerril Bauerly, Merlyn & Ida Mahoney, Paul Dunlap, Jerry McGrath and Dan Kennedy.

## BBQ Aroma in the Air

At MAETA's January 2018 meeting, Craig Eastman, with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad, inquired about BNSF holding their annual fundraising BBQ contest on the MAETA grounds. The date would be May 12. BBQ teams would cook samples for afternoon judging; then BNSF employee families would come in the evening to dine. MAETA members were also invited to attend in the evening and asked to serve as judges that afternoon. The request for use of the grounds was approved.

MAETA members serving as judges were: Junior Butler, Steven Butler, Sheila Mathias, Jim Noll, Tucker Saunders, and Yolanda Dickinson. They judged entries of ribs, sausage, chicken, sides and dessert. Using BNSF established judging criteria, each judge had a sheet to mark their favorites. The samples were not small! The judges were full and had some to-go boxes to take home when they waddled away.



## AWARDS!!!!

At each summer show we present some awards. One is presented to the owner of the exhibit that traveled the most miles to reach our show. This year's winner was Eldon and Norma Zimbelman. They trekked across Kansas from their home in St.

Francis with their beautifully restored Ford 961 Propane Powermaster. Ford, Fordson and Ferguson were our feature tractor at the 2018 summer show, and it was our pleasure to have the Zimbelman's Ford Powermaster on display.



Another summer show award we present is for the largest flywheel. This year's winner was Rachel Naylor from Topeka, Kansas, who exhibited a Canadian built Desjardan engine with a 28-inch flywheel.

Two awards we hope we don't have to present again were given at a monthly meeting shortly after the summer show. John Steinmetz, Tucker Saunders and Dan Kennedy were the recipients of the Golden Plunger and Golden Hose awards respectively for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty

in the men's restroom. It's great to have members willing to do whatever it takes to make the show go on! (Unfortunately, no pictures were available.)

## Sloooooow Tractor Race

In this fast-paced world of instant information, on Sunday morning of the summer show we slow things down at the track. A slow tractor race is held with one class for the antique/classic tractors and one for the garden tractors. Just as it sounds, the tractor that takes the **most** time to travel a short, marked distance is the winner.

In the garden tractor category (right to left):



- 1st - Braden with a time of 1:38.6 on a Wheelhorse
- 2nd - Brenda with a time of 1:38.15
- 3rd - Ron with a time of 1:04.89

In the antique/classic tractor category (right to left):



- 1st Martin with a time of 48.43 on a Russell Steam Engine
- 2nd Preston with a time of 40.35
- 3rd Levi with a time of 34.22

## Traffic Alert Signs along Highway 4

The Association would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Keith Jeffers with Jefferson County Emergency Management for providing traffic alert signage during the summer and fall shows. Signs were placed approximately ½ mile each direction from the show grounds driveway to alert drivers of the possibility of slow and turning traffic.

## Donors and Donations

Our yearly review should certainly give tribute to the many donors that so graciously give to the Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association (MAETA). The shows that MAETA hosts each year would not be possible without the generous

donations received from numerous businesses and individuals. Donations come in the form of money, product, time and in-kind services. From the smallest to the largest, **ALL** donations are important to show success and are appreciated by MAETA. Here is a list of those donating to the 2018 shows. If you or your business were not listed below, nor mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, we profusely apologize for the oversight.

#### DONATIONS

Meriden Tiger Den	Hwy 4 Automotive
Aahhsome Blossom LLC	Ag Insurance LLC
Bank of Oskaloosa	Barnett Family Funeral Home
Big Time Bail Bonds, Inc.	Bobcats Bar and Grill
CDW	Perry Lake Chiropractic
Meriden Chiropractic	Mercer Funeral Home
Taylor Insurance Services	Murrfield Farms Supply
Stauffer Salvage	Jeff West Junction
D & D Tire, Lawrence	Overbrook NAPA
Kansas Insurance, Inc.	Kendall State Bank
Kramer Agency, Inc.	Lonestar Tire
M&M Automotive	Oskaloosa Lumber
Pia Friend Realty	DMJ Operations LLC
Denison State Bank	Crooked Post Winery
Country Home Café	Wind Wagon Cafe
Bowers Meat Processing	Ireland Custom Exhaust
Village Greens	Harker Insurance & Real Estate
Erhard Enterprises	Four Seasons Pools and Spas
Hollis Trucking	Western Hardware and Auto
Downtown Barber Shop	Herschell Taxidermy
Modern AG Services	Parts City
R Bar B Outfitters	Holton Livestock Exchange, Inc.
Hoyt's Truck Center	Hoffman Bros Welding LLC
Valley Truck and Trailer	Foley Equipment
Game Day Bar & Grill	Bailey Recycling & Scrap Metal
Heinen P-H-E Services, Inc	Heinen Repair Service
J.B. Pearl Sales & Service, Inc.	Ernest-Spencer Metals, Inc.
Winchester Meat Processing, Inc.	
S2 Accounting & Tax Services LLC	
Innovative Technology Services/Hog Holler	

#### ✓ Notable items from 2018

We gained eight new members in 2018. More are always welcome!! Fortunately, we did not have any member deaths.

A grounds committee was appointed in September for the purpose of long-range planning and scheduling of projects/upkeep for MAETA. Members are Bill Bickel, Greg Coker, Pat Herring, Jerry McGrath and Gary Naylor.

During 2018 a committee worked with the Kansas IHC club towards the possibility of an IH Museum on MAETA grounds. Those members were Merlyn Mahoney, Kerril Bauerly, Pat Herring, and Paul Dunlap. They put in quite a few hours on this project. However, it was determined the national IHC organization will not allow the state club to build on MAETA grounds.

#### Rope Making Adventure for John and Janet Steinmetz

For their 20th wedding anniversary, John and Janet traveled to Pinckneyville, Illinois to attend The American Thresherman Association's summer show. At the show, John became

interested in rope making, and they later purchased a 1901 Copyright rope making machine at a garage sale while in Pinckneyville. When they got home John, with the help of Paul Dunlap, made a stand to hold the newly acquired rope machine. The machine was set up for demonstration and a learning process at the fall show. John and Janet would like to thank all that have helped with the rope machine.

