



63<sup>rd</sup>  
Annual

# MAKOTI THRESHING SHOW

July 7-9, 2023





# To our members and guests:

Our goal is to make your experience as enjoyable as possible. We have been continuously working to improve the public's experience at our show the last few years. As with anything, improvements take time, so we appreciate your ongoing support and patience. We promise to continue improving year after year, and we assure you that this will be a family event for generations to come.

Notable changes for this year's show will be the stream lining of our parade route, the parade starting at 3 p.m. instead of 1 p.m., and live entertainment being held in the South Building. We will have multiple people on site to ensure that things run as smooth as possible. If we work together this year, it will be much easier moving forward in the future.

Thank you for taking part in our show. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!



*Sincerely,  
Darin Vangness,  
Makoti Threshers Association President*



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# Schedule of events

## Friday Evening, July 7

- 5:30-9 p.m. Steak Fry at the K-Bar
- 6 p.m. Cornhole Tournament
- 8 p.m. Adult Backseat Driver  
Lawnmower Race

## Saturday, July 8

- 8 a.m. Tractor Trek (starts on grounds)
- 10 a.m. Kid's Mutton Bustin'
- 11 a.m. Kiddie Tractor Pull
- 3 p.m Giant Parade
- 5 - 8 p.m. Spaghetti Supper
- 8 p.m. - Midnight Live Music: October Road



## Sunday, July 9

- 8 - 10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
- 9 a.m. Church Service on grounds
- 11 a.m. Slow Race
- 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 7** .....

Putting the 'fry' in Friday. The K-Bar in Makoti will host a **Steak Fry** to pick off the Threshing Show. Steaks will be served from **5:30-9 p.m.** Make sure to stop by for a bite to eat!

Get ready for **cornhole**. A new addition to this year is the cornhole tournament, which will be held at the threshing grounds starting at **6 p.m.**

Want to test your driving skills? Do you trust your partner to guide you? If so, come down to the **Adult Backseat Driver** event on the threshing grounds with your partner. One of you will be blindfolded driving a lawnmower, and the other will give directions from behind. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Lawnmowers and blindfolds will be provided.

..... **Saturday, July 8** .....

A trek by tractor. The **annual tractor trek** will start at the threshing grounds at **8 a.m.** Saturday and head to Plaza – an 11-mile journey– for breakfast.

**What kid wouldn't want to get on a sheep?** If your child is seven years of age or younger, bring them over and let them have the ride of a lifetime! (Helmets are provided). The event starts at **10 a.m.**

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

**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.

Serving up spaghetti. The **spaghetti supper** will be held at the Makoti Senior Center in town from **5-8 p.m.**

October Road will perform at the dance floor, located in the south building on the grounds, from **8 p.m. to midnight**. A beer garden will be on site (so please bring your ID and drink responsibly).

..... **Sunday, July 9** .....

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.**

**The slow race** at **11 a.m.**

**The giant parade** will be held at **1 p.m.** Make sure to park south of the big church and sawmill if you are in the parade.

All **raffle drawings** will follow the parade on Sunday before cleanup begins.

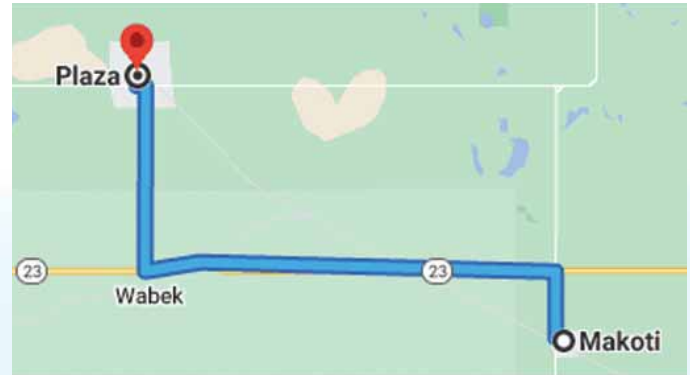


# Tractor Trek

If you are one to be up before the rooster, the Tractor Trek might be for you!

