



64th
Annual

MAKOTI THRESHING SHOW

July 12-14, 2024





To our members and guests:

Whether you are a tractor enthusiast, you enjoy the nostalgia of small towns, or you just stumbled upon our event, we are glad to have you here! We welcome you to enjoy your time here this weekend at our 64th Annual Makoti Threshing Show.

Make sure you wander the grounds and check out the equipment in and out of the buildings. Our Association has quite a few unique items. Many pieces, owned by the Association and individuals, will be available via an online auction in the spring of 2025.

Please enjoy all the food options throughout the grounds and uptown. Many of the food vendors support local teams and organizations. If you leave hungry, that is on you.

We also have an array of vendors in our flea market selling a range of items. Shopping small and local makes us all better people.

Our organization is made up entirely of volunteers. Our reasons for helping vary, some love tractors, some have had their family involved in the show since the beginning, and some see the value of being involved in small town life. Regardless of our reasons, we are all focused on making the show enjoyable for all who attend.

Thank you for taking time out of busy lives and short summers to join us!

Sincerely, Chris Huus, Makoti Threshers Association President



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Schedule of events

Friday Evening, July 12

- 2 p.m. Tractor Trek to Ryder Star Bar
- 5:30-8 p.m. City of Makoti Birthday Party - Burgers/Brats - potluck
- 8 p.m. BINGO for prizes

Saturday, July 13

- 10 a.m. Sawmill Demonstrations
- 11 a.m. Kiddie Tractor Pull
- 1 p.m. Threshing Demonstrations
- 2 p.m. Stationary Engine Display Talk
- 3 p.m. Giant Parade
- 5 p.m. Cornhole Tourney
- 5-8 p.m. Spaghetti Supper
- 6 p.m. Adult Backseat Driver (*Lawnmower Race*)
- 8 p.m. - Midnight: Live Music EZ Street
- 10 p.m. Fireworks



Sunday, July 14

- 8 - 10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
- 9 a.m. Church Service on grounds
- 10 a.m. Sawmill Demonstrations
- 11 a.m. John Deere Slow Race
- 12 p.m. Threshing Demonstrations
- 1 p.m. Giant Parade - *Raffle Drawings following Parade*

Full Weekend Events

- Flea Market (Saturday & Sunday)
- Food Vendors on grounds
- St. Elizabeth Catholic Church food in town
- Pioneer Village
- Large Stationary Engine Display
- Tractor Teeter Totter
- Souvenir Sales - information booth
- Threshing, Saw Mill, Shingle Mill, Plowing Demos, Antique Power Log Saw
- Kid's Bike Drawings (*Saturday & Sunday following the parade*)
- North Dakota Draft Horses (*demonstrations and meet & greet*)
- Larson's Collection & Cars (*uptown - closed during parade*)



What's Happening

..... **Friday, July 12**

Happy Birthday Makoti! Join everyone in the Makoti Park for a Birthday Party will have a **Potluck Supper** (*burgers/brats/hotdogs provided*) to kick off the Threshing Show. Registration for draw-ings/buy ducks is at **5:30 p.m.** Potluck starts at **6 p.m.** There will be door prizes. **Music** by Daniel and Johnathan Starks at **6:30 p.m.** Then at **7:30 p.m.** will be the **River of Ducks Race** (*number of heats depends on the number of ducks sold*). After the duck races, head on over to the Threshing grounds for **BINGO (around 8 pm)!**

.....**Saturday, July 13**

Kicking of Saturday will be the **Sawmill Demonstrations** starting at **10 a.m.**

Don't miss out on the **Kiddie Tractor Pull** at **11 a.m.** It will be a sure-fire hit!

Throw yourself back in time with watching the **Threshing Demonstrations** at **1 p.m.** followed by the **Stationary Engine Display Talk** at **2 p.m.**

The giant parade will be held at **3 p.m.** Make sure to park south of the big church and sawmill if you are in the parade.

Get ready for **cornhole**. This years cornhole tournament, which will be held at the threshing grounds starts at **5 p.m.** (*registration starts at 4 p.m.*)

Serving up spaghetti. The **spaghetti supper** (*spaghetti, lettuce salad, garlic toast & desserts*) will be held at the Makoti Senior Center in town from **5-8 p.m.**

Have a need for speed? See if you can win it all in our annual **Adult Back Seat Driver** (*lawn-mower race*)! Starting **6 p.m.**

EZ Street will perform at the dance floor, located in the south building on the grounds, from **8 p.m. to midnight**. They play everything from classic to current Country & Rock!