#### Shoe Shop Equipment Donated

Association member Paul Dunlap was contacted by Robert Henderson regarding equipment from a former Meriden shoe shop. This shop was located across from the blacksmith shop. The shoe shop contained equipment dated from approximately 1855-56 that was originally owned by Robert's grandfather, Wes Russun. The equipment is on display in the general store. Thank you for the donation of local history!

#### Association Gifted with Road Grader

The grader story began in 2017 when Chapter #1 of the Antique Caterpillar Machinery Owners Club (ACMOC) donated a 1954 #12 road grader to the Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association (MAETA). We extend our thanks to Wayne Herring for hauling the grader from Greenwood, Missouri to the MAETA grounds.

According to member Greg Coker, starting in the spring of 2018, work days were held at the MAETA grounds to complete mechanical updates of the starting motor and diesel engine on



the grader. They were both stuck at the time of donation. Various MAETA members, along with several ACMOC members, provided

knowledge and labor during this process.

The grader made its inaugural run on the MAETA grounds on July 7. After some minor tweaking and greasing, a week later the #12 was used to grade driveways and did some blading on the track. MAETA looks forward to many years of projects with the grader.

#### Where's the Clown?

Bulls Eye, the official clown, made an appearance again at the summer show. His first official duty was to help with the kiddie tractor pull on Saturday. He later made it over to the track for



the antique tractor pull where he pulled Old Stickers (his golf cart) a FULL pull. Bulls Eye celebrated by throwing Frisbees into the audience. Sunday brought

Bulls Eye back to the grounds with his new Duck Pond Game and other games to entertain the kiddies. Bulls Eye made

another appearance at the Jefferson County 4-H fair parade. He drove trusty Old Stickers with his helper Mo (Morgan Gantz) riding shotgun.

### Speaking of Parades

The Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association participated in two county parades this year.



First was the Jefferson County 4-H parade on August 1. Bill Bickel brought tractors that were driven. John Steinmetz, aka Bullseye the clown, drove his golf cart to lead in front of our float. Other

members walked the parade route and passed out candy and fliers. Approximately 800 fliers were handed out to viewers along the parade route.

The Atchison County 4-H parade was on August 10. Paul Dunlap provided the trailer and Pat Herring brought his tractor to pull the trailer. Attending members passed out candy and fliers. There were approximately 600 fliers passed out at the parade.

To continue doing the parades each year we ask for more participants. Take your pick walking passing out candy or fliers or riding the float and waving to the audience with big smiles to entice the community to come join our fun at our shows.

### Progress Continues at Dix Cemetery

Gary Bowen reports when cemetery restoration began, the land was owned by Mrs. Barbara Newlin. At first, she signed a lease for MAETA to have cemetery access. She then chose to donate enough land to attach the cemetery to the MAETA property. During the surveying process, Mrs. Newlin passed away, but her three daughters agreed to donate the land per their mother's wishes. No one can physically own the cemetery but the person(s) owning the ground around the cemetery can control who has access.

Mrs. Joe Dix Stithem, a direct descendant of the Dix family, supplied enough original style cemetery fence to enclose the cemetery. About half of the fence is installed.

The Dix family came to this location in 1857 and the family cemetery was used for 12 years, before the Meriden Cemetery was established. With the exception of three, all graves in the cemetery are Dix family members.

Derek Stapel, Arlyn Meyers and Gary Bowen have been working on the cemetery restoration for over 2 years.

Cemetery right before the summer show.



Cemetery at first review. (Derek in picture.)



### Kids' Day at Fall Show

Each year an invitation is extended to the fifth-grade classes and all home-schooled students of Jefferson County to come to the MAETA grounds the Friday before the fall show. The students, along with their teachers, parents, and bus drivers, are provided tours of working exhibits and taste samples of cider, apple butter and sorghum if they so desire. They are also able to participate in some of the exhibits. You'll see reference to kids' day in some of the individual reports in this newsletter.

### Fall Plow Day

Members not only like to exhibit their treasures, they also like to put them to use. On a chilly Saturday in November, several folks gathered with tractors and plows to work the soil where we had planted corn. Many hands make light the task and it didn't take long to complete the process.

In this picture, Tucker Saunders is plowing using a tractor owned by Bill Bickel.



### Unattended Items

Members should always be careful about leaving their



belongings unattended overnight at the show. During the fall show, member Bill Bickel returned to find his mule had been transformed into a corn queen carriage, complete with decorations.

### Corn Husking/Shelling Report by Paul Dunlap

Each afternoon during the fall show, the National Corn Husking Champion Bob Penning family of Atchison, KS, put on a much appreciated and well attended corn husking demonstration. Several members of the Penning family have competed, and

placed, at the national contests over the years. The demonstrations were held in the field of corn planted on the Association grounds. A team was available each day to pull the wagon through the field.

What used to be a normal way of life on farms growing corn has now in many locations evolved into a contest. The object of the contest is to determine who can, in the allotted amount of time, husk into the wagon the largest amount of ear corn, and at the same time husk all the ears on the land covered. The corn, when husked, should be reasonably free of husks. There are deductions for ears missed in the field, ears that miss the wagon, and for husks remaining on the ears.

There are classes for men, women and youth, with age brackets as well. There are nine states that are members of the National Cornhusking Association: Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Several members and others brought corn shellers, a small IH Hammermill, and a McCormick Deering 6" burr mill for grinding. A hand sheller was on display and quite a few kids enjoyed feeding ears through the machine. Association members Bill Bickel and DJ McGrath demonstrated their mounted pickers. All in all, I think we put on a good demonstration.

### **Cottonwood Country Christmas; Carolyn McGrath**

What a wonderful time of the year! Everyone hustling and bustling getting ready for the holiday. So...we decided to jump in on the fun of this celebration and have a "Cottonwood Country Christmas".

This was held on Dec 1, 2018 from 3-8:00 PM in the General Store at the MAETA grounds. The store was decorated, the smell of Christmas filled the air and the lights were hung.

With this being our first Christmas gathering, we welcomed friends, visitors from near and far, and family to stop by and join us for a little winter snack and a warm drink while browsing through the store. There were handmade chests for sale that were made by MAETA members, some handmade items like pot holders, wreaths, mug rugs, coasters, personal signs, decorated candy jars, popcorn balls, and sorghum made on the grounds. Lots of visiting went on throughout the night by the warm cozy fire. Even Santa stopped in for a little visit.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make this a great success! Special thanks to my sister Sally, my niece Casey, sister-in-law Amber and Santa Chris for all they did helping me get ready for the big day. Thank you, Jerry, for all you did. I would not have been able to make this Country Christmas a special night without the support and time you all took away from your holiday shopping. But I have to say... it was a great time and a blessing to have such wonderful people in my life. Thank you all and hope to see you next year.