The Tractor Trek starts off at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning. At that time, a convoy of tractors will head north, then west and then north again to the city of Plaza, 11 miles away.

At the end of the proverbial rainbow is the Backroads Bar & Grill, where breakfast will be served and enjoyed.



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Equipment owned by Stetson Brandvold from Ryder ND, Age 14, Son of Lee and Julie Brandvold. From left to right: A Model Farmall A given to Stetson by his grandpa and has been kept in the family; a Model w4 McCormick Deering which Julie Brandvold owns and bought in 2021; a Model H Farmall owned by Stetson and restored; and a Model SMDTA Farmall bought from grandpa and owned by Julie.



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

The 2023 Makoti Threshing Show buttons are for 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 October Road) on Saturday.

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

**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!** July 7-9, 2023  
 MAKOTI THRESHING SHOW 2023



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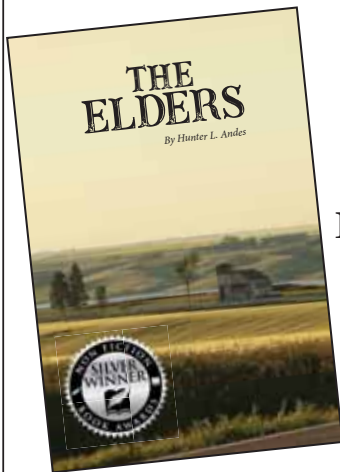
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# The boys are back in town

October Road is back in town for the Makoti Threshing Show for their second year in a row to break in the new dance hall on the threshing show grounds.

The band hails from the Fargo-Moorhead area and has been rocking since 2004.

They are a country, rock and pop cover band that has been best described as "funky country."

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



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# Featuring International Harvester

By TYSON MATTHEWS

The International Harvester Company, also known as IHC, IH or International, was formed by a merger back in 1902 with McCormick Harvesting Machine company and three smaller manufacturers: Milwaukee; Plano and Warder, Bushnell and Glessner.

International Harvester Company was an American manufacturer of agricultural and construction equipment as well as automobiles, commercial trucks, lawn and garden products, household equipment and much more.

The beginning of International Harvester dates back to the 1830s when Cyrus Hall McCormick patented his version of a horse-drawn reaper in 1834 and founded along with his brother, Leander, the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company in 1847.

With the development of the railroad around the same time, the distribution of their reaper was made available to distant lands.

The company's first important tractors were the 10-20 and 15-30 models. Introduced in 1915, they were primarily used as traction engines to pull plows and for belt work on threshing machines

By 1926, International Harvester Farmall Works had built at new plant in Rock Island, Illinois.

The market for industrial tractors growing in strides

All International Harvester tractors, whether owned by the Makoti Threshers Association or brought by showgoers, will be featured by appearing first in the parades on **Saturday, July 8 at 3 p.m. and Sunday, July 9 at 1 p.m.**

in the 1930s. The TD-40, the first of IH's heavy-equipment crawlers, was suited for a wide range of environments and by 1930 they had built their 100,000th Farmall tractor.

In 1932, IH produced their first diesel for the McCormick-Deering TD-40 Crawler. This engine would start on gasoline and then switch to diesel.

International Harvester then decided to try their hand in producing a "general purpose" tractor to serve the needs of the average American family resulting in the "Letter Series"

In 1939, the Farmall "Letter Series" A, B, BN, C, H and M were introduced. Many of these tractors are still being used on farms today.

The letter and standard series of tractors was produced until 1954 and was a defining product in the history of IH.

During World War II,



Cyrus Hall McCormick patented his version of a horse-drawn reaper in 1834 and founded along with his brother, Leander, the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company in 1847. By 1902, the McCormicks had merged with three other small agricultural firms to create the International Harvester Company.

IH turned their attention to producing torpedoes and their components, artillery systems and parts, artillery shells and more. They ranked 33rd among United States in the value of World war II production contracts.

Despite good sales throughout the 1960s and 1970s, IH profit margins remained slim, despite the introduction of hundreds of new and upgraded tractor series.