Come out and watch the **Fireworks** at 10 p.m. (*time is approximate - will be done during a band break*)

.....**Sunday, July 14**

Start your morning right with the **annual pancake breakfast** from **8-10 a.m.** at the Senior Center in town.

A **church service** will be held at the Spring Valley Lutheran Church, located at the Pioneer Village on the threshing grounds, starting at **9 a.m.**

Sawmill Demonstrations starting at **10 a.m.**

John Deere slow race at **11 a.m.** (*Exhibition race afterwards*)

The giant parade will be held at **1 p.m.** All **raffle drawings** will follow the parade.

Lemer resurrects century old steel

Makoti Threshers thankful for his knowledge and support

By Hunter L. Andes

There's a man from Martin, N.D. who can make nearly any century old machine run like it's new again. His name is Dean Lemer, and he volunteers his time at threshing bees all around North Dakota.

Lemer's passion has without a doubt helped save a dying art in the communities he volunteers in.

"I like doing it," Lemer said in 2023. "My wife (Shonella) and I love going around to all the shows and helping wherever we can."

Whether it be at Drake, Makoti, New Rockford, or Crosby, Lemer is a vital asset to each and every thresher's

association he's a member of. His knowledge on the old gas-type tractors and engines, and his ability to quickly tune them up, is immeasurable.

"We couldn't do it without him," Darin Vangsness, vice president and former president of the Makoti Thresher's Association (MTA), said. "Dean's been coming for quite a few years now, and not only can he make a tractor that's been sitting idle for 10 or 20 years run like it's new again, he is fun to be around."

Vangsness said what he and the MTA appreciate the most is how Lemer teaches others what he knows.



Dean Lemer waves from a Harr Parr 30-60 he fired up in 2023. Even though the tractor hadn't run in many years, Lemer tuned it up to run like new.

LEMER continued on pg 9

701

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Tractor Trek



The Tractor Trek starts off at 2 p.m. on Friday afternoon. At that time, a convoy of tractors will travel from the Makoti Threshing Grounds to Ryder and back, with a stop at the Ryder Star Bar for refreshments. All are welcome to join the Makoti Birthday Party in the Makoti Park afterwards.



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I get all that?

When you buy a Makoti Threshing Show button, you get entrance into an entire weekend of fun!

The 2024 Makoti Threshing Show buttons are on sale for \$15 and can be purchased at booths located at the threshing show gates.

Purchase of a button will get you admittance into all events on the threshing show grounds, including the Cornhole Tournament and Lawnmower events on Friday evening, as well as the dance (with live music



provided by EZ Street) on Saturday.

Adults must purchase a button; high school-aged children and under are free.

Enjoy the Makoti Threshing Show!

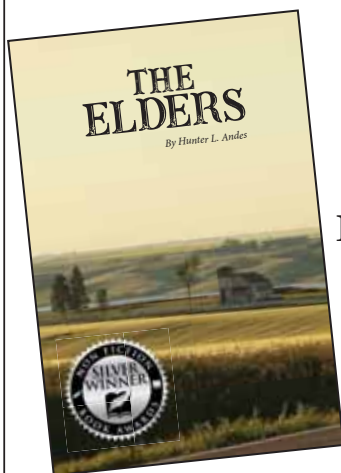
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Cornhole Tourney

Cornhole Tourney happening on July 13 at 5 p.m. Registration starts at 4 p.m., so make sure you secure your spot in the competition. And don't forget, a button is required for all participants. It's going to be a fun-filled evening of friendly competition, so gather your friends and get ready to show off your skills. See you there!

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LEMER continued on pg 5

“Dean jumps from tractor to tractor a lot of times, and I’ve watched him do it – helping others he doesn’t even know get their rare tractors running. “I don’t know how we’d keep it all running without him and his on the spot repairs and advice.”

Operating the early gas tractors that the North Dakota homesteaders used during the turn of the century, isn’t an easy feat. A tractor built in 1908 is much different and much less user-friendly than a tractor built in 1948.

