PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Nick Schultz

As 2025 comes to an end, it's time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. This unique museum would not exist if it weren't for the continued membership and all the volunteers of the past and present. Thank you, members and volunteers.

After forty-five years in existence, it was time for some long overdue maintenance and upgrades. The museum purchased a new Highway 97 entrance sign and supplies, and HLA Engineering and Land Surveying painted the framework and installed it as their community service project. Community involvement has been strong for many years. The sign over the archway at the entrance to the museum grounds was removed, restored and replaced by museum volunteers. The leaky roof on the railcar was replaced by a contractor. We also contracted to have gutters and downspouts installed on buildings 7, 16, the host's residence and the Visitor's Center.

In late summer we found that the ancient air conditioning unit had failed. New very quiet electric heat pump air conditioning and heating units were installed in the Visitor's Center, Grange Library and office. Our very capable volunteers removed both old natural gas heating units. New computers and printers will have been installed by the end of December. We seeded part of what was the wheat field with lawn grass and extended the irrigation lines into it, and more frost-free faucets were added on the grounds. Even our gas pump has been replaced.

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE ON SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026 AT 1 PM AT THE MUSEUM

Several faded information signs have been revised, reprinted and are ready to be installed. Green donor plaques are being put on artifacts as information for them is verified. First aid kits have been purchased, placed in wooden cabinets and put in buildings throughout the museum along with exterior signs to indicate their locations. We purchased an essentially new single-trip 40-foot cargo container to provide much needed storage.

You may be wondering how we financed all these improvements. Some of your membership money and fundraiser donations were used. We have received grants, sponsorship donations, general fund donations from organizations, and some very generous personal donations. We cut our restoration budget and instead are using that money for museum maintenance. We also received money from the City of Union Gap for upgrades through the Lodging Tax (LTAC) fund.

Regarding sponsorships, LTAC funding allowed us to contract with a

Who knew it took so many guys to put up a sign?

Our "new" to us gas pump now works well

The cabinets in the buggy building will be moved into the container

With everyone helping, it didn't take long to fill the scrap metal bin

The current display at City Hall is an asparagus sprayer

Our outdoor fair display included Gibson tractors

sponsorship developer whose task is to canvas the valley and find organizations that may want to become a sponsor for the museum. So far things have been going quite well with several new 2026 sponsors.

The great relationship we have with State Fair Park continues. We have a permanent booth inside the Ag Building, and each year we have a different outdoor display during the State Fair. For their Drive-Thru Holiday Light Fest we provided about a dozen items that they will decorate. When organizations co-operate, good things happen. Our volunteers put together a display that will be in several lighted parades and participate in some of the Christmas Truck touring.

We had multiple items on display at this year's Drive-Thru Light Fest at State Fair Park

We participated in several Lighted Parades throughout the Yakima Valley

Over the life of the museum, an enormous amount of scrap metal has accumulated, mostly from items donated that we cannot properly display. We spent a good part of 2025 gathering and sorting these items, keeping what was still relevant and usable and recycling the rest and earning about $2400.

The City of Union Gap requested that we display different artifacts next to City Hall, changing it four times per year. It takes a lot of manpower to get this done. Our host Jerry continues to keep the landscape looking good. He also handles all the facility rentals. His canine side kick, Shadow, has become quite the ambassador for the museum.

As you can see it has been a very busy year at the Ag Museum. None of that would have been possible without your membership and the 11,216 (so far) hours our volunteers have put in during 2025. Their talents and dedication continue to amaze me.

I also want to thank our board of directors. Their commitment, dedication and vision continue to serve the Central Washington Agricultural Museum well. We are moving forward following the bylaws and mission statement set forth by the past board of directors and founders.

Wishing each of you a Happy Holiday and prosperous New Year.

The F&M Transfer truck is almost complete

Operations Manager Report by Paul Strater

Many of the recent projects at the Ag Museum have been focused on upgrades, repairs, and maintenance of museum infrastructure. And while the pace of restorations has slowed considerably in the last 18 months, there are still some projects being pursued. The rebuilding of the 1946 Ford COE after the fire in April destroyed the cab, is nearly complete. Also nearing completion is the restoration of the 1942 International Truck that was once used by F & M Transfer. All the work on this truck was funded by private donations, so progress has been slow.