### **Chuck Wagon Report, Jolene Bickel, Director**

This was another record-breaking year for the MAETA Chuck Wagon. The July show had a profit of \$8,608.90 followed by September at a profit of \$4,595.99, for a total of \$13,204.89 for both shows. I have been the Director of the Chuck Wagon since September 2009, and this is the most we have made since then. Our shows continue to grow a little each year which brings more hungry customers to the Chuck Wagon. This year's profit was up from 2017 by \$3,107.39.

It takes a lot of dedicated volunteers to make each show a success. We have members as well as friends and family who help in many ways. Some of the organizations that we get volunteers from for community service credit hours includes The Villages, Inc, from Topeka, Alpha Christian School in Perry and Jeff West High School students. We encourage anyone interested in helping or volunteering in the kitchen to contact us for further information. If you have an organization or someone you know that would like to volunteer, please contact Jolene at (785)845-2306. In June 2019, we are adding a truck show so we will be needing additional helpers.

This year we served apple cider slushies instead of the slush puppies served in the past. The apple cider was made fresh at the show. These turned out to be very popular and will be brought back next year.

I want to thank all the local businesses who helped us out by selling product at a discount as well as some who donated food or beverage. The goal is to purchase from local providers when possible while still trying to profit as much as we can to keep the MAETA alive so the children/families can attend the shows and learn the ways of the past.

### **Electrical and Grounds by Director Bill Bickel**

Even though we demonstrate processes of a bygone era, we are dependent on electricity on the grounds. All went well this year. We had no electrical issues, which I attribute to changing out most of the light bulbs to LED bulbs, and a lot of luck.

In the near future, the Chuck Wagon will be on its own circuit separate from the rest of the grounds. Installation of a larger wire will help ward off future problems. To help with cooling the patio area of the Chuck Wagon, ceiling fans were installed.

At the Blacksmith Shop, a new rotary phase converter, which changes single phase to 3-phase, was installed to operate the shop in the event the engine is not running.

Hand dryers were added to the bathrooms in hopes of reducing the amount of trash. The air conditioners are helping in the bathrooms, especially since we added heavy duty plastic curtain strips at the entry to keep the air in as much as possible. It may also help if we insulate the attic. That will be proposed for 2019.

We were aware of the possibility of a water leak before the summer show but couldn't find anything, even witching to find the leak. During the fall show it became quite apparent the leak was right in front of the restrooms. A temporary fix got us through that show. A new waterline will be worked on in 2019 to resolve the current problem as well as provide for future growth.

At the fall show, we had a good demonstration on corn picking by man and machine. I really enjoyed the shelling and hammer mill setup.

**H**ats off to members Jake McGrath and Tucker Saunders for their hard work during shows emptying (over and over and over and over) the numerous trash cans on the show grounds. Thank you!

### **Apple Butter Report, Kerril Bauerly, Director**

2018 was a banner year for Apple Butter! We made and sold over 240 jars. That is the most we have done since I've been making it. We started peeling apples Thursday evening and made 2 batches each day. The weather was wonderful and the apples from Rees Fruit Farm cooked down nicely.

On Kids' Day, we had almost 300 kids and their parents and teachers come through. They got to stir the apple butter with the large paddle and peel apples with the hand-crank apple peelers. Of course, they each got to taste all the apple butter and fresh apples they wanted!

A big thank you to my helpers: Justin Pollum, Jody and Carol Kirkwood, Connie Payne, Merrill Lovendahl, Amy Kramer, Julie and Jamie Durand, Roxie Herring, Mary Herring, Dave Bauerly, Susan Kramer, Alan and Kristen Bauerly, Julie and Kevin Kirkwood. Thanks also goes to the Villages kids who came up from the Chuckwagon to help us stir!

### **Apple Cider Report by Director Emily Petesch**

The new building is up and almost finished; there is siding left to put on two sides of the building. Hopefully this will happen before our next fall show. This new addition has given cider an established area on the grounds. It allows for good storage, an easier way of production for the show and demonstrations and makes for easier clean up.

Emily Petesch, Valley Falls, and Rodney Stephens, McLouth, are the co-directors of cider. Emily took lead and got our apples from Rees Fruit farm for the apple cider and the apple butter; along with gallon, ½ gallon, and 20-ounce bottles for the fall show.

What a great year we had! Weather was amazing, little windy at times, but the sun was out and no rain! This being my first year of lead director, I'm super excited with the turn out we had with the school kids on Friday (Valley Falls 29, Oskaloosa 51, Jefferson West 68, and Home Schoolers 89) then the general public on Saturday and Sunday.

I was asked to be a demonstrator for the LIVE @ 5 news for Channel 13 with Deneysa Richard, which was super fun, but I was a little nervous as I'd never been live on TV. All in all, it was fun experience. The Cider Gang did an excellent demonstration as I explained the cider making process.

With the help of Rodney Stevens, co-director, Kathy Petesch, a past director, my niece Shamia Petesch-Lamb and nephew Kyan Petesch, we cranked and pressed 4 crates of apples, which is approximately 100 bushels of apples for the fall show. The apples were pretty small this year so it took more to fill our wooden baskets to press out. However, the cider had good taste and we sold a bunch!! All apples were pressed, and cider sold ending us with a record year total of \$1,017.00!! One hundred sixty-three 20-ounce bottles, 54 ½ gallons, and 65 gallons were sold.

### **Bloomfield Church, by Director Carol Kirkwood**

We started the year in January at the Farm Show with a booth and displaying the beautiful and colorful "Ford" quilt made by Roxie Herring. With the Farm Show, Summer Show, Fall Show and Bazaar we sold a record 936 chances. Mary Herring, Valley Falls was the lucky person who won the quilt.



The Sunday Church services for both the Summer Show and Fall Show were well attended. We so appreciate Pastor Kent Duncan for giving of his time to do the services for us.

The Soup Supper & Bazaar were a huge success again this year. We served approximately 125 for dinner. The auction had many items and was very successful. We always appreciate Gary Seifert for auctioneering for us. A big thank you to everyone who donated for the meal, the auction and their time to help put on the bazaar.

