This year’s parade theme was “75 Years of Hay Days”!

Commemorative Edition

Brought to you by The Atkinson Graphic
Hay Days Royalty 1940-2015

1940 – Queen - Delories Tesch
1941 – Queen - Evelyn Ziska
1942 – Queen - Marjorie Tefft; Princess - Jean Mohr; Princess - Bernice Berg
1943 – Queen - Betty Kerkman; Princess - Jean Mohr; Princess - Bernice Berg
1944 – Queen - Betty Kerkman; Princess - Jean Mohr; Princess - Bernice Berg
1945 – Queen - Betty Kerkman; Princess - Jean Mohr; Princess - Bernice Berg
1946 – Helen Peterson; Maid of Honor - Lorraine Siebert; Whisker King - Harley Everett
1947 – Queen – Lilah Smith; Whisker King – George Verzal
1948 – Queen – Betty Scripture; Whisker King – Thaine Humphery
1949 – Queen – Beth Sloan; Princess – Marianne Tasler
1950 – Queen - Margaret Rohrs; Princess – Janet Judge
1951 – Queen – Vivian Lemmer; King – Gene Livingston (No Whiskers)
1952 – Queen - Cathleen Weichman; Mr. Hay King – Lawrence Pacha (No Whiskers)
1953 – Queen – Lodema Wefso; King – LaVern Morgan (No Whiskers)
1954 – Queen – Frances Gotschall
1955 – Queen - Leona Schmit; Princess – Mary Disterhaupt; Jr. Queen – Cindy Jones
1956 – Queen – Lorene Ziska; Princess – Irene Ann Jansen; Hay Days Rodeo Queen – Sharon Miner of O'Neill
1957 – Queen – Sandra Davis; Princesses – Artha Pacha and Sharon Kokes
1958 – Queen – Clara Thurlow; Princess - Mary Ann Siebert
1959 – Queen – Elsie Karr; Princess – Margaret Ries
1960 – “A Day of Celebration for Children” was held – No Hay Days
1961 – No Hay Days – Dr. McKee Celebration
1962 – No Hay Days
1963 – Queen – Carol Hansen; Princess – Shirley Skrdla
1964 – Queen – Micaela Lee; Princess – Joyce Gilbert
1965 – Queen – Michelle Rzeszotarski; Princess – Sharon Winings
1966 – Queen – Jean Mohr; Princess – Diana Embody
1967 – Queen – Cindy Embody; Princess – Kathy Dvorak
1968 – Queen – Mary Ann Minar; Princess – Cyndie Jones
1969 – Queen - Sheila Ziska; Princess – Sandy Jansen
1970 – Queen – Judy Gant; Princess – Frances Mohr
1971 – Queen – Diana Juracek; Princess – Karen Bulau
1972 – Queen – Dian Kollman; Princess – Sheryl Schaal
1973 – Queen – Bonny Ziska; Princess – Barb Wolcott
1974 – Miss Atkinson – Mary Jo Krysl
1975 – Queen – Lori Shane
1976 – Miss Atkinson – Bev Seger for 2 years
1978 – Queen - Bonnie Everett
1979 – Queen – Patti Seger; Princess – Diane Schaal
1980 – Queen - Laurie Beach; Princess – Maureen Straka
1981 – Queen – Pam Rentschler; Princess – Sandy Seger
1982 – Queen – Nancy Tasler; Princess – Susan Krieger
1983 – Queen – Susan Obermire; Princess – Becky Lieswald
1984 – Queen – Lisa Day; Princess – Deb Disterhaupt
1985 – Queen – Sonya Kennedy
1986 – Queen – Linda Hamik; Princess – Jenny Shane
1987 – Queen – Sandy LeMunyan; Princess – Jill Freirch
1988 – Queen – Keri Judge; Princess – Makala Bilstein
1989 – Queen – Angie Milnar; Princess – Kelly Doborovly; King – Bill Alden; Prince – Rex Schrunk
1990 – Queen – Janelle Wallinger; Princess – Erin Kramr; King – Richard Schrunk; Prince – Kyle Pacha
1991 – Queen – Tracy Pacha; Princess – Tara Steskal; King – Jim Welsh; Prince – Jesse Friedel
1992 – Queen – Laura Kliment; Princess – Sarah Skrdla; King – Tim Schilz; Prince – Keith Kerkman
1993 – Queen – Jennifer Anson; Princess – Angie Ogden; King – Danny Boes; Prince – Kelly Smith
1994 – Queen – Jami Tasler; Princess – Tandra Steskal; King – Charley Osborne; Prince – Jason Funk
1995 – Queen – Amy Shane; Princess – Crystal Ogden; King – Josh Gossman; Prince – Mark Rentschler
1996 – Queen – Emily Stahlhecker; Princess – Kami Skrdla; King – Andy Osborne; Prince – Jesse Slaymaker
1997 – Queen – Amber Kennedy; Princess – Nicky Tielke; King – Brad Jungman; Prince – Matt Kramer
1998 – Queen – Rachel Thompson; Princess – Nicole Vogel; King – Kurt Schaal; Prince – Dawson Dvorak
1999 – Queen – Ann Gotschall; Princess – Melissa Kohle; King – Jeremy Skrdla; Prince – Justin Farr
2000 – Queen – Kristi Tielke; Princess – Emily Gotschall; King – Chris Gentle; Prince – Jacque Anson
2001 – Queen – Kalli Asher; Princess – Becky Shane; King – Brent Jungman; Prince – Adam Skrdla
2002 – Queen – Jennifer Vogel; Princess – Sandi Tielke; King – Chris Skrdla; Prince – Jacob Meusch
2003 – Queen – Kim Vrooman; Princess – Meagan Winings; King – Jeremy Peterson; Prince – Jordan Barnes
2004 – Queen – Kylie Skrdla; Princess – Becci Osborne; King – Jason Seger; Prince – Paul Seger
2005 – Queen – Brittany Kennedy; Princess – Kourtney Rahder; King – Kevin Vrooman; Prince – Kirk Peterson
2006 – Queen – Andrea Skrdla; Princess – Kylee Slaymaker; No King or Prince
2007 – Queen – Rachel Frickel; Princess – Meggie Miller; King – Parker Theisen; Prince – David Buller
2008 – Queen – Amelia Shae; Princess – Jamie Seger; King – Aaron Fritz; Prince – Joseph Olson
2009 – Queen – Morgan Kennedy; Princess – Katherine Davis; King – Tyler Thurlow; Prince – Nicholas Schurk
2010 – Queen – Chelsea Thurlow; Princess – Amanda Wenner; King – Hunter Fabian; Prince – Alex Lemburg
2011 – Queen – Payton Kennedy; Princess – Jennifer Poessnecker; King – Tanner Osborne; Prince – Matt Laetsch
2012 – Queen – Megan Wenner; Princess – Autumn Lemmer; King – Troy Rossman; Prince – Carl Meyer
2013 – Queen – Logan Judge; Princess – Samantha Sears; King – Connor Osborne; Prince – Noble Wentworth
2014 – Queen – Taylor Desive; Princess – Courtenay Hostert; King – Jeffrey Judge; Prince – Tony Bohnet

