



New Centerville is getting all steamed up for five-day jubilee

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— BY RUTH RICE

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Steam will be the theme at the 54th New Centerville Farmers and Threshermen's Jubilee, which will be held Wednesday through Sept. 10 at New Centerville, nine miles south of Somerset on Route 281.

More than 20 antique steam-powered tractors and engines will fire up their boilers during the five-day jubilee.

Proceeds benefit New Centerville and Rural Volunteer Fire Company.

Clark Brocht, son of Jim Brocht, one of the jubilee's chairmen, said area farmers maintain some of the antique machinery while others are kept in working order by the fire company.

"We're never sure what will show up," Brocht said.

Other chairmen are Howard Henry, Andrew Walker and Marshall Miller.

Brocht said the steam engine became popular in the 1880s and was pulled from farm to farm by horses.

"In the 1890s, they made it so it could propel itself and it developed into what we know as the tractor," she added.

When gates open in New Centerville at 10 a.m. Wednesday, admission will be half price at \$2 per adult.

A grand jubilee parade will be held at 6:15 p.m., and the Outhouse Dash, a privy on wheels race, will be held at 8:15.

To celebrate farming the way it used to be, a parade of antique equipment and demonstrations will be held at 1 p.m. daily.

Demonstrations will include a steam-powered cider mill, flailers, tread-power threshing, dog-powered butter churning, steam-powered sawmill, corn shelling and shredding, blacksmithing, broom making, antique tractors and antique power saws.

The music will be vintage country with Stonee Ridge, Acoustic Shadows of the Blue and Gray, Country Express, Mountain Therapy, George Lucas and Allegheny, the Washhouse Band and DeAnna Dawn Denning.

The Masters will replace Steel City Quartet.

Three of the groups are local – Sidewinder, Mountain Sounds and Country Express.

A quilt show and sale will be open from 1 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sept. 8, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 9 and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 10.

Food will be plentiful with breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Brocht said volunteers are needed. Those interested can call Joyce Henry at 926-3450.

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