The Antique Power Club of Clinton County and the Clinton County History Center in partnership with the News Journal presents

THE CLINTON COUNTY CORN FESTIVAL

History and Memories

News Journal
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The Clinton County Corn Festival is a long time tradition of many fellow Clinton Countiners. We are a show like no others. We are not your typical “fair”, you won’t find carnival rides or conventional carnival games. You will be sure to find one of a kind games for all ages in the special events area! Anywhere from the skillet and rolling pin toss to the cross cut saw competition! We also have a petting zoo and children’s corner for the little ones!

After you have played hard and worked up an appetite you can stop by one (or all) of over 20 vendors that are all local non profit groups. A lot of the foods are home made that range from chicken and noodles, corn on the cob, pork and steak sandwiches, ice cream, and many other favorites! We would be willing to bet there is NO way you can try them all... we try every year!!

With a full belly you will want to sit down to rest for a bit, maybe even a nap. We feature a live sound stage that always features a different act playing at almost all times. If that’s not your thing you can go out to the grand stands and watch tractor and horse pulls. Care to cool off for a minute swing inside the Expo Center or Quilt Barn. Both buildings has various activities going on all day long. Check out our schedule to whats next!

Once you’re filled up, rested up, and cooled off head down to the craft, antique, swap meet, and flea market barns. You are sure to find something in these barns that you will just have to have!!! Or even step off the grounds for our downtown parade on Saturday morning!

Don’t forget about the Tractors, Engines, and Car shows!! We hold a Cruise in on Friday nights and a Car Show on Sunday! Our members of the Antique Power Club display their engines and tractors proudly all weekend on the grounds! Not to mention a working sawmill, 200hp Fairbanks, Wheat Threshing and Bailing, and...
September, 2020

CORN FESTIVAL MEMORIES

Memories

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much much more! Jump on our shuttle wagon to take a ride around the grounds so that you can see what all there is to get off and look at!!

After a full day of fun and a few extra pounds be sure to stick around for our evening entertainment! On Friday night there will be a big name act on the sound stage that you will be sure to love! And, of course on Saturday night you will find the Corn Olympics at the grand stands! If you have never watched the Corn Olympics you are in for a treat! The only place in Clinton County, possibly Ohio, that you will ever witness an Outhouse Race! Be sure to keep your eyes open to the north side of the infield at dusk. Wayne and guys will be firing up the steamers for a Spark Show! Watch as the sparks shoot out of the Steam Engine into the sky. Wayne has a special secret that will get the sparks 30, 40, even 50 feet in the air! It has been told that you might even be able to see them all the way out on I-71!!
The Antique Power Club of Clinton County was organized at the Warren Murphy residence on November 25, 1972. The five members became the officers:

President: Warren Murphy
Vice President: Maynard Harris
Secretary/Treasurer: Robert Olinger
Press Agent: Donald Haines
Oiler: Ralph Eltzroth

The five original members were the membership committee.
All new members: Had to be voted on by unanimous secret ballot

Must have a major piece of machinery equipment, engine or tractor
And be residents of Clinton County
All members meetings were held at members’ homes with a carry-in dinner or wiener roast. At some meetings, they drew numbers for different small engines and had to get the selected engines started before they could eat.

The club had a July 4th tractor parade on Maynard Harris farm along Interstate 71 with a picnic dinner and fun afterwards. This became an annual event for many years.
In June of 1973, the club was asked to display at the Clinton County Historical Society and at the opening of the new Historical Society Building in September of the same year. They displayed small engines.

In September 1974, the Antique Power Club and the Clinton County Historical Society had the first show at the Clinton County Fair Grounds. They demonstrated threshing, shredding, and sorghum making. There was a display of small engines and they had a parade on the Fair Grounds campus.

During the year of 1976, the club participated in many bi-centennial parades throughout Clinton County. The largest parade was in Wilmington on July 3rd. The 1976 annual show of the Clinton County Historical Society and the Antique Power Club was held Sept. 11th and 12th. For this show, there were: 9 antique cars, 1 antique truck, 50 tractors, 6 steam engines and 2 oil pulls, 54 single cylinder engines, 5 walk behind garden tractors, 1 team of horses with box bed wagon, and 1 horse drawn fire engine – The Clinton Fire Chief.