2015 Royalty

The 2015 Hay Days Royal Court were Caitlyn Nelson, Tori Huston, Queen Kassidy Jelinek, King Riley Bilstein, and Anthony Meyer.

The 2015 Hay Days Crowned the Hay Days Coronation Dance held on Friday and sponsored by the Atkinson-Ettes. The Rumbles rocked the night away.
Hay Days ‘Back in the Day’

The City of Atkinson was founded on Saturday, August 7, 1880, so this was the 135th Birthday of the City.

The first Hay Days in 1940 was to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the City.

Mr. and Mrs. Hay 1947-2015

1947 – Cal Thompson
1949 – Ray L. Pease
1964 – Leona Kilmurry (Miss Hay)
1965 – Col. E.C. Weller
1966 – B.H. “Bernie” Wilson
1991 – Warren Kelly
1992 – Lorraine Lieswald
1993 – Bill Milner
1994 – Connie Smith
1995 – Edgar Tunender
1996 – Helen Martens
1997 – Dan Ziska
1998 – Chuck and Wilma Tasler
1999 – Don Mills
2000 – Pat and Earllaine Krumm
2001 – Art and Dolores Pacha
2002 – Louis Kliment
2003 – Fred Dunn
2004 – Nancy Everett (Mrs. Hay)
2005 – Clara Enbody (Mrs. Hay)
2006 – Roy Goeke
2007 – John and DiAnn Gilg
2008 – Larry and Lois Poessnecker
2009 – Joe and Phyllis Langan
2010 – Mike Tasler
2011 – Gerald Burns
2012 – Ray and Ruby Dobias
2013 – Orland and Anita Anson
2014 – Jim Brennan
2015 Mr. Hay

