

CENTRAL KANSAS FLYWHEELS YESTERYEAR MUSEUM



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NUTS & BOLTS NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Fall at the Flywheels is finally here for a little bit. Summer time was hot and not a lot of extra activity going on. We did get the wheat harvested. I was looking at our “new” combine we recently got which is a 1950s International 101. I remember back in the 1970s my grandpa had an International combine with a cab and air conditioning. Our neighbor had a pair of Gleaners without cabs that didn't look near as easy to operate. Doing a little research on modern day combines there is quite the evolution of these machines. They were first invented in the early 1700s in England/Scotland area. They started here in America in the early 1800s as a pull type threshing machine ran by an external power source. Horses first, then steam engines. Usually a crew would travel through an area threshing grain for area farmers. We have several older models of threshing machines on display. Some are wooden, some newer tin/steel. Our 101 combine was originally sold as a self-propelled threshing machine. Somewhere along the way the terms changed to what we call them today. Our 101 has a capacity of about 15 bushels and a cutting head of 10-12 feet. The biggest combines manufactured today have a capacity of around 400 - 500 bushels and can unload the entire bin in less than two minutes. They also can have a cutting head of up to 50 feet. One year I watched some of our volunteers harvesting wheat at the same time as they were doing it in the next field. We did our few acres in an hour or so and they did their 60-80 acres in the same time frame. Of course they had two combines running non-stop. Remembering how we used to do it and the equipment we used to use is a big part of what we do out here. Most of the early equipment was labor intensive and a lot of hard work. Our volunteers put in a lot of time trying to keep everything in as good as shape as possible. If you happen to have some time please visit us and take a look at the old items on display especially the “non self-powered” combines and machines.

Monty Hole, President

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*A Living History Museum
Memories of our Heritage*

Mission Statement

For the collection, preservation and display of artifacts that pertain to our heritage and provide enjoyment and education for our members and the general public.

EVENT

5th Annual Fall Breakfast

Saturday
November 12, 2022
6am till 9am

Featured Exhibits

Corn Planter
~
Printing Press

Volunteer Opportunities

The following is a list of projects that need to be done around the Museum. If you have an interest in working on or wish to fund one of these projects, please contact Monty or Will.

Projects

- Paint Bleachers
- Repair and paint Chuck Wagon
- Repair and paint picnic tables
- Caulk and paint Church windows
- Wooden posts on front fence need replacing
- Sort and organize exhibits of south balcony in the Agricultural Display Building
- Make new signage for exhibits

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

7 p.m. - Heritage Building

January 13, 2022

March 10, 2022

May 12, 2022

July 14, 2022

September 8, 2022

November 10, 2022 (Elections)

2022 Board of Directors

Officers

President - *Monty Hole*

Treasurer - *Will Cooper*

Board of Directors

2022 Term Expiration

Kenny Fuller

2023 Term Expiration

Adam Hummel

2024 Term Expiration

Jamie Samson

Dave Rettele



“No race can prosper till it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.”

Brown Corn Planter (Credited to the Let's Talk About Iron)

Two hundred years ago, corn was planted by hand. It was a slow and laborious process that limited the acreage that could be sown.

Patents were issued for mechanical “seeders and planters” from 1799 to the mid-1850’s but these had minimal success.

What farmers needed was a planter that would place three or four seeds equally from each other in all directions, for a “check” pattern with each grouping in lines that could be cultivated in both directions making weed control much easier.

George W. Brown, born 1815 in eastern New York, was a carpenter and farmer by trade. He set out to build a planter that was efficient for this purpose.

His first effort combined a seed hopper, a mechanical device for dropping the corn, a shovel plow to open a trench with a log rolling behind to cover the seed. After further improvements, in 1853 Brown was awarded a patent for a machine that he had used successfully the previous two years.

Brown made 12 planters in 1853, 100 in 1854 and triple that the next year. At first the machine was met with skepticism. Would the machine damage the seed and would the corn be planted in the proper place at the correct depth and be covered properly? He continued to make improvements over the next 10 years. Then came the war between the states. With men leaving to fight, labor became extremely scarce and grain was needed to feed the armies. The old method of planting by hand could not supply the demand for grain and his invention was adopted over time to increase grain yield.

While innovation has improved upon the planter, the basic concept that George Brown developed has remained to this day. We have one of the early mechanical corn planters in the Agricultural Display building. It is one of our oldest exhibits.



Corn Planter circa 1870

Printing Press - A Brief History



1901 Job Press at the Yesteryear Museum

Based on an early design by Stephen P. Ruggles, the plate press, also known as a job press, uses a foot pedal to press the surface holding the paper against the flat inked printing plate. Only a single operator is needed, making this a perfect press for small print shops. Once the patents on this design expired other companies built presses based on this design. Until the early 1900s, these were the workhorses in many print shops and some remain in use even today.

The first true American newspaper wasn't introduced until 1690, when 'Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick' was published in Boston

In 1704, postmaster John Campbell published the 'Boston News-Letter', and it became the first successful newspaper in America.

At first, newspapers were only available to wealthy Americans, those who were literate and could afford to pay for subscriptions in advance. The subscriptions typically cost what a general laborer would make in an entire week of work, so most could not afford them.

That all changed in the 1830s, when advances in printing and papermaking made it possible to see newspapers for one cent per copy. Increased literacy as well as technological advancements such as the telegraph which made it possible to quickly share news over great distances and the rotary press contributed to newspaper growth. The "Penny Press" made newspapers affordable to the entire public and spurred an explosion of publishing across the United States.

Our Museum is fortunate to have an extensive display of late 1800 to early 1900 printing machines. The above pictured Job Press is but one example. There are also a large 1880 mechanical printing press, two early 1900 Linotypes and several smaller Press Plate machines. Not to mention a wide variety of stylized typeset for different looking print effect.

As the weather cools down, this would be a good time to come out and see this exhibit in the Agricultural Display Building.

From the Office

The museum hosted its annual Fourth of July Celebration at the Heritage building. Those attending enjoyed cake and ice cream and good conversation.

In July, Corbin Russell had his Eagle Scout ceremony at the Museum of Scouting. His Eagle project was an expanded new brick walkway in front of the Wells Church. Corbin is the grandson of longtime member Rex Russell.

Three of our buildings, the Cox School House, Wells Church and Gas Station received new roofs in July. All were damaged beyond repair by the December 15, 2021 wind storm.

In August the Wells Church was used for a small wedding. The weather was warm but the church setting was appreciated by everyone.

The museum has purchased a new computer for the office to replace our old 2010 computer that was starting to have problems. The updated system with new software was made possible with a grant from the Bane Foundation. We are very appreciative of the Bane Foundation for their generous support of our organization.

The Flywheels again participated in the annual Tri-Rivers Fair Parade. The Central Kansas Flywheels and the Kansas Tractor Club drove together this year to promote cooperation between the two organizations. In all, 16 tractors were featured.



Members waiting in the shade for the parade to start - Leroy, Kenny and Jerry. Temp 103°!



Museum owned propane powered John Deere 720

Do you have any news you would think our members would be interested in? If so, please contact Will so he can incorporate it into the next quarterly newsletter.

A Living History Museum



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We're On The Web! Check Us Out!

www.yesteryearmuseum.org

And Remember to "Like Us" on Facebook



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our Heritage

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