

Roots For The Future



The 59th Annual
Home Products Dinner
Tuesday, September 20, 2022
7:00 p.m.

A SUPPLEMENT OF THE ULYSSES NEWS

The History Behind the Grant County Home Products Dinner

During the 1941 Kansas Legislative Session in the state capitol of Topeka, Representative Will Christian from rural Grant County had been bragging that he could prepare an entire dinner using only food grown and produced in Grant County. By the 1940's commercial irrigation was widespread in Southwest Kansas, making it possible for Representative Christian to make this claim.

During the Fall of 1941, Representative Christian hosted a dinner in Grant County for twelve of his fellow legislators and the Lieutenant Governor. Representative Christian's wife, Nora, prepared this home products dinner in their ranch home in rural Grant County, and served the party in their dining room.

The dinner became an annual event for the Christian's until Representative Christian's retirement from the Kansas Legislature. In 1962, the Grant County Chamber and several local citizens revived the dinner, naming it the Grant County Home Products Dinner.

The Dinner was still a showcase of locally grown products, but it evolved into a dinner to which the public and elected politicians were invited. In September 1963 the first "modern" Dinner was served. Today the dinner serves approximately 1,500 people every year. Over the course of the forty plus years the Dinner has been served, the menu has remained essentially unchanged.

Barbeque beef is the main course, served with scalloped potatoes, baked pinto beans, candied sweet squash, cherry tomatoes, sweet corn, whole wheat rolls, strawberry jam, watermelon, ice cream and milo doughnuts.

Every year it takes approximately 800 pounds of beef to supply the main course, along with 4,000 cherry tomatoes, a pickup load or two of sweet corn, 2,000 milo doughnuts, 100 pounds of pinto beans, 400 pounds of potatoes, 1,800 whole wheat rolls, 50 squash, 40 pounds of strawberries, and 50 watermelons.

The Grant County Chamber is still very involved with the Dinner, and has an eight-person Home Products Dinner committee that coordinates the dinner. The committee is a four-year commitment, allowing committee members to learn the process of putting together the Dinner in steps. By the time the food is served, the committee will have coordinated approximately 700 volunteers and 50 clubs to help with everything from picking and shucking sweet corn to setting up chairs and tables. The Home Products Dinner is served every year on the third Tuesday of September.

Planning for the Dinner begins the November of the preceding year. Over the course of eleven months, the committee picks entertainment for the Dinner, chooses a theme and complimenting artwork, coordinates with local farmers to grow the products needed for the dinner, and begins to solicit other donations such as plastic ware, cups, and coloring supplies for the young children in attendance.

Depending on the maturation of the sweet corn crop, the first work day for the committee and the community volunteers is corn day, usually during July or August. On that day, the sweet corn is picked from the field, shucked, cut off the cob, cooked, and put in the freezer for storage until the Dinner in September.

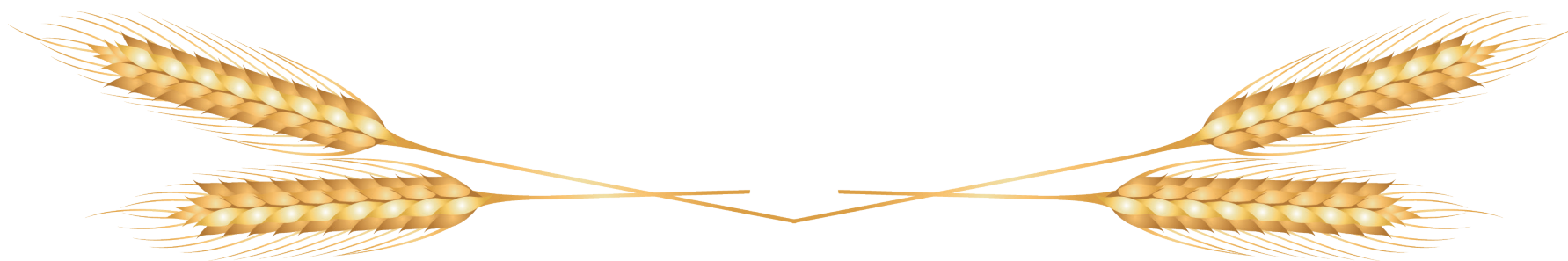
Over the following two months the commit-

tee coordinates the gathering of potatoes during harvest, as well as pinto beans, and the collection of wheat flour for the rolls and milo flour for the doughnuts from local farmers. During the week before the Dinner, the committee swings into full action, picking tomatoes, squash and watermelons. The committee then distributes the products to local clubs and schools to be prepared for the Dinner. Additionally, the committee is responsible for the cooking of the barbeque beef the night before the dinner.