On March 10, 1977, the Antique Power club began proceeding for incorporation, with the help of Judge Joseph D. Martin of Brown County. On April 5, 1977, the Secretary of State, Ted W. Brown, signed the Articles of Incorporation. The club officially became The Antique Power Club of Clinton County, Inc., and received a tax identification number. The official purpose of the club is “the acquisition, restoration, showing and operation of antique machinery. To relive, for several exciting days of yester-years progress. To acquire, exchange, and accomplish this said purpose”.

The proper apparel to be worn by club members during parades and shows are bib overalls, chambray shirts and straw hats.

The January 1978 meeting of the Antique Power Club of Clinton County, Inc. and the Clinton County Historical Society was when it was decided that the annual show would be called the Clinton County Corn Festival. It was held Sept 23rd, 24th of that year.

This year, 1978, it was decided that it was time to have something for everyone: Flea Market, Antiques, more Concessions, Adult Games, and Demonstrations. The Ladies of the Antique Power Club would contact and invite desirable flea market exhibitors and the club would be responsible for exhibitor buttons and plaques. It was decided not to permit and “For Sale” signs on any tractor, engine or machinery.

1978 was the year the Christmas party was not held in someone’s home. It was held at the Buckeye Lodge.

1979 was the first year the Antique Power Club charged membership dues.

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In August 1980, the club members found and purchased the stone crusher to have and use at the Corn Festival.

On September 18, 1984, the Melvin Stone Co. loaned the big 200 hp Fairbanks Morse Engine to the Antique Power Club of Clinton County, Inc. for its use during the life of the Club. If disbandment occurs, the engine reverts back to the Beam Family. The Beam Family moved the big engine to the Fair Grounds in August 1985. The building was constructed in the summer of 1986. The engine was run for the first time at the 1987 Corn Festival.

In November of 1990, the Luttrell family donated their Saw Mill to the Antique Power Club to be erected on the Fair Grounds for use and display for the Corn Festival. It took many years to prepare the site, construct the building and set the Saw Mill. The first log was sawed in 1999.

This is a parcel for the history of what is known as the Antique Power Club of Clinton County, Inc.
CORN FESTIVAL MEMORIES

All photos submitted
CORN FESTIVAL MEMORIES

September, 2020

Scott Milner and Kerry Stanforth are shown trying their skills with the saw.

Downtown parade. Taken mid 90’s.

All photos submitted

Opening Ceremonies at the 1997 Corn Festival.

Rod McKay in the nail driving contest.

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Downtown parade. Taken mid 90’s.
CORN FESTIVAL MEMORIES


A favorite gathering place for old friends was the camper by the grandstand where Irene Ledford sold her corn cob jelly. This picture shows Irene with Bobbie Carver and Mary Alice Winters.

An Oliver. Taken mid 90’s.

Chad McKay passenger Scott Milner driver. Taken in 05.

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This was during the Corn Olympics in 2017. MC Jonathan McKay and Thelma Ledford “demonstrate” how the wheel barrow race worked. This was a chance to DUMP Jonathan out and show him and the crowd what could happen. As you can tell by the faces, the crowd LOVED it. Thankfully, Jonathan was a good sport.

All photos submitted
John Deere pulling. Taken mid 90’s.

Wilmington High Schools “Wilmingtones” after performing on the final day of the corn festival 2019.

Zoie Stanforth is shown with a trophy from the Corn Festival Games.

1981 Corn Festival Parade. Mark McKay driving an 1937 Alice Chalmers in a pouring rain storm.

Left to right: Taylor Howel, Steve Howell, Cliff Fahrer, Caitlin Mckay, Doug McKay, Allen McKay, Jonathan McKay, Rod McKay, Tracy Maguire, Stewart Maguire, Mark McKay.

All photos submitted
Thank You for our 40 years of Corn Festival Memories