“Dean’s knowledge and passion for teaching other people is second to none,” Chris Huus, the MTA’s newly elected president, said. “His character and work ethic is enjoyable to be around, and people in Makoti have learned so much from him over the last few years. The relationship we’ve been able to create between him and



Dean Lemer and Chris Sisson cleaning spark plugs on the MTA’s Hart Parr 12-24. The tractor was Loren Quandt’s, and it hadn’t run since 2015.

all the other threshing shows Dean’s involved with has helped North Dakotans remain passionate about antique farm machinery.”

For those in the Minot area, Lemer can be seen in action on July 13 and 14 at the Makoti Thresh-

ing Show. He can also be seen at the Drake Threshing Show, his home show, in September.



Dean Lemer seen driving a Hart Parr 30-60 at the Makoti Threshing Show in 2023. This is one of the many rare tractors Lemer has resurrected.



Hungry? Let's eat!

BY TYSON MATTHEWS

Happy Birthday Makoti! On Friday evening the Makoti Threshing Show will celebrate with a complimentary burger, brat, or hotdog sponsored by Makoti Development. In addition, there will be a free-will potluck.

On Saturday there is a spaghetti supper and the pancake breakfast is Sunday morning at the Senior Center in uptown Makoti. Both meals will be hosted by the

North Shore Plaza girls' volleyball and basketball teams. The teams will also be selling ice cream on the grounds throughout the show.

The St. Elizabeth Catholic Church ladies will be selling taco-in-a-bag and ham sandwiches Saturday and Sunday at the Makoti Cafe.

There will also be a number of food vendors on the Makoti Threshing Show grounds throughout the weekend.



Check out the live music

EZ Street is in town for the Makoti Threshing Show to break in the dance hall on the threshing show grounds.

EZ Street is North Dakota's premier live musical experience, playing everything from classic to current Country & Rock.

They are rocking and rolling throughout central and western North Dakota.

The show starts Saturday at 8 p.m. to Midnight, so make sure to bring your dancing shoes to the Makoti Threshing Show!

Shopping Spree

Be sure to check out the Flea Market open both Saturday and Sunday during the event. Wander through rows of unique vendors. Whether you're hunting for one-of-a-kind treasures or just browsing, the Flea Market offer something for everyone to enjoy.





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Print press changes hands

Makoti Threshers and Pioneer Village collaborate

By Hunter L. Andes

Late last fall a very heavy piece of western North Dakota history was moved from Makoti to Burlington. The Makoti Thresher's Association (MTA) donated a vintage print press to the Ward County Historical Society (WCHS) for future display in the Pioneer Village.

Darin Vangsness, now vice president of the MTA, was president at the time the ink dried for the transaction. He said the print press has been in Makoti for a few decades, and unfortunately not much is known about it.

"What we do know is that a

former editor of the New Town News donated it to the MTA to be displayed," Vangsness said. "Well over the years, it became disregarded, and we felt it should be given a new home."

Dave Lebrun, president of the WCHS said he really appreciates the Makoti Threshers approaching WCHS to help save an important piece of local history.

"It takes more than one organization to effectively preserve history, and the collaboration between the different historical societies like the



PRESS continued on pg 13

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Saturday - noon
1 a.m.

Ward County and Makoti helps do that,” Lebrun said. “Different people have different passions and strengths when it comes to preserving history, and when these people work together, more history is saved.”

Vangsness echoed Lebrun’s sentiment.

“I feel we should preserve history as long as we can – and preserve it well,” he said. “We’re trying to keep it as local as we can, so gifting the press to the Pioneer Village at Burlington only made sense in my opinion.”

Presumed History

Although there is not concrete evidence of where the press came from before New Town, it is probably safe to assume it came from Sanish prior to 1953. If the print press was in fact moved from Sanish to New Town, which it likely was, its original home was at the Sanish Sentinel.

The history of Sanish is much too long for a single newspaper article; however, according to Maxfield (1986) and Andes (2019), the Sanish Sentinel played an important role in keeping locals aware about the Garrison Dam during its construction.

Maxfield (1986) describes how Rev. Harold Case, who was the minister at the Fort Berthold Congregational Mission at the time, fought on behalf of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara’s best interests — keeping the tribal council “in the know” as the federal government had a tendency of not doing so; also, describing how Rev. Case kept the public informed with help from the Sanish Sentinel as the Minot Daily News had been known to editorialize stories in favor of the dam (likely because of the economic benefit the dam brought to this region at the time).