In addition to the food, the committee is responsible for setting up the local Civic Center for the dinner. With help from community groups and companies, tables and chairs for 1,500 people are set up, and the Civic Center is decorated. Following the Dinner, the committee coordinates the clean-up of the Civic Center and the kitchen and the return of decorative items.

A commemorative button featuring that year's artwork is the admittance ticket. The button can be purchased at several local businesses for \$10.00. The money raised supports scholarships for local Grant County youth who have graduated from high school and are attending college. Over the past fifteen years, over \$100,000.00 has been awarded to local high school seniors.

For more information about this event, contact the Grant County Chamber of Commerce at (620) 356-4700, or online at www.ulysseschamber.com.





HOME PRODUCTS COMMITTEE — The 59th Annual Home Products Dinner committee. Front row (l-r): Kristi Breese, Daena Gallegos, KJ Freeman and Natalie Flores. Back row (l-r): Casey Caldwell, Dustin Walker, Jose Perez and Josh Sullivan.

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**The 59th Annual
Home Products Dinner
Tuesday, September 20th, 2022
The Grant County Civic Center**

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- Daena Gallegos
- KJ Freeman
- Natalie Flores
- Casey Caldwell
- Dustin Walker
- Jose Perez
- Josh Sullivan

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**September 20th, 2022
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**The 59th Annual Home Products Dinner
Tuesday, September 20th, 2022
The Grant County Civic Center**

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Tuesday, September 20th to celebrate our
59th Annual Home Products Dinner.***


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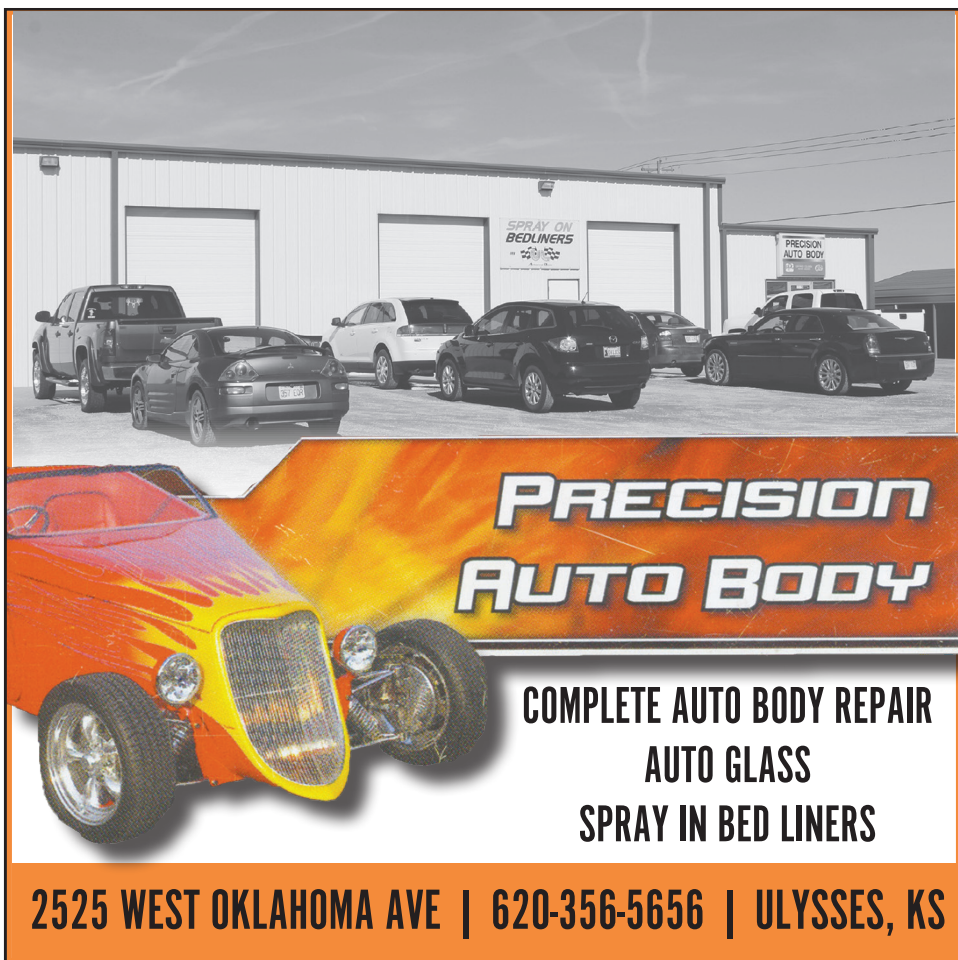

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of a time-honored community tradition...