Also, IH faced strong

competition and increased production cost due to government imposed environmental and safety regulations and labor costs.

A new CEO, Archie McCardell, was determined to cut cost and improve margins in 1979.

He managed to increase profit, but still had low cash reserves and since he was not able to come to an agreement

**HARVESTER** continued on pg 10



HARVESTER continued on pg 9

with the union, IH employees decided to strike.

While the strike carried on in the days leading up to the 1980 shareholders meeting, IH admitted to a \$222.2 first quarter loss, adding that there was \$4.2 billion in

unfilled orders.

The company began cutting salaries and forcing mandatory vacation on their full-time employees.

The strike ultimately lasted 172 days, costing the company millions of dollars.

By 1981, the company's finances were at their lowest point ever. The company sold its Payline division of construction equipment to Dresser Industries in 1982. Further assets were sold to Tenneco, Inc., in 1984.

International Harvester was monumental in the building of rural communities and has accumulated a massive cult following.

In addition to its footprint in the agricultural marketplace, IH also had divisions including commercial trucks, light duty trucks, earth movers, motor homes and large home appliances.

The International Harvester Legacy non-profits host many of the largest agricultural events in the entire United States.



A 1990s ad featuring McCormick Machines that “even your boy” could operate.

IH over the years used a number of brand names to market their tractor and harvesting products:

- International (1902–1985)
- Titan (1910–1924)
- Mogul (1911–1924)
- McCormick–Deering (1922–1947)
- McCormick (1947–1958)
- Farmall (1924–1973)
- Fairway (1924–1938)
- Electrall (1954–1956)
- Cub (1947–1985)

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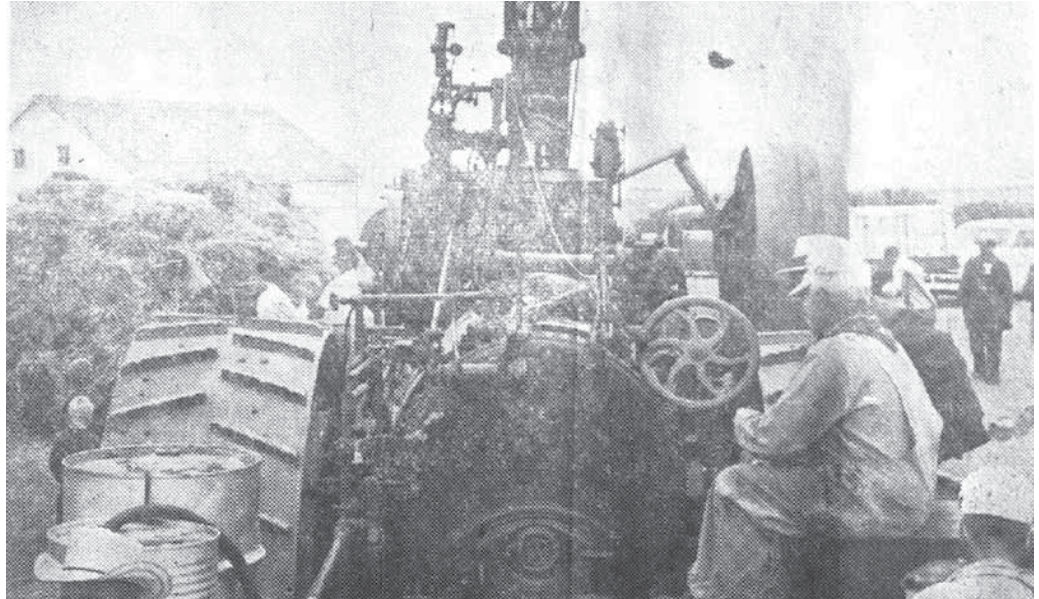
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# Restoring the Minneapolis

By JAMES C. FALCON

One of the pet projects of the Makoti Threshers Association is the restoration of "the Minneapolis," a 1914 Minneapolis-Moline tractor steam engine which is housed in one of the buildings at the Makoti Threshing Show grounds.