This year’s Mr. Hay was Dr. Robert Randall. Connie Schaaf again wrote the clues which appeared in The Graphic for six weeks. Mickey Braun was the first to guess the identity and got it after the first clue. There were only two people who guessed correctly this year, with the second person being Jim Slaymaker.
Ranch Rodeo steer roping

More Ranch Rodeo fun

Ranch Rodeo roper

Ranch Rodeo participants

Duck Races, sponsored by St. Joe's Home & School

Ranch Rodeo crowd

Ranch Rodeo participants

Duck Races, sponsored by St. Joe's Home & School

Ranch Rodeo steer roping

Duck Races
Duck Races

Coronation Dance, music by “The Rumbles”

Duck Races

Tractors in The Hay Days Parade

Atkinson Fire and Rescue Train

Atkinson United Methodist Church entry

Inflatables in the City Park sponsored by Atkinson Hay Days Committee

Duck Races

Inflatables at the City Park

Frank Sinatra 100th Birthday Tribute Concert, sponsored by West Holt Medical Services Foundation

Pony Rides

Small Engine Display

Wettlauffer Hay Sculpture
Children’s Archery at Mill Race Park sponsored by Dobias Excavating

Volunteer helpers serving the Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce Free Barbeque

Community Church Service

Greased Pig Contest, sponsored by Happy Hollow Boutique

Community Church Service

Husky Hay Sculpture West Holt Volleyball Team

Free Swimming at the Atkinson Swimming Pool

Dr. Randall, speaker at Community Church Service
Knights of Columbus Pancake Feed at the KC Hall

Kids’ Pedal Tractor Pull, sponsored by Shane Farms

Two one-hundred-year-old Pearls - Pearl Farewell and Pearl Kaiser

Radio Controlled Car Race

 Hungry customers at the St. John’s Lutheran Church’s cookout.

USAF Heartland of America Band, sponsored by WH Medical Services

Turtle Races were sponsored by Silver Star Photography

$1 Bowling at The Alley
Atkinson Public Library parade entry
Shriner Car driven by Murray Mellor
Atkinson Public Library parade entry
Parade entry by Good Samaritan Society - Atkinson
West Holt Public School Band
Float by St. Joseph’s School
Sons of the American Legion Color Guard
Elaine and Jim Poessnecker riding Cushmans he restored
Downton Abbey ladies from Atkinson Senior Center
Parade spectators
The Team Jack bus pulled this entry which included Jack Hoffman (in the red shorts), along with three of Brent and Michelle Ogden’s children.

