

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

By Dale Vanderford

The Murdock Historical Society

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Murdock has had a great tradition of community celebrations over the years. Not only the recent 4th of July celebrations held over the last 24 years, but many years before. In the “teens” Murdock held “Ford Days”. A celebration including games, parades, races in with Model T’s and prizes given to the best, tallest, shortest, youngest, oldest, who came farthest, etc. The community band played at night, and there was a dance.

A large celebration, the “Harvest Home Festival”, was held for three days in the fall of 1908. A good number of people saw their first silent movie shown here during those days. The Murdock baseball team won all of their games at the festival. Max Goehry won the bareback horse race. George Gramlich won the corn show with the best ten ears. Charlie Long won the foot race. These festivals were held annually for several years. At one of them, in an automobile driver’s contest, Nora Eveland received a prize for being the best lady driver. Matilda Bornemeier Veach was second.

At the first festival, a part of the program was a girl being hypnotized and acting like what we see on television today. It was the feature act in a show and the cry was “See Mysterious Melba rise, fly and float in mid-air!” Also another attraction put on in the evening was when a cable was put down from the window in the top of the elevator to the ground. A young lady then jumped from the window with torches in her hands and came down the cable. Her hair had been tied to a wheel rolling on the cable. It was reported that one of the men holding a canvas to help stop her at the ground let go and she was injured some when she hit the post holding the cable.

Information submitted by the Murdock Historical Society, 9014 – 310th St Murdock NE 68407. www.murdockmuseum.org The museum is open on Sundays from 1:30 –5, or by appointment by calling 402-867-3331.