A new and exciting restoration project is being explored. Several years ago, we were given the 1949 Ford F-6 farm truck used by George Hirahara for sugar beet harvesting. In the intervening years, there have been at least two restorations started, and then paused due to lack of funds. Like the F & M Transfer truck, this vehicle will be completely restored only through private funding. Mr. Hirahara's granddaughter, Patti Hirahara, a Japanese American Foundation in Seattle, other community groups and private donors have pledged to help pay for the restoration. History is being preserved!

The Hirahara truck is in pieces awaiting funding

The 25hp hit and miss engine donated by George Hirahara

Mr. Hirahara was a long-time volunteer at the museum. He had a special interest in hit-and-miss engines and worked on many of the single cylinder machines, from small tabletop models to some of the larger ones at the museum. In 1986, he donated the largest working hit-and-miss engine at the museum. George Hirahara was the Grand Marshal at the Pioneer Power Show in 1987, and Patti Hirahara was Grand Marshal in 2018. We hope to have made significant progress on the rebuilding of the truck before Patti's visit next summer during the Pioneer Power Show.

Members of the Central Washington Farm Equipment Club continue to work on the 4-cylinder 1935 Fairbanks-Morse Diesel Engine that was once used in an Alaskan fish cannery. It is so huge that it required a massive multi-level concrete foundation to be built to hold it. With the base now done, they are starting to put the engine together. We're hoping to see it running very soon.

The rebuild of the CWAFEC engine is progressing

Education & Event Coordinator Report by Cheryl Reese

What an incredible year it was at the Central Washington Agricultural Museum! From bustling school tours to smiling crowds at our community events, the museum was alive with activity, learning, and memories in the making.

Our education program had a busy year—over 400 excited students spent time with us. They discovered how railways and letterpress printing shaped agriculture in the Yakima Valley, watched history come to life through hands-on demonstrations, and of course, enjoyed the always popular kiddie train rides and the 4-H petting zoo. The sound of laughter and curiosity echoing across the museum grounds reminded us exactly why we do what we do. We were pleased when we received grant money that allowed us to give every child several educational items in a backpack that had the name of the museum on it. We're hoping they will come back to visit with their families.

It's fun to ride the kiddie train.

And speaking of excitement, our annual events were a tremendous success! The Old Steel Car Show made history, breaking attendance records for both entries and spectators. Old Town Days, our June celebration that commemorates the founding of Union Gap was also well attended. People came to see the Washington Civil War Association's historically accurate 18th century camps and watch the battle reenactments throughout the weekend.

In August, the parade of equipment during the 44th annual Pioneer Power Show included several unique Gibson tractors, along with many other types of old and new vehicles. This year the swap meet returned, and we look forward to an even bigger opportunity for treasure hunting in 2026. Agri-Copia, our annual October festival, wrapped up our events for the year, with horse-drawn wagon rides, horse training demonstrations, and pumpkin decorating.

There were many different animals in the petting zoo.

Learning about the railroad's contribution to agriculture.

Of course, none of this would happen without the heart of our museum – our volunteers. Their passion keeps history alive, and we are endlessly grateful for their dedication. We'd love to have you on our team! Whether you can help one day a week, one day a month, or one day a year, there's a role waiting for you. No experience is necessary — just a love for learning, sharing, and preserving agricultural heritage.

Ready to get involved? Email Cheryl at cwam.ed.coordinator@gmail.com

Cheryl's tractor driving lessons went very well and she earned her tram driver's license from Ron.

Another way to support the museum is through a tax-deductible sponsorship. Putting on our events and field trips can get expensive, and we can't do it without the generous support of our sponsors. Donations received by March 31st will ensure that your logo and/or name is featured on the 2026 banner that is displayed on our grounds year-round beginning in the spring.

Contact our sponsorship developer, Charlie Brooks, at charlie.brooks@smgnational.com

One of the biggest highlights of my year was learning to drive a tractor—a Farmall M—and pulling the tram at the Pioneer Power Show. I had joked more than once about needing additional tram drivers for events and said I might just have to learn to do it myself. A very courageous (and patient) volunteer, Ron Miller, heard me make the comment and decided that day was my day to learn.