*The 59th Annual
Grant County Home
Products Dinner*



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Please join us at the 59th
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Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 pm

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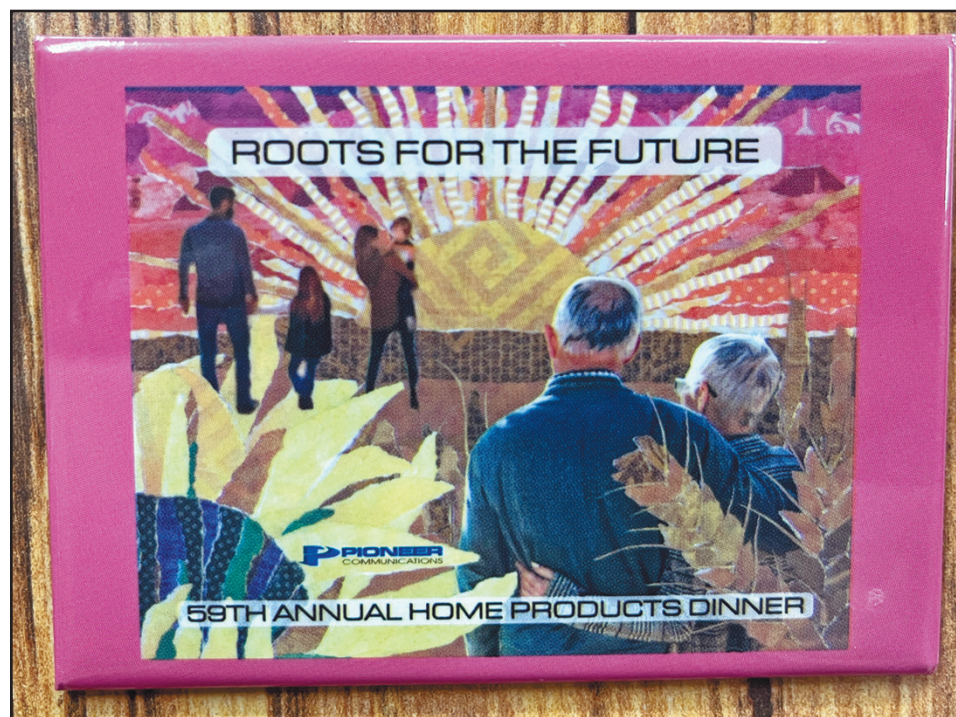
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BUTTON DESIGNER — Fahren Crawford, art instructor at Hickok School, designed this year's commemorative button. She is pictured with her family, Cord Teeter and Dundy Teeter.



2022 BUTTON — Fahren said that the inspiration for her button design was family. "When I think about the theme 'Rooted in the Future,' family is what immediately comes to mind. I consider my son and all of the children I teach the future of this community. I know that many families in this community have contributed to Grant County agriculturally for many years and in many cases it has become a family affair. It is inspiring to see young people eager to learn from their parents and grandparents."



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We Welcome you to the
59th Annual Home Products Dinner September 20th, 2022





Sid Davis to Entertain at 59th Dinner

Comedian Sid Davis will be the featured entertainment at this year's Home Products Dinner.

Sid's unique humor is fueled with relatable topics that audiences of all ages find hilarious. His priceless wavering ego is kept in check by two kids and a very patient school teacher wife.

Sid Davis' start in the comedy business was delayed by a medical condition. When he finally arrived near the age of 50, his distinctive style impressed several A-list comics who mentored him into the headlining comedian he is today.

His first bump was the

San Luis Obispo Comedy Festival where audiences voted him "Best in Fest" for three consecutive years.

In 2014, comedy icon Joan Rivers discovered Sid while she was seeking a new opening act. She watched 20 seconds of a Sid Davis clip and told her agent, "Get him!"

His first ComedyTime TV appearance shot up to the highest ranking spot. Sid's DryBar Comedy special was released in 2020 and has earned millions of favorable views.

