

June, 1974

Show draws 10,000

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Coming back south again on the outer ring, George Gray of Woodstock had a sellers table for coins and stamps. The Organ Loft from Tillsonburg had several organs there, and then from London, George Watts had wooden tools right next to Lavern Irving's bottle display. Walter Pullen of Sweaburg had Indian arrowheads, and a horse shoe chair that he had made from horseshoes he collected from all over the world.

A China display by Lettice Hover included chickens on the nest, mugs, and plates. She also had pictures by Miss Clutton the Norwich photographer, and quilts hanging behind the display. Next were Murray Penny's guns; Eula J. Clark's dolls and crafts, and some original paintings by Sara Moore.

Watch fobs from Ray Sadler's collection in Ingersoll, and Russell and Greta Sibbeck's clocks from Brantford finished off the west wall, and John and Greta Robinson of Ancaster had their Girandoles at the south end. The Girandole is a native of England, and was used as a garnish on the mantelpiece. They were originally the candlestick holder, but when gas lighting came in, they were made fancy to sell. Mr. Robinson claims to have the only collection of Girandoles in the world.

Outside the arena, it was more of a historical show than a steam show as in other years. Early gas engines puffed away, the steam engines just hissed, and the horse-run saw was the quietest machine there.

There were 11 steam engines, including a Baker and a Sawyer Massey of Clark Dell's; a Minneapolis owned by Dennis Webb of Beamsville; three Waterloos, owned by Mr. Grant of Eastwood, Mr. Pettinger and Willard Marshall of Cayuga. The Orth's Frick was there, along with the Buffalo Pitts owned by the MacPhersons of Norwich. Mr. Porter of Eastwood's Case, and three Whites owned by Bert Baty of London, Jack Calder of Jerseyville and Charlie Mitchell of Cultus.

There were five saws present, ranging from a gas and belt operated saw owned by Mr. Burson, to the steam operated saw mill owned by Fred Lucan of Dunnville. A drag saw belonging to the museum was run by the horses, and two buzz saws owned by Ken Karn of Sweaburg and Bruce Kipp of Princeton. From Stratford, the Minnie Thomson museum had a wood chopper, wagon pulled by oxen and the calliope.

Fred Mote of Bayfield demonstrated how shingles are made with his machine. Mr. Burson was cutting plaques with

his saw, and burned into it was the date for the current show.

Besides the Baker fan, and the first grader used by North Norwich township, and the threshing and separating machines, the rest were mainly antique tractors. Outstanding among them were two Silver Kings, an Oil Pull tractor, and a Co-Op tractor that had three of the original wheels on it. An oddity was the locomobile, a train on wheels that gave kids a ride, and fire engine, and a few other machines that gave rides around the track.

Parades were being held all the time, and there were several slow races, from which Wally Orth was declared the winner, because he could keep his Frick moving the slowest.

Fred Thomson and Sammy Goodwin, the ventriloquist, were always on hand to do the announcing, even during the few showers that invaded Norwich on Saturday. As for food there were booths operated by the Lions, the Optimists, and the Junior Farmers, and the Legion Ladies provided hot meals.

It was a good week-end, and next year's will probably be better, when they will celebrate the fifth anniversary.

Society Cleared About \$2,000 On Steam Show

NORWICH — Norwich and District Historical Society should clear about \$2,000 from the June Steam Show after all expenses are deducted, Secretary Walter Haight reported at the July meeting Monday evening.

In the absence of President Marie Avey, the first vice-president, Don MacPherson presided, with about 45 in attendance.

Secretary Walter Haight read minutes also a card of thanks from St. John Ambulance for the donation which they had received as appreciation for their services at the Steam Show.

Reports were received from several committees. Murray Rettie reported for the building committee. Mrs. Hilton Hilliker, curator of the museum, stated there had been a nice glass show there during the week-end. Greta Simmons reported a membership of 196 for '73.

Wilford Bishop, speaking for the archives, commented on the 70 volumes of books received from the estate of the late Miss Stella Mott, the oldest book being one of 1715.

A note stated in one book that William Lyon McKenzie often visited William Carroll in Norwich.

In other business, Mr. Vivian Beal of Buckinghamshire, England, and Don McIsaac of Scotland, Ont., were introduced.

A large number of black and white pictures also colored pictures of the Steam Show which were on display are available for sale by contacting Wally Orth.

Donald MacPherson announced equipment from Norwich will be shown at the Caledonia Steam Show August 4-6. The next meeting will be held August 27. Following adjournment an assortment of colored slides were shown. Bill Butler showed pictures of the Steam Show, the Shunpiker show at the museum, the winter show at the Legion Hall, pictures of local interest, the trilliums at Sweaburg and others.

Don MacPherson showed pictures of the recent Ohio Show, The Niagara Show, Don Robinson's display of glass, lamps, china, etc., also pictures brought from England by Mr. Beal.