

# TRACTORCADE TO TOPEKA

## December 13-16, 1978



A Demonstration and Preparation for Washington, D.C. Tractorcade  
 Taken from the diary of Jeff Mead, Lewis, Kansas

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1978: "Tractors to Topeka from Lewis. Zelma and I drove pickup to Lewis about 8:30. Flew the American, Kansas and American Agriculture Flags on headache rack. Alvin Wheaton, Rocky Snyder, Jack Wolf and Darrel Miller, Junior Titus, Jim Pratt, Bob McKinney, Leo Schinstock, Lester Derley's big Ford truck with 550 gallon fuel tank in it, our Ford pickup with 100 gallon of fuel. Bob McKinney, Jack Wolfe towed their pickups. Bob had 100 gallon of fuel. Twenty-four tractors picked us up at Lewis. I drove our pickup to Dub Stapleton's. Zelma took the pickup from there. I drove Bill Stapleton's 7040 Allis Chalmers tractor. I think that was the first tractor I ever drove with kind of a slip-and-go transmission. Marj Scheuffer fell in next. Jerry Meyer fell in at Belpre, so our office had 11 tractors on the road. Stopped at Macksville for dinner, I had bad oil leak. After dinner, I went ahead to Stafford to Allis Chalmers shop. They fixed it in about five minutes. I fell back in the group when they came through. We got to Hutchinson about 4:30. We started at Tri-point Equipment, Allis Chalmers dealer, in Hutchinson. They had supper for us, held a rally. Lewis people stayed at Scotsman Hotel. Dub and Clara Stapleton had his big pickup and stayed in camper 5<sup>th</sup> wheel."



Mead pick up



Father Andy Gottschalk



Mica Schnobelen



Alvin Wheaton ↑ Jim Titus on Scheuffer tractor ↓



Mica Schnobelen, Jim Pratt, & Leo Schinstock



Jim Pratt, Keith King, Kenny Keen, Vernon VanNehman, & Aaron Wheaton



Jeff Mead & Lester Derley



Leo Schinstock & Lester Derley



Tractors lined up in Lewis and ready to leave for Topeka



Diane & Clara Stapleton



Jim Titus, Mica Schnobelen, & Zelma Mead



Leo Schinstock & Harold Sherrill (Jetmore)



