



## Annual New Centerville jubilee steams on

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— BY RUTH RICE

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For more than half a century, steam has powered an area festival.

The 55th New Centerville Farmers and Threshermens Jubilee will be held Wednesday through Sunday at the fire company grounds in New Centerville, nine miles south of Somerset on Route 281.

Proceeds benefit New Centerville and Rural Volunteer Fire Company.

More than 20 antique steam-powered tractors will be fired up during the five-day jubilee.

"We're hoping to add another tractor next year," said Clark Brocht.

Area farmers maintain and restore the antique machinery.

"We're not the biggest steam festival, but we're proud of our steam engines," Brocht said.

"We're not adding anything this year for the 55th. We're gearing up for the 60th."

Jubilee chairmen are Jim Brocht, Howard Henry, Andrew Walker and Marshall Miller.

When gates open at 10 a.m. Wednesday, admission will be half price – \$2 per adult – for that day only.

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 feed-grinder machine, a flour mill, a cement-block machine, steam-powered sawmill, the first steam engine, tread power threshing, antique power saws, straw baling, blacksmithing and dog-powered butter churning.

Woodcarver Dennis Beach will give demonstrations at 2, 4 and 6 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the grove.

"What he makes will be auctioned off at 9 p.m. Saturday," Brocht said.

"He uses a chain saw and hand carves. In the past, he's done black bears, benches, pine trees, eagles and Indian carvings."

Music will be provided by Sidewinder, Dan and Galla, Blue Shades, Country Express, Kortney Jean, Acoustic Shadows of the Blue and Gray, Slim Chance, Remington Ride, DeAnna Dawn Denning, The Masters and George Lucas and Allegheny.

Dancing groups are the Wheelers and Dealers square dancers and the New Centerville Spinettes.

Food will be available for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Fired up

What: 55th New Centerville Farmers and Threshermens Jubilee.

When: Wednesday through Sunday.

Where: New Centerville, nine miles south of Somerset on Route 281.

Admission: \$2 for adults on Wednesday; \$4 for adults Thursday through Sunday. Children younger than 12 admitted free.

Information: 926-3142.

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