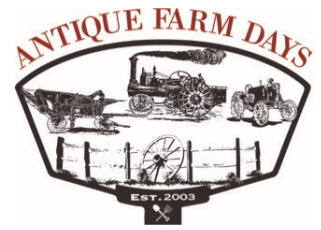


# Antique Farm Day News



Issue 4

February 2018

## SVAPF Mission

The Mission of the Southwest Virginia Antique Farm Days organization is to restore and preserve farm machinery and implements that were used in the agriculture based society of early Southwest Virginia. These efforts are directed toward educating the public and future generations, through displays and demonstrations, about the importance that early farm machinery played in shaping life in Franklin County and surrounding areas.

## Upcoming Meeting:

The next meeting is to be held on 2/15/2018 at the Essig Center in Rocky Mount. Board and Officers will be meeting at 6 PM with the General Membership meeting to follow at 7 PM.

## Getting Involved,

Project and Committee Opportunities listed on p. 2

## Ever try to send a Peerless Steam Tractor to college?

By: Bob Most

If you think sending a student to college is difficult try sending our Peerless Steam Traction Engine to Ferrum for the annual Fall Folklife Festival. This past October turned out just like the past two years with it taking 8 straight days of work on the part of our club members, as well as a good friend of the Club, Jay Abbott.

Wednesday before the Festival we prepared the engine for the show by loading the fuel bunkers with coal and wood. Installed all boiler handholds and plugs. We gathered all the necessary supplies, tools, oil, lubricate and spare

parts for transport to the college. We loaded spare fuel for the engine. The day ended by using a truck to tow the Peerless out of the engine shed and align in in the road ready for

Thursday started early with the team having everything ready for the loading of the Peerless. Jay Abbott arrived and as a true professional had the engine winched up on his large rollback trailer and tied down in what I call record time. Off we go heading to Ferrum College, upon arrival the loading process was reversed and the engine was on the ground and in position for the Festival loading on Thursday, ending the day with preparing the engine for it's trip to Ferrum.

Cont'd p.2



Pictured left: Final inspection as the Steam Tractor prepares to leave the Franklin County Recreation Park for it's week-long journey

Pictured right: Steam Tractor arriving on campus. Thank you do to all who helped to make the journey and the week possible



## The Peerless Goes to College (cont'd from p1):

Friday was a busy day; the engine had to be fired up and test run to prepare the engine for the early Saturday morning fire up. The boiler needed to be filled to the proper level with water and boiler chemicals. A fire had to be built in the firebox, and lit. The engine took about two and a half hours to be brought up to full pressure, during that time engine service was performed, tasks like lubricating and cleaning all while tending the fire. Once the engine was up to pressure it was run and all systems tested. Completing the tests the engine was shut down and put to bed for the night. Saturday started early, but with plenty of hands available the day went smoothly. The engine was fired up, serviced, and operated the entire day. Teaming with the Agee family, the spectator crowd enjoyed a realistic demonstration of turn of the century threshing. At the end of the show the Peerless was shut down. Sunday afternoon required the Peerless to be prepared for the trip back to its home to the Recreation Park. The boiler had to be drained, the ash pan cleaned, the roof strapped down, and things generally arranged for the trip. Monday looked like Thursday in reverse with the team ready, Jay Abbott arriving with his tractor trailer, professionally loading the Peerless, and everyone helping secure the engine, with chains and binders, for the trip back. As before the trip went smooth and at the Rec Park the engine was unloaded, and all the tools and supplies put away. Unfortunately, with the engine in the road, parallel to our engine shed, the only way to get the engine was to fire it up and drive it in. A task we had to do on Tuesday!

Tuesday, we had to go through the entire fire up process like we did at the college.

So, I realize this could be considered a long, boring

article, but think about what the original farmers went through to operate these pieces of equipment. Think of how labor intensive they were compared to the equipment we have today. I joke when I say, "I keep looking for the starter key to this engine but they just hand me a shovel". Yes, labor intensive, slow to get ready to use, but think of the efficiency gained over a person walking behind a horse team. The steam traction engine was the first mechanical power brought to agriculture, before that all agriculture was animal powered. Fill the boiler with water and boiler chemicals, build the fire, wait 2 hours plus for pressure to get to a level where we could move the engine in the building. That right, a full morning spent to move the engine 75 feet, and to add to it, since the engine was hot, we then needed to come back Wednesday to clean the engine, prepare it for winter, and get it ready for our biannual state boiler inspection, the next day, but that is another story.



Accomplishing the goal, bringing smiles to and educating a new generation

## Membership activities and drive

As we think forward to our next show, only 4 months away (with a Swap meet in 2), please be reminded of the many activities where we will need assistance. Over the past couple of month's you have seen a list of committee opportunities. Many of you will be getting calls about those committees, and I would also ask that you reach out to myself or Tommy and let us know which committees you would like to sign up for. We will be looking to

have as many commitments as possible leading into Farm Days.

The goal is to have potentially new exhibits and would love to see our club equipment running, but that will require some carefully planning and support from each of you.

We are actively seeking new members and want to make sure we are continuing to provide the activities you all want to

see through the year. Thanks for all of your support as we look forward to the 15th show in June.

*Charles Brubaker*



## Planning for new Blacksmith Exhibit

As noted in some of our prior meetings and this newsletter, we have been working with the Blacksmiths along with the Franklin County Recreation Park to add a permanent facility for this exhibit.

The photo to the right shows planning for this location. Construction should begin soon and plans are to have it ready for Antique Farm Days 2018



### February Discussion Items

- Survey follow up, I am certain some of us still have some work to do
- Project updates
- Committee assignments
- Spring swap meet (April 20 and 21), less than 60 days out
- Schedule adjustments for 2018, show
- Volunteers for newsletters / committees
- Band recommendations for Sunday afternoon
- How can we get news and notes for this document?
- Where do we need volunteers at the show (golf cart schedules, announcing, permits, contact for camping....)

### Club News and Notes

A few highlights from our December meeting:

- Antique Farm Days News chosen as the official name of this newsletter
- Review of early survey results, and planning to call additional stakeholders in our survey
- Review of opportunities to enhance advertising
- Charles Hudson and Jonathon Custer were prize winners in this month's meeting

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Barbara Stout on February 11th. Please keep the Stout family in your prayers as they experience this very difficult time.

Submit your article, what do you want to see in the Newsletter: As we prepare this newsletter each month, we would like to include the articles that would interest you. Is there are piece of equipment you would like to share, a story you would like to tell, or a personal profile you would like to see highlighted. Please reach out via email or phone and let us know your idea for the feature story. Thanks for Bob Most for putting together the articles and pictures for this edition.