

Steamer, Tractor, Antique Buffs Prepare for Labour Day Reunion

By Roy Downs

A headline and story in last week's Champion said members of the Ontario Steam Antique Preservers' Association "are literally up to the ears in grime these days as they prepare their exhibits for the Labor Day weekend third annual reunion at Milton Fair Grounds."

A statement was never so true!

This past week I've been visiting some of the local members of the Association, getting pictures of their tractor, engine and steamer exhibits, and watching while they get themselves covered in grease and paint in a last-minute rush to get their hobbies all set to go on display at the weekend reunion.

The Best Ever

And the enthusiasm these six or seven members can generate during an ordinary conversation is terrific. You chat with one member for half an hour, and come away knowing for sure that this year's reunion will be the best ever — bar none.

Gordon Brigden of Hornby, for instance, a member of the O.S.A.P.A. executive, is a fine example of the membership. He devotes his spare time, all year round, to working on his own and other members' equipment, often at no charge to the owner.

"If I did this to make money, I don't deserve to belong to the Association," he explains.

Last week he was presented with a king-sized chore — that

of repairing a 10 foot high, four feet wide industrial clock-timer mechanism. Stan Gorman of Oakville owns it, and would like to have it running for the show. The giant timepiece is run by 10 wind-up coil affairs and batteries, and the machine can record things like temperatures or meter readings, as well as tell the time.

Running or Not . . .

"We'll have it at the show Labor Day weekend," Mr. Brigden asserts, "whether we can get it running or not, it will be there."

He's also at work putting a Sawyer Massey traction steam engine in shape for another member, Arnold McDuffe of Milton. Mr. McDuffe has had the engine (circa 1906-8 style) for over six years, and Mr. Brigden has done most of the re-construction. Today the engine is in A-1 shape, completely overhauled and repaired.

The Hornby manufacturer's shop yard is filled with other relics of the days gone by — most of them his own, a few belonging to other members of the Association. He has an 85-year-old drag saw once used in a logging camp, that he's fixing up for the August 30 — September 2 reunion in Milton. The saw is owned by Earl Davison of Detroit, another enthusiastic Steam Association member. Mr. Davison also owns a 500-plus gallon mobile water tank sitting in the Brigden yard, which Mr. Brigden recently repainted. He also realigned the wheels and repaired the pump motor.

Original Grader

As well he has a 1931 Sawyer Massey road grader that was Halton County's first grader. It was sold to two other owners since its days of work on county roads, but Mr. Brigden managed to buy it back. At the reunion, Jack Heatley who originally drove the engine for the county, will be at the controls once more.

Mr. Brigden also owns a 20-23 Rumely tractor built in 1929. It has been completely rebuilt.

Vic Hall, another executive member, lives on Court St. Milton and owns a scrap yard near Hornby. He has a steam engine and threshing machine which he's preparing for the show. Last weekend he and Mrs. Hall and another Milton couple went to Canadaigua, New York, for the New York Steam Association's annual show. "We were welcomed with open arms down there," said Mrs. Hall. They took along some posters advertising the Milton Reunion and put them up "everywhere." About 50 members of the New York Association are expected to visit the coming reunion in Milton.

Busy Restoring

Len Buckler of Drumquin has been keeping himself busy these past few months, working on restoring two early model gasoline engines. And just recently he picked up a unique item, a dog treadle manufactured at Alliston in 1882. The dog treadle was designed to use dog-power to turn a wheel which in turn would run a churn or water pump.

He has a four-cycle hit-and-miss, three horsepower Massey-Harris gas engine, in good running condition and ready for the show. This engine, manufactured in 1914, is a family affair for Buckler has given it to his son-

in-law Clyde Brooker of Hamilton, and Clyde has orders to turn it over to his son Bruce when he is old enough. The three of them have been repairing it and toying with it.