Hay Days Parade spectators

Parade Entry

Trick bicycle rider

Patriotic tractor driven by RF Goeke

Parade Announcer, Mike Tasler

Atkinson American Legion Riders

Mini Hay Baler

One of the entries in the Tractor Pull by Borderline Pullers
**Parade Themes**

1948 – “The March of Time”  
1949 – “Our Country and Our People”  
1952 – “Fairy Tales, Fables and Comics”  
1953 – “Nebraska – 99 Years of Progress”  
1955 – NO THEME LISTED  
1956 – “Around the World in 80 Minutes”  
1957 – “See America First”  
1958 – “Americanism” – “TV Programs”  
1961 – “A Tribute to Science”  
1962 – “Our Number One-derful World”  
1963 – “For the First Time”  
1964 – NO HAY DAYS  
1965 – NO HAY DAYS  
1966 – “200 Years of American Ideas”  
1967 – “NEBRASKAland”  
1968 – “Americanism” – “TV Programs”  
1971 – “A Tribute to Science”  
1972 – “Our Number One-derful World”  
1973 – “For the First Time”  
1974 – NO HAY DAYS  
1975 – NO HAY DAYS  
1976 – “Seeing the Past”  
1977 – NO PARADE  
1978 – Lawrence Pacha, Ed Jansen and John Mohr  
1979 – NO PARADE  
1981 – NO PARADE  
1982 – NO PARADE  
1983 – NO PARADE  
1984 – NO PARADE  
1985 – Marshals were Mounted Riders; Grand Marshals – Dr. Ramsay and Dr. Randall  
1986 – KIDS PARADE ONLY – Clarence Tasler and Joe Kramer  
1987 – Elmer McClurg  
1988 – Ed and Sylvia Bouska  
1989 – Ed and Marge Smith  
1990 – Mildred Kaplan and Deloris Dobrovolny  
1991 – John and Eleanor Mohr  
1992 – Don and Zola Mills, Wayne and Claudia Galyen, Ed and Gloria Schmoecker, and Don and Marge Smith  
1993 – Vince and Lucille Olson and Ed and Mildred Rentschler  
1994 – Leo and The Gang  

**Hay Days Parade Marshals**

1995 – Orland and Anita Anson, Helen Braun and Owen Kissinger  
1996 – Uniola Adams  
1997 – Charles and Holly Shane  
1998 – Art and Deloris Pacha  
1999 – Brenda Livingston  
2000 – Ben and Lou Troshynski  
2001 – Roy and Pat Goede  
2002 – Mike and Diane Tasler  
2003 – Atkinson Ministerial Association  
2004 – Ernie Van Horn  
2005 – Atkinson Ministerial Association  
2006 – Mike and Diane Tasler  
2007 – Atkinson Ministerial Association  
2008 – Mike and Diane Tasler  
2009 – Atkinson Ministerial Association  
2010 – Atkinson Ministerial Association  
2011 – Atkinson Ministerial Association  
2012 – Atkinson Ministerial Association  
2013 – Atkinson Ministerial Association  
2014 – Atkinson Ministerial Association  
2015 – Atkinson Ministerial Association  

**Kids’ Parade Marshals**

1967 – Jim White and Lawrence Pacha  
1968 – Jim White and Lawrence Pacha, Mayor E.H. Chace, Hay Queen Cindy Enbody and Knights of Columbus  
1969 – Jos M. Kokes and Elmer McClurg  
1970 – Louis Siebert and Lee Gilman  
1971 – A.G. Miller and C.J. Brooke  
1972 – American Legion Color Guard, West Holt High School Band and Jr. Legion Auxiliary Color Guard  
1973 – E.H. Chace and Jos M. Kokes  
1974 – NO HAY DAYS  
1975 – NO HAY DAYS  
1976 – NONE LISTED  
1977 – NO PARADE  
1978 to 1982 – NONE LISTED  
1983 – Jack O’Connell  
1984 to 1990 – NONE LISTED  
1991 – Lou Davis  
1992 – Evelyn Jungman  
1993 – NONE  
1994 – Judy Krysl  
1995 – Connie and Elva Frickel  
1996 – NONE  
1997 – Bill and Carolyn Milner  
1998 – Ruby Dobias  
1999 – Louis Kliment  
2000 – Janessa Schaaf  

**2015 Marshals**

2015 Parade Entry

The Parade Marshals for the 2015 Hay Days Parade were Karen and Paul Seger and are shown being driven by Ernie Van Horn in his convertible.

Parade entry for the Walk to End Alzheimer’s to be held September 19 in Atkinson.
Atkinson historian Gary A. Lech remembers Hay Days

By Lorraine Lieswald, Atkinson Graphic reporter

“Let’s All Make Hay” was the official tune of the two-day Atkinson Hay Days celebration on August 4 and 5, 1941. Gary A. Lech, Atkinson historian, said the words were probably the brainstorm of Bub Davis and were written to the tune of “The Band Played On.”

The words were: “The Hay Days are coming we want you to know, So let’s all make hay! The days will be fair and we want you all there, So let’s all bale hay! We’ve got what it takes, all the mowers and rakes. You’ll have the best time of your life. The Hay Days are coming. It’s time to start bumbling. Let’s all make hay!”