True to his word, a little while later he pulled up outside the Visitor Center on a tractor with a tram in tow. He spent the next couple of hours teaching me tractor skills, and by the time the Pioneer Power Show rolled around, I had earned my stripes and was able to shuttle visitors from Fulbright Park onto the event grounds. I haven't stopped smiling about it since!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

In February 2023, the attorney for the City of Union Gap required us to identify all privately owned items that are stored on the museum grounds. If you previously filled out a **Release and Indemnity** form, and still have items at the museum, your form must be renewed before the end of January 2026. Please come in to sign and date it. If you have items at the museum and have not completed the Release and Indemnity form, please do so immediately. Items that are not identified become the property of the museum. If you have removed your property that was previously identified on a Release and Indemnity form, please let us know.

Per the by-laws of the museum, nominations for a position on the board of directors will no longer be taken from the floor during the annual membership meeting. To run for a position on the board, **new candidates must notify the board of directors in writing**, postmarked or delivered, at least 30 days before the annual meeting. Email, texts, and other electronic communications are not acceptable. For 2026, this notification must be made no later than **February 18, 2026**. To hold the office of vice president or president of the museum, the person cannot be an officer and/or a board member of an organization that has a signed agreement with the museum. The person can be a general member of those groups.

Merry Christmas from your friends George and Rose Streby

This year I decided to write a Christmas letter. Every year I get these wonderful cards and letters and pictures. I get pictures from relatives whose kids are now forty years old and have no idea if it is Johnny, Charlie or Susie, maybe it was Johnny and now it's Susie. I hear about the wonderful exciting and exotic places they have visited during the past year. This year I decided it was my year to tell you of our exciting summer.

Most mornings I travel from the back porch to the strip of lawn that belongs to the dogs. I take a baggie and rubber gloves. That time of morning the grass is lovely with drops of dew that shimmer and shine. My trip back and forth over the lawn is exciting and you never know what you will find. I never come away empty handed.

Each day is an exciting adventure, almost like being on a safari. I prepare snacks, coffee or ice tea and take a pillow with me just in case it is a longer trip than usual or I need a morning nap. Most of the time it only takes a few seconds to get from the kitchen to the deck where the porch swing is located. We are not in any danger from the wild life as the compound is fenced. It is not unusual to see raccoon, deer occasionally and lots of wild ducks which I feed cracked corn to every morning. I do see yellow gold finch which is our state bird and seem to be quite rare in this area. We have a view of the people that still drive coming in or going out of the court and I do say drive with wonder. We have a view of the mail boxes and enjoy waving to those that are still able to see us.

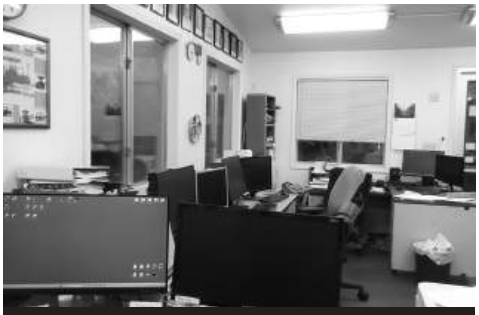
When we are really feeling good we take a trip in the car to Walmart for supplies. This is considered a social event as we see a lot of our friends there. To make it more exciting we plan on having lunch at a drive in. The local drive in's seem to think a lot of us because they send us lots of coupons in the mail and we try to thank them by eating there as often as possible. We are hoping the car will last for a few more years. It is a 2019 red Kia but it already has 41,000 miles. Just seems we are on the go all the time.

Merry Christmas to all our fellow volunteers and members of the Central Washington Agricultural. Museum and especially the Tuesday crew of volunteers.

Newsletter Delayed

This newsletter was intended to be in the mail the second week of December. It was delayed for multiple reasons, not the least of which was the installation of four new computers in the office.

Rose, Wally, and Effie under the desks, along with Sally worked to get the new computers installed.



The transfer of data from the old computers to the new took several hours.