Rev. Case was a critical figure at the time because he helped advocate for the Three Affiliated Tribes heavily on the national stage. Case spent countless hours on his typewriter during those years. According to the late Ed Hall of Parshall, “Most nights a continuous clicking could be heard from Case’s home office.”

“This print press is an important artifact to North Dakota history,” Lebrun said. “And we are very glad we are able to preserve such a significant part of our state’s history.”



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DON'T FORGET

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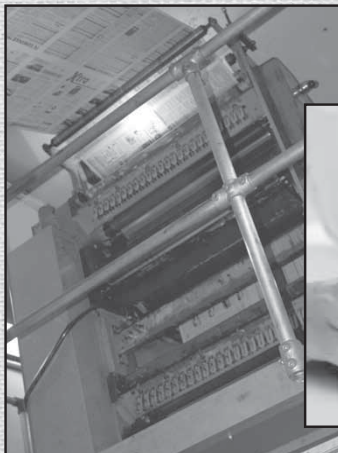
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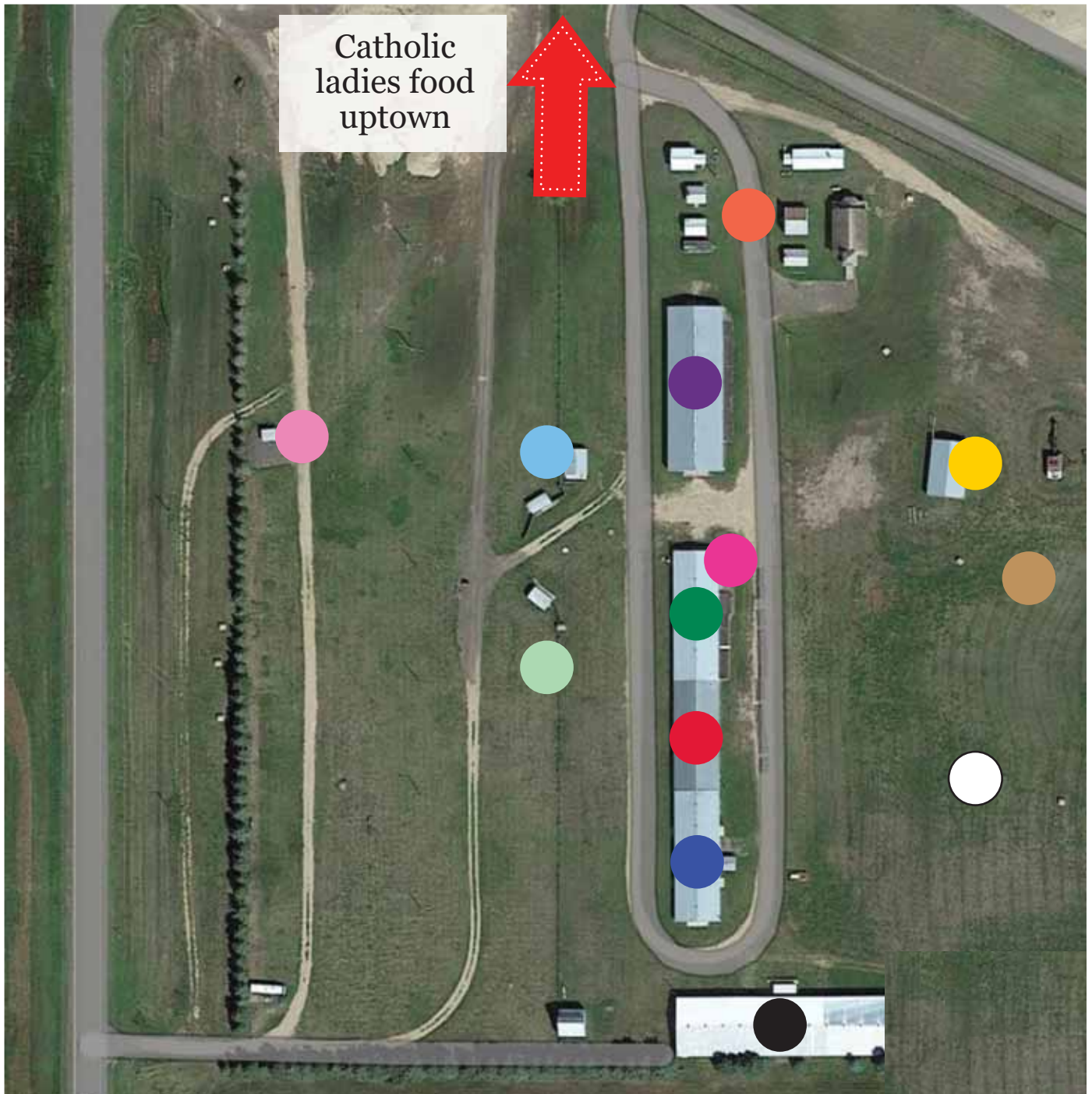


