

CENTRAL KANSAS FLYWHEELS YESTERYEAR MUSEUM

NUTS & BOLTS NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2023
VOLUME 38, ISSUE 3

President's Message

It is fall again here at the Central Kansas Flywheels. A time for harvesting crops, planting winter crops, and family gatherings. It is also a time to look back on all the things we did in the summertime. I saw a lot of people have been canning vegetables and fruit, freezing corn and other items. I saw a post online about a lady that was moving and was packing up her canning jars in 55 gallon drums. She said she stopped at 400 jars. I couldn't imagine canning that many. I tried a couple of times to can things. The first time I had to buy a new stove. The second time I canned some pickled watermelon rinds and they came out pretty good. My Mom still cans some every year. Pickled beets, jelly, and sometimes salsa. She is in her 80's now but still does a little to save and give away. Someone else I see at the Farmers Market that still volunteers here at the Flywheels makes a great cucumber jalapeno salsa that I have gotten hooked on. I try to only buy a little at a time or else I eat too much of it.

The heat the last couple of months has been pretty tough on everyone. Some farms were hit hard and had reduced yields, smaller tomatoes, cantaloupe, etc. I think about putting a garden in every year and somehow never find the time or I plant it and then nothing grows very good. I do enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables. When I was younger I would get into trouble for eating them out of the garden. Back then eating a little dirt wasn't harmful at all.

I do historical reenacting and had a camp this last weekend and the topic of the Three Sisters was brought up. The Three Sisters (Corn, Beans, & Squash) has ties to some of the Tribes around the Great Lakes but also in the Southwest deserts. You plant the corn first and when it is about 2" tall you plant beans until they start to climb and then you plant your squash. The corn provides a place or stand for the beans to grow up and the squash holds moisture and keeps the weeds down. Eating all three of these gives you carbohydrates, protein, vitamins and minerals. This technique would work for smaller gardens. I also make a bread with all three as a kind of historical mountain man bread. It is pretty bland but really filling. If you are interested look up the history of the Three Sisters.

I hope Mother Nature has been good to you and your families this year.

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.

UPCOMING EVENT

**Annual Christmas
Celebration**

Save The Date
December 16, 2023

Featured Exhibits

Railroad Speeder

Still Banks &
Mechanical Banks

Volunteers Needed

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
- Paint Chuck Wagon
- Repair/Restore Chuck Wagon
- Paint picnic tables
- Help replace some of the wood fence posts
- Clean and dust exhibits of south balcony in the Agricultural Display Building
- Make informational signage for an exhibit

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

7 p.m. - Heritage Building

January 12, 2023

March 9, 2023

May 10, 2023

July 12, 2023

September 13, 2023

November 9, 2023 (Elections)

2023 Board of Directors

Officers

President - *Monty Hole*

Treasurer - *Will Cooper*

Board of Directors

2024 Term Expiration

Jamie Samson

Dave Rettele

Marilyn Marietta

2025 Term Expiration

Mike Boldenow



*The farmer has to be an optimist
or he still wouldn't be a farmer.*

The Speeder

The Speeder was a motorized vehicle formerly used on railroads around the world by track inspectors to transport work crews and equipment.

Otherwise known as a motor car, jigger, crew car or inspection car, it was reportedly invented as far back as 1896 when a vehicle was needed to help maintenance crews and track inspectors to move quickly to and from work sites.

Early Speeders were human powered pump types, later followed by gasoline powered engines.

It was reported that the U.S. Daimler Motor Company created a gasoline powered rail inspection car capable of going 15 mph.

Typically the car has a front windscreen, roof, and rear bulkhead, the sides being open.

The wheels on Speeders are insulated, so they don't conduct electricity from one rail to another as trains do in order to trigger the crossing signals.

In the 1990s, these types of Speeders were replaced by pickup trucks using flanged wheels that could be lowered onto the railroad tracks.



This Speeder is on display at the Yesteryear Museum



Still Banks & Mechanical Banks

One of our many collections of interesting artifacts is the banks. There are two types of banks, still banks and mechanical banks.

The still banks are primarily a repository and usually take the form of an animal with a coin slot. They are usually made of ceramic or porcelain.

I am sure we all remember our childhood piggy bank. The piggy bank is a still bank that became popular in the United States early in the 1900s. They were usually painted. They have been used to teach the rudiments of thrift and savings to children. Many piggy banks have a rubber plug located on the underside. Others are made of vinyl and have a removal nose for easy coin access. Some piggy banks do not have an opening for removing the coins which leads to smashing the piggy bank with a hammer to obtain the money within.



Mechanical banks have moving parts and springs and a sequence of movements can be triggered either by simply depositing a coin or more commonly by depositing a coin and pulling a lever.

The golden age of American cast iron banks lasted from 1869 to 1910. John Hall of Massachusetts is credited with the first cast iron mechanical bank. Hall's "Excelsior" bank was patented in 1869 and manufactured by J & E Stevens and Co.



Mechanical banks such as the one pictured on the right were often used by companies for promotional purposes. The bank on the left is a lever and spring bank that deposits a coin in the box held by the gentlemen.



From the Office

The museum hosted several organizations for youth throughout the summer. The Smoky Hill Museum, OCCK and several summer schools all toured the museum to learn about local agriculture and how settlers were able to make a life for themselves on the Great Plains. In all, over 50 students attended, asked questions and viewed what the Central Kansas Flywheels offers to the public.

Two senior groups that were part of day bus tours, stopped in and spent time touring the museum. It is always fun and educational, on my part, to hear stories of how various items were used on a daily basis by these seniors when growing up. It also brings back memories that they may not have thought about for a long time.

The Kansas Association of Straw Artists held their annual meeting in the Heritage Building. Nine artists attended and were busy exchanging ideas and creating amazing pieces out of wheat straw. A brief seminar was held with the topic being how to attract younger people in order to keep this unique and creative skill alive.

A wedding was held at the Wells Church for a young couple beginning their life together. Since the completed renovation on the Church in 2009, we have hosted nearly 50 weddings for couples who have appreciated the charm and history associated with the building. Here's hoping we have many more memories yet to be created on the grounds of our museum.

Tri-Rivers Fair Parade

The Central Kansas Flywheels teamed up with the Kansas Tractor Club to drive in the Tri-Rivers Parade on August 8th.

Since the weather was hot, the participants took the opportunity to find shade while waiting for the parade to start.

Thanks to everyone who represented the Flywheels during this annual event.



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

Memories of
our Heritage

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