

120th Hoisington Labor Day 'Celebrating a Dozen Decades'

By **KAREN LA PIERRE**

From a small railroad company picnic to a large three day bash, the

Hoisington Labor Day celebration has pulled the community together for fun throughout its 120 year history. This year that his-

tory will be honored with the theme "Celebrating a Dozen Decades" Sept. 2-5.

"It's grown a lot since then, it has changed a lot since then," said Kristi Lovett, Hoisington Chamber of Commerce executive vice-president. "The idea behind the theme was to show how much it has changed."

The theme shows what each decade has contributed to Labor Day in its own special way, she said. In that vein, the chamber put out a call for photographs in the community.

"We got a great response," Lovett said. "People came in and we were able to scan their photos."

"We've chosen fun pictures that speak of that decade. Hopefully, we'll bring back some memories and have a good conversation piece. It's been a lot of fun."

The display is called "Decades of Labor Day."

She said the hard part was narrowing down which photos they were going to use for the photo display. The collages will be scattered around town at different businesses the week before Labor Day. This includes Dairy Queen, the Hoisington Dispatch, Country Place Senior Living, Manweiler Chevrolet, and Hoisington Floral. Six pictures per decade were chosen.

During Labor Day weekend, the collages will be located at the old Prairie House Shop, 115 N. Main. The collages are four feet wide each. The chamber hopes to display some of those permanently as the photos will be mounted.

The kickoff barbecue and beer garden on Friday is themed to the 1970s, and there will be a disco ball. It will be on the northwest corner of 7th and Main along with the beer garden, beginning at 5 p.m.

"Also at those events, we'll have having photo op spots, which are stand-up cut outs," Lovett said.

Each of the cut outs will be themed for the event. At the barbecue, there will be a disco cou-

ple. At the parade, there will be a soda shop couple.

"Those will also be at 115 N. Main after the parade so people can go have fun with those," Lovett said. There will also be a 1920s car and a green hippie bug for photo ops as well.

The high school game begins at 7 p.m. Friday and each of the reunions will be recognized at the game. Following will be live music with the Mike Love Band at the beer garden.

Saturday begins bright and early with kid's events themed 1960s with the opportunity to learn 1960's dances from Laura Klima. The turtle races are at 9 a.m. and the kid's races at 10 a.m. at Hoisington Activity Center.

Touch a bull dozer and see over 30 big trucks at the Touch-A Truck event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at HAC.

The pageants will be themed from the 1980s. "The moms are having a lot of fun with their outfits," Lovett said. They will begin at 10 a.m. at Hoisington High School auditorium on Saturday.

Jake Gill will perform downtown at 7:30 p.m. and at 9 a.m.; there will be a fireworks display.

Sunday, the 33rd Demolition Derby starts at noon, and boogie to Homebrew at 8 p.m. downtown.

Monday, the kid's parade will be themed 1950s. "We're encouraging them to break out the poodle skirts and scarves," Lovett said. It starts at 10:10 a.m. with the regular parade at 10:30.

New this year for the parade is a decorated cars division, which is a throwback to earlier years when it was a popular way to have a parade entry. This category does come with prize money.

Lovett said this theme has been popular with people. "You can pick any decade for a float—how fun is that," she said

A special event will remember Rich Fox. "The car show will be special this year," Lovett said. "It's the Rich Fox Memorial Car Show."

Fox judged the car show for 30 years, and a special T-shirt was designed for this year's event. "Each team will get a free T-shirt with car entry while supplies last," Lovett said. "There will be a presentation at the judging for his family."

Lovett said Fox always took care of the show and had lots of friends attend. A couple of weeks after Fox passed away, his son



Courtesy Photo - This photo from the 1964 Hoisington Labor Day parade will be on display at this year's event. The theme is "Celebrating a Dozen Decades" and the events will reflect the theme.

2x the fun at this year's carnival

By **KAREN LA PIERRE**

For some, the best part of any small town celebration is the carnival rides. For the young and the young at heart, this year's carnival at Labor Day will have twice the number of rides as usual.

With a total of 12 rides, the Hoisington Chamber of Commerce has asked for another half city block of space for the carnival. In year's past, they have had six or seven rides.

"We're excited to announce that Ottaway Amusement Company is going to be back for 2016 Labor Day celebration," said Kristi Lovett, Hoisington Chamber of Commerce executive director. "They have guaranteed they will bring at least 12 rides, games and food trailers."

"Main Street will be full."

All three days, the carnival will offer wrist bands. Friday, Saturday and Sunday night, wrist band use is from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday, wrist band use is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and then from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The carnival just bought a new ride called the "Freak Out," and Lovett is hopeful they will bring it. "They always used to do our carnival—they did it for decades," Lovett said. "Then their schedule filled up and they couldn't come to Hoisington."

She said that Ottaway quit coming in the mid-2000s, but this year only managed to fit Hoisington in.

"This carnival has the traditional carousel and has a lot more rides for kids of all ages," she said.

call Lovett and said that they would like to continue the show and have it in honor of his father.

A carnival will be in town with 12 rides—double the normal amount.

Wrist band sessions will be held each day, beginning Friday at 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For a full schedule of events, see the Hoisington Chamber of Commerce website.

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