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Padre says:

"The most important trip you take in life is meeting people half way."

McLouth To Turn Back Time At 55th Threshing Bee This Weekend

Pages of farm days in the past will be relived during the 55th annual McLouth Threshing Bee this weekend, Friday-Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 14-15-16, at the Living History Farm in McLouth.

"A full slate of activities for everyone has again been scheduled for one of the longest continuous threshing bees in the nation with Massey Ferguson and Massey Harris tractors to be featured this year," announced Bill Petrie, a director of the Heart of America Antique Steam Engine & Model Association.

"This year, admission is free, and there are camping sites available with rest rooms and a shower house on the grounds. But, there is no electricity for campers who will need to bring their own generators," Petrie said.

"Actually, the threshing bee started in the 1950s when a local man by the

name of Slim Watson invited people out to his home, served them food, and demonstrated how his farm equipment worked," Petrie said. "It was a really big hit then, and with the help of many, the tradition continues today."

In reality, the McLouth Threshing Bee helps keep

alive the art of planting, harvesting, threshing and storing of crops, along with the domestic arts, and the tools, implements, instruments and machinery showing the culture of pioneer days.

"The educational and historical exhibits are illustrated through re-enactments with the working machinery," Petrie explained.

Of course, highlight of the McLouth Threshing Bee, advertised and promoted heavily on 580 WIBW and The BIG 94.5 Country, is the stream threshing all three days at 10 a.m., and again at 2 p.m.

A saw mill is also to be in operation every day. The Rust Reunion Antique Car & Truck Show will be all three days as well as one of the largest flea markets in the Midwest. Always a highlight is the breakfast each morning served by the McLouth Kiwanis Club.

Saturday's attraction for many is the 11 o'clock Parade of Power, but the antique and classic tractor pull for tractors 1959 and older will be at noon. There's a kid's pedal tractor pull set for 5 o'clock. The garden tractor pull begins at 1 o'clock on Sunday.

Complete details are available at www.mclouththreshingbee.com.