Lech has kept a detailed scrapbook of those first Hay Days celebrations when all the townspeople came together to put together what was billed as North Nebraska’s Biggest Program of Headliners: Hay Days Parade, Baseball – Norfolk vs. Denver, Art B. Thomas Bombshell Shows, The Famous Death Drivers, Baler Club Parade, Amateur Broadcast Show, Foster May, World’s Championship Hay Baling Contest, Baseball – Atkinson – Spencer Legion Teams, Hay Queen Coronation, Governor Griswold, Coronation Ball, Art B. Thomas Midways, Dances – Harry Collins and Dick Wickman bands.

His scrapbook includes an editorial from the July 31, 1941 Omaha World Herald where Hay Days was described as “unique among agricultural entertainment affairs. It is the only one, so far as we have been able to learn, that emphasizes the importance of a crop, pre-eminent but usually given scant attention among agricultural exhibits, grass.”

The editorial goes on to state – “The celebration belongs naturally to Atkinson as the nation’s greatest hay shipping center and by right of pre-emption. In a larger sense however, it is or should be an all Nebraska celebration. For grass, in pasture land or meadow, growing wild or culti-vated, is the foundation of the agricultural life of the state.”

“With the first Hay Days celebration it was a social event,” Lech explained. “There was no competing with television, out-of-town trips for entertainment, cell phones and other modern technology. It was the big event of the year and everyone got involved. They worked all year to make it better. It was entertainment. There were big names brought into town – Roy Clark, Kitty Wells. Periodically they had rodeos because the rural people wanted rodeos.”

He said the committee worked hard to give the people what they wanted.

Over the years, Lech said, Hay Days has put a different spin on attractions. “Food is the emphasis in today’s Hay Days where back in the early days it was entertainment. Events change. I really enjoyed the Black Powder Muzzleloaders we used to have. The Hickok boys had a trading post and I watched them break an apple cobbler. They started a fire and cooked it in a black skillet with handles. It was good.”

Lech remembers a kite club coming to Hay Days where members flew kites, some equipped with two handles for flying. Then there was the out-of-town model airplane clubs which were talked into coming to the celebration.

“One year, just for show, there were airplanes you made and are flown by man. They were started with a rope and handle, just like starting your lawn mower.”

He doesn’t remember the year of the first barbecue. “It was given by the Atkinson merchants as a way of thanking the community for its support in buying at home. It was quite a deal. Before the barbecue a crew took chainsaws and cut the wood. They like to use hard wood. The day before the barbecue a big hole was dug. The wood was laid down in the hole and then burned. The prepared meat was wrapped in aluminum foil and laid over the hot coals. Then it was covered with dirt. The cooks knew just how long the meat took to cook. It was sliced and made into sandwiches and served to the public. There was no charge. It has always been served in the City Park from the park house. A huge crowd always comes for the barbecue and it’s a time for visiting too. Lately the Wesleyan Church has had entertainment to go with the barbecue.”

The Hay Days Parade has always been the big attraction, Lech said, and it has been one of his favorite Hay Days events. Until recent years, he said, there was a Children’s Parade.

“The first years of the Hay Days Parade there were bands. I can remember high school bands from Stuart, O’Neill, Spencer, and Butte, along with our local band. There was a cattle truck that would pick the band members up and take them back to the beginning of the parade and they would march through again.”

“One year they had a Drum and Bugle Corps out of Norfolk – they were very good. Then there were the trick riders from the White Horse Ranch. They were wayward girls who had been taken in at the ranch and taught how to do trick rides. All the horses were white. Some of the ranch’s white horses were used in the ‘Ben-Hur’ movie.”

Organizing a Hay Days Celebration today, Lech noted, is accomplished by a committee. It is harder to get volunteers to man events.

While Hay Days Queens were chosen by popular vote, today’s queens are crowned by voting on the dance tickets they sell. A Hay Days King has also been added to the throne.

Mr. Hay, Mrs. Hay or Mr. and Mrs. Hay are chosen and clues are printed in The Atkinson Graphic for readers to guess the identity. In the past five years Connie Schaaf has written the clues. She also writes clues for the Treasure Hunt which is hidden somewhere around Atkinson on public ground.