### **Camping Report by Director Susan Naylor**

The 2018 show season was a great one. For the summer show we had a few campers from Oklahoma. For one of them it was his first time here; he loved the show and is coming back next year.

The fall show was the fullest I've seen Campers Row for this show. We had three campers willing to camp at the edge of the parking field and run off generators. They said it was a great show and will try to come back next year.

Since the fall show Pat Herring leveled out the dirt hump for our pull thru campers. This will make it easier for them and not bottom out their campers.

I look forward to 2019 and hope to see you all there ready to have a great show season.

### **Entertainment Report, Director Kathy Petesch**

At the summer show on Friday night, July 20, the band 4Closure from the Lawrence area played. They are a country and old rock n roll band. They sounded really good and over 85 people were there dancing, listening to the music and just having a great time.

On Saturday night, July 21, the Whiskey Rich band from the Lawrence and Kansas City area played. One of the guys in the band went to school with me at McLouth and that is why I got them to play. There were over 90 people in attendance this night. Everyone seemed to really love the band and got them to play until 11:30.

At the fall show Legacy Band from the Lawrence and Topeka area played on Saturday night. They too provided excellent music, playing country and old rock n roll. Although it was a little cold outside, they played until 11:30 p.m. while folks were listening, dancing and having a great time.

For the 2019 shows, on Friday night at the summer show, the Sierra Band with Paul Root, from Topeka, has been hired. 4Closure has been hired to play on Saturday night at the summer show. Legacy will return to play Saturday night at the fall show.

## Media Report by Kevin Kirkwood

The proliferation of social media with society having instant access to events live has been a pleasant boost for MAETA to expand knowledge of our shows and mission. We currently have 1,583 likes on our FB page, up 453 from last year. Not only is this due to the quality of shows we provide, but also because of the strong social presence we present. New last year at our shows we began "airing" live FB videos during events, with our largest live broadcast of a 1914 16-48 Rumely reaching over 11,686 people through live viewing, liking and sharing. We learned that posts with images and videos of our shows and grounds bring the largest and quickest response on our FB page. Other close and notable video posts were the Knudsen Baling Crew with 11,178 views, our wheat bundling operations reaching 9,214, video of a 1955 Case tractor and corn picker reaching 4,365, and video of the new safety signs along the highway warning people to slow down reaching 6,130 people.

Along with the FB page free advertisement, we have options to have paid post "boosts". On April 23, we released our summer show flyer and reached 20,909. On June 12, we did a paid boost of the flyer. That boost reached an additional 22,447 making the total number of people electronically reached by the summer flyer 43,456! On July 24th, we released at the same time on our FB page a free and paid boost of our fall festival flyer. That post had a free reach of 11,232 and a paid reach of 17,760 for a reach of 28,992 people! For clarification, a reach is counted as any screen pop up, like, comment, or share.

Along with our FB page, we still maintain our website [www.meridentreshers.org](http://www.meridentreshers.org) with information on what is happening at the show grounds and upcoming events. Our FB page and website display hundreds of videos and images for viewing.

For television media, we are featured a few days before each show on WIBW channel 13 on the Red Couch segment. This fall on the day before the weekend show, Channel 13 Deneysa Richard did early morning live remotes of the flour mill, cider press and sorghum press. These live remotes were a huge boost to the exposure of our fall festival.

Our summer and fall shows are also prominently advertised on several radio stations. This year we were also featured for the first time in AAA Midwest traveler's guide. If anyone has other places they would like to see us advertised, please feel free to reach out to us!

## Flour Mill Report



Bob Hjetland and Gary Bowen report the new siding has really helped keep the mill clean on the inside and looks real nice from the outside.

We started milling flours with the Buhler mill three days before the threshing show and the fall

festival. The machine is small and only mills about 10 lbs. of product per hour.

We offered several types of flour, bread flour, cake flour, all-purpose flour, whole wheat flour, buckwheat flour, and cracked wheat cereal. Between the two shows we milled and sold over 300 lbs. of flour products.

Donations made to the mill were: Kevin Kirkwood - 100 lbs. of soft winter wheat; MAETA Threshers - 150 lbs. of hard winter wheat; Gary Bowen - 50 lbs. of buckwheat, flour bags and labels.

We had some requests for corn meal. It is very possible we will be offering corn products next year. We will need to bring some more machines and sifters on line.

Thanks to June Bowen, Melanie Bowen Klenklen, and Nicole Klenklen for operating the sales counter.

## Gas Engine Report by Director Gary Naylor

This year at the summer show we had several first-time exhibitors and about 80 engines. The exhibitors seemed to really enjoy our grounds and family like atmosphere. The fall show had a great turn out as well. I want to thank everyone for sharing their stories and displaying their part of our historic past. Hopefully we can continue to improve and expand our exhibits and welcome in many more newcomers.

Special thanks to my partners in crime, Junior and Sherry Butler for all they do with the engines, and my wife Susan, who lets me expand my own collection. Thank you to daughter Patricia and boyfriend Brenden for helping when they could. We're excited they announced during the show a coming expansion to their family. (Time to get a new engine or tractor for the baby). Thanks to daughter Rachel and Brian, who announced their engagement at the fall show, for helping to keep the engines fueled and running. Rachel has also started a new engine building fund by selling her crafts. And thanks to daughter Desiree and my father-in-law Larry for allowing us to display their engines for all to see. I always enjoy the stories around the campfires and folks helping each other out to get displays up and running.

## Feature, Feature, Read all about It

It was mentioned earlier in the newsletter that Ford was



featured as the tractor for the 2018 summer show. Featured engine was an encompassing category of Orphans and Oddballs. The New Idea engine pictured is

owned by MAETA members the Naylor family from Topeka, and was manufactured in Sandwich, Illinois. The engine was featured on the front of our pocket t-shirts.

## General Store Report by Director Carolyn McGrath

Another year in the books for the General Store and we had a great 2018!

We welcome friends, family and visitors from all over to come in and see us. It's a place to tour and reminisce on how it used to be back in the day. Having the opportunity to listen to others tell their childhood stories is worth every minute and is PRICELESS!

Our members work hard to put the show on along with volunteers and family. I would like to send a special thank you

to my family who dedicated their weekend and volunteered their time. I cherish this time with my family while still being able to share the history of the Association.

