



Restored Steam Engine Driven From Oskaloosa Farm To McLouth Threshing Bee



"Restoring a steam engine is a bigger task than refurbishing a tractor or pickup." Just ask Austin Chapman and his partner in profession and hobby Caleb Kearney.

But, there's no denying all of the hard work, time and even high cost becomes worthwhile when they drove their restored 1914 Rumley steam engine from the farm near Oskaloosa to the Heart of America Antique Steam Engine & Model Association threshing bee grounds at McLouth.

It was a slow drive at 1½-miles-an-hour, yet the normal 10-minute, 7½-mile jaunt that took about five hours Saturday afternoon, Sept 14, was a smiling venture for the enthusiast steam engine restoration team. As would be expected, their big powerful machine, pulling a trailer loaded with family and friends, drew big smiles, giant waves, honks, even "High Fives" and "thumbs up" from passerby, and those who stopped to just watch and admire, as the rig moved slowly along.

"I grew up watching the threshing bees and the antique machinery working at McLouth and other such events. I've always had a passion for steam engines," contended Chapman, longtime member now serving as president of that group sponsoring their 56th annual threshing bee this weekend.

Advertised and promoted heavily on 580 WIBW and The BIG 94.5 Country, the McLouth Threshing Bee is scheduled Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20-21-22, with threshing daily, at 10 o'clock in the morning, and again at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, along with a complete lineup of other activities.

The old-now-almost-like-new steam-powered engine this weekend will again power the threshing machine, also owned by Chapman and Kearney.

"Sometimes, we just about wondered if all of the work and expenses were worth it. We've restored trucks and tractors, but a steam engine is completely different. Parts are usually available for trucks and tractors; we had to make everything for the engine. It was certainly a labor of love, or we wouldn't have kept after it," Chapman admitted.

Welcoming everyone to McLouth this weekend to see his "pride-and-joy" in action, Chapman explained that Caterpillars are to be featured at the "bee" this year. In addition, a flea market is scheduled all three days, along with an operating rock crusher and saw mill, as well as corn picking and shelling.

Special events include a tractor drive at 9 o'clock Saturday morning, an antique and classic tractor pull at 1 o'clock, with a drive-in car show and pedal tractor pull getting underway at 5 o'clock. There is a garden tractor pull planned at 1 o'clock, Sunday afternoon. Details are available at www.mclouththreshingbee.com, or on Facebook.



www.kansasagnetwork.com

[Click Here](#)



team



Frank J. Buchman
Marketing Consultant
Direct: 785 - 228 -7259
Cell: 785 - 499 - 3063
frank.buchman@morris.com

PO Box 1818
1210 SW Executive Dr.
Topeka, Ks 66615

Padre says:

"The steam engine has given more to science than science has given to the steam engine."