

WHY BARBED WIRE?

Barbed Wire. It sounds like an unusual topic for a museum of western history. However, many people are unaware of the contribution of this simple invention that changed the direction of history and left an impact that resonates today.

Barbed wire made three major contributions. It redefined the landscape. The once open prairie was divided as settlers built fences around their property. The legal dispute that erupted between its inventors made its way to the United States Supreme Court setting a precedent in patent law. Barbed wire made men wealthy and that wealth built public buildings, and major universities. Washburn University in Topeka was established with help from a contribution by Icabod Washburn, a major player in the barbed wire industry. Their mascot, the "Icabod," is named in honor of Mr. Washburn.

The Kansas Barbed Wire Museum presents interesting ways to learn about this important contribution to America's history. Dioramas of early barbed wire use, a theatre featuring educational films, the Barbed Wire Hall of Fame, the museum archives room, and a research library all help to conjure up images of settling the Midwest, range wars between homesteaders and cattlemen, the Homestead Act and the transformation of the open prairie into America's bread basket.



Museums Open Daily

May - September

Monday - Saturday 10:00 - 4:30

Sunday 1:00 - 4:30

Kansas Barbed Wire Collectors Association, Inc.
120 W. 1st Street / P.O. Box 578
La Crosse, Kansas 67548-0578
Phone 785.222.9900

4-2023

SPECIAL EVENTS



will be held to visit the McCracken Historical Museum 17 miles west. The museum features props from the motion picture. Participants will also see filming locations from the movie.

Paper Moon Historical Tour: This year, we are commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Paramount motion picture, "Paper Moon." Several scenes were filmed in Rush County including La Crosse and McCracken. On Friday at 2:00pm, a special tour

World Champion Splicing Contest™: Open to everyone, participants have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills at fence mending. Contestants are scored on a formula derived from the length of time it takes to complete the splice and the amount of "sag" in the wire while supporting a 70lb weight. Prizes are awarded at the conclusion of the competition in the Men's, Ladies' and Youth categories.



Old-Fashioned Community Church Service & Picnic: On Sunday, May 8th at 11:00am, join us for an outdoor church service in Grass Park at the north shelter house. Following the service, the festivities will conclude with a community picnic. All food will

be provided. This non-denominational service and picnic is sponsored by the La Crosse United Methodist Church. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Exhibitor & Vendor Information:

Exhibitors are encouraged to register in advance as tables are limited. Register online at our website or by calling the numbers below. Exhibitors may set up on Thursday from 3:00-4:30pm or Friday morning at 7:00am. Displays must be removed following the auction on Saturday.

Table Rentals (covers not provided)*:

First Table: \$20.00 - 2nd or more \$10.00 ea.

Display space (subject to availability)

No charge to registered participants

For reservations call: 785-222-2808

Or register online at: www.rushcounty.org/wireshow

57th Annual

Barbed Wire Festival & Supershow

May 4-7, 2023

**La Crosse City Auditorium
La Crosse, Kansas**



Antiques

Collectibles

Barbed Wire Items

Handmade Crafts

**"Celebrating the 50th Anniversary
"Paper Moon"
Filming Locations**



wireshow.rushcounty.org

*1971 Paramount Pictures



Casino Night & Buffet



Friday, May 5, 6:30pm
La Crosse Fire Department

Friday, May 6 - 6:30 pm
La Crosse Fire Dist. 4 Station

Enjoy a home cooked meal starting at 6:30 pm. At 7:30, play your favorite casino games including Blackjack, Roulette, and more. Build your "Barbed Bucks" and use them at the live auction featuring a variety of valuable items. Proceeds will benefit the Kansas Barbed Wire Museum.

Evening Event - \$10.00
(includes free "Barbed Bucks")
Auction starts about 8:45pm

Somewhere Over a Paper Moon

Banquet

Saturday, May 6, 6:30pm

Walnut Valley Senior Center
Rush Center



Join us for the "Somewhere Over a Paper Moon Banquet" at the Walnut Valley Senior Center in Rush Center at 6:30pm on Saturday evening, May 6th. Enjoy your meal by candlelight along with live music. Following the banquet will be a short program, announcement of the splicing winners, show awards, and more. Reservations required.

\$20.00 per person
A limited number of tickets are available

Barbed Wire Festival & Supershow

May 4 - 7, La Crosse, Kansas

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

10:00am - 4:30pm - Museum Complex Open

3:00pm - 4:30pm - Exhibitor Early Set-up
City Auditorium (No sales or trade sessions)

5:30pm - Group Dining
Tracy's Pub & Grill (706 Main)

7:00pm - ABWS Meeting/KBWCA Meeting
Museum Hagemeyer Conference Room

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

10:00am - 4:30pm - Museum Complex Open

7:00am - Exhibitor Set-up
City Auditorium

8:00am - Vendor Exhibits Open
City Auditorium

all day - Exhibition: "Tribute to our Veterans"
City Auditorium

all day - Barbed Wire & Collectibles Displays
City Auditorium

all day - Trade Sessions
City Auditorium

2:00pm - Historical Tour*
McCracken Historical Museum & Paper Moon Locations

11:30 - 1:00 - Lunch Concessions
City Auditorium

2:00pm - Judging of Displays
Pick up judging forms at registration desk by 1:00

5:00pm - Auditorium closes

6:30 pm - Casino Night & Cookout*
La Crosse Fire Dist. 4 Station
1020 N. Main Street

Thank you to all who have donated time and money to help make this festival a success!

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

10:00am - 4:30pm - Museum Complex Open

8:00am - Vendor Exhibits Open
City Auditorium

all day - Exhibition: "Tribute to our Veterans"
City Auditorium

8:00am - 3:00pm - Displays Open
City Auditorium

8:00am - 3:00pm - Trade Sessions
City Auditorium

8:00am- 3:00pm - Exhibition: "Tribute to our Veterans"
City Auditorium

10:00 - World Champion Splicing contest
Competition is open to anyone
Prizes awarded

11:30 - 1:00 - Lunch Concessions
City Auditorium

3:00 p.m. - Antiques & Collectibles Auction
Auction Bill available at the registration desk
Consign items at the registration desk

4:30 p.m. - Auditorium closes
Display tear down

6:30 p.m. - "Over a Paper Moon" Banquet*
Walnut Valley Senior Center (reservations required)
220 Washington, Rush Center
(A Map to the location available at registration)
Program & Awards Ceremony following

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023

11:00am - Community Church Service & Picnic
Grass Park North Shelter
Sponsored by La Crosse United Methodist Church
Non-Denominational - ALL ARE WELCOME

1:00pm - 4:30pm - Museum Complex Open

*See details in this publication