
ANTIQUA ENGINE & TRACTOR ASSOCIATION, INC.

FEBRUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

“Roger’s Comments”

I have discovered that I should not talk about the weather. Last month I said how it felt like March and now it is cold enough for me and too cold for my wife.

Saturday I went to the Galesburg Mall for a couple of hours and spent four hours talking to people and looking at tractors. I find it somewhat hard to get excited about working on a tractor if you don’t have a heated shop but this got me excited. The Maple City group hosts the weekend and had over 50 tractors in the mall and lots of people to talk to. If you have not visited this event, put it on your calendar for next year.

The February Membership meeting will be at the Farmer’s Table starting at 8:30 AM with a breakfast buffet. The restaurant is located on the east side of route 84 in Cordova, Illinois. We need to start eating on time so we can be out by 10:30. Member Bill Sharer and his friend Francis Venhuizen will talk about Massey Harris and how the company started in the mid 1800’s, tell us about their collections and if we ask, we might get some stories about working in a dealership in the mid 1900’s. Please join us for food, fellowship and to listen to their experience with this distinct color of red. Remember we are featuring Massey Harris and hosting the Massey Collectors of Illinois this fall. Now is the time to be inviting your friends who have a MH tractor or related equipment to attend and bring a piece or two.

In May we will be having our first Rural Heritage Day. This is not just a new name for the Swap Meet. We are encouraging people to contact us with items they have and can bring and demonstrate. We want hands on demonstrations for people to try. Who can show us how to make a basket? Who knows how to make rope with the small devices we see mounted on a board with the

twine between two posts? Who knows how to spin wool into yarn? Who has the ability to hatch chickens and can set up a display and explain this operation to the young folks (under 50)? Do you have old horse drawn machinery for a static display? We would like to see it this spring. Yes, we will have an area for buying and selling old iron and any other items you might want to bring. All vendors selling items will be registered for \$10 (another \$10 if you need electricity) and that will get them a button. Others can buy a button for \$3. We are going to limit the number of buttons so they may go fast. Admission is free to the public.

Our Membership Meeting for March is planned for the 24th at Bos Machine in Hillsdale. Put the date on your calendar.

Roger Mixer, President

The January AETA General meeting

was on Sat. morning Jan. 20th at Smokes’ restaurant in Colona, IL. 38 members enjoyed a buffet breakfast.

Larry Goodwin gave a brief report on the Long Range Planning with different ideas such as owning our own ground, opening an Endowment Acct. so people can leave us money, or land, or finances as a gift and be deductible.

Other clubs are being contacted to see what works and what does not work for them. He announced that board members would be contacting members for a brief conversation about likes and dislikes and what areas they might be willing to help in some way.

A suggestion was made to have a membership picture directory much like churches do to help recognize other members.

The new spring show was mentioned. Some ideas for demonstrations were; home made ice

cream vendor, Neil's Lanz combine, candle making, lye soap making, an individual mounting a corn picker. Dennis Mechling volunteered to bring his display of operating corn shellers.

Lenzy Stickler then introduced Don Zobrist who gave a very nice presentation on his Bison herd and the different methods needed. He also had a short video.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETINGS

Treasurer's report showed a year end balance of \$15,151.81 with no outstanding bills. We plan to continue to send \$25 memorial checks to each member or spouse passing away. We need help by reporting deaths to a board member.

3D Sound has been asked to return and provide sound for the 2007 fall show and has us scheduled. We are negotiating with them on how much more they might do and the additional cost. A Touch of Dutch Ice Cream has agreed to return for the 2007 fall show. They will donate \$50 and 10% of their gross after the show.

Rural Heritage Days is the new name for spring event. It will be May 12, 2007. Lenzy Stickler and George Hayes will work on advertising. Breakfast at 7:30. We want to focus on rural house and farm yard demonstrations of the 1920's to 1950's. We will have an area for swap meet vendors. It was mentioned Bishop Hill folks might be interested in working with us. Demonstrations currently planned include: shelling corn with hand corn shellers, separating milk and then making butter from the cream, wood carving, etc. Other demonstrations could include grading seed basket making, candle and soap making. We want things that young and old can do my hand. We need someone to come out and take pictures and do an article for the show. We all need to think of people to demonstrate. Roger said he plans to have each demonstrator just do for a short time and maybe twice during the day. We will charge all vendors \$10.00 with each one getting a free button. Others will be charged \$3 for a button. We will order 100 buttons. Craft demonstrators will get a free button and a free lunch.

Putting the Farm on Rubber

An Ohio farm boy grew up to make a significant impact on farming. Harvey Firestone, born in 1868, was raised on a farm in Columbiana, Ohio. As a young man, he sold buggies in Detroit and Chicago and created better ways of putting rubber on the buggy wheels.

With that tire background, he returned to Ohio in 1900 to establish The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company at the age of 31. While his prosperity flourished as a tire manufacturer in Akron, he often retreated to the quiet relaxation of his Columbiana farm home where he hosted close friends, including Thomas Edison and Henry Ford.

In the late 1920s Harvey Firestone dreamed of reducing the harsh ride of steel-wheel tractors by using rubber tires. By 1931, determined to develop a practical farm tire, he and his engineers began experimenting in the fields of the family homestead in Columbiana.

Early tractor tires were actually airplane tires on truck wheels. However those tires slipped on the rim. The first Firestone farm tire designed just for working in the fields came out in late 1932. It was a low-pressure tire with an open chevron tread design. Firestone himself tested various designs on equipment at his own Ohio farm. But he found that the treads with spacing between the chevrons did not provide adequate traction

In 1935 Firestone engineers designed a tread pattern with the chevrons connected to one another for improved traction. That same year, the company introduced the Ground Grip line of tractor tires. Harvey Firestone was convinced that the company had found a practical low-pressure farm tire.

