# CENTRAL KANSAS FLYWHEELS

Yesteryear Museum & Museum of Scouting

## 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.

A Living History Museum and
A Scouting Heritage Museum

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# *News from the Flywheels*

The Central Kansas Flywheels will once again be represented at the Mid America Farm Expo. The event will be held March 25, 26 and 27 at the Bicentennial Center. Will Cooper be hosting at the Flywheels booth during the event. Since he will be at the Expo, the Flywheels Museums will be closed then..

Jason Kravits and Beth DeMent continue to update the progress on the short film "Arlene". As noted in a previous newsletter, the Wells Church was used in the film which tells the story of a young pastor dealing with his first experience dealing with the death of a congregation member. As of now, the film is still in post production and is due for release in 2026. We will receive a copy of the final version and we are eagerly looking forward to seeing it.

Beth & Jason

We have sent out the annual membership renewal letters. Hopefully everyone will continue to support the Flywheels in its mission of acquisition, preservation and display of artifacts pertaining to our local heritage

The Flywheels celebrated Christmas the evening of December 20th during our annual Christmas Event. Thank you to Bill Burrows and his band for providing wonderful music! Refreshments were served and crafts were provided for the children to make and take home. Thank you to the volunteers that helped make the evening memorable. It truly is a great way to spread the holiday spirit.

The Girl Scouts continue to have service unit meetings at our facility once a month. Monty Hole, who is a Girl Scout leader, attends and contributes to the meetings.

Several calls have already been received about hosting elementary and middle school programs during the summer months. As always, we encourage educators to bring out their classes for a hands-on experience for the students. We are told repeatedly by teachers that the experience remains with the students because of the ability to touch and interact with our exhibits.

We continue to get inquiries about potential Eagle Scout projects. This projects are needed for a scout to finalize their scouting journey and also benefit the museum by identifying areas that need repair or replacement at the museum. We look forward to partnering with future scouts needing to complete these projects prior to exiting scouting.

Monty continues to receive inquiries about doing potential Eagle Scout projects here.

Landon Hutchcraft of Troop 214 approached Monty Hole about doing his Eagle Scout project at the Central Kansas Flywheels. After much discussion and consideration, Landon came up with a project.

In speaking with Monty, he laid out his ideas for our approval with the project to be completed in August of 2025.

He choose to replace the entire dilapidated front porch of the Wells Church which included steps and new handrails. Treated wood was used to construct the new porch.

Included in his project was also replacing the landing on the back porch and repairing the stairs. In addition he extended the walkway leading up to the church with new pavers next to the road. We appreciate this so much as it will get muddy there when it rains and this will help visitors keep out of the water and mud.

He and his crew worked over several weekends to complete the project and their efforts are much appreciated.

His project helped remedy what was becoming an issue for the museum as these areas were visibly deteriorating and in need of replacement.

A big thank you goes out to Landon, his family and crew for their efforts

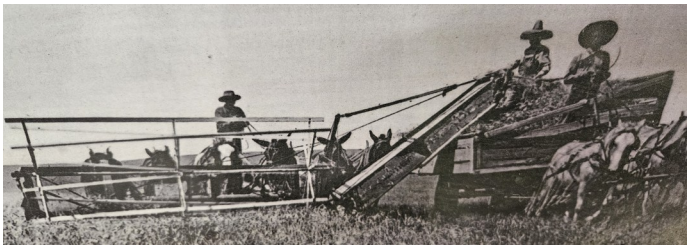
Nail making in America during the Revolutionary period was confined to small shops and forged by skilled laborers. After the revolution, demand grew and families would hand make nails during the winter months to supplement their income.

During the late 1700's the first cut-nail making machines appeared. The first machine to cut and head a nail in one operation was invented by Ezekiel Reed of Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

With the advent of the cut nail making machines came the establishment of the first nail company in 1819 begun by Isaac and Jared Pratt. The company would become known as the Tremont Nail Company.

The museum has an extensive collection of nails made in America and it is displayed in our Agricultural Building.

This is part of the display of the museum's nail collection along with a written history of the making of nails.



Old photo showing conveyor attached to wagon from header.

Our detached conveyor is displayed in the Agricultural Building.

While the conveyor was commonly associated with grain elevators, it was used in the fields as a means to transport the grain from a harvester to a wagon for transport to a storage facility.

The conveyor was not only a faster means to load grain, it helped in preventing the loss of the grain. The canvas bed used to move the grain from the harvester to the wagon was essential in helping prevent the loss of grain and to maximize profit.

Early examples were of wooden frame manufacture and predated the modern combine by centuries.

Keaton Myers Eagle Scout ceremony was held at the Heritage Building. Congratulation to Keaton for completing his Eagle Scout requirements.

You may recall that his Eagle project was the new signage at our front gate.

The colorful metal sign adds a new highlight as you enter the museum grounds. Thank you Keaton!

The Jayhawk Hydraulic Loader Model W was designed for wide tread tractors and listed for the price of $261.00 in November 1955.

As shown in the picture, this loader was attached to a 1949 McCormick-Farmall Model M and used by Melvin Strunk of Abilene. Subsequently, the loader and tractor were donated to the Central Kansas Flywheels by Melvin Strunk.

The loader was designed, built and patented by John Strunk, Melvin's father, and manufactured by the Wyatt MFG. company of Salina. This patent was applied for and granted in May of 1945 and the header was manufactured for several years.

As advertised, the loader would elevate to 13 ft. and was used for loading wagons from wind rows or stacks.

Located in our Agricultural Building, you can view an early example of this loader that was designed and manufacture locally.

Jayhawk hydraulic loader attached to 1949 McCormick-Farmall M

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