Thank you for all your support and the friendships created from near and far. We look forward to seeing you soon at one of our next events. Please check us out on our Facebook page.

### Log Cabin Report, Co-director Joyce Hazelton

2018 was a good year for the cabin. It is always fun to share the cabin and its history with visitors from across the country and our own community. And this year we saw many from across the country.

Due to health reasons, the Stiles family had to step back a bit and the Hazelton family and Marilyn Hines stepped in to help once again with cabin maintenance and activities.

In addition to the normal cabin tours, laundry demonstrations using the primitive washing machine and the wash board from the cabin were done in the yard during the fall show. A common comment from the school kids touring on Friday was "I'd like to live here"! How long would they last without electricity? Or indoor plumbing?

The priority of this year will be to repair one of the logs in the northeast corner of the cabin. There is also a problem with the concrete chinking needing repair. The Kansas historical society has been contacted regarding a grant to help with finances. We were too late last fall to apply for the grant. The first step will be to have contractors who do historical restorations to give us an estimate of the cost. You'll be hearing more about that in future meetings.

**New Director.** In July, Yolanda Dickinson was appointed to the newly created position of historical director for MAETA. She will track donations, memberships and other items and will produce a yearly document to record that year's MAETA happenings.

### Print Shop Report, Director Steven Johnson

I hope to move one cabinet out of the shop and clean some hand set type trays enough to move them into the shop. I don't know the condition of the type, but I hope most of it can be saved. Last year there was an issue with being able to make hats from the new size of newsprint paper. This year I found the new size will make printer caps if they are taped several places. They don't look quite right but they will do.

### Sawmill Report from Jim and Andy Noll

The year got off to an early start in January and February at Noll's Wood Shed. Over 250 trophies were made for the 2018 tractor pulls and other awards. We also built four cedar chests to sell in the General Store.

At the mill, this year was the year of the cleanup. Before the summer show we went through the lumber pile. All bad boards were removed, and remaining boards were sorted by size. This was an all-day project with a lot of help. During the summer show we cut a few logs for other people. The saw ran smoothly.

During the fall show we cut two block orders and a lot of cottonwood for siding. Again, everything went well at the mill. Thanks to everyone for the good help all year long.



### Sims Garage by Directors Chris and Lisa Cain

This was our first year in the garage, very glad to be part of this organization and meeting great people.

We spent this year trying to go through the building, tagging and re-tagging tools as needed. In the process we also cleaned and reorganized some of the displays to help give it that working shop appearance.

We had people from 6 different states and other people we see at tractor shows throughout the Midwest come through the garage. Everyone we talked to really enjoyed the show and were very impressed how well our show was put together.



We have an engine tear down display in progress at the NW corner of the shop. We would like to have an old tractor engine block to display if anyone has one laying around we could use to display (I have an extra engine stand) it would be appreciated.

In 2019, we are going to keep moving forward on identifying and tagging equipment. We also have a 1955 Farmall 400 T/A we will be displaying and working on so the garage is not just a static display.

Thank you  
Chris and Lisa

Below is the Sims Garage looking well organized.



## Harvesting Sorghum

One sunny Saturday morning, a week before the fall show, several members met at the home of Jerry McGrath to hand-harvest the sorghum cane for processing at the show. With a good turnout of workers, it didn't take long to harvest the field. The trailer was then pulled to the show grounds where the workers cut off the heads and stripped the leaves from each stalk. The prepared stalks were stored on bundle wagons until pressing time at 6:00 AM each morning of the show.



## Sorghum Shack Report, Director Merlyn Mahoney

First of all, thanks to everyone who helped out at the 2018 fall show. Without everyone working together, there would be no sorghum.

It was a strange year growing sorghum. It was planted in two different areas. Thanks to Jerry McGrath for a very successful field of sorghum. The yield was a little better than past years and quite mellow and sweet to the taste.

In the letters that Dennis Knudsen brought to a meeting and read from the school kids who came, all the children mentioned the sorghum and not one of them that tasted it said they didn't like it. I always convinced the adults with them to try it and was successful except for one adult who kept refusing. But when the kids left, she leaned over to me and said she had a chew in.

Again, thanks for the help from all of you.

Ida, Merlyn, Jerry

## Wheat Binding

On a warm, windy day in mid-June several MAETA members gathered at the edge of Meriden with the binder, wagons, tractors, and bundle forks to harvest wheat for the summer show. As the binder made its way around the field, a tractor and wagon followed so members could pitch bundles to the stackers on the wagon. With plenty of help on hand, we were able to fill six bundle wagons by lunch time. These are the bundles used to thresh at the summer show.



## Threshing Report by Director Jerry McGrath

Thank you to everyone who helped put on the threshing demonstration. It was a big success this year.

One of the many highlights at our summer show was having a Russell Steam Engine (owned by the Reilly family) belted up to the Case threshing machine (owned by the McGrath family). If

you missed this demonstration at the show, please check it out on our Facebook page at Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association.

Another big thank you goes to Austin Chapman and Caleb Kearney for taking time to join us again with the Rumely Steam Engine. It has been a while since the Association had two steam engines running at one time.

We threshed five wagons of wheat bundles out of six that we harvested in June. The sixth wagon of bundles was donated to Old Albany Days in Sabetha, KS. The weather was not kind to their wheat crop and they were most appreciative of the donation so they could do a threshing demonstration during their show.

It's a blessing to have such great friends and family come share what they love to do! Looking forward to 2019.

## Wheelwright Building, by Director Paul Dunlap

This has been quite a year. We had two great shows with good weather and good attendance. I can't believe the number of people that when asked where they live, they reply with a local location and say they have been driving by for years and this is their first time at the show. Maybe our advertising is paying off.



The Wheel Wright shop has had some exciting things going on. We now have the barbwire collection behind glass. Thanks to members for all the good help building the display cases. We also have a glass corner booth for surveying equipment. This has been a dream for several years and has come to fruition. Thanks to Mr. Amerine, Mr. Muzzy and others for loaning or donating historic equipment to make it a great display.

The theme of the new display is "Buffalo to Barbwire". Barbwire and surveyors both had an extremely

large impact on the open prairie and changed the wide-open spaces to what we are accustomed to today. In addition, the process is on-going to have new replacement wheels made for a buggy on display in the building. We also had Cathy Youtsey from Missouri here with her horse to pull the buggy around the grounds.

