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# ANTIQUÉ ENGINE & TRACTOR ASSOCIATION, INC.

## AUGUST 2007 NEWSLETTER

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### “Roger’s Comments”

It must be August. The temperature and humidity both are too high for comfort. The water grass and weeds are growing more than the turf grass I want. Hope you are getting your summer work accomplished better than I am.

As president, I want to extend a special welcome to all who receive this newsletter and invite you to join us for our 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Working Farm Show on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of September. Bring your friends and spend one, two, or three days with us in Atkinson, Illinois.

This year we are featuring the bright red Massey tractors or the dark green used in the 1920’s and 1930’s. I have been in contact today with the Illinois Chapter of Massey Collectors, and they are looking forward to joining us and have gotten considerable response from their members.

The board has outsourced the food this year to vendors so you don’t have to volunteer to work in the kitchen or food stands. See the article from Ed Mayhew in this newsletter about our food vendors.

I know I said last month that we did not need your pies this year but our kitchen vendor has offered to sell pie for us and give the Club all the proceeds. So get those wonderful recipes out and talk to your baker to make a couple of pies for us. This should be a good fund raiser for our Club.

We do need your help so please volunteer for a couple of hours each day. Please contact the following to help:

Gate Admission/Parking    Lenzy Stickler  
309/523-2744

People Movers/Drivers    George Hayes  
309/659-2666

Youth Activities    Neil West  
563/332-5501

Demonstration Narration    Larry Goodwin  
309/944-2670

Trash Pick up/Restrooms    Dick Zobrist  
309/949-2877

Main Desk/Treasurer    Russ Bos  
309/944-0215 Sign up sheets will also be at the

Membership Meeting at 6:30 PM on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August and we will be requesting your help.

We will have workdays starting Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September through Thursday getting ready for the show. Just come for a day or call any board member to ask how you can help.

If you need Show Flyers for display or to give to friends, contact any board member as we have plenty.

Call me if you have any questions or suggestions.

See you soon. Roger Mixer, President  
309/792-2416

### Food Stands at Fall Show

This year the food stands and the kitchen have been sub contracted. Trappers Creek of Geneseo will run the main kitchen. Smoked Joe’s Lazy Dog Bar-B-Q of Colona will be doing the Pork Chop Stand and the Bos family will be doing the Hamburger & Chicken Sandwich Stand. We will also have a new stand this year, Vroman’s Lemonade Stand. He will have lemonade, corn dogs and deep-fried pickles on a stick.

The ice cream people, Keith & Elsie Martin, with “TOUCH-O-DUTCH” Homemade Ice cream and the kettle corn person, Greg Beaman, with “Iowa’s Best Kettle Corn” will be returning again this year.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped in the kitchen and food stands over the years. I think that we all have done a great job helping the club and show expand and grow.

Thanks Ed Mayhew

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of August at 6:30 PM at the club grounds. We will be discussing details of fall show. We welcome your input. After the business meeting there will be ice cream and cookies plus Dallas DeShane will provide a lighthearted presentation. Please come, have fun and volunteer to help at the Annual Show.

## **News from the Board**

The board is setting up an endowment. The objective will be to allow people and organizations to donate money to the Club. The long range planning committee is working on the details. If you have any thoughts about this, please contact Neil West at 563-332-5501.

**AETA FARM REPORT** – The corn and bean crops look good at the club farm. Rain in late July and early August really gave it a boost. In about one month we will be harvesting at the annual show, and at this point it appears the crops will be ready. It looks like we will have one of our better yields this year so the old pickers and combines will get a work out. They were designed to run in half the yield that they will likely encounter this year so we may get some practice in low gear!

On July 26 we pulled the old John Deere binder out of the shed and proceeded to install the canvasses - twice in fact. The first time we were just demonstrating how to do it backwards and the second time was for practice. Fortunately the binder worked better than the mechanics and after a couple of minor adjustments on the knotter it never missed a knot. We left the bundles on top of the stubble to dry down and after turning them once, we gathered a crew on August 2 (the hottest and most humid day of the summer) to load them on racks. Two racks were loaded, air pipes were installed with fans, and the racks were backed into the saw building. The high humidity this month has not helped the condition, but it looks like there will be adequate crop for the threshing demo. Thanks to Ivan Wildemuth, Gerry Frimml, Roger Mixer, Dick Zobrist, Bob Griggs, and Tom Hitzhusen for taking care of this task.