After you see his one-of-a-kind show, you too will agree with Joan Rivers: "Sid Davis is terrific!"



2012 — Kansas Governor Sam Brownback spoke at the 2012 Home Products Dinner.

59th Annual Home Products Dinner

Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00pm

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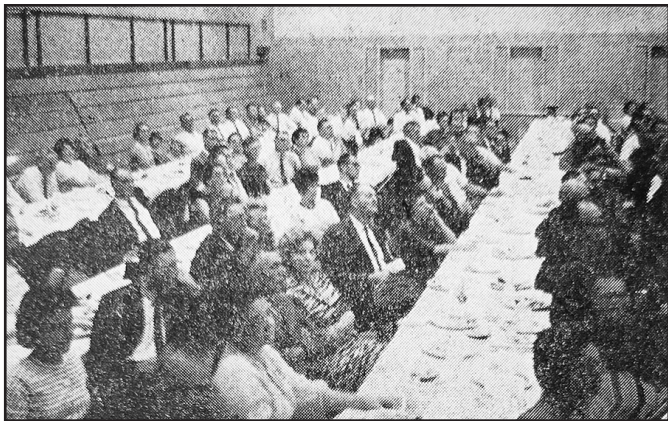
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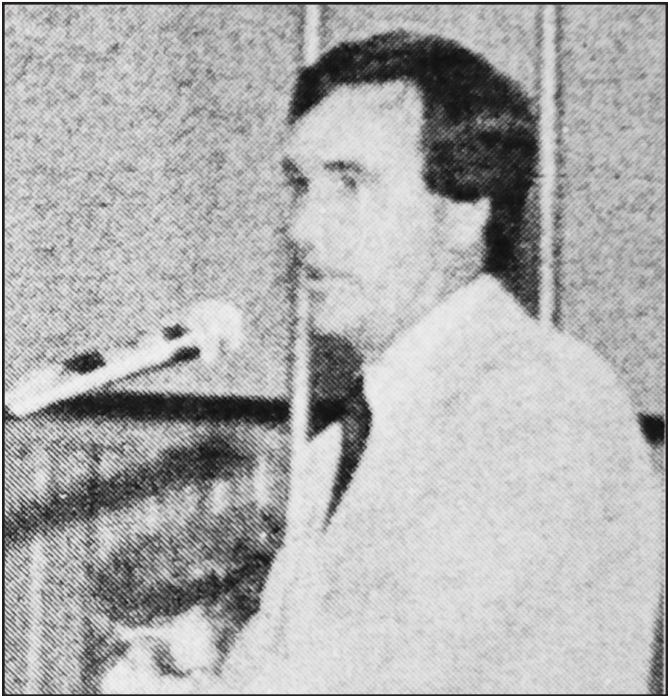
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1963 — At the first organized Home Products Dinner about 400 people enjoyed the Grant County bounty.



1968 — Fred Sweazy, right, compliments Speaker Jack Lacy after the program of the Sixth Annual Home Products Dinner.



1982 — Governor John Carlin addresses those attending the Home Products Dinner.

Large crowd enjoys Home Products Dinner, it just keeps getting better



1965 — The barbecue committee of Harry Morton, Bo Crocker and Luther Faulkner are shown building the fire for the HPD meat, which cooked around 24 hours. They cooked 260 pounds of beef in the six feet deep pit, plus Morton snuck in a turkey!

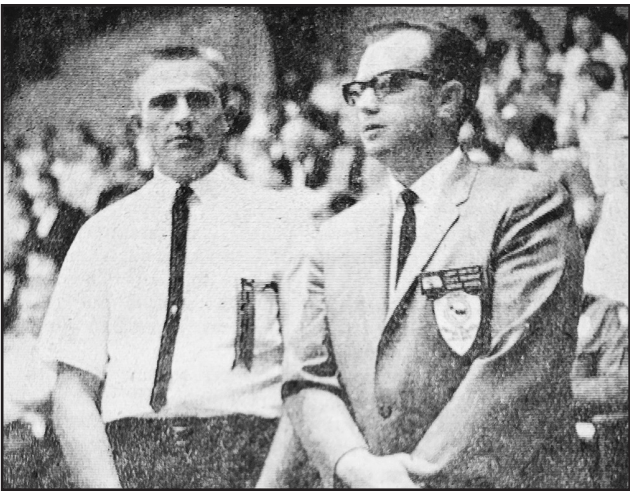
Nearly 1600 Served At Sixth Home Products Dinner Tuesday