Thank You Sponsors

The Central Washington Agricultural Museum extends a sincere thank-you to all the businesses that sponsored our events and activities in 2025. We truly cannot do it without you. If you would like to become a 2026 sponsor, please contact Charlie Brooks at 509-901-4995 or **charlie.brooks@smgnational.com.**

2025 PLATINUM SPONSOR: Cascade Licensing Agency, Inc., Snokist Growers Alumni, Yakima Theatres
2025 GOLD SPONSORS: Apple King, LLC, Riddco Inc, Union Gap Transit/Medstar Transportation/Goin
2025 SILVER SPONSORS: Borton Fruit, Fruit City, HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc, Mill Creek Natural Foods, Pacific CA Services, Pepp'rmint Stick Drive-In, PLSA Engineering & Surveying, United Sales, Inc., Valley Mall, LLC.
2025 BRONZE SPONSORS: Leslie & Campbell, Inc, Los Hernandez Tamales, LLC, The Hunt Marketing Agency

Sponsorships are now open for 2026! Contact Charlie Brooks at 509-901-4995 or charlie.brooks@smgnational.com
2026 GOLD SPONSORS: Ahtanum Fuel Stop, Farmgirl Pickings, Kim Acacio Agency, Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC., Yakima Co-Op
2026 SILVER SPONSORS: Mill Creek Natural Foods, Pacific Steel & Recycling, Valley Quality Homes

HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

A Brief History of the Gibson Tractor

from the Central Washington Ag Museum

Gibson equipment was featured during the 2025 Pioneer Power Show. We had at least one example of almost every Gibson model made, including the rare 1952 prototypes Model L and Model M that were never produced commercially. There was also a Harvey on display. One unexpected highlight was the discovery by some of the visiting Gibson enthusiasts that we have a Gibson forklift in our collection. As it is parked in the "way out back", closely jammed together with other equipment, and was entered in our artifact inventory simply as "forklift" it never showed up when searching for Gibson. It was donated in 1996, before any of the current volunteers were here. We have six Gibson tractors ranging in age from 1945-1948, all made in Seattle.

One of the Gibsons exhibited at the Power Show was a mid-size Gibson H

Harry A. Gibson founded the Gibson Manufacturing Corporation in Seattle, Washington in 1933 to build railroad cars to transport loggers and supplies to and from logging camps. Gibson also repaired and resold used logging equipment, generators, engines, locomotives, and tractors. In 1943, deciding to capitalize on the growing demand for tractors, they began to build small garden tractors, with the first ones simply known as "the Gibson". These first Gibsons used salvaged 1933-1936 Chrysler/Plymouth or Chevrolet automotive transmissions and rear axles powered by a single-cylinder Wisconsin engine.

This Gibson Super D with the Indian Head logo is owned by Alan Geho

In 1946, Harry's son Wilber F. Gibson opened a second factory in Longmont, Colorado and began making a new model more suited to pulling a plow. The new tractor, the Model D, had a proprietary rear axle. At that point, the older model became retroactively known as the Model A. To differentiate between a Model A with the auto axle or the Gibson axle, they are known by collectors today as the early A and the late A.

Model A tractors with the automotive axle were made in Seattle alongside tractors with the proprietary Gibson rear axle for a few months into the summer of 1946. Model D tractors were also being made at the same time. Longmont used only the Gibson rear axle on the A and on the D. These first three models had the distinctive characteristic of being steered with a tiller. It was mounted on the right side of the frame and was pushed forward to turn left and pulled back to turn right. In 1948, the Super D introduced the steering wheel design, and all remaining models used this.

Production had grown to about 5600 tractors a year, and around 200 employees when Gibson decided they needed to expand their product line to compete with mid-size tractors like the Farmall Cub, as well as enter the full-size tractor market. In the spring and summer of 1948, they introduced the Model E, which was similar to the 2-cylinder Super D2 but was raised up to be a row crop tractor. The mid-size, 4-cylinder Model H, and 6-cylinder Model I were also added to the line. All three models came in narrow and wide-front variations.

CENTRAL WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

4508 Main St, Union Gap, WA 98903 • Phone: (509) 457-8735
www.centralwaagmuseum.org • info@centralwaagmuseum.org

HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

A Brief History of the Gibson Tractor

from the Central Washington Ag Museum

In the postwar years, the large tractor manufacturers, having been released from their war contract work, resumed full production, soon introducing their own smaller tractor models. In addition, these tractor manufacturers no longer allowed their dealers to carry the little Gibson. Most Gibson dealers were very small, normally ordering only one tractor at a time and could not compete with the larger franchises.

