



A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT TO SEE, an eight-horse hitch pulls an antique beer wagon in the IPM parade in Lambton last year.



CONKLIN SHOWS will have an avenue of thrilling rides at the 1974 International, similar to this display at last year's match in Lambton.

Plug their products before large crowds

Since the time during the First World War when tractors were introduced as a labor saving device, farm equipment firms have taken a keen interest in the International Plowing Match.

They have co-operated by furnishing and servicing tractors and where possible, have had their staff and dealers scout up plows for competitors.

As well, they arranged exhibits at the plowing match and other lines of equipment and took great care in effectively demonstrating all the features of such machinery. This inevitably led to the setting up of a well-planned central exhibit area—now commonly known

as "Tented City".

Others too

It was not long until companies with other lines of labor saving equipment came in as exhibitors.

Today, those participating in the match and all that it means include banks, oil companies, automobile and truck dealers, producers of dairy equipment, farm buildings, household and garden supplies, also livestock breeders, chick hatcheries, seed and fertilizer companies, real estate agencies, new papers, radio and television stations.

Government In addition, government agencies and departments have joined ranks

Sheepshearing, horseshoes part of '74 IPM program

Several special events will be held as part of the program during this year's International Plowing Match, Sept. 24-28 in Halton Hills. And the man responsible for organizing them and making sure all the necessary supplies are on hand is Harold Biggar of Burnhamthorpe Rd. in North Oakville, chairman of special events for the local Halton committee.

Harold says a sheep shearing demonstration is one of the new attractions this year. A Halton man has offered to give demonstrations of this unique art Thursday and Saturday afternoons, Sept. 26 and 28. If there is anyone to challenge the

Wear a pair of old, comfortable shoes when you visit the International. The fields are stubble and uneven and may be dusty (or muddy if it rains).

demonstrator, it may turn into a contest.

Toss shoes too

A horseshoe pitching contest is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28. Officially it's open to teams of two players representing a plowing branch or association affiliated with the Ontario Plowmen's Association but Mr. Biggar said if any other teams want to compete, they will be welcome.

He is also in charge of arranging tractors and plows for the special plowing contests. One will be held for wardens and regional chairmen, another for municipal mayors, plus one for press representatives.

Mr. Biggar is also involved with the Queen of the Furrow competition although a separate committee headed by Mrs. Spencer Wilson of Norval organizes this competition annually.



HAROLD BIGGAR

GO EARLY

Plowing Match organizers expect a record-breaking crowd on Saturday, Sept. 28, so go earlier in the week if you get a chance. It won't be so crowded Tuesday to Thursday and you'll have a better chance to participate on those days.

A century old History of the match

Plowing matches have been a part of the agricultural scene in Ontario for well over a century.

In the early days they were sponsored by agricultural societies, the first farm groups to be established, and history records that in 1846 when the first provincial exhibition was held in the City of Toronto a special feature of the event was a plowing match. It took place on a farm on Yonge Street in the vicinity of St. Clair Avenue.

These matches not only gave farmers an opportunity to display their skill in the handling of a walking plow but to show the fine teams of horses, many of which were imported or were from imported stock.

Own associations The holding of competitions of this type in conjunction with an exhibition or fair was never very practical as it was difficult to find suitable land conveniently located in relation to the fairgrounds. Therefore, those especially interested decided to stage such contests apart from the fair and the result was the setting up of plowing associations on a township or county basis.

This plan was quite general by the turn of the century. However by 1911 interest in matches had fallen off so much that a meeting of officers representing the most active matches was held in Toronto for the purpose of assessing the status of these events and what should be the future program.

The result of this meeting was the formation of the Ontario Plowmen's Association.

One tractor Two years later they held their first provincial match on a farm near the city which

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MILTON'S PLOWING MAYOR Anne MacArthur shows her style at the IPM held last year in Lambton County. She competed there in the class

for county wardens. Mrs. MacArthur wasn't a winner but said it was a lot of fun, plowing with horses for the first time in her life.