The steam engine, which originally belonged to Bill Zimmerman and was one of the first steam engines to appear at the Makoti Threshing Show, needs "a complete new boiler," explained Darin Vangsness, president of the Makoti Threshers Association.



The Makoti Threshing Association is hoping to raise funds to replace the boiler on a Minneapolis-Moline steam engine. The steam engine is shown here in a clipping from the McLean County Independent from July 1961. According to the clipping, the steam engine was a hit at the Makoti Jubilee, which also marked the first year where tractors were on display.

## MINNEAPOLIS

continued on pg 13

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MINNEAPOLIS continued on pg 12

To replace this, it will cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000, Vangness said.

“We’re kind of budgeting for it, so to speak,” he said, adding that it “depends on how the show goes.” It was an item on the agenda to get replaced last year, but after attendance was down, “we decided we’ll wait another year,” he added.

The century-old steam engine was purchased brand new for \$3,300 – the equivalent of \$100,361 in 2023 – by Henry Hanson and John Ellingson in Towner, North Dakota. (The Minneapolis-Moline

is among the many century old-plus tractors owned by the Threshing Association that are some of the most unique in the state, if not the United States.)

Projects that the Makoti Threshers Association undertake aren’t necessarily fundraisers, but instead to offer something else to do at the threshing grounds, Vangness explained.

“We’d like to put up a horse barn,” he said. “We’d like to start a plow day in the spring. That’s where the guys come out ... and plow five, 10 acres.”



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

New Town



369 Main St.  
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# Schenfisch family helps keep tradition alive

By JAMES C. FALCON

It all started with a Makoti man's private collection of tractors put on display.

The year was 1961 and Makoti was celebrating its Golden Jubilee, the 50th anniversary of when the village of Makoti was platted.

A young farmer, Clarence Schenfisch, who farmed southwest of Makoti, brought his tractors into town to display them during the jubilee parade.

"He asked several area

farmers to drive one in for him," said Monty Schenfisch, the son of Clarence's younger brother Wilmar. "I think he had 12 or 13 tractors that they all drove to town after he fixed them up."

Even though he was quite young, the six-year-old Monty drove a miniature "steamer on wheels" during that parade, which traveled along the then-gravel Main



Monty Schenfisch, shown riding a miniature "steamer on wheels," participated in the tractor parade at the Makoti Jubilee in 1961 which helped get the Makoti Threshing Show started. The tractor parade was the idea of Schenfisch's uncle, Clarence.

## FAMILY

continued on pg 15



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**FAMILY** continued on pg 14

Street. “He had me steer it around the grounds a bit,” he added.

After that, it became something of a tradition for tractors – as well as steam engines and old cars – to be included in the parade.

As Monty got a little older, he helped his uncle, who had lost a leg, on the farm.

“I was with him off and on,” Monty said. “I took care of him. He needed a little help around the farm.”

Clarence died in a Minneapolis hospital on June 2, 1964, at the age of 44.

That same year, a lot was obtained in Makoti, and construction began on a building to be used to house the antiques owned by members of the Makoti Threshers Association.

This building was dedicated to Clarence, who “had the vision and foresight to see the historical value and general interest in preserving pioneer farm machinery,” a plaque on the building reads. “His original collection of more than a dozen tractors which he restored himself was the beginning of the present Makoti Threshers Association.”

The Schenfisch homestead

was located southwest of Makoti, where Clarence’s parents, Edward and Therese Schenfisch, farmed. After Clarence died, his older brother Oswald farmed the homestead. Monty’s father built a farm on some land he purchased a mile east of the family homestead; Monty and his son, Dustin, now farm that land.

A little over 60 years since Clarence’s idea, members of the Schenfisch family are still involved in the threshing show.

“The three remaining brothers, they all donated tractors to the association. The majority of (the tractors) still run and we have friends that keep them moving for us,” Monty said, adding that these tractors were donated “just so that they’d always be there.”

While the first generation – Clarence and his siblings – have passed away, members of the next generation (including Monty) participate in the threshing show, as well as most of the grandchildren.

