

Timeline Generated

(Regular print is from newspaper, bold from Jeff Mead's Diary, Blue is W.I.F.E. events)

1977

November 17: American Agriculture information published in Lewis Press

December 6: Women Involved in Farm Economics (W.I.F.E.) hold bake sale in Larned Strike Office, 119 W. 6th St., Larned. Proceeds to fund organization

December 6- 10: Chartered bus goes to Tractorcade in Topeka

(Mary Ellen Schinstock made the signs and was instrumental in organizing bus

Lewis people in parade were Rocky Snyder, Jack Wolfe, Lee Belcher, Kenny Keen, Jim Titus, J.T. Moore, and Bob McLean drove tractors. Bill Wheaton took a pickup and camper; Alvin Wheaton, Harold Schinstock and Bob McKinney joined procession in pickup trucks.

Started in Johnson on Tuesday, Dec. 6, and spent the night at Dodge City.

Lewis tractors joined on Wednesday, Dec. 7, paraded and spent night in Hutchinson

Thursday, December 8, spent in Emporia (Jack Wolfe led tractorcade thru Emporia)

Hundreds of school children lining the streets to watch

Friday, December 9, got to Topeka and parked at Forbes Air Force Base

Saturday, December 10, left at 7: 30 a.m. for 6 ½ hour journey to Topeka, all parked at

Capitol by 2 p.m. 4,500 people, 800 tractors, combines,

"If it didn't do any good, we are going to do it again."

December 14, 1977 Tractorcade to Larned

Met in Lewis, 29, tractors, 13 support vehicles including pickups, a truck and a van

(Some joined in from Kinsley) and arrived in Larned for Rally. W.I.F.E. fed them at National Guard Armory at noon, then back to Kinsley for another rally of 65 tractors and 29 support vehicles.

1978

January 3: Tractorcade: Offerle parade at 10:00 am. After lunch, parade in Kinsley, then to Lewis and paraded

January 10: Great Bend to Harlan Manor for the all day State Meeting of the AAM

January 12: Thursday AAM meeting in Wayne Community Hall. Walter McClure from Hugoton spoke.

Lewis AAM has just opened a Strike Office west of Kathy's hair Fashion on Ave. B. Open 6 days a week.

January 12: Meeting in Grain Club in Larned. Then back to Lewis for AAM meeting in community hall

January 21-26?: A group goes to Washington D.C.

(From a Scheufler picture: Alvin Wheton, Rocky Snyder, Jack Wolfe, Ed & Marj Scheufler)

January 30: Left Lewis with nine tractors and three support vehicles. Picked up tractors on the way to Macksville. Paraded in Macksville and ate dinner, then to St. John rally where paraded with

35 tractors and eight support vehicles. Then home.

Lester Derley and I got home about dark. Darrel Miller, Robert McKinney and I went to Pratt to the regional meeting of the American Agriculture with Alvin Wheaton.

January 31: AAM meeting held at St. Bernard Parish Hall in Belpre. Report on trip to Washington by Alvin Wheaton, Rocky Snyder, Dosca and Jack Wolfe, Jim Titus and others who joined 80,000 to 100,000 farmers in D.C.

February 1: St. John strike meeting. Marj Scheufler talked and did a very good job. Two men from Johnson talked, also nice meeting.

February 9: AAM meeting in National Guard Armory in Larned with Tom Kersey of Unadilola, Georgia speaking about his meetings with President Carter over Christmas break.

February 9: to Larned for strike meeting. Lewis people talked.

February 16: AAM at 4-H Building in Kinsley. Par Barrett of Coolidge, KS spoke on American Cattleman and Foreign Beef Imports. Crop Production Cutbacks will be discussed.

February 21: Wichita for AAM News Conference. Then to Wichita Hilton for meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Bergland

February 23: To Pratt to Strike Regional Meeting

March 2: Darrel Miller elected A.A.M. representative for South Central Region of Kansas

March 7: Municipal Auditorium in Great Bend for State Agriculture Movement Meeting.

March 8: Darrel Miller flew to Joplin, Missouri and made a 30 minute TV tape with Jim Cramer and Walter McClure for American Ag.

[March 8: Women met in the Golden Manor Restaurant in Lewis to form a new W.I.F.E Chapter](#)

March 19: To Loraine for strike meeting

March 12 -18: Jerry Stapleton, Alan Simpson, Steve Bundy, Marj Scheufler and Jeff Mead went to D.C.

March 14: To Larned, Father Andy spoke at AAM meeting.