“One Hay Days I can remember Gil Poese (KBRX) and his wife emceed the queen coronation and opened the program by singing, ‘We Got Married in a Fever’. They did a great job! Once a top name singer was hired for Hay Days. Bad weather came up just before she was to perform – it was outside in front of the old grandstand – and she wouldn’t sing. Then afterward she wanted to be paid. I don’t remember if she got her money. Then there was a group of musicians who came and stayed overnight in the country. They were so fascinated by the sound of a creek that was near.”

Lech remembered the Kangaroo Court was a popular event where a citizen was thrown into jail and they could only be released if someone would pay his bail. “It was in the City Park and the guy in jail would yell at people walking around to get him out of jail. It was fun.”

Parades always ended with the fire truck, he said. And ice cream bars were always waiting at the end of the parade for the children in the Children’s Parade.

In explaining the reason for the first Hay Days Celebration, Lech said it was the town’s Golden Jubilee. “This is the 75th year of Atkinson Hay Days. During World War II Hay Days was not celebrated.”

Hay Days has changed. Atkinson Hay Days 2015 will be a four-day celebration beginning on Thursday, August 13 and running through Sunday, August 16.

It has always been, however, an opportunity for the Atkinson community to come together and enjoy each other.
Hay Days Memories Revealed

This article appeared in the August 7, 2014 issue of The Atkinson Graphic.

By Lorraine Lieswald,
Atkinson Graphic reporter

The 74th Hay Days celebration will be observed in 2014 on August 14, 15, 16 and 17. This made Atkinson Graphic reporter wonder how, when, why and where it started, so naturally, the best source of information would be the people who were there — the old-timers.

After a dozen or more telephone calls and street conversations this is what I learned.

The older Gary Lech, who was just a young lad when Hay Days began, but who is a walking encyclopedia of Atkinson history, told me the first Hay Days was in conjunction with Atkinson's Diamond Jubilee.

It was held he said on August 1, 2 and 3, 1940 and originated with the Atkinson Whisker Club and Whiskerettes.

"Those Hay Days were great. They were so much of a community effort. First the city folk got involved with the organization and then the farmers came in. No one asked anyone, the whole community just pitched in. There were lots of horses and buggies. Lots of country people were still coming to town in horse and buggy then to get supplies. It was a time when women didn't go into bars, and sometimes some of the husbands were staying the bar long after their wife was done with her 'trading' so the wife sent me in the bar to let him know it was time to get out of there."

"George was the Whisker King before we were married. One year he was the prince, too. I was behind the scenes with his whiskers. He trimmed it and took real good care of it. It was real nice if you weren't going with him and doing other things close to him. You were just an outcast in Hay Days if you didn't grow a beard. The parade was really something with other town bands interspersed with floats."

Dona Verzal

"I ran for Hay Days queen twice but I never got it. I was just the princess. I remember we had to be in our formsal and go to the events. Once, I had to go in my formal to a baseball game and sit in the bleachers during the game. One time when I ran for Hay Days queen Ole Brady had a club meeting in her back yard. It was a picnic. We were all invited and the governor was there. I don't remember his name. It was nice!"

Mary Ann Wichman

"There was free delicious food in front of every store for people to eat. The stores donated the food. The Fist Hay Days there were big booster trips promoting Hay Days with music playing. Betty played in the band for three years. Local bands played in the town square. There was a real good orchestra at the Crystal Ballroom. Famous people came every year to the celebration where there was a big parade. It seemed like everyone in town came to the parade. There were bands from every town around. There were clowns, horses, and food stands all over town serving hot dogs and hamburgers. It was big.

Betty and Robert LeMunyan

"They had more horses in the parades then. I doubt that I went to all of the Hay Days then. I do remember I made a centennial dress for me and I made one for Judy and I kept it. It is still hanging in my closet and I can wear it. I rode on the hospital float once. I'll be 100 years old in October so I don't remember like I used to, but it was big and it was lots of work."

Pearl Farewell

"When we went on our booster trips, I was a cheerleader. We went as far east as Neligh and then back to Ainsworth. I played in the band. We had a 72-piece band and Pat Atkin was the band director. I played the trumpet and I played first chair. We played such beautiful floats then. Marge Smith put together beautiful floats. She was fabulous. Our band played every Saturday night in the town square. I was in the first parade. I am 87 years old."

