

2023 Allegany County Fair Dedication

This person has been involved in one way or another with the Allegany County Fair for over 4 decades. This person has been an exhibitor, has assisted many other exhibitors, put on live demonstrations and assisted in some way to almost every area of the fair. Over the years, this person has contributed to the demolition derby, parades, livestock areas, antique tractor pulls, building repairs, modifications and improvements, and various competitions for both children and adults. The only area you might not find this person helping is with the chicken show. While this person enjoys listening to the talent of the mini theater, to our knowledge they have never been on stage, yet!

Like an excited kid in a candy shop, this person can be seen months ahead of time on the fairgrounds preparing for the big day! In their early volunteer days, this person had been in support roles, always willing to help out and learn from other well-seasoned volunteers. Now, as a well-seasoned volunteer themselves, this person has taken on leadership roles including being a superintendent and helping educate the public on historic practices and equipment.

When conversing with this person and trying to solve a problem, you'll hear "Now, wait just a minute" as this person comes up with just the right part, piece, nut or bolt you have been looking for, or just gives your idea the shot in the arm it needed.

But, be careful if the conversation turns from casual to business. This person has a long developed talent for convincing you to sell something for far less than you had intended and still making you feel like you got a great deal, and has no trouble getting a good night's sleep afterward.

Some might say this person is a pack rat. Others say this person is resourceful! Wait, don't throw out that old rusty piece of iron. "One man's trash is another man's treasure" seems to be this person's motto. This person is an inventor with a vision to see the potential in that rusty iron. This person has the gift to look at a picture and perfectly fabricate a complete replica or scale model.

This person was an avid chain saw collector, and in his early going restored a couple two-man chainsaws that were passed down in the family. His displays at the fair included a trailer full of chainsaws. This person demonstrated the drag

saw, cutting logs into 3-inch-thick circles that fair goers took as souvenirs. This person restored antique tractors with impressive steel wheels not only for display but to pull in the antique tractor pull competitions. But this person's greatest passion, perhaps, lies in models. He restored and demonstrated a full-sized antique hay press connected to the Case Boiler Steam Engine before later building scale models that would press hay bales the size of a toaster, or the size of a pound of butter using lawn grass clippings for the hay. He has built to scale weight pulling sleds and pedal tractors that both kids and adults enjoy during a healthy fun filled competition each year. He can be seen daily tending to the model building where many of his fully functioning hand-crafted models are on display. He also tends to and maintains models from passed volunteers that have donated their models to the fair.

This person has the best kept secret in Allegany County, having their very own antique museum with restored tractors, a full size & mini stationary hay press, antique farm equipment and garden tractors, a variety of hand tools and everything in between right down to the original burlap feed sacks hanging on the walls. If you ever want to venture back in time to appreciate the "Good Ole Days" and see some amazing equipment, make an appointment and visit this museum right here in Allegany County. Contact the museum caretaker and this year's Fair Dedication goes to Gary Harms. Congratulations!