March 15-17: Lobbying in Washington, D.C. : Grover McLean, Allan Simpson, Steve Bundy, Jerry Matre (all of Lewis); Jerry Stapleton of Belpre, Leo and Mary Ellen Schinstock, Mildred Van Nahmen of Kinsley. So far, 23 county farmers have been sent to D.C

"We were lobbying for the Dole flexible Parity Bill. We were there when the bill passed out of the Ag. Committee. The hall in front of the committee room was packed. One of Dole's aides came out and asked us to be quiet so we were. Before that, though, Talmadge asked us to hold down the noise, and it was ignored. On March 16 After the rally in Lafayette Park, we took a little stroll down Penn. Ave. We covered the entire 6 lanes (on foot) and stretched several blocks back. It was cold and drizzly that morning, not much fun walking – but sure made a pretty picture. After

we reached the Senate Building, someone up front hollered "O.K. boys, shoulder to shoulder, just like the freedom marchers, we're going up those steps." When we got right to the bottom of the steps, they called up "Tricked your ass, didn't we!" We then took a little longer stroll than what was planned and went to the U.S.D.A. Building. There is where, so far, during this Strike, we came closest to violence. A policeman broke the window of the building, but naturally, the farmers were blamed. It was said by the UPI that there were about 200 farmers when actually there were thousands."

Mary Ellen Schinstock

March 20: Lewis Strike Office telethon to raise money.

March 22: To State Strike Office in Johnson, Kansas, to Ulysses, and Lewis

March 25: Jim Titus and Darrel Miller attend and speak at AAM Rally in Jefferson, Iowa

March 27: Mark Scheufler just back from Washington D.C. at 5:00 pm. Marj Scheufler, Darrel and Karen Miller left with us for Woodward, Oklahoma.

(Miller Picture has Jean Titus and Clara Stapleton in it also.

March 29: To Albert Kansas, for meeting with Representative Keith Sibelius."

April 1: To Hutchinson for State Agriculture Movement in sports arena. We had 21 people from the Lewis Office attending."

April ?4-6: Millers

April ?11-13?: Lester Derley are in Washington, D.C.

"Leo went back to D.C. with Harold Schinstock and Lester Derley to lobby for the Dole Flexible parity Bill. They saw it pass the Senate but be defeated in the House. There was some mighty sad farmers on the hill that day."

Mary Ellen Schinstock

April 11: Tonight was the bi-weekly strike meeting update. "Lester Derley called last night from Washington D.C. Gave us a lot of things we had to get done before the House of Representatives votes on our farm bill for Flexible Parity. At 3:00 pm today, we had a big meeting at the strike office this morning. Office sent about 125 telegrams and made phone calls to Washington D.C.

April 11: This evening we took Darrel and Karen Miller to Hays for American Agriculture Meeting at armory. We saw Tommy Kersey."

April 12: Flexible parity Bill did not pass.

April 15: To Hutchinson for an American Agriculture State Meeting.

April 17: To Pratt for Regional Meeting for American Agriculture

April 24: 30 from Lewis Strike Office picked up more in St. John, Pratt, Kingman and went on Chartered bus to Oklahoma City for National Meeting by 10:00 am.

April 26: To Kinsley 4-H Fair building. Father Andrew Gottschalk, Reverend Dennis Kuder and Darrel Miller put on a good strike meeting.

April 22: W.I.F.E. State Convention held at Harvest Inn in Larned. Election of officers results: Gloria Crane (Larned) President; Mildred VanNahmen (Edwards County) 1st VP; Nancy Speigel (Jewell County) 2nd VP; Terri Stapleton (Edwards Co.) Recording Secretary; Bev Corneilson (Pawnee Co) Public Relations; Linda Warren (Rush Co.) Historian; and Sheryl Giessel (Pawnee Co.) Corresponding Sec. Also in attendance from Edwards County were: Beverly Snyder, Karen Miller, Zelma Mead, Judy McKinney, Peggy Arensman, Mary Ellen Schinstock, Debbie Laufenberg, and Dolores Jones.

NOTE: The summer and fall months were busy for the farmers to tend their ground, but there were still meetings to keep in touch. The Lewis Strike Office was open all summer and Zelma and Jeff helped to run it off and on. The office was open every day and someone was there to take calls and keep the coffee pot on so the farmers could stop by and keep informed. The men also worked when they were available.

June 3: Zelma and I left for Lewis at 7:50 a.m. Ford pickup and trailer went to Elmer Huckstep's shed and helped load antiques and collectables and move them to Main Street where they sold. I went back to the park and helped line up machinery for parade. Great parade, antiques sold great. 12:30 to 2:30, Kirk brothers auctioneered. We made \$3,340.50 – unbelievable. Ate tacos at Community Hall.

July 25-26: Zelma and I went to Wilson Lake where Lewis AAM was camped. Put our tent up and enjoyed ourselves. 26th...Beautiful day at the lake. We left about 6 p.m. Had a grand time visiting and planning.