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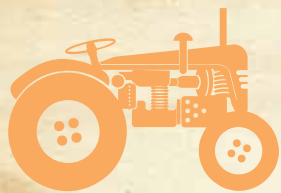
Map

- Pioneer Village
- Steam Engine Building
- Bathrooms
- Sawmill
- Camping office
- Threshing Demo
- Horses
- Food court
- John Deere Building
- Information Booth
- Flea market
- Stationary Engine Building
- Dance



We've got a giant parade coming your way on Saturday, July 13 at 3 p.m. and Sunday, July 14 at 1 p.m. at the Threshing Show! This is an event you won't want to miss – tractors, antique vehicles and more rolling their way down the street. Perfect for families and friends looking for a fun-filled afternoon. So grab a seat and sunscreen, because this parade is sure to be an unforgettable experience that you'll be talking about for years to come!

Giant Parade



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Rewinding the Clock in Makoti

Beginnings of the Makoti Thresher's Association

By Hunter L. Andes

Year after year hundreds flock to the now small sleepy town of Makoti to remember what the pioneers had to endure out on the harsh North Dakota prairies in the early 20th Century.

Makoti's devout volunteers have been bringing history alive for the past 64 years, and although the Makoti Thresher's Association (MTA) has faced some difficult years, the good fight in remaining relevant for 21st Century youth still continues.

MTA's Beginnings

The steam whistle first blew at Makoti's Golden Jubilee in July of 1961 when Clarence Schenfisch, a progressive farmer in Mountrail

Township southwest of Makoti, brought his collection of antique farm machinery into town for the celebration. He encouraged others to do the same.

According to the MTA Silver Anniversary book, Schenfisch had a love for old machines. The book states, "His hobby of restoring old tractors started in 1957 – 'They're just too much a part of the past to be left in the fields to rust,' [Schenfisch once said]. During the Makoti Golden Jubilee in 1961, his idea of saving old machines caught on. Inspired by public interest, the MTA was formed."

Many of the rare tractors, steam engines, and stationary engines

MTA continued on pg 21



You won't want to miss this!
Makoti Threshing Show!

