

Labor Day through the decades celebrating 120 years of history

By Karen La Pierre

The historic connections of the 120th Labor Day stretch far back through time as the community has grown, so has the celebration. The celebration began back in 1896 as a railroad picnic and has evolved to the full week-end celebration of today. There was no mention

what the Silent Race was. On Tuesday, were the Automobile Parade, a Wheel Barrow Race and a Hose Cart Race. Wednesday held more fat people's races along with a Donkey Race. Air Ship Flights occurred all three days, and on the final day, the crowd was allowed to throw confetti. The celebration may have been setback by

parade was led Pzinger Jewelry and music store with a float propelled by a nine foot propeller. 2,000 cars were at the picnic, and those in need of a ride, were offered one for 10 cents. Unsurprisingly, the morning held a couple of showers and strong winds. Prizes were given for the best decorated auto, and the Nuss girls received first place. A couple of locals dressed up as clowns, and were a dandy feature, according to the newspaper. The Great Bend band came over. July 22, 1920, the celebration had grown beyond the railroad, The Hoisington Dispatch said, "A meeting was held at the Cheyenne club rooms to start the ball rolling for the big celebration for the Labor Day picnic. The Hoisington Labor Day celebration has developed into the biggest day in the county and the sentiment of those present at the meeting was to make it bigger and better."

The paper said wages were up, the most valuable wheat crop in the history of the county safely harvested and J.E. Wallace was elected chairmen to the committee. In addition to the features of other Labor Days, a boxing exhibition was added. "It is the intention to make it a big enough day for the whole county and accordingly extend an invitation to all of the towns and communities in the county."

A carnival arrived that that Labor Day in 1920, and the children enjoyed the merry-go-round. Eight passengers at a time were taken up in the airship machine for a ride among the clouds. Today's celebration continues to grow and change. Although it now last's three days, the activities definitely had their roots in the last century.



of that picnic on that long ago Labor Day in the nineteenth century in the Hoisington Dispatch. The papers were full of stories about the Republican Presidential Convention and stories of the man murdered by his son—not locally. A Florida politician was fired on and a fireman was killed. A bank employee was charged with embezzlement. Wheat was coming in at 20 bushels per acres with 60 lbs. test weight from south of Hoisington. Even by 1898, when the newspaper was full of mentions of the Spanish-American war, the Labor Day picnic still didn't make the news. In fact, the paper said, "Monday was Labor Day and the major portion of people observed the day by laboring."

However, the celebration grew and by 1912, the celebration was three days long under the auspices of the Mo. Pac. Shop Federation. It was Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 2, 3 and 4, 1912.

The parade started at 10 a.m. The Fat Ladies Race was at noon and the Fat Men's Race later in the day. A bi-plane was present and so-called Air Ship Flights were offered. A Baby Show was held as well as a Diving Contest for boys. Who knows

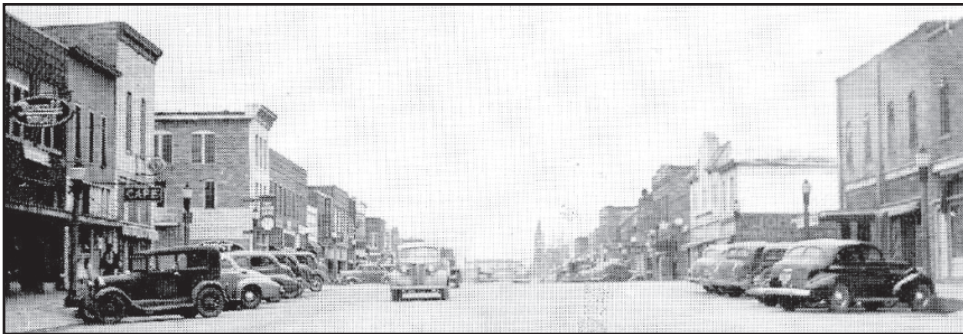
World War I, but by 1917 people were ready to party.

"Plans are being perfected by the Shop Federation, the road men and the business men, in fact everyone to join in giving a big picnic on Labor Day, 1917. The parade that year formed at Shriwise grove at 10 a.m. The picnic followed at the grove where everyone was invited to enjoy sandwiches, pickles and a bowl of salad," according to the Aug. 39, 1917 Dispatch. A new feature was added that year- a free moving picture show. During the afternoon there were races, concerts by the band and plenty of fun for everybody. J.M. Brickhouse, the speaker for the day, had the reputation of being a good talker. There was plenty of ice water, so celebrants were encouraged to come early and stay later.

By 1918, the casualty list of war wounded was long in the newspaper, and the proceeds of Labor Day were to go to the Red Cross of Hoisington. The day included band concerts, dancing, races and games. Residents were encouraged to lay aside their work that day. On Sept. 4, 1919, Hoisington celebrated Labor Day as never before. Soldiers returned from overseas. The 10 a.m.



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2016 Labor Day Prince/Princess Candidates

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 @ 11 A.M.

HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Jasper Casper
Rudolf Pawlowski
Dolores Kipper and
Greg Pawlowski

Gabby Nicole Rose
Kerry & Tina Rose

Danika Corrine Scott
Tammy Byerly
& Jeremie Scott

Paige Lee Trendel
Travis & Lanie
Trendel

Kaisha Fayann Woydziak
Nathan & Melissa Woydziak

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The Hoisington Dispatch

2016 Labor Day Junior Princess Candidates

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 @ 10 A.M.

HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Mya Olivia Brewer
Darin & Molly Brewer
of Hoisington

Cambree Lynne Hunter
Nikko Hunter and
Justin Holloway

Jayden Marie Mayhugh
Jennifer Mayhugh
and Justin Walker
of Great Bend

Liberty Reign Peschka
Joe & Dycie Peschka
of Great Bend

Danielle Jordyn Rose
Kerry & Tina Rose
of Hoisington

Piper Larcie Scheck
Jared & Brandi
Scheck of Hoisington

Saylor Brook Thankful Wittman
Luke & Tara Wittman
of Great Bend

Jordayn Traelynn Wilson
Jennifer Wilson
of Great Bend

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