“I’ve never missed a show since the first one,” Monty said. “And I’m going to be 69 this fall.”



A plaque commemorating the memory of Clarence Schenfisch (1920-1964) is located at the Makoti Threshing Association’s original building, built in Makoti in

There are also some great-grandchildren that are active, Monty said.

“Everybody that shows up keeps things going,” he said. “We still try to do our part.”

Monty used to be the secretary of the Makoti Threshers Association. Now, his daughter-in-law, Heather Schenfisch, holds that position, helping to keep

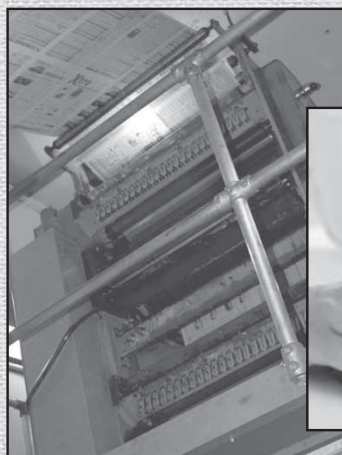
the Schenfisch name – and Clarence’s legacy – alive within the Makoti Threshers Association.

As the plaque at the 1964 building concluded: “May all who view this collection of antique farm equipment know that Clarence was the originator of it all in this community.”



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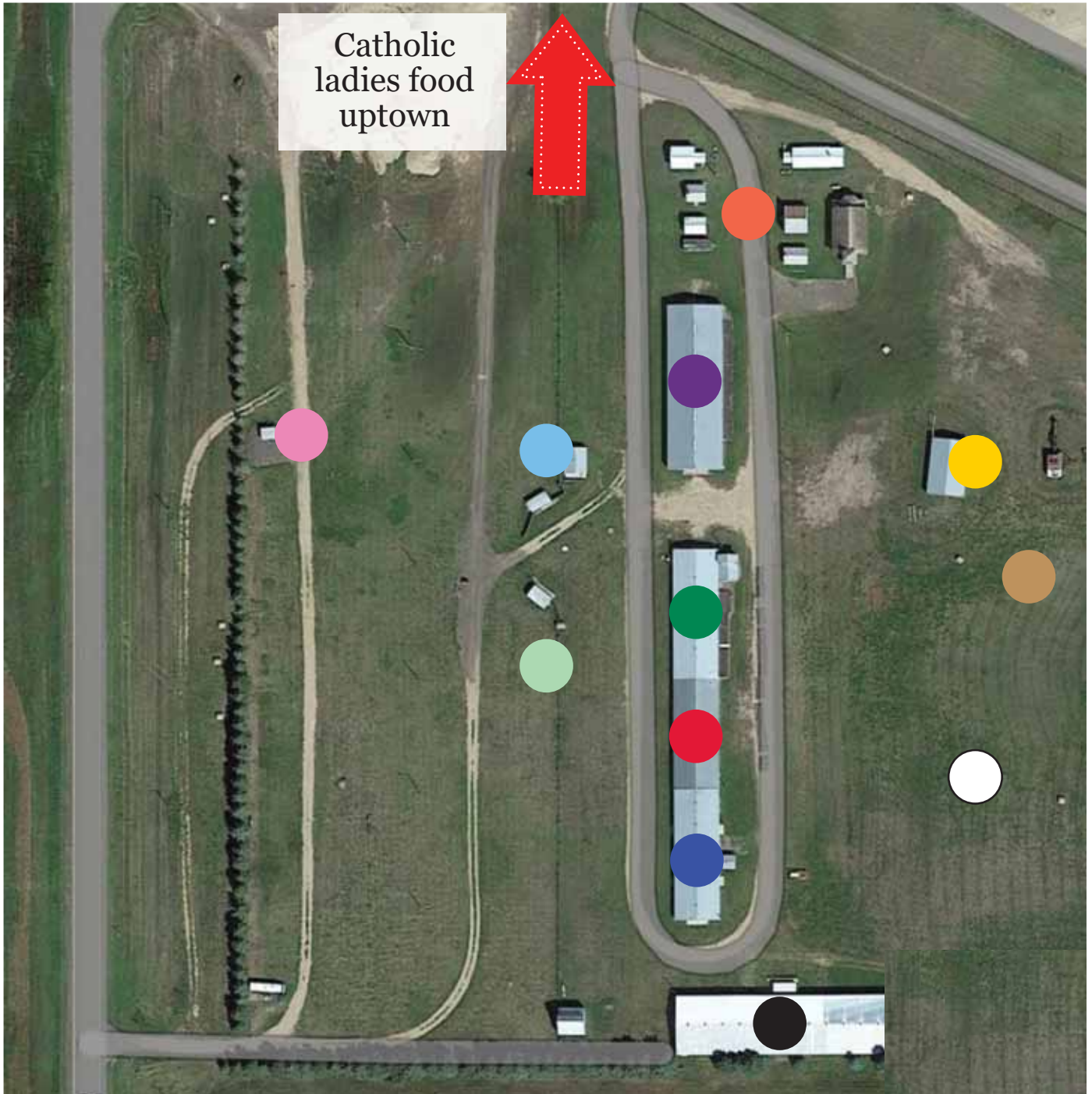
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# Map