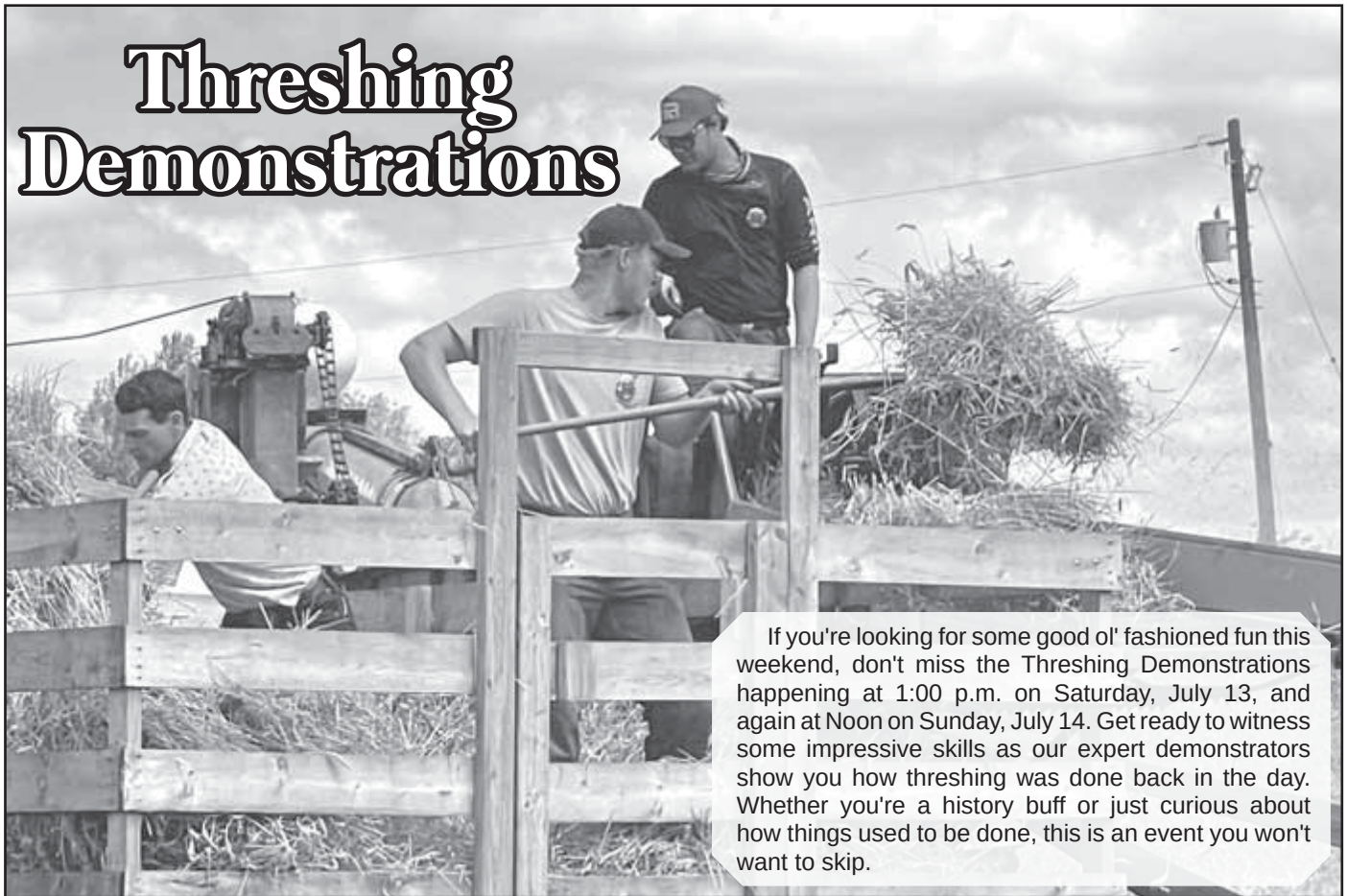
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Threshing Demonstrations



If you're looking for some good ol' fashioned fun this weekend, don't miss the Threshing Demonstrations happening at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, and again at Noon on Sunday, July 14. Get ready to witness some impressive skills as our expert demonstrators show you how threshing was done back in the day. Whether you're a history buff or just curious about how things used to be done, this is an event you won't want to skip.

MTA continued on pg 20

that are still in Makoti today were pulled out of rock piles, tree rows, etc. in the late 1950s and early 1960s because of Schenfisch's vision to preserve local history for future generations. Without Schenfisch, much of what is preserved today from southeast Mountrail County, southwest Ward County, and northern McLean County would likely have rusted away.

Legacy

Schenfisch only lived a couple of years into what he had started, but his legacy continues to

arouse one's senses to a much different way of life. Each year since 1961, "the buildings housing the antiques are opened — each year the machines are awakened, spruced up, and paraded for all to see and hear" (MTA Silver Anniversary book, 1986). This year marks the 64th annual show, and it will take place July 12, 13, and 14, 2024.

Saturday's parade is at 3 p.m. and Sunday's parade is at 1 p.m. A full itinerary can be found on the Makoti Threshing Show's Facebook page.



A plaque in Makoti reads:

"Clarence C. Schenfisch (1920-1964) had the vision and foresight to see the historical value and general interest in preserving pioneer farm machinery. His original collection of more than a dozen tractors, which he restored himself, was the beginning of the present Makoti Threshers Association. May all who view this collection of antique farm equipment know that Clarence was originator of it all in this community."



Note from publisher:

This booklet has been produced as a souvenir of the 64th Annual Makoti Threshing Show by Nordak North Publishing, Garrison, ND.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the material contained in the booklet. Corrections or additional material about the contents can be reported to McLean County Independent, 701-463-2201.

We hope you enjoy the Makoti Threshing Show and you will consider supporting the sponsors listed herein.

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