## Treasurer's Report by Kerril Bauerly

2018 was a record-setting year for our shows! We were blessed with wonderful weather for both shows. The summer show had PAID attendance of 1,206 people. This number doesn't include the exhibitors and pullers who got in free. We also had 156 veterans get in free. This was one our biggest shows EVER! We had over 100 tractors on display.

The Antique Tractor Pull had 148 hooks. We had 54 businesses contribute \$5,815 towards sponsoring the Antique Tractor Pull. That was a new record also! Tractor Pull Sponsors who donate \$100 or more receive buttons for the summer show and get a sign for their business that is placed on the track for both shows. To become a tractor pull sponsor, please contact John Steinmetz at 785-217-6718 or 913-796-6552.

The Fall Festival also set an attendance record. We had 844 paid admissions. On Kids' Day, we hosted around 300 5th

graders from throughout the county in addition to home-school children of all ages.

The Garden Tractor Pulls had 318 hooks at the Summer Show and 312 at the Fall Festival!

To make it easier to send us a tax-deductible contribution, MAETA is set up as an authorized charity through the Amazon Smile network. Next time you order something from Amazon, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and chose the Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Assn as your charity of choice. Amazon will send us a percentage of your total purchase price as a donation.

There is also a link to our [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) site at [meridentreshers.org](https://meridentreshers.org) and on our Facebook page.

We now accept Credit Card donations via PayPal. To make a donation via PayPal, use the following link: [paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1603827](https://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1603827). PayPal donations can be made at [meridentreshers.org](https://meridentreshers.org) as well.

### The Inner Workings of MAETA by Kerril Bauerly

The Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association is a recognized non-profit under Federal statute 501(c)(3). This means donations may be tax deductible when filing your taxes. All Association members are volunteers; no salaries are paid. Income from shows and donations go towards the following:

- Upkeep of our grounds. Cottonwood Station is a replica of an early 20th century farming town. We have a working cider shack, flour mill, wheelwright building, saw mill, complete operational black smith shop, and sorghum shack. We also have static displays of the hay barn, Sims garage, general store, log cabin, windmill, engines, Dix Cemetery and church. We hold Sunday services in the church during the shows and have hosted weddings and funerals. The grounds have modern restrooms and kitchen. Our grounds are a favorite for local photographers, both professional and amateur. It costs money to keep the lights on, grass mowed, gravel on the driveways, and all the buildings in good condition.

- Additional acreage. In 2014, the thirty-one acres to the west and north of us became available. After much discussion, we obtained a loan to purchase the land. It has been a blessing in so many ways. We now have a designated visitor parking area, with ample room for the trolley. Exhibitor trucks and trailers have designated parking. The new land allowed us to expand parking for the tractor pullers. Moving parking space from the original grounds has allowed exhibitor space to grow. In addition, we can grow crops on-site for demonstration.

Sorghum cane is a staple of the fall show, grown on site since 2015. In 2015, 2016, and 2017 we grew wheat which was cut and bound on the grounds. In 2018, we grew corn, with corn picking and husking demonstrations at the fall festival. While we have paid down the land note considerably, we still owe quite a bit.

- Donations designated for a particular building or exhibit. Targeted donations in recent years have allowed us to put a new roof on the log cabin, build better display cases in the wheelwright building, refurbish the Dix Cemetery, and finish more work on the church.

- Hosting shows. While we greatly appreciate all donations, our main source of income is from our annual shows. The summer threshing show highlights the wheat harvest with wheat threshing. Exhibits are running, and a wide variety of tractors,

farm equipment, and engines are on display. The daily garden tractor pulls and antique tractor pull are also huge draws. The fall festival emphasizes the fall harvest. We grow sorghum cane and process it during the fall show. We make and sell apple butter and apple cider during the show. At one time the apples were donated but recent drought conditions dried up that source and we now purchase them. Flour is ground and sold daily from the flour mill. The fall festival is also the time for Kids' Day. We invite 5th graders and home schoolers from Jefferson County to come the Friday before the show. They get a personalized, guided tour of exhibits and demonstrations in addition to free samples. Many of the kids come back the next day with their parents and grandparents!

In addition to summer and fall shows, the Bloomfield Church Supper and Craft Bazaar is the first Saturday in November. The bazaar is our only strictly fund-raising event. Volunteers make and sell chili, vegetable soup, and desserts. After dinner, we auction off craft items donated by members of the community. Items made on-site during the shows are also sold.

If you are interested in making a monetary donation to MAETA, we've tried to make donating easy. Checks or money orders, payable to MAETA, can be mailed to Treasurer, Kerril Bauerly:

MAETA  
25655 Parallel Road Tonganoxie, KS 66086

To use a credit card with PayPal use the following link: [paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1603827](https://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1603827)

As always, THANK YOU for your donations!



Decorating for the fall show.

### Truck Show in the Planning Stages



During 2018, plans were in the works for a first ever MAETA sponsored truck show on June 8, 2019 at our show grounds east of Meriden. All trucks – old, new, restored or working, will be welcomed. Prizes will be awarded, an auction will be held, and food will be available. The brainchild of member Paul Dunlap, he gives his thanks to everyone who has been helping with the planning for this show. He appreciates your support.

### Flea Market

The past two years, Jolene Bickel has overseen a garage sale/flea market on the MAETA grounds during neighboring town city wide garage sale days. If you are interested in continuing this event, please contact Jolene at 785-845-2306. Yes, this is the same Jolene who provided the Chuck Wagon report earlier in the newsletter. Busy lady!



## Directing the Show

We depend on our directors to remember their duties! From property maintenance to show conclusion, MAETA has directors in charge of specific areas. Here are the 2018 directors.

Advertising	Heather Dunlap, Kerril Bauerly
Electrical	Bill Bickel
Entertainment	Kathy Petesch
Flea Markets	Russ Dunlap
Blacksmith Shop	Kirk Jackson/Ely Henry
General Store	Carolyn McGrath
Bloomfield Church	Carol Kirkwood
Gate (entry)	Jody Kirkwood
Gas Engines	Gary Naylor
Chuck Wagon	Jolene Bickel
Sawmill	Jim Noll
Sorghum	Merlyn Mahoney
Print Shop	Steve Johnson
Flour Mill	Bob Hjetland/Gary Bowen
Tractor Pull	Jess Noll/Pat Herring
Web Master	Kerrill Bauerly
Garden Tractor Pull	Rodney Stevens
Camping	Susan Naylor
Threshing	Jerry McGrath/D.J. McGrath
Log Cabin	Bob and Betty Stiles
Sims Building	Tom Naylor/Chris & Lisa Cain
Wheelwright	Paul Dunlap/Dr. Malm
Cider	Emily Petesch, Rodney Stevens

While there is not an established directorship for some items there are many members that serve as lead for specific items such as photography and live video posting, the Knudsen Baling Team, organizing parade participation, steam engine inspector, reviewing possible non-monetary donations to MAETA, safety and general goodwill of the association.