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

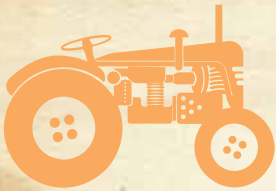





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# A step back in time

By **JAMES C. FALCON**

Among the tractors and other agricultural implements at the Makoti Threshing Show, a village of sorts can be found where show-goers can step back in time.

Over time, historical buildings – either buildings of importance or glowing examples of life on the prairie – have been moved to the threshing show ground to create a Pioneer Village.

These buildings can be toured to give a glimpse of

how people lived over 100 years ago.

### *Claim shack*

A claim shack was used by homesteaders to serve as proof of residence and to ultimately gain a title for their homestead.

An example of such, originally owned by Nick Poepping, can be found on the Pioneer Village grounds. Poepping built the shack after he homesteaded his land in

**TIME** continued on pg 21



A claim shack gives threshing show-goers a chance to experience what life was like living on the North Dakota prairies.



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TIME continued on pg 20

1912. Almost 50 years later, the original homestead was purchased, and the claim shack was donated to the threshers.

### *Methodist church*

The Methodist Episcopal church of Makoti purchased this building on May 4, 1925. The following year, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Stone donated the home of their claim and it was used for Sunday School classes and a kitchen. The pews for the church were built by Mr. Stone and I.M. Bigelow.

On Jan. 1, 1971, the Methodist congregation was disbanded and the church turned the building over to the Makoti Threshers Association for preservation and maintenance as a museum.

Outside of the church is a cross built by John Braathen for Hope Lutheran Church. The cross was donated by Arnold Braathen.

### *Spring Valley Lutheran Church*

The Methodist Church on site is not the only church located at the Pioneer Village.

Located about 12 miles northwest of Makoti, in the village of Lund, the Spring Valley Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation was organized in 1906. A cornerstone was laid and the church was dedicated in June 1932.

In 1956, the church celebrated its golden anniversary.

### *School house*

Built in 1913, this schoolhouse was located at



An all-denominational church service will be held at the Spring Valley Lutheran Church, located on the Makoti Threshing Show grounds, on Sunday, July 9 at 9 a.m.

the Frank Taylor homestead six and a half miles south and one mile west of Makoti. On Sundays, the schoolhouse was the gathering place for an all-denomination Sunday School. In addition, it served as the community center, literary society and other meetings.

Furnishings inside this schoolhouse come from some of the closed schools in the area. A highlight of the furnishings is a 48-star American flag.

### *Post office*

The Makoti Post Office opened on Dec. 18, 1911, with William Nutting serving as the first postmaster. A rural route was established in 1913 with a second one opening in 1916; these two rural routes were consolidated in 1934.

This building houses the museum's post office, as well as part of a drug store. Included in the exhibits are original post office boxes from the Roseglen Post Office,

donated by Marvin Franklin.