Weeds on the pulling track and around the oat field have been trimmed with the rotary mower and Farmall H. One more cutting of hay will be taken before the show. With all the rain, the grounds appear to be in very good shape and the grass should be green for show time.

Tom Hitzhusen for the Farm Committee.

**Geneseo Farm & Fleet and AETA** held their annual antique tractor show on Sunday July 22 enjoying really nice weather and a very nice selection of tractors, garden tractors, equipment, and hit and miss engines. Final count was 102

exhibits and a great variety of sizes, colors, and brands. A big thank you to all those folks that helped me with registration, parking, staging, tents, and any other projects needed. It is very much appreciated. Larry Goodwin

## **Tractor Drive along the Hennepin Canal on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August**

Are you ready? We are going to take a leisure ride, 4 to 5 mph, along the 100 year old canal on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August leaving from the Club Grounds in Atkinson at 8:30 AM. Only rain that day or heavy rain the day before will stop us and the long range forecast is looking good at this time. At the speed we will travel, garden tractors are welcome.

We will travel north from the Club Grounds to the canal and go south east about 4 miles along the non-gravel side of the canal to the restored lock and day use area, number 23. The map at Lock 23 showing the construction grade shows the top to be 8' to 10' wide.

I think we should be about an hour and half into the ride so a stretch and refresh time will be in order (cookies and tea provided). By the time the last riders arrive at lock 23, the first drivers should be ready to return the same route to the Club Grounds. We should be finished in time for lunch in Atkinson or you can be your way home.

The Illinois Department of Conservation will remove the posts that prevent motor vehicles on the south side of the canal and a Henry County Deputy will be helping us cross the Atkinson slab going and returning. No limit to the number who can participate but sorry, no steel wheels.

If you don't want to ride, meet us at the Club Grounds. Or meet us at the refreshment area. Just take the slab north of Atkinson, 0.5 mile, to 1920N and east, 2.5 miles, to the day use area at restored lock 23.

Hope to see you on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **AUCTION OF DONATED ITEMS**

On Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, starting at 3:30 PM, we will have an AUCTION of items that have been donated to the AETA this year. Helping us are the following Auctioneers:

Don Buysee	Kewanee
Vern Mariman	Geneseo
Dave Swanson	Geneseo

Thanks to all our sponsors who have donated these items. You will find the sponsors listed in the Show Booklet and they would appreciate your business.

We will accept items from members (or friends) to include in this time of fun and fundraiser. Contact Roger Mixer if you have questions.

## **Massey-Harris Combines**

**By Larry Gay**

After building some “combined reaper-threshers” for Australia and Argentina, Massey-Harris entered the U.S. combine market in 1917 by selling 15 of its Argentina type of combines in Utah. Other models of large pull-type combines followed these with an auxiliary engine for use in the Great Plains. When James Duncan became the general manager of the company in 1935, he championed the need to expand in the United States, the world’s largest market for farm equipment, and the development of a self-propelled combine. Duncan recognized the advantages of this type of harvesting machine when he had served in Argentina and had seen combines modified by farmers with a second engine added to propel the combine.

In 1938, the Massey-Harris Clipper pull-type combine with a 6-foot scoop type of header, a 5-foot cylinder, and a straight through design was introduced. Built in the Batavia, New York, factory, it became a popular combine and as a result Massey-Harris began to gain strength in the U.S. farm equipment market. The second of Duncan’s proposals, the self-propelled combine, made its appearance in 1938 with the limited production of the No. 20 with a 16-foot cut. It was large, heavy, and expensive, so the company decided in 1940 to produce the No. 21, a smaller, lighter version, with a 12-foot cut and later with a 14-foot cut. During World War II, the War Production Board limited the annual production of farm equipment to a percentage of that produced in 1940. Thus, the Massey-Harris No. 21 was the only self-propelled combine that was eligible to be produced during the war years.