Amy Jones

"When we went on booster trips and put on shows, I tap danced with my sisters and Donna Cole and Kathleen Baylor. I learned to tap from my sister. Our Art Humphal made a portable tap dance floor that you could roll up and carry in the trunk. Grace Sindler taught tap dancing. Other tap dancers were Connie Miller and Marge Mack."

Marilyn Schaaf

"My cousin Mildred Estes was queen. She married Arthur Kaplan during Hay Days. Today so many people don't know how to hay. This turns me off. I worked in the hay fields for 30 years so I know all about haying."

Cora Dickau

"I graduated in 1940. One time the bakery had a float. It was a float on Switzerland. The float was a country scene. There were the Swiss Alps too. We made the float in Skrdla's garage. My husband (Gun) sat on the float dressed up like a Swiss man and played the accordion. He really couldn't play. We had music. There was a big St. Bernard dog sitting by him. It was Eli McConnell's dog. My daughters thought the dog looked like a horse so they got it on and rode it around for a couple of days when it was at our house getting acquainted. We got a trophy for the float and I think we also got $100."

Clara Enbody

"I remember once they had a wedding in front of the grandstand. I think they came into the grandstand pulled by white horses from the White Horse Ranch. Mrs. Alfred (Lois) Martens was the bride. She was in a dark green velvet outfit with a bonnet, high topped black shoes and rode in a surrey with a fringe on top. She was pulled by a single horse. There has never been a parade like it. A parade needs a band."

Pat Gallagher

"Bonny Ziska Kilmurry was a queen. My little daughter was on one of Marge Smith's beautiful floats. My daughter is Linda."

Winnie Ankey

"Everywhere there were guys with whiskers. If you didn't grow whiskers and they caught you they dumped you in the tank. The Whisker Club did this and it was so much fun. The guys wore light colored collars and dark pants and vests. Mom and I had a dress made with a bustle in the back. Margaret Bonenberger made the dress. We went in card all over to other towns. We had a quartet that went with us. They could sing! I remember Bub Davis, Neil Davis, George Mengcer, and Kercy Mengcer. Bub had that little man on his knee and would make him make like he was singing. Several of their wives would blend in when they were singing. Oh, how they could sing."

Earlaine Krumm

"The first Hay Days I can remember was when one of the Peterson girls was the queen, I think and she rode on a haystack pulled on an underslung. We didn't get to come that often. I do remember I gathered up pop bottles and took them back. I'd gather up enough for a bottle of pop. I do remember I got good and sick from drinking pop."

Murray Mellor

"I was the Whisker King at 19, but I had a little help I can't remember but I think Holly was a princess. Lori was a queen, Amy was a queen, Jenny was a princess and my granddaughter Amelia was a queen. We were a family of royalty. I went with Beth Tielke all through high school and she was the queen the year before I was king, so she got to be one of the judges so I had a little inside help. I was in the filling station and one of the old guys was growing a beard. I asked him why and he told me and then told me I was too young to grow a beard so I decided I would show him. I groomed that and took real good care of it and I looked good even if Beth hadn't helped me. The Neal twins won the baling contest and Harold Shane played the piano for the quartet."

Charles Shane

"It seemed to me they had more imagination then. Marge Smith had so much imagination. Her floats were really clever. I never really took part in any of it. I did grow a mustache and then when Hay Days was over I shaved it off. It would say I was a spectator."

Ernie Brinkman

Queens present at the 1967 Parade
(NEBRASKA CENTENNIAL)

1940 – Delores (Tesch) Pogson – 1st Queen
1941 – Evelyn (Ziska) Hazelhurst
1946 – Helen (Peterson) Ramm
1947 – Lilah (Smith) Heiser
1948 – Betty (Scripter) Wasson
1949 – Beth (Sloan) Tielke
1950 – Margaret (Rohrs) Meitzen
1951 – Vivian (Lemmer) Otteman
1952 – Cathleen (Weichman) Burback
1953 – Lodema (Wefso) Hodge
1955 – Leona (Schmit) Treshynski
1957 – Sandra (Davis) Shald
1958 – Clara (Thurlow) Patterson
1959 – Elsie (Karr) Martens
1963 – Carol (Hanson) McDonald
1965 – Michelle (Rzeszotarski) Winings
1966 – Jean (Mohr) Estill