There was an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 total As, Ds, and Es made, whereas there were probably less than 500 each of the 'H's and 'I's. Gibson tractors were sold throughout the United States and in 26 foreign countries, with many still in use. In addition to tractors, the Gibson Company also made forklifts under government contract for the Navy during the late 1940's and early 1950's.

This museum Gibson has been converted from tiller steer to a steering wheel.

The Longmont factory closed in June 1952. Tractor production ceased in Seattle when Harry Gibson died in 1953. Wilbur started another tractor company, the Powerflex 10, in 1958 but died in 1959 at the age of 44 from a heart attack. The Powerflex was bought by Duane Harvey and was renamed the Harvey Powerflex. It is believed about 60 Harvey tractors were built, with 24 remaining. Utility Machine Works (Seattle) and Western American Industries (Longmont) continued to make and service Gibson tractors until 1959.

The 1950-51 Gibson forklift in the museum "out back".

There are many different models of small Gibson tractors.

Five of the six museum Gibsons. Each is slightly different from the others.

All memberships and fundraising as of 12/30/2025

2025 MEMBERSHIPS

$500 & UP
Rob Gallion, Ken & Millie Stenehjem, Yakima Co-operative Association

$250 & UP
AACA Central WA Region, Burrows Tractor, Harris Farms, Ron Miller, Kathy Schultz, Nick Schultz, Curtis & Mary R Sundquist, Margaret Morris & Ken Tolonen

$100 & UP
Kathy Kramer (Central WA Fair Association), Matt R Cleem, Darrell & Joyce Downing, Larry Dykes & Marian Easton-Dykes, Jim & Cheryl Gamache, Bob Gimlin, Gary & Kris Green, Robert & Sandie Hennessy, Ross & Patricia Herber, Rod & Donna Hodel, Instant Press Inc, Scott & Lyndee Campbell (K-5 Contracting Inc.), Jim Kabrich, Judy Markham, Don Picatti, Tony & Melody Pottratz, Robin & Jean Robert (Robert Ranch 5 + 1 LLC), Paul & Patty Schafer, Becky Scholl, Larry Scholl, Mike & Brian Schrantz, Ella Schreiner, Todd & Misti Schultz, Gerald Severance, Al & Elin Showalter, Cheryl & David Stave, George Streby, Sandi Vogel, Vaughn Warren, Paul & Connie Williams, Susan Branch (Yakima Valley Pomona #11), Ron Zirkle

$75 & UP
John A Baule, Nancy A Kenmotsu

$50 & UP
Dennis Albano, Bill Allen, Sandy Allen, Ruth Bishop, Carol Blomgren, Greg Blomgren, Karen Blomgren, Jody Brittain, Buena Grange #836, Sheena Burgus, Dave Calhoun, Howard & Evelyn Campbell, Eugenia Carvo, Harvey Cleem, Mark Congleton, Purdy G Conrad, Harold & Betty Cook, Rosemary Corn, Richard & Rebecca Drew, David Ruark (Eastern Washington Agricultural Museum), Alan Geho, Kim Geho, Susan Branch (Grange Library), Mike Haider, Norma Haney, Lynn & Tracy Harden, Laurie Harmon-Willard, Kathleen & Larry Hatcher, Timm Heberlein, John Hodkinson, Sandee Hodkinson, Dale Hoech, Bill Horst, Fred Hutchinson, Karen Klingele, John & Sally Kobli, Diana Kempf & Robert Landles, Ron Lange, Lori & Greg Leach, William McLaughlin, Wally & Roberta Moen, Cindy Morgan, A.A. Nalley Jr, Abigail Nickelsen, George Nix, Kim Orr, Pacific NW Snowmobile Club, Rose Parker, Eric & Wendy Patrick, Jim Warner (Perfection Tire), Larry Perrigo, Jim Polley, Peggy & Ellexis & Mark Rice, Ken & Judy Ruthardt, Dave Scheuffele, Phil Seghers, Shirley Seghers, Terry Stewart, Randy & Linda Sundstrom, Elizabeth Wade, Dwight & Rita Wagenmann, Greg Wilder, Floyd A Wilson, Ralph L Woodall Jr, John & Leslie Wornell, Marti Sondgeroth (Yakima Rock & Mineral Club), Yakima Valley Museum, James A Yockey & Family