### *Blacksmith shop*

The blacksmith shop was donated to the Makoti Threshers Association by Don Nelson.

The garage, built by Tom Pence in the early 1900s and located seven miles south of Makoti, houses blacksmith equipment.

The equipment in the blacksmith shop on the threshing grounds was originally used in the Rensch Garage.

The shop equipment was purchased from John Aamot around 1919. The trip-hammer was purchased from the Wood Bros. The anvil, forge, bellows, sledge, tire shrinker and emory wheel were some of the things used by the smiths who practiced their art in Makoti. (A few of those men include Jim Fitzpatrick, John Aamot, Ernest Carlo, Roy Bergen, Frank Peterson and Tom Sharko.)

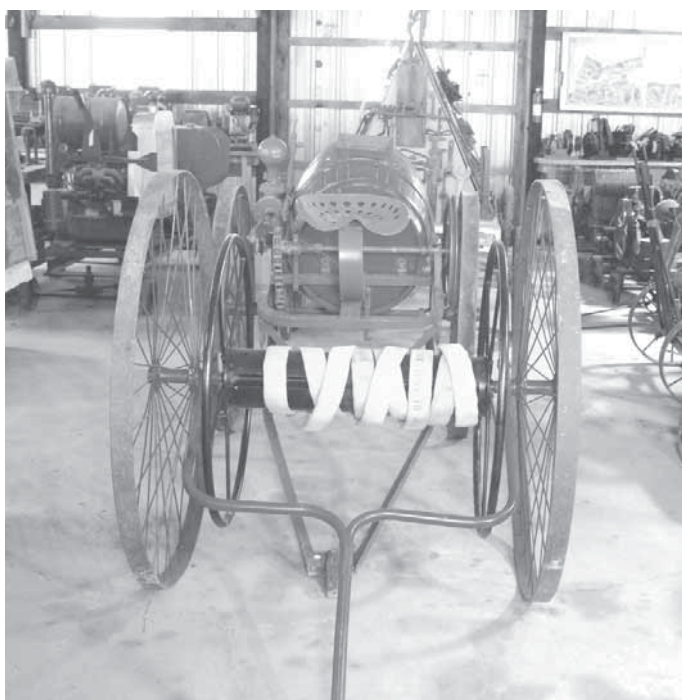
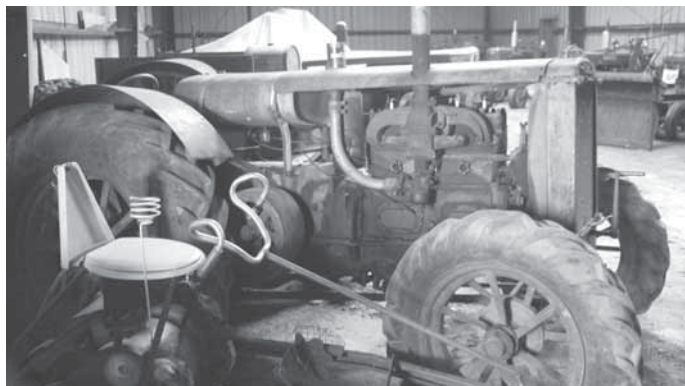
The shop was moved to the

Rensch Garage on Main Street in 1922. New methods of repair work gradually lessened the need for a full-time smithy and since the 1950s was used only occasionally by Gene Rensch. The machines sat almost forgotten until they were presented to the Makoti Threshers Association and moved to their new home on the threshing grounds.

### *Cook cars*

Two cook cars were obtained from Lyle Holtan and restored by members of the Makoti Threshers Association for the Ladies Aid to serve lunch and refreshments on the threshing grounds.

Two cook cars were originally owned by Egebright Holtan of Raub, North Dakota. Two other cook cars have also been obtained, one from Henry Kerzmann and another from Herb Shafer. The cook car next to the blacksmith shop was donated by Raymond Giddings of Roseglen.



***Note from publisher:***

This booklet has been produced as a souvenir of the 62nd 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.

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