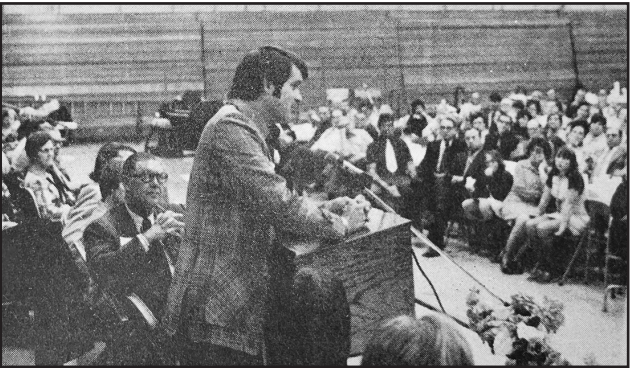
1972 — Boy Scouts were opening doors for those attending the Home Products Dinner. Pictured are: Jeff Trotman, Doug Barnes, Ricky Bloesser, Danny Rios and John Kramer. Also on hand was Patrolman Roger Davidson who helped to direct the line of guests.



1995 — The HPD committee poses with the Governor and his wife. Pictured are: Carol Dalke, Steve Pucket, Deb Fort, Les Younger, Linda Graves, Gov. Bill Graves, David Alexander, Pat Metcalf, Mark Wickwar and Kim Irvin.



1968 — Grant County Jaycee President Joe Riddiough greets Kansas President Larry Von Feldt at the Home Products Dinner. Local Jaycees and Jaynes served as ushers for the event.



1974 — Gary Bender, Ulysses native, was the speaker at the Home Products Dinner. He is the voice of the Green Bay Packers football team.



2002 — Co-chairs Michelle Kissell and Mark Giesaking take time after dinner for a picture with Governor Graves.

Over 1,500 at Feast in Ulysses

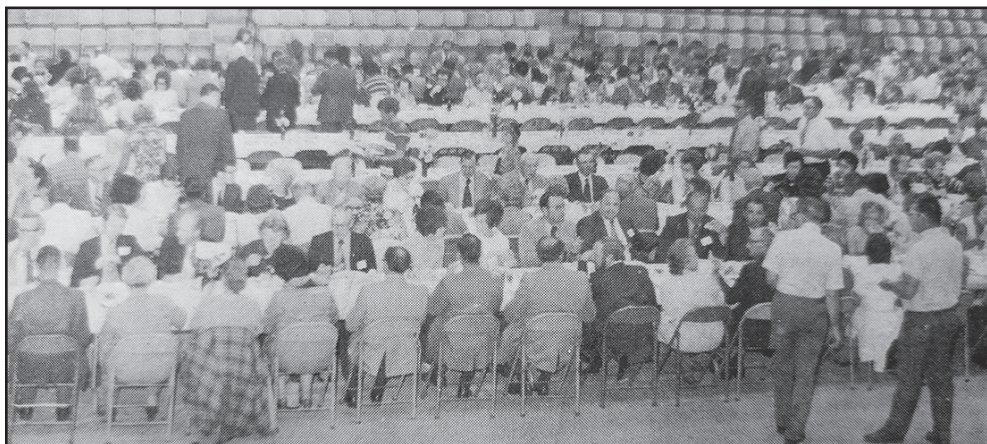
Grant County Has A Big Day

Grant Countains enjoyed their biggest day since the 50th anniversary slave sale when many individuals, clubs and organizations joined in preparing and eating a home products dinner last week. It was a cooperative effort that was enjoyed by everyone and the universal comment was that the food was good.

1963 — Wrap up from the 1st organized Home Products Dinner in Grant County.



2002 — Just some of the wonderful decor on display at the Home Products Dinner.



1972 — This photo was taken early at the Home Products Dinner. By the time the speaker took the stage, the bleachers and all the tables were filled.

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2013 — Jeff Menzie was named Citizen of the Year at the 2013 Home Products Dinner.



2014 — Lynda Fort was named Citizen of the Year at the 2014 Home Products Dinner.



2015 — Ginger Anthony was named Citizen of the Year at the 2015 Home Products Dinner.



2016 — Dave Waldron was named Citizen of the Year at the 2016 Home Products Dinner.



2017 — Pam Patrick was named Citizen of the Year at the 2017 Home Products Dinner.



2018 — Larry Kepley was named Citizen of the Year at the 2018 Home Products Dinner.