Joe Tucker, the former general sales manager and vice president of the Oliver Farm Equipment Company, served on the War Production Board from December 1941 until July 1943. He then resigned to become the general

sales manager for Massey-Harris U.S.A. A month later, Tucker appeared before the War Production Board with a proposal that the Massey-Harris Company be permitted to build an additional 500 self-propelled combines for the 1944 harvest. The combines were to be sold to experienced operators and each owner would sign an agreement to harvest a minimum of 2,000 acres with each machine for a total of one million acres. The proposal was accepted, Massey-Harris managed to find the necessary steel, castings, and bearings to build the combines, and the first shipment left the Toronto factory in March 1944 with each combine labeled “Massey-Harris Self-Propelled Harvest Brigade” on the grain tank.

Some of the combines were shipped to California and a few to the Pacific Northwest, but most were shipped to Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas and followed the wheat harvest north. The Harvest Brigade was supervised by Joe Tucker with assistance by Massey-Harris branch personnel, Massey-Harris dealers, and county extension agents. The fields to be harvested were organized by the teams and the combine owners were only concerned with the operation of their combines. The Harvest Brigade became a national event and generated a tremendous amount of free publicity for Massey-Harris. The one-million-acre goal was surpassed with a total of 1,019,500 acres harvested for over 5,000 American farmers. The Harvest Brigade was repeated again in 1945 with 750 additional combines for a total of 1,250 combines in the program.

Not only did the Harvest Brigade provide a great service to the country when food was needed to win the war, it sold the American and Canadian farmer on the advantages of the self-propelled combine. It also created a large demand for Massey-Harris self-propelled combines after the war. To answer this demand, Massey-Harris built a new combine factory in Toronto during 1946 with a 526-foot long assembly line. Soon a second assembly line had to be added to meet the growing number of orders. The Massey-Harris share of the U.S. self-propelled combine market was over 50 percent in 1948, 1950, and 1951.

*Editor’s note: Many thanks to Larry for researching and writing these articles about our featured tractor*

**\*\*\*\*BULLETIN BOARD\*\*\*\***

**FOR SALE:** - IH 1206, Under 7,000 hours, new seat, tires, water pump, PTO plates & kit, starter and more. *Janice Law, Mt. Carol, IL 815-244-9442 or 815-238-6448 (Ju)*

**For sale:** 1930 John Deere Model E, 1 1/2 H.P. gas engine, serial no. 318749. New gas tank, gas line, oil pan, gaskets & ground valves. New runner on nice set of trucks. Runs \$950 OBO call *Robert Griggs 309-936-7040 (Au)*

**For sale:** Slowing down!! 1936 Deere "A" ser.# 428888, older restoration, new hood, tires, round spoke rears, decent paint. \$2950; 1956 620 Ser# 6202917, NEW power steering, very straight tin, original paint, factory 3 pt. with center link, no breaks or welds, runs great. Over \$3000 just in the new power steering. Works perfect. Tires fair to good, lights work, \$5750; 1952 Deere "G" ser.# 53851, recent total restoration with all new engine, clutch, gov., tires, new paint, excellent sheet metal. runs great. \$6000. Call *Larry Goodwin 309-944-2670 or 309-945-1666 and leave a message (ju)*

**For Sale:** David Bradley 2 wheel tractor w/ knobby tires, plow, disk, snow blade, & sickle mower \$300 Call *Lester Pratt 815-537-2742(Au)*

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

**\*\*\*\*CLUB ACTIVITIES\*\*\*\***

**AUGUST EVENTS**

**Canal Tractor Drive:** Sat. August 18, 8:30 A.M. Start at show grounds

**Country Tractor Drive:** August 25 Leave Hillsdale Flea Market at 10 A.M. Buffet Dinner at Cordova Farmer's Table. If interested, contact Lenzy Stickler 309-523-2744 or Dick Black 309-658-2273

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Wednesday, August 29: 6:30 P.M. at show grounds

**River Valley Antique Association** presents the 24<sup>th</sup> Old Fashioned Threshing Show on August 25 and 26 at their grounds, Mapleton, Illinois (309)389-5196

**DVC Village of East Davenport** tractor show August 25 & 26 Contact Eileen Groth 563-285-7009

**AETA FALL SHOW** – Sept. 14, 15, & 16  
**Atkinson Show Grounds**

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Web site: [www.atkinson-engine-tractor-assoc.com](http://www.atkinson-engine-tractor-assoc.com)

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