2026 MEMBERSHIPS

$250 & UP
David Klingele

$100 & UP
Wayne & Marcia Buckner, Marissa & Mack Cozza, Ken Tolonen (Fruitvale Grange #348)

$50 & UP
David Brown, Eugenia Carvo, Alan Geho, Kim Geho, Laurie Harmon-Willard, Abigail Nickelsen, Cody Roberts, Lowell & Carole Romfo

2025 FUNDRAISER

$500 & UP
Burrows Tractor, Rob Gallion, Rod & Donna Hodel, Lowell & Carole Romfo

$250 & UP
Ron Miller, Kathy Schultz, Nick Schultz, Curtis & Mary R Sundquist, Margaret Morris & Ken Tolonen

$100 & UP
John A Baule, Jim & Cheryl Gamache, Diane Grignon, Jim Kabrich, Don Picatti, Tony & Melody Pottratz, Paul & Patty Schafer, Larry Scholl, Mike & Brian Schrantz, Vaughn Warren, Paul & Connie Williams, Ron Zirkle

$50 & UP
Purdy G Conrad, Mike Haider, Diana Kempf & Robert Landles, Judy Markham, Pacific NW Snowmobile Club, Peggy & Ellexis & Mark Rice, Greg Wilder

We're excited to host our first ever Ag Museum Marketing Workshop!

CWAM is thrilled to present our first Ag Museum Marketing Workshop, a new two-day event designed specifically for small museums, ag clubs, and heritage organizations. Taking place April 1-2, 2026 at the museum this workshop will offer practical, hands-on sessions to help organizations strengthen their outreach, engagement, and long-term sustainability.

Attendees will dive into topics including volunteer recruitment, membership growth, social media, event marketing, fundraising, grant writing, and making the most of their museum's assets.

Full details and registration here: Register Now. https://cwammarketingworkshop.eventbrite.com

The acquisitions since the last newsletter:

- Gibson tractor & tires from Richard Hester
- John Deere G tractor from Dee & Carol Adams
- Barn quilt board from Ron & Cheryl Miller
- Sears & Roebuck drag saw from John Meek
- Bosch illuminated sign from Ron Miller
- Ford 681 tractor from Harold Knapp
- Covered wagon model from Cindy Morgan
- Lindeman scale model crawler from Larry McCaw

Memorials

Larry Oswalt, Bob Hester, Ray Cook, F. Clarke Brown, Dick Drew

Remember a friend or loved one with a memorial gift to the Central Washington Agricultural Museum. Money from a memorial is used for additions and improvements unless otherwise designated. When you send a memorial gift it is helpful if you include the following information:

- ☐ Who to send the acknowledgment to along with the address.
- ☐ If available, we appreciate a copy of the obituary or a brief bio of the person.
- ☐ With a gift of $25 or more the honored one's name will be placed on a memorial board. It is a tax deductible gift.

CENTRAL WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM
4508 Main St.
Union Gap, WA 98903-2138

REMEMBER THE ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 21 AT 1:00pm

NOMINATIONS DUE BY FEBRUARY 18

Ag Museum Marketing Workshop	**April 1 & 2**
Asparagus Mania	**April 19 - June**
Enjoy fresh asparagus throughout Union Gap	
Old Steel Car Show	**April 26**
Ag Museum ATHS Truck Show	**May 2**
Sponsored by Antique Truck Historical Society	
AsparaFest!	**May 16 & 17**
Enjoy fresh asparagus and more throughout Union Gap	
Swap Meet	**June 13**
Sponsored by Antique Automobile Club of America	
Old Town Days & Civil War Re-enactment	**June 20 & 21**
Pioneer Power Show & Swap Meet / Flea Market	**August 15 & 16**
Vintiques UnRun ***Sponsored by Vintiques of Yakima***	**October 3**
Agri-Copia	**October 10 & 11**

OLD STEEL CAR SHOW

APRIL 26

AMERICAN TRUCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TRUCK SHOW

FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY

Agri-Copia

SECOND WEEKEND IN OCTOBER

Pioneer Power Show & SWAP MEET / FLEA MARKET EST. 1981

THIRD WEEKEND IN AUGUST

UNION GAP OLD TOWN DAYS
FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND