

St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine

A Newsletter for Members of the St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine Association, Inc.

ASSOCIATION BEGINS 25TH YEAR

On December 12, 2000, your Association will begin its 25th year of activity.

The first meeting was held on this date in 1976 at the home of Leon Page in Stockholm. Bylaws and officers were approved by those present, officially forming the St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine Association.

Plans are being formulated to celebrate this achievement. The annual banquet held each April will be a special event. A larger hall and live music are anticipated.

Recognition of founding members is planned. Recognition of those who have provided long and faithful service to the Association will also be made.

A special 25-year plaque is planned for those who participate in the shows. Other memorabilia are also being considered such as caps, T-shirts, and mugs.

Anyone having ideas or wanting to help should contact your Association officers.



Even Channel 7 showed up for the 2000 Old Fashioned Harvest Days Show.

Fall Show a Grand, Somewhat Wet Success

The morning of the 2nd of September did not bode well for the Old Fashioned Harvest Days Show at the Hutchinson farm near Heuvelton. However, displayers, campers, and vendors had started coming in the night before and had promised a good show.

The crowd continued to grow on Saturday morning, but not long before noon, the heavens opened up, and a

heavy rain poured down for an hour and a half.

But almost no one left. Folks covered their displays, retreated to their tents and campers, or huddled under Willis Shattuck's big tent.

Visitors continued to straggle in the rest of the day. Some worried about what we would do with tons of raw chicken if things did not get better on

Sunday.

The next morning, the sun came up bright and visitors arrived in droves. All day they came, overflowing the parking areas. Even at 3:00 they still came.

Around 4:00 when folks usually begin to pack up, many just hung around, not wanting to leave. Thankfully, the day's gate had mostly made up for Saturday. And every bit of chicken was cooked and

coming events...

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| November 12 | General members meeting and election of officers at Heuvelton Equipment Company, Heuvelton, NY at 2:00 pm. |
| April ???? | Annual Banquet and celebration of our Association's 25th year of activity. |
| June 9-10 | 19th Annual Gas and Steam Engine Show at the Canton Sportsman's Club near Canton, NY. |
| Sept. 1-2 | Old Fashioned Harvest Days Show at the Hutchinson Farm, Heuvelton, NY. |

HAY PRESS PURCHASED

Your Association has purchased a 1929 Ann Arbor hay press. The press is expected to be a popular addition to future show activities.

The press was purchased at the Proven auction during September for \$682. An anonymous donor covered one-third of the cost.

Though listed as a 1929, the only reference found about an Ann Arbor company regards the Ann Arbor Agricultural Company formed in 1878.

Data include reference to its "Columbia" hay press manufactured in 1888. The puzzle is in the company's dissolution date listed as April 19, 1891.

Whether this is the same company or the company was later re-established is not known. Anyone having further information should let us know.

Renovation of the hay press will begin

Elections and Meeting Sunday, November 12

Election of officers for the coming year will be held during the next membership meeting on Sunday, November 12 at 2:00 PM.

The meeting will be at the Heuvelton Equipment Company with Gary Crowe as host. This is the New Holland and Agway dealership located on Commerce Street only a few blocks from the town center.

The executive committee will put forth nominations for officers consisting of those now holding office. All have expressed a willingness to serve another term.

President Gary Hargrave is a long-term member and has previously held several other offices over the years. His interests focus on small engines, especially Briggs & Stratton and Maytags.

Vice President Jim McGraw held his first office last year. Jim is a Deere collector. You can usually see his collection of green equipment on his front lawn on US 11, just south of the

turn off to 812. In spring. Some of the steel needs replacement or reinforcement. Painting is obviously needed, but enough of the original colors and decoration remains so they can be duplicated.

There are several bundles of steel wire ties which are hooked around the bales after they are pressed. Also with the machine are extra plates and an extra pressure frame for the baler.

The auction disposed of the extensive collection of member Larry Proven's tractors and other farm equipment that he had collected over the years.

With the late interest in the press shown by the Association, Proven said he regretted that the press had already been committed to the auction and could not have been reserved. e

turn off to 812.

Treasurer Bill Shirley has held other offices in the past including that of President. Bill has owned and restored several tractors and engines and helped rebuild various other items of equipment including the sawmill.

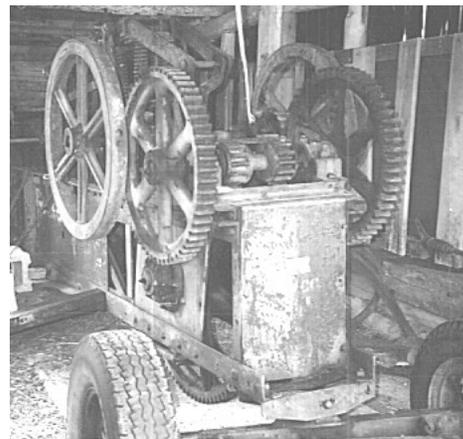
Secretary Roger Austin has a small collection of mechanical antiques and is helping promote the Museum of Rural Life. Austin edits and publishes this Newsletter.

Nominations will also be open to the floor if anyone wishes to put forth other names.

Other matters will also be brought up at the meeting including an update on our part in developing the Museum of Rural Life (see page 5).

You could also make suggestions on how to better commemorate our 25th year (see page 1).

We hope that there will be a good turn out for this most important meeting. e



With large gears and flywheels and a little new paint, the Ann Arbor hay press will make a fine addition to our shows. It now sits in a dry barn for the winter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reports that there is now \$5,930 in your Association's bank account.

There are anticipated charges for a Newsletter and our contribution to next year's advertising matching funds totaling about \$500.

Receipts at The Old Fashioned Harvest Days Show netted approximately \$2684 which included about \$550 in dues paid for next year.

The major source of revenue at the show is the concession stand. It was open from breakfast on Saturday morning through the chicken BBQ dinners sold Sunday afternoon.

Each member is asked to check their mailing label and see if they are up to date. Those with a 99 are in arrears while those with 01 are paid up for next year.

Dues are \$10 and can be sent to the Treasurer or paid at the Canton show in June next year.

Dues and show income are used to cover the costs of producing and mailing the Newsletter, advertising and organizing shows, and purchase and repair of antique equipment.

More Coming Events:

January 20: Blue Mountain Antique Gas & Steam Engine Assoc. Get-Together, Bangor, Pennsylvania. 610-588-7466.

January 27-28: Cabin Fever Expo Model Engineering Exhibition, Leesport Farmers Market, Leesport, Pennsylvania. 800-789-5068.

February 11: Connecticut River Antique Collectors Assoc. , Vermont.

February 24: Sugarloaf Fire Co. Toy Show, Pennsylvania.

Fall Show Big Success

Well over 100 tractors on display and in the pull along with many gas engines, farm implements, and other displays provided something of interest for everyone.

Wet ground slowed some of the field activities, but corn binding and chopping, thrashing, and baling were accomplished. Lots of logs were sawn.

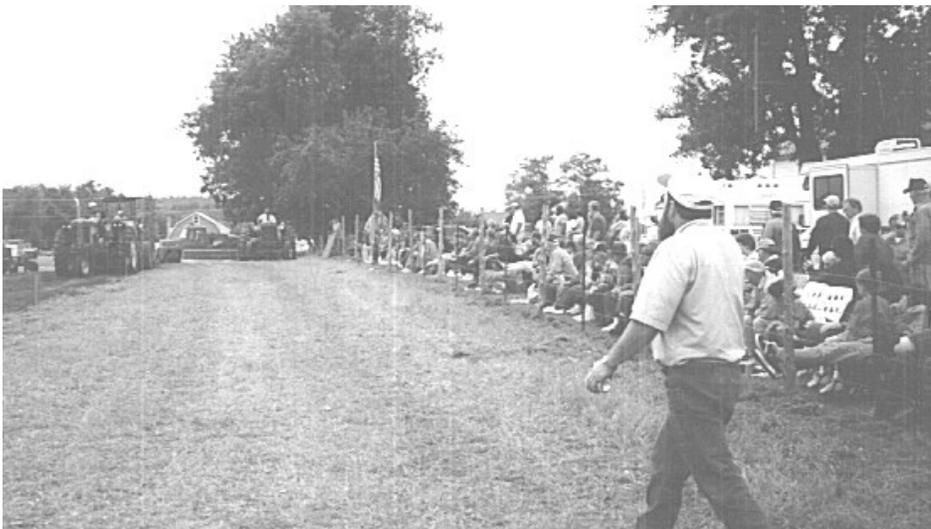
Great breakfasts and the famous spaghetti dinner and chicken BBQ lunch were very popular. Fun for all. e



Joyce Hutchinson on a Farmall Super C takes a load of kids for a ride.



Taking a rest after trying to feed wet oats into the thrashing machine. Left to right, Wayne Day, Howard Hutchinson, Marty Osuch, and Gary Crowe.



Lee Latulipe keeping an eye on a couple Deere at the Antique Tractor Pull.

Thank You

Many people worked long hours getting their engines, tractors, and other displays ready for the show. Then they worked all during the show to keep things fun and interesting. These truly provide the heart and soul of Old Fashioned Harvest Days.

Special thanks go to Patti Shirley who prepared fantastic spaghetti and Michelle who helped prepare our great food.

Waldroff Farm Equipment of Canton generously provided the big pull-back tractor for the Antique Tractor Pull.

Willis Shattuck kindly kept everyone dry by loaning us his big tent.

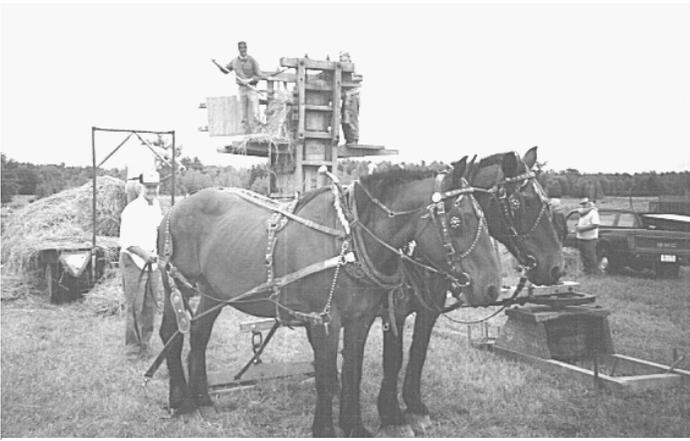
Heuvelton Equipment Company loaned us its tilt truck, making it possible to bring in many more displays.

John Sheets and Kevin Fenlong of Louisville spent hours in the smoke, cooking up the sell-out chicken.

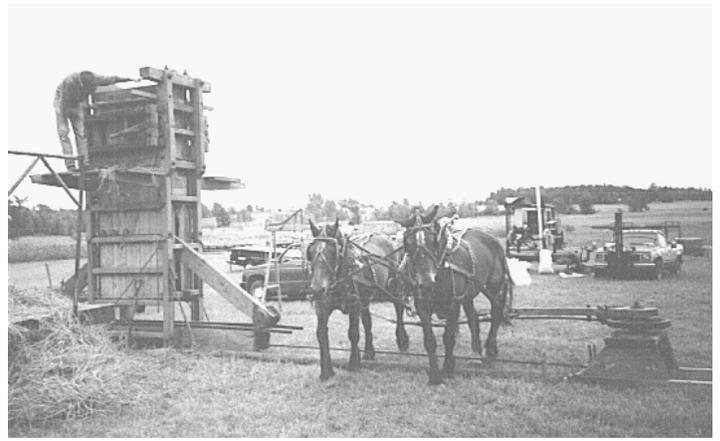
Tom Aldous brought over his team of horses on Sunday to help get the jump press jumping.

So many wonderful folks brought animals for the petting zoo we will have to mention them in another issue.

We want to thank the Hutchinson clan for their kind hospitality. They not only allow use of their fields and facilities, but also spend many hours before and during the show to make it successful. We sure appreciate all that Howard, Verna, Joyce, Janice and rest do for us each year. e



Tom Aldous holds his team steady while Bob and Wayne Day load hay in the chamber at the top of the press.



The loaded hay is compressed by the arms beneath as they rise, driven by the cable attached to the horse-operated windlass.



Bob Day opens the doors to the compressed bale and secures it with wire ties. Wayne assists from the other side.



When tied, Wayne opens the top of the chamber and removes the finished bale.

THE WILLIAM DAY FAMILY HAS THE OLD PRESS JUMPING



Bill Day weighs the finished bale. It's only 124 lbs. Seems the crew is out of practice.

Bill Day can remember baling with this jump press 70 years ago.

Originally belonging to John Douglas of Canton, the O'hara's of Old Dekalb Road gave him the machine.

It was stipulated that the Day family would show it to the public from time to time.

Its name comes from the men in the box having to jump on the hay to provide initial compaction. The jump press was made by the Brasher Plow Co.

We appreciate the Day family bringing it to Old Fashioned Harvest Days. e



Two hours and three bales later, Bill Day and sons Bob (l) and Wayne (center) take a rest.

WANT ADS

For Sale: 1943 Allis Chalmers C: Restored, new tires, call Bert Beswick at 322-4474.

For Sale: 10 Briggs & Stratton Engines: Restored and running. 4 from the 30's, 2 from the 40's, 4 from the 50's. All for \$950. Contact Eric Landry, Westville, NY., (518) 483-7945 or Gary Hargrave.

Wanted: Front steel wheels for McCormick Deering 10-20. Contact

Chamber Gets Matching Money for

We have received notice from Karen St. Hilaire at the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce that our Association again will be participating in the 2000-2001 NYS Matching Funds Program.

The State will match our \$250 in advertising costs for a total fund of \$500. Funds were also received by the Canton Sportsman's Club to promote our June show. We will share the matched portion with them that totals \$300. The total matched fund is \$600.

Our allocation of matching funds increased this past year and are at the same level this coming year.

New

This issue we welcome 14 new members and the return of one. Harlow Hogle of Colton reinstated his membership at the Harvest Days Show. He was one of the original 12 founders of our Association.

The new members include Mark Allmond of North Bangor, Stewart and Laura Cox of Syracuse, John Comstock of Alexandria Bay, David Hartman of Rensselaer Falls, Jason Chapman of Hammond, Clarence and Carol Cobb of Canastota, John Gilmour of Ogdensburg, Wayne and Sherrie Moquin of Morristown, Robert and Carole Moulton of Potsdam, Clark Putman of Lisbon, John Supple of Fulton, John Stevens of Potsdam, Clayton Weatherup of Gouverneur, and John Wilson of

Museum Takes One More Step Toward Reality

At a meeting in October, the first formal steps were taken to establish a Museum of Rural Life.

Displays and activities are to be centered at the farms near Canton belonging to the Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County.

Among others, your Association has been supporting development of the museum concept.

Among the seven members elected to a new Board of Directors are Paul Shirley as Vice President, Pat Shirley as Treasurer, and Roger Austin as Secretary. All are members of your Association.

Membership in the Museum will include individuals and organizations. Each of you has the choice of simply having your Association represent you or of becoming a member yourself as

well.

Discussions are now underway to determine the nature of the relationship between the new Museum and the CCE of SLC. The main concern is to retain the Museum's autonomy while achieving a functional financial base.

Dues are proposed to be \$5.00 for families and \$50 for organizations.

The purpose of the Museum includes preservation of the history and early rural life styles, formation of a museum, and demonstrations of early skills.

Many unfinished components of organization remain. These include by-laws, becoming a non-profit entity, and simple things such as an official name and logo.

Anyone interested in joining can contact your Association Secretary. e

PULL RESULTS ANNOUNCED

There were 77 tractors entered in the 2000 Old Fashioned Harvest Days antique tractor pull.

Winners of the various classes are listed below. Each puller received a trophy.

2500 Lb. Class: 1st, Winston Armstrong; 2nd, Dick Hammond; 3rd, Al Garrard.

3000 Lb. Class: 1st, Al Garrard; 2nd, Paul LaRue; 3rd, Otis Bishop.

4000 Lb. Class: 1st, Helen Peets; 2nd, Kelvin Langlois; 3rd, Otis Bishop.

5000 Lb. Class: 1st, Mike Dishaw; 2nd, Alvin Livernois; 3rd, Darrin Chapman.

6000 Lb. Class: 1st, Hal Gilbert; 2nd, Red Chapman; 3rd, Mike Dishaw.

7000 Lb. Class: 1st, Louis Durant; 2nd, Hal Gilbert; 3rd, Gary Livingston.

8000 Lb. Class: 1st, Louis Durant; 2nd, Dan Cole; 3rd, Jim McGraw.

9000 Lb. Class: 1st, Dan Cole; 2nd, Jim McGraw.

10,000 Lb. Class: 1st, Gary Livingston; 2nd, Phil Bigarel; 3rd, Jim McGraw.

11,000 Lb. Class: 1st, Steven Smith; 2nd, Gary Livingston; 3rd, Phil Bigarel.

12,000 Lb. Class: 1st, Jim McGraw; 2nd, Mike Livingston; 3rd, Steven Smith.

12,000 Super Class: 1st, Steven Smith; 2nd, Mike Livingston; 3rd, Jim McGraw.

The pull was managed by the River Valley Antique Tractor and Engine Club.

Your Association paid a fee to the Club for providing scales, boat, and

PEDAL PULLERS PLACE

Not to be out done by their elders, 18 kids lined up for the 2000 Old Fashioned Harvest Days Pedal Tractor Pull.

Entrants ranged from 2 to 10 years old and were divided into 3 classes. The winners are listed below.

Less Than 5 Years: 1st, Allen Robinson (age 2).

5 to 7 Years: 1st, tie between Victor Sanders (age 7) and Bobby Coia (age 7); 2nd, Keith Gordon (age 7); 3rd, Dylan Crawford (age 6).

8 to 10 Years: 1st, Carrie Hayes (age 10); 2nd, Megan Shirley (age 9); 3rd, Kate Coia (age 10).

Trophies were awarded.

Officers

President: Gary Hargrave, 10 River St., Norwood, NY 13668. (315) 353-2888. E-mail: Harg43@aol.com.

Vice President: James (Jim) McGraw, 3385 US Hwy. 11, Dekalb Junction, NY 13630. (315) 347-2362.

Secretary: Roger Austin, 410 Stevenson Rd., Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680. (315) 344-7470 (through October) or (912) 453-3640. E-mail rsaustin@accucomm.net.

Treasurer: William (Bill) Shirley, 50 Lincoln Dr., Massena, NY 13662. (315) 769-7912. Email: carjunky62@aol.com.

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Pop Corn

Treasurer Bill Shirley is always on the look out for new money-making opportunities.

His latest venture is popcorn. Your Association is now the proud owner of a large popcorn popper.

The popper will be put in action at the next show. Tell the kids (big kids too). e

EDITORIAL: Unity in Diversity

Unity in diversity, that is the motto of Indonesia where I lived for several years. It could also be our Association's motto.

Gas and steam engines, antique tractors, old thrashing machines and hay presses. Old spark plugs, toys, cider and corn mills. Tractor pulls, grilled chicken, half and half's, and evening music. Chugs and huffs and puffs and smoke rings. Whistles and horns.

All of it runs and works and has the patina that only old age can give. It all recalls thoughts of seemingly less complicated times. Not easier, just simpler.

This is the glue that holds our Association together. Age and rank give way to those with knowledge and appreciation, and especially to those who are willing to share.

When the first tractor pull was held, I heard real concern expressed by some members that this could cause a split in our Association - pullers against the rest. So we have tried very hard to be

sure that pulls are just another part of our activities. Just like saw milling or running the steam engine. Like running the thrashing machine or making smoke rings with the Anderson diesel.

It is diversity that keeps the shows interesting. Whatever your special interest, you just can not resist checking out the action in other areas.

As we begin our twenty fifth year, we will need the support and interest of all our members. We have the luxury of a rural environment, but we do not have the luxury of a membership of thousands.

A committed and understanding membership will be even more important as we help make the dream of a working museum a reality. Of the many concepts, systems, and methods of creating one, we will eventually have to settle on one that can be made to work.

So it is important that we continue in the spirit that was so evident at Old Fashioned Harvest Days. At the time it was over, I wondered why people seemed so reluctant to leave.

Yet the answer is simple. Though we may only get together once or twice a year, we respect and enjoy each others company. We have unity because we support and rely on our diversity. RSA

St. Lawrence Gas & Steam

inside...

Association begins its 25th year.
Fall show pictures.
Hay press and popcorn popper purchased.
The Day family shows off its jump press.
Fourteen new members announced.

St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine Association, Inc.
Roger Austin, Secretary
410 Stevenson Road
Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680

Place
Postage
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