Farmers, tire dealers and equipment manufactures, however, were still skeptical about using rubber on their tractors. At that time, more than 85% of farm equipment sold in the United States ran on steel wheels.

Recognizing the great potential of farm tires, Mr. Firestone needed to show how tire-equipped farm machinery could allow the farmer to cover more acres in less time, to have better traction and to save fuel because of the stronger pull. The stability

and cushioning provided by the tires also greatly reduced the vibrating that put stress on the equipment and the driver.

In 1936 he devoted considerable effort on a nationwide campaign called "Put the Farm on Rubber" in an effort to prove the benefits of tires to the skeptics. He built a model farm in an abandoned Akron factory building. Here he demonstrated these new Ground Grip tires first to his own salesmen and to tire dealers.

At the same time Mr. Firestone used the family farm to demonstrate the efficiency of the tires on 32 various kinds of farm implements, including tractors, a mower, a combine, wagons, spreaders and a feed truck. Ag education experts from Ohio State University and officials of the Society of Automotive Engineers visited Columbiana to study how the new tires performed.

At the 1936 Great Lakes Exposition in Cleveland, Mr. Firestone built an elaborate display, featuring a pavilion and a working farm with animals, machinery equipped with rubber and a full size farmhouse. This was all designed to tell the story of farm tires to the general public. Over the summer months, tens of thousands saw for themselves how tires made farming more efficient

Mr. Firestone's marketing efforts to promote farm tires during 1936 paid off. From 15 percent of the original equipment market in 1935, 42 percent of new tractors sold in the United States in 1937 came with tires. Just two years later, 85 percent of new tractors were sold with tires.

On the last Sunday of his life in February 1938, he went to church as usual, entertained friends for dinner and went for a drive at dusk. During that night, he died quietly in his sleep, just over a month past his 69th birthday. But before he died, tire pioneer Harvey S. Firestone saw his dream of putting the farm on rubber" becoming a reality.

Every useful occupation gives ample opportunity for service. The happiest men in the world are those who are making their jobs mean more than simply an endless routine of work and wages. The whole structure of business is based upon making useful things for others - this is a service.

- Harvey S. Firestone quoted in *The Firestone Story* by Alfred Lief, 1951.

Web site:

The person who maintains our web site www.atkinson-engine-tractor-assoc.com reports that there has been a huge jump in the number of visitors to our web site in 2006. In September, around the time of our show there were 4627 "hits" (unique visitors) to site. That is an average of 154 per day! We are continuing to work to improve the site. If you have some ideas or feedback, let us know.

On the lighter side:

Tale of The New Cab Driver: a passenger in a taxi leaned to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove over the curb, and stopped inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent, and the still shaking driver said, "I'm sorry but you scared the daylight out of me."

The frightened passenger apologized and sad he didn't realized a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, "No, no I'm sorry. It's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years.

*****BULLETIN BOARD*****

FOR SALE: 1959 730 ES diesel. Professionally rebuilt motor, tranny, injection system, etc. Professional paint, new tires, full 3 point. \$9,500 or lets talk. 30 inch aluminum topper with locks, 8 foot full size, used very little, \$150. *Larry Goodwin 309-944-2670 eve. Or 309-945-1666 and leave message. (f)*

FOR SALE: John Deere corn 1290 planter parts; Drive wheels & tires less hubs, rubber press wheels, tongue, & some boxes all excellent condition. Cheap *Ken Frisk (309) 936-7330 after 6 p.m. weekdays.*

FOR SALE: 1968 JD 112 Hyd lift w/ front & back lift brackets, rebuilt engine, new seat, front tires & wheel bearings, Head light. Only needs paint \$850. 1975 JD 200 overhauled engine, mower deck, ag tread; complete & straight \$700. 1971 Massey Ferguson 12 Headlights, excellent chrome, exhaust shield, snow thrower, parts tractor, engine runs \$800. *Dave Carton (309)441-5915 (j)*

FREE: Classified ads for club members. Your ad will run for three months. Send ad information to Neil West, 6205 Shadowbrook Dr, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 Phone 563-332-5501 E-mail nlwest@mchsi.com

2007 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Roger Mixer.....(309)792-2416
VICE PRESIDENT: Ed Mayhew... (309)949-2867
SECRETARY: Larry Goodwin.....(309)944-2670
TREASURER: Russ Bos.....(309)944-0215
EDITOR: Neil West.....(563)332-5501
FEATURE: Roger Mixer.....(309)792-2416
DIRECTORS: George Hayes, Rich McNeill, Lenzy Stickler, Dick Zobrist

Web site: www.atkinson-engine-tractor-assoc.com

*****CLUB ACTIVITIES*****

FEBRUARY EVENTS.

General Meeting: *General Membership meeting: Sat., Feb. 17th - Farmer's Table Restaurant in Cordova, Il. Bill Sharer and Francis Venhuizen will present a program on the history and their personal experiences of owning, restoring and showing Massey Tractors. Breakfast Buffet for \$5.95 starting at 8:30 a.m.*

MARCH EVENTS

Board meeting: *Monday, Mar 5, 6:30PM. Trappers' Creek Grill in Geneseo*

General Meeting: *General Membership meeting: Saturday Mar. 24th*

Sublette Farm Toy and Antique Tractor Show, honoring the 15th anniversary of Chapter 2, IH collectors *Don Dinges (815) 849-5582*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Check the address label on the bottom of this page. If it says 2006M then you need to renew your membership immediately. A 1 year renewal is \$20. Send check to:

**Antique Engine & Tractor Assoc. Inc
P.O. Box 267
Atkinson, IL 61235**

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