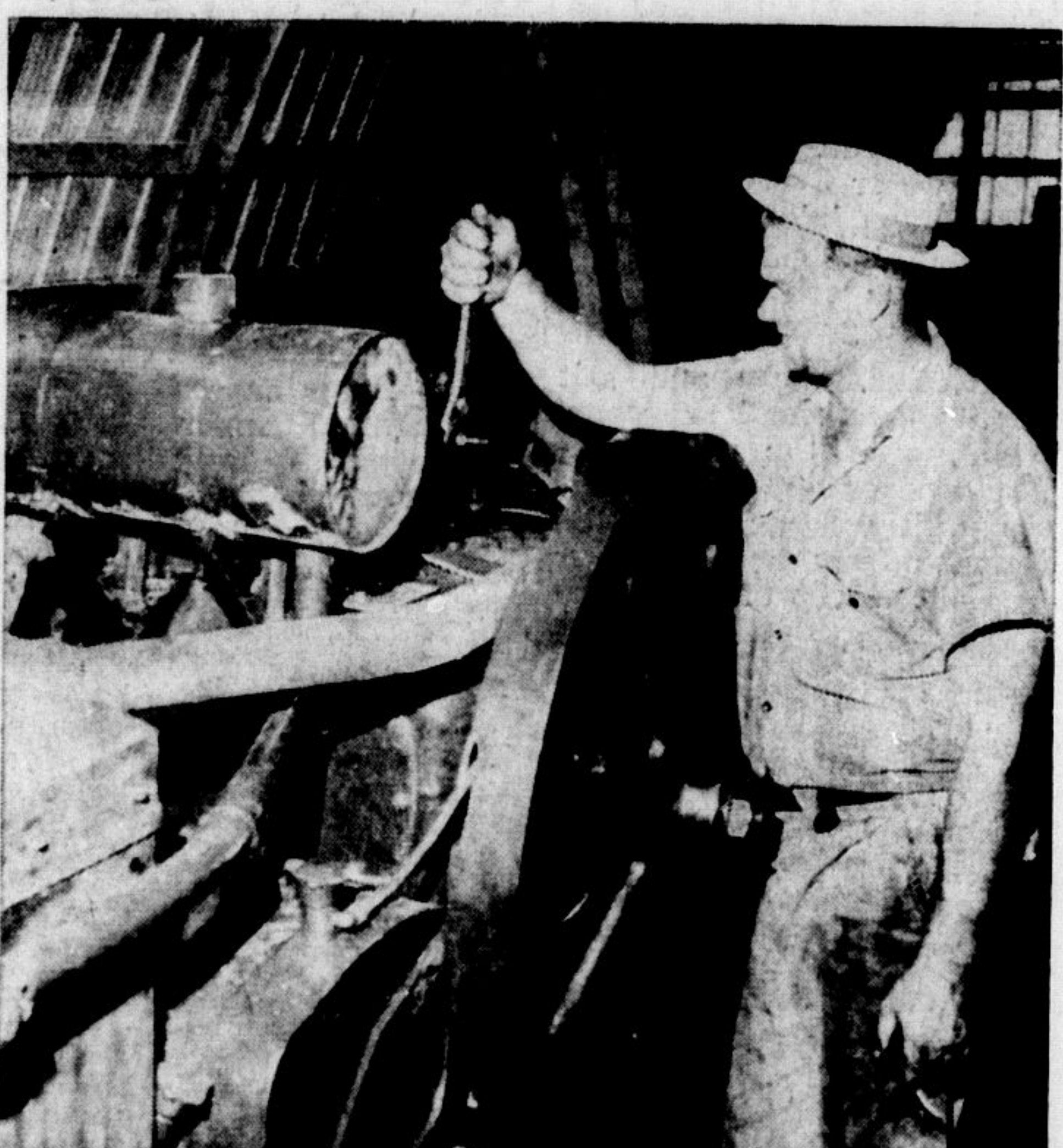
Three Gallons A Day

Operating on the hit-and-miss principle, the engine pops and bangs, then makes several quiet revolutions. It is geared so finely, that when the flywheel begins to slow down the engine starts working again, the exhaust goes "bang", and the wheel goes flying around once more. "It will run all day on three gallons of gas", the owner said.

Mr. Buckler also owns a 1919 (Continued on Page Six)



GORDON BRIGDEN of Hornby adds some oil to a steam engine owned by Arnold McDuffe of Milton. Mr. Brigden has been restoring several pieces of machinery for the Labor Day weekend event.



SHERWOOD HUME is hard at work on his Rumely tractor, giving it a complete rebuilding job in preparation for the Steam Reunion.

"Water Safety Day" At Kelso Pool Sun.

Next Sunday is "Water Safety Day" at Kelso pool. A program demonstrating life saving techniques, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, water polo, synchronized swimming and reaching assists, has been prepared by the pool life guards and swimming instructors.

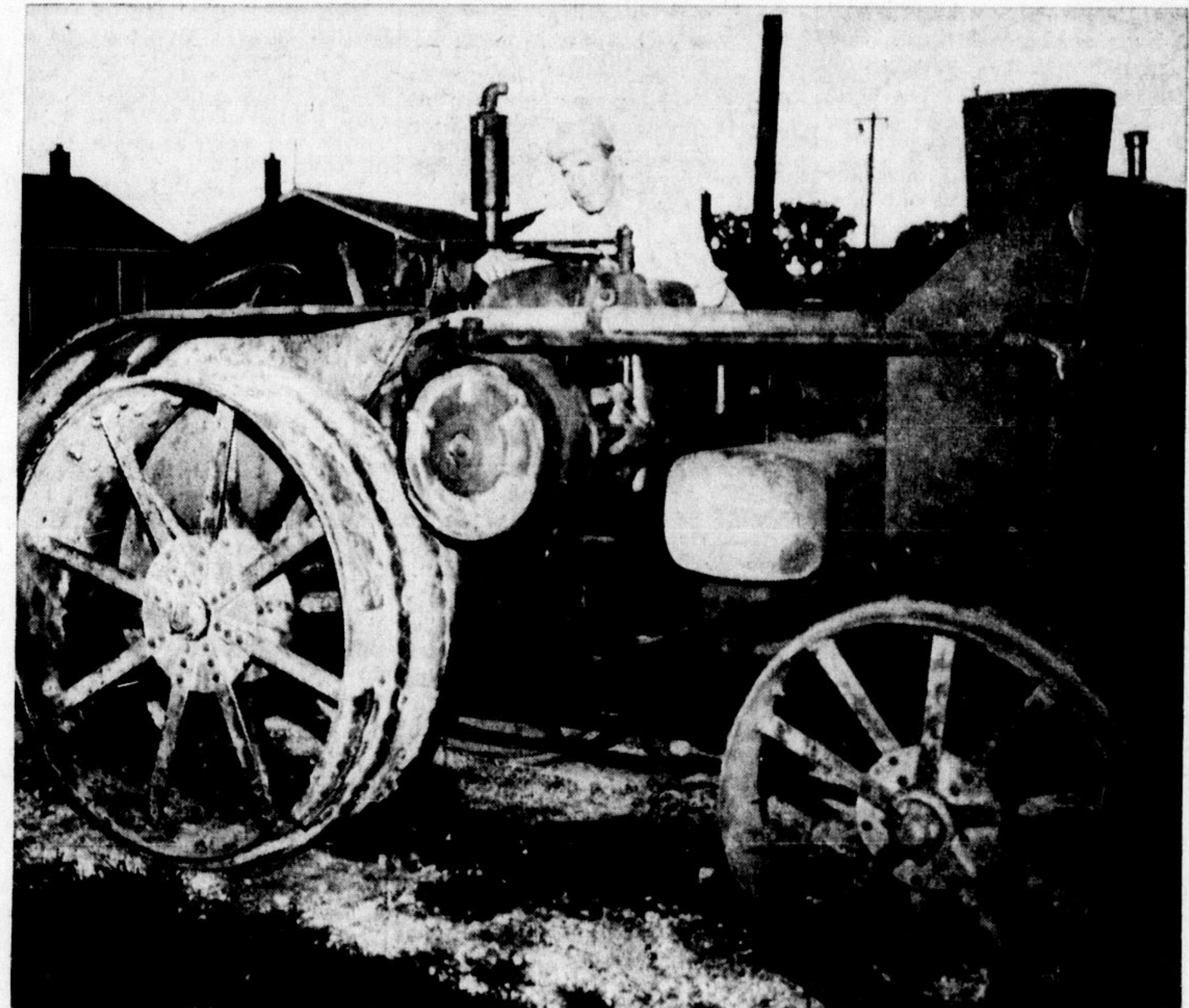
Races including the turtle dash, pyjama race, mother and daughter, and father and son races, have been arranged. Everyone is invited to attend the program that is scheduled to get under way at 2 p.m.



A 1914 MASSEY-HARRIS gasoline engine, that works on the "hit-and-miss" principle, is one of the exhibits Len Buckler of Drumquin is preparing for the steam reunion. Len, left, is shown with his son-in-law Clyde Brooker of Hamilton and grandson Bruce Brooker, "co-owners" of the machine. He also has a 1919 International gas engine that isn't quite ready for show yet.



GORDON DOWNS of Bell St., Milton, puts the finishing touches to a new paint job on his Rumely tractor. He showed the same tractor in the 1962 reunion in Milton.



BOB CLARKE, Meadowbrook Drive, is another Steam Association member busy working on a Rumely tractor, preparing it for the reunion. Bob won a trophy for restoring a tractor last year.

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