August 4: W.I.F.E. takes third place with their educational booth at the Edwards county Fair

August 23: W.I.F.E. members Mildred VanNahmen (W.I.F.E. State VP) and Judy Simpson met with federal officials of the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Trade Commission, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and asserted that consumers had the right to have their food labeled to know what they were eating.

August 30: WE picked up Keith and Marcile King, Ed and Marge Scheufler and went to the 4-H Building in Wichita. Governor Bennet and Congressman Dan Glickman each talked to us and received their plaques for their support of AAM. Nancy Kassebaum was there and answered questions.

September 7: Went to Regional meeting with Darrel and Karen Miller. Darrel gave an economic wheel talk.

September 18 & 19: W.I.F.E. members Mildred VanNahmen (W.I.F.E. State VP) and Peggy Arensman (W.I.F.E. State Public Relations Chairman) testify in joint hearings of the food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Federal Trade Commission in Little rock, Arkansas. VanNahmen testified about misleading food labels of canned goods, especially meat, including the large amount of water and sugar being added to products. Arensman testified about the foreign products that come into this country with 40 chemical additives banned here.

November 3-5: Second Annual W.I.F.E. Convention. Billings Montana Mildred VanNahmen (Kinsley) elected 3rd VP Spokesman. Also attending: Peggy Arensman (Kinsley) State Public Relations Chairman; Audrey Steltman (Kinsley); Beverly Schneider (Lewis) Chapter 89 President and member of the State Steering Committee; Judy Simpson (Lewis); Terie Stapleton (Belpre) State Recording Secretary.

December 7: We picked up Keith and Marcile and went to Kinsley HS Auditorium to hear Father Andy Gottschalk give a talk at the AAM meeting.

December 13: Tractorcade to Topeka goes through Kinsley on Wednesday to stay in Hutchinson

“December 13, 1978 a total of 12 vehicles left Lewis to join the tractorcade to Topeka. This tractorcade was formed to show support for the grain market hearings starting Monday, December 18, 1978.”

1979

From Bev Snyder's Diary:

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| January 18, 1979 | Topeka, Kansas | Ben Marble farm, Very muddy |
| January 20, 1979 | Lee's Summit, Missouri | (Camped in right lane of Highway 50) |
| January 20, 1979 | Sedalia, Missouri | State Fair Grounds, local people served dinner |
| January 20, 1979 | Sedalia, Missouri | Sunday - Church by Father Andy |
| January 22, 1979 | Washington, Missouri | Fair Grounds near Union |
| January 23, 1979 | Greenville, Illinois | Race Track, Sleet & Snowstorm |
| January 24, 1979 | Greenville, Illinois | Snowbound |
| January 25, 1979 | Greenville, Illinois | Snowbound |
| January 26, 1979 | Terra Haute, Indiana | |
| January 27, 1979 | Indianapolis, Indiana | Snowbound |
| January 28, 1979 | Indianapolis, Indiana | Sunday - Snowbound |
| January 29, 1979 | Richmond, Indiana | 650 units, 1500 people (Parked in shopping centers and streets) |
| January 30, 1979 | Columbus, Ohio | Picked up 100 more units from Ohio & Minn. Served meal and had music by Ohio people. |
| January 31, 1979 | St. Clairsville, Ohio | Snowed some. Parked in Shopping Mall |
| February 1, 1979 | Frostburg, Maryland | Icy, snowy roads |
| February 2, 1979 | Frederick, Maryland | |
| February 3, 1979 | Frederick, Maryland | |
| February 4, 1979 | Cherry Hill Camp City | |
| February 5, 1979 | D.C. Capitol Hill | |

August 25, 1979 W.I.F.E. State Convergence in McPherson was hosted by Chapter 89, Lewis. Peggy Arensman elected State President

December 5, 1979 Peggy Arensman testifies at USDA hearing in Sedalia, Missouri.

December 5, 1979 Chapter 89 met at Golden Manor Restaurant to elect officers: Beverly Snyder (Lewis) President; Karen Miller (Lewis) VP; Terie Stapleton (Belpre) Recording Secretary; Zelma Mead (Lewis) Spokeswoman; Mildred VanNahmen (Kinsley) Corresponding Secretary; Mary Ellen Schinstock (Kinsley), Judy Simpson (Lewis), and Beverly Snyder (Lewis) State Steering Committee.

December 7, 1979 Several W.I.F.E. members hosted coffees in their homes to assist the Farmers Union in getting farm women together to discuss farming problems.

December, 1979 Mildred VanNahmen attended the Farm Women Forum put on by Farm Wife magazine at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.