Jim Pratt



Alvin Wheaton



Jack Wolfe



Karen Miller, Zelma & Jeff Mead



Darrel Miller



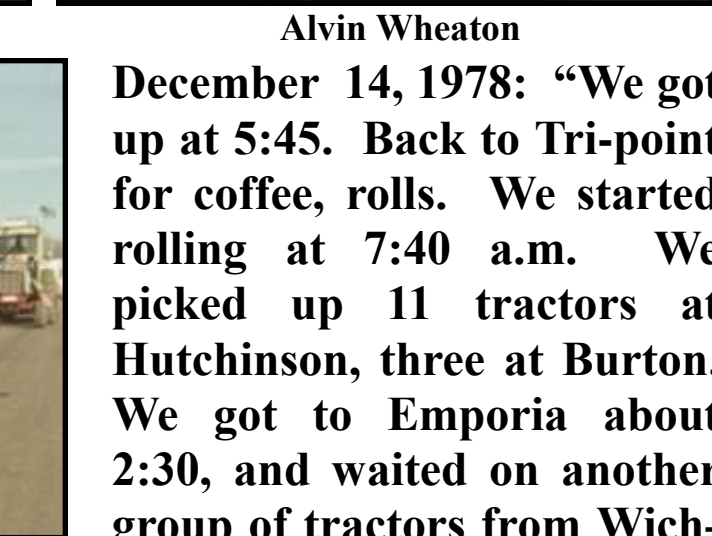
Ed Scheuffer



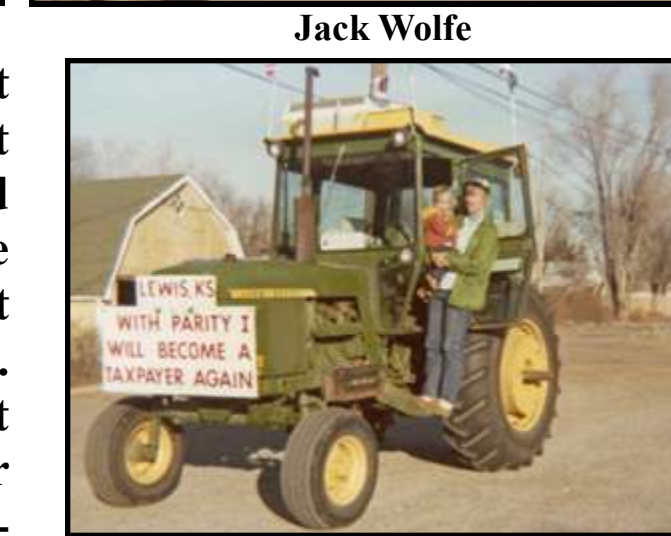
Jim Titus



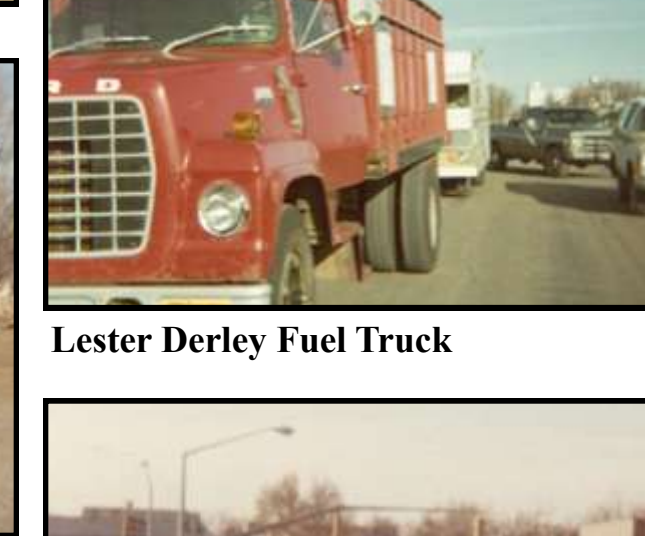
Jim Pratt



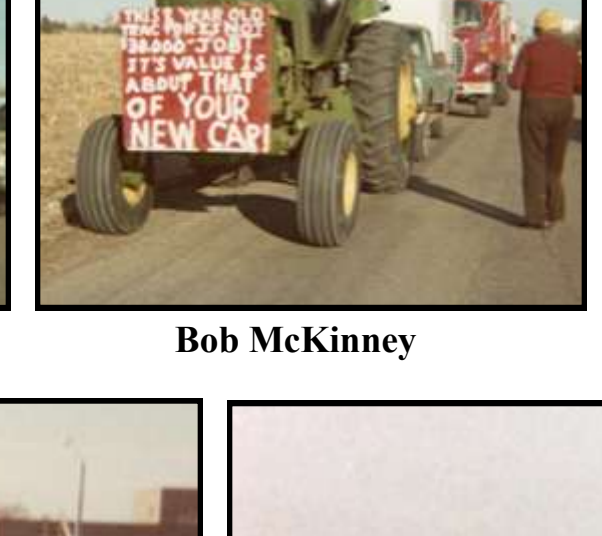
December 14, 1978: "We got up at 5:45. Back to Tri-point for coffee, rolls. We started rolling at 7:40 a.m. We picked up 11 tractors at Hutchinson, three at Burton. We got to Emporia about 2:30, and waited on another group of tractors from Wichita. Also, tractors from Emporia joined in. We paraded with 91 tractors at 4:30 till dark." Then ate supper at big building on fairgrounds. Tractors were parked there also. We stayed in Holiday Inn.



Bev Snyder & Amy



Lester Derley Fuel Truck



Bob McKinney



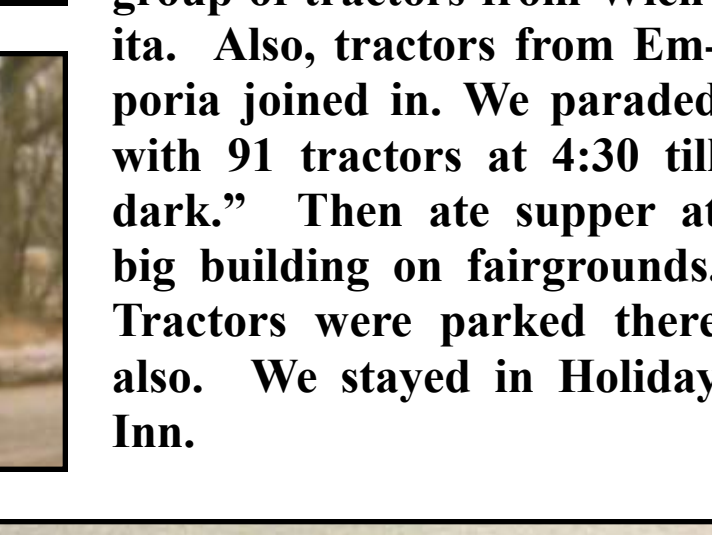
Jack Wolfe



Jim Titus



Bob McKinney



Leo Schinstock



BELOW: Shawnee County Fairgrounds

December 15, 1978: "Up early, went to a café and ate breakfast. Then to tractors. We started rolling for Topeka at 7:30. We came into Topeka from the south on Highway 75 and parked in Shawnee County fairgrounds about 12:00 noon. Tractors came in all afternoon. We worked on Junior Titus' 4320, fixed the windshield wipers and flashers. We stayed in Jayhawk Hotel."

Bob McKinney's tractor with sign: Jeff Mead driving Stapleton's 7040 Allis-Chalmers. Zelma riding with him took picture.



December 16, 1978: "Big day. Up early and ate breakfast, to tractors. They started lining us up at 7:15. We started moving into the street at 8:00. North and around Capitol Building. Parked in parking lot, walked about 2 blocks and watched rest of parade. Lasted until almost noon. Then Zelma and I and Lester Derley ate dinner. Then to Municipal Auditorium for rally. Afterward, we had excitement. Then left tractors at fairground. Zelma and I left for Manhattan and came home that day. Got here about 1:00 am. Icy."