2018 show button



2019 show card

## Come Join Us

Established in 1977, the Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Our purpose is to preserve through living history the art of threshing, appreciation of engines and machinery, and the demonstration of early day occupations and culture in small towns and rural areas of Kansas.

**Association Meetings** Anyone is welcome to attend meetings. They are held at the show grounds, 8275 K-4 Highway, at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month. (Except December when there is no meeting.)

**Membership applications** are available on our website, at the general store during shows, or can be obtained by contacting any member. Dues are \$20.00 per year.

We're on the web at  
[www.meridenthreshers.org](http://www.meridenthreshers.org)  
 Facebook: Meriden Antique Engine  
 and Threshers Association

## Live @ 5 pictures

cider shack



flour mill



sorghum press



### Special Guests

At our fall show we don't feature a specific tractor but this year, on Saturday, it was our pleasure to once again host Kansas Chapter 3 of the International Harvester Collectors Club for their "summer show". There was lots of red and cub cadet yellow on display; machinery and clothing. Several MAETA members are also member of Chapter 3.



In the next two pictures, members are picking corn with "new" equipment. Please see the last page for a larger picture of the cornhusking by hand with team and wagon.



Stripping sorghum stalks in preparation for pressing



Corn shelling



Gathering for an evening of dancing



Dan Kennedy, Topeka Farm Show booth



Cedar chest for sale in the General Store

## Antique and Classic Tractor Pull

The pull was held on July 21, beginning shortly after 4:00 p.m. and lasting until just after midnight. Pat Herring had prepared the track and after pull co-director Jess Noll went over the rules and guidelines, the pull began.

Kelley Starbuck provided his "Crazy Man" sled again this year with a new LED screen showing the measurement of each pull. We loved this feature! This requires one less person on our part to keep the pull going.

Speaking of keeping the pull going, it requires quite a few helpers. People are needed for the following duties: register the pullers, announce the pull, run the scales, hook tractors to sled, serve as flag man, unhook the tractor after a completed pull, hand out trophies, keep records, blade and pack the track. Several people helped provide these duties: Kerril Bauerly, Gary Siefert, Sherry Butler, Carl Herring, Junior Butler, John Matthias, Pat Herring and Andy Noll. If we've missed anyone by name, please know your assistance was greatly appreciated! A big thanks also goes to anyone that helped at work days to make the trophies.

There was a total of 148 hooks. We also had two special pulls. The first was Austin Chapman with the 1914 Rumely Steam Engine. This is always a crowd pleaser as the engine chugs down the track, spraying sparks into the night sky. The second pull was by the MAETA resident clown Bullseye (aka John Steinmetz) who pulled the sled with his golf cart, Old Stickers. After extra foot power to get moving, there was some smoke, some dust, and then, low and behold, a full pull.

Overall it was a successful pull with many returning participants along with some new folks. The crowd enjoys the show and some pullers have their followers to cheer them on down the track.

We hope to see everyone back next year. We always welcome new pullers, so spread the word about the pull, the show and all related activities.

### Pull Results Top three placings

#### 3500 Stock

1 <sup>st</sup> Kyle Bonham	Oliver 77
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tyler Coursen	Ford 950
3 <sup>rd</sup> Doug Porter	A-C WD

#### 4000 Stock

1 <sup>st</sup> Keith Adams	JD A
2 <sup>nd</sup> Roger Brandt	JD A
3 <sup>rd</sup> Louis Droge	Massey 101

#### 4500 Stock

1 <sup>st</sup> Preston Lutz	Mc. Deering W-30
2 <sup>nd</sup> Preston Lutz	A-C WL
3 <sup>rd</sup> Keith Adams	JD A

#### 5000 Stock

1 <sup>st</sup> Rick Stapel	MM U
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ethan Eckman	Farmall M
3 <sup>rd</sup> Doug Porter	Farmall Super M

#### 5500 Stock

1 <sup>st</sup> Rick Stapel	MM U
2 <sup>nd</sup> Greg Coker	IH 450
3 <sup>rd</sup> Cory Gantz	Farmall Super MTA

#### 6000 Stock

1 <sup>st</sup> Doug Porter	Farmall Super M
2 <sup>nd</sup> Rick Stapel	MM U
3 <sup>rd</sup> Gavin Trexler	Case L

#### 6500 Stock

1 <sup>st</sup> Spencer Wentz	Mc. Deering 22-36
2 <sup>nd</sup> Greg Coker	IH 450
3 <sup>rd</sup> Ralph Porter	Farmall Super M

#### 3500 Modified

1 <sup>st</sup> Harris Mowder	A-C WD
2 <sup>nd</sup> Shane Kramer	A-C WC
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tyler Coursen	Ford 950

#### 4000 Modified

1 <sup>st</sup> Lester Mowder	Oliver 77
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tim Johnson	Farmall H
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jerrett Bray	Oliver 88

#### 4500 Modified

1 <sup>st</sup> Dale Robb	Farmall M
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lester Mowder	Oliver 77
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jerrett Bray	Oliver 88

#### 5000 Modified

1 <sup>st</sup> Al Stone	MM U
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dale Robb	Farmall M
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jerrett Bray	Oliver 88

#### 5500 Modified

1 <sup>st</sup> Dale Robb	Farmall M
2 <sup>nd</sup> Clint Rudell	JD G
3 <sup>rd</sup> Kyle Sieve	Farmall H

#### 6000 Modified

1 <sup>st</sup> Kyle Sieve	Farmall M
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mark Sieve	Farmall M
3 <sup>rd</sup> Clint Rudell	JD G

#### 6500 Modified

1 <sup>st</sup> Scott Stapel	MM GB
2 <sup>nd</sup> Al Stone	MM U
3 <sup>rd</sup> Clint Rudell	JD G

#### 3500 Open

1 <sup>st</sup> Jim Sack	Oliver 77
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tyler Coursen	Ford 950
3 <sup>rd</sup> Shane Kramer	A-C WC

#### 4000 Open

1 <sup>st</sup> Mike Bray	Oliver 88
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jarrett Bray	Oliver 88
3 <sup>rd</sup> Keven Bonham	Oliver 88

#### 4500 Open

1 <sup>st</sup> Cory Gantz	Oliver 88
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mike Bray	Oliver 88
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mark Sieve	Farmall M

#### 5000 Open

1 <sup>st</sup> Paul Bittler	MM V
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jim O'Trimble	Oliver 88
3 <sup>rd</sup> Al Stone	MM U

#### 5500 Open

1 <sup>st</sup> Kevin Stone	MM G6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mark Sieve	Farmall 560
3 <sup>rd</sup> Paul Bittler	MM U

#### 6000 Open

1 <sup>st</sup> Kevin Stone	MM G6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Chris Clairborne	MM GVI
3 <sup>rd</sup> Scott Stapel	MM GB

#### 6500 Open

1 <sup>st</sup> Chris Clairborne	MM GVI
2 <sup>nd</sup> Kevin Stone	MM G6
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mark Sieve	Farmall 560

This picture shows the LED measuring sign, new this year to the Meriden pull. Thanks, Kelley!



Kids love the pedal pull. Maybe they're dreaming of when they can join the "big boys".



## The Loom

There are often projects going on "behind the scenes" at MAETA. Here, Paul Matzek tells us about the loom he spotted in the general store.

At the first meeting I attended of the Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association, I saw what looked like a pile of wood and metal parts covered with a large, old oil painting or print. I saw heddles and realized it must be the remains of a loom. Being a newbie and still feeling like an outsider, I did little more than eye the pile, but I heard a tiny voice call out to me. By the fifth meeting, I got down where I could see "Newcomb Number 3" on the structure. The voice was louder. I started researching and, found a source for a copy of the manual.

At the sixth meeting, more comfortable in the club, I removed the painting for a better look. The voice could no longer be ignored. At the question, "Any other new business?" I raised my hand. My request to be allowed to restore the loom produced a surprised silence. A woman gasped. Within two minutes members were talking about setting the loom up for demonstrations at our summer and fall shows. There were no objections.

It wasn't a pile of parts like I thought at first. The shuttle race, beater and shafts had been removed to get it in the building and they were piled on the machine frame. With my limited knowledge it seemed all that was missing was a reed, shuttle, and cylinders to pack the rag strips into. I took the two shafts and the picker sticks home to begin cleaning and repairing as needed. One of the picker sticks, which throw the shuttle through the across the loom) had the end broken off. Fortunately, the other was intact so I could duplicate it. The leather straps attached to them (purpose unknown at this point) were cracked and falling apart. The loom is made of maple, but the picker sticks were oak, so I suspect they both were owner-made replacements. My oak pile was under a bunch of cherry boards, so I used ash, very close in appearance.

Next, I disassembled the two shafts (parts that lift the front-to-back threads on the loom). The wire heddles and the flat iron bars they are mounted on were rusted. The bars were easy. A couple

passes with a random orbit sander cleaned them and I sprayed them with Thompson's water seal, thinking it would dry and form a moisture barrier. Wrong. The following day they were still wet and slippery. When wiped down, though, they felt smooth and nearly dry so I felt they might be OK. The galvanized metal parts holding the shafts together just needed cleaning. The finish on the wood parts was mostly gone but a test with alcohol indicated it was not shellac. Thinking the loom was built around the turn of the century, I assumed the finish was varnish. I sanded and refinished them. Then I soaked the heddles in vinegar overnight, rinsed and dried them, then polished all four hundred six of them with steel wool, and sprayed them with a clear sealer.

I brought the rest of the loom home to the shop March 24. Outside of worn off finish and some water stains it was in pretty good shape. I did find one cast iron guide in the shaft lift mechanism missing. By this time, I had the wood parts of the shafts refinished and ready to assemble so I began disassembling the beater/shuttle race assembly. This assembly is made of two mirror image subassemblies fastened together with four wood pieces. Easing into this, I took pictures and only removed the four long parts which I sanded and gave a coat of varnish. Next, I cautiously disassembled one side of the shuttle fly mechanism, saving the other as a reference. After refinishing, painting the hardware, and re-assembling, I only had a few small pieces of hardware left.

Another project took me away for several weeks, and when I got back to the loom, the new finish on the parts just didn't feel hard and dry. They felt more like an old tack cloth. After another week of warm weather with no improvement, I gave up on the varnish. By this time, I had learned the loom was built in 1962, so I re-sanded everything I had done, and finished the pieces with polyurethane.

Through all this, I studied the shaft lifting mechanism repeatedly, and for the life of me, could not see what activated that to raise the shafts. After refinishing all the loom frame parts and finding holes that I had no bolts for and no parts to bolt on for them, I did more research on the internet, and studied enough pictures to realize four parts that transferred back-and-forth motion to up-and-down motion were missing.

I located a source for parts. By email she said she could supply the lifting mechanism parts and several other parts needed but couldn't send them right away since they had other problems to deal with. After a month or so I sent a reminder, but now I get no response to either email or phone call. Guess I will have to try to make substitute parts for now.

As it stands now, the wood parts are all remade and/or refinished. The hardware on hand has been cleaned and painted. I will have to make a couple of parts and buy a reed, that part used to beat the weft threads (which run across the cloth) into place. I will also have to make a "tree" to hold spools of rug yarn while the warp beam at the back is wound with yarn.

I found and purchased a "pink pony" the common name for a machine used to pack rag strips into the cylinders that fit into the shuttle. That is in good shape but needs a little work. Looks like I will have to make a shuttle too.

Kids' laundry lesson at log cabin



Good eats at the Chuck Wagon



Kids in the general store





Corn husking by hand



Thank you to all that provided pictures for the news-letter.



Ford tractors lined up for photo after Saturday's parade.



Please come join us at one or all of our shows. We'd love to see you! In 2019 we currently plan to host a truck show on June 8, our summer threshing show July 19-21, our fall festival September 28 and 29, the Bloomfield Church Bazaar on November 2, and another Country Christmas in the General Store; date to be announced. Watch our Facebook page and local advertising for additional information or activities we may add.