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—Staff Photos

IT'S ALL OVER NOW . . . but it was a weekend worth remembering. Friday, Saturday and Monday the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association converged on Milton with hundreds of pieces of restored, antique machinery, and the fifth annual weekend Steam-Era they produced drew a crowd estimated at over 35,000 total attendance to the fair grounds reunion. In the top photo, a group of gas tractors from out of the past parade up the Main St. during the Saturday parade. In the photo at right, crowds at the fair grounds watch as a restored City of Toronto steam-powered road roller "struts her stuff" in front of the grandstand.



Five Buffalo Coming To Rattlesnake Valley

Five Canadian bison from the Elk Island National Park, Alberta, are to be corralled in a valley beside Rattlesnake Point Park west of Milton, in a unique project conceived by the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

The Authority learned a year ago that the national park would donate animals from its herd of 17,000 buffalo, if anyone promised to transport and care for them. The Authority's original request for five was turned down when disease struck the herd and 300 buffalo died.

However H.R.C.A. members continued to press the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, through which the animals were to be obtained.

Last week J. R. B. Coleman, director of the department in Ottawa, notified the Authority the request had been granted as the outbreak of disease has been terminated.

The area chosen for a bison corral is in an Authority-owned valley just west of the Nassagaweya Canyon Lookout at Rattlesnake Point Park, between the park and Walker's Line. Field Officer Dave Murray said the land could be easily fenced and there were plenty of rolling hills and lots of running water on the property, so he felt it would be an ideal area for the bison. Visitors could see the buffalo from the lookout on top of the mountain and they are expected to be a great tourist attraction.

Gord Collinson Heads Milton's Parks Board

Gordon Collinson was named chairman of Milton's first Parks Board when the group met for the first time on Wednesday evening of last week.

Councillor G. Addison welcomed members Dick Clement, G. Collinson, C. Fav and J. Dills, expressing regret that E. B. Clements and R. F. McCuaig had been unable to be present.

Councillor Addison and Councillor Fav reviewed their hopes for the Board and the development of an adequate parks system. They urged the business-like approach to the conduct of the meetings by use of the written motions, and gave members copies of the town by-law establishing the group and the sections of the Parks Act that apply to the Board operation.

Full Time Director
Councillor Addison expressed a hope that there might eventually be a full time director of recreation and parks that would co-ordinate the work of both groups.

Members noted present park locations in the town, agreeing that several of the eight were low land or creek beds. Municipal representatives emphasized the need for an all-round parks program involving not all baseball and not all flowers, but some of each.

The clerk-manager was to be asked to detail the specific parcels of land that would be the responsibility of the Parks Board.

In routine discussions it was agreed the position of chairman should be generally a one year term; meetings should be held the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m.; an advertisement should be placed for a secretary-treasurer with the chairman, Dick Clement and G. Addison, as a committee to interview applicants.

An inspection of present park sites was arranged for later this (Continued on Page Three)



COSTUMES OF A BY-GONE ERA and modern musical talent came to the fore Wednesday evening of last week when the Recreation Committee offered prizes for the best old fashioned costumes and talent at a program at the Town Hall. Above on the left are the individual winners in the costume contest, Mrs. Dorothy Willson of Brampton and Miss Debbie DeVarennes of Milton. On the right are the family costume winners, Mrs. Don Herman and her children Michele and Brian. In the centre are some of the entertainers who participated in the talent section. From left to right are Beverly Waters who danced, second prize winner Mary Anderson who played classical piano solos, third prize winners Judy and Janet Ferrier who sang accompanied by themselves on guitars, Margo Clarkson who sang and danced, and accordionist Dean Scovell. A crowd of over 300 sat in on the entertaining evening and close to 75 of them were in old fashioned costumes.



Weekend Steam-Era "Terrific Success" Estimate Attendance at Over 35,000

By Roy Downs

Milton turned back the pages of time on the weekend, as the combination of fine weather and an excellent drawing-card brought over 35,000 visitors into Milton Fair Grounds to witness and participate in the fifth annual Steam-Era steam and antique reunion.

Jubilant Steam-Era officials, who began the weekend bubbling over with their perennial enthusiasm for what was about to come, were still bubbling over when it ended Monday night.

"I'm tired, but I'm thoroughly pleased with the whole weekend," past president Gordon Smith of Orillia sighed. President Allan Byers of Atherly said "everybody deserves a lot of credit, it was a terrific show and the weather was grand."

Biggest Success

And Steam-Era was a success—in many ways. It was the largest

show the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association had ever staged in their five-year history, both in the size of the show and in the size of the crowd.

There was more antique farm machinery on display, more entertainment in front of the grandstand, more eating establishments, more scheduled activities, more souvenirs and more to see and do at the 1965 show.

And to top it all off, the weekend weather was perfect. Friday was sunny and cool, Saturday sunny and warm. An all-day rain on Sunday threatened to cancel the Monday segment of the show, as the whole fair grounds became a sea of mud, but Monday's sun soon dried that up and it turned out to be the most perfect day of the three.

Gate Up 25%

Crowds each day were up over last year's record 30,000 total at-

tendance, and president Byers said gate receipts indicated a 25 per cent increase in paid attendance.

Visitors to the grounds had plenty to see. This year a record 32 steam engines lumbered around the grounds—all operative and most of them restored to almost original condition. They ranged in age from an 1885 stationary engine to the last steamers built in the 1920's, and included such well-known names as George White, John Goodison, Case, Sawyer-Massey, American Abell, Norsworthy, Waterloo, Robert Bell, John Waterloo and MacDonald, plus a steam shovel, two steam rollers and a steam-operated calloffe that shrieked out tunes from a bevy of whistles.

There were 49 gas tractors on display this year, including 14 Rumelys and others bearing the names Eagle, Fordson, Allis Chalmers, Case, McCormick Dearing, Huber, Titan, Waterloo Boy, Hart Parr, McTaggart, International, Moline, Happy Farmer, John Deere, Parrett, Townsend, Rock Island and Cleveland.

52 Engines

Early gas engines are another big drawing card, and this year's show boasted 52 of them. Although the Steam-Era people have dropped their affiliation with the antique car club that provided old cars and trucks for former shows, there were still 30 cars and trucks dating back to 1903 on display—all of them owned by individuals and members of Steam-Era.

Miscellaneous large equipment included a drag saw, corn box, six separators, pumps, saws, cutters, democrat, sleigh, grain grinder, and two band organs. P. L. Robertson Manufacturing entered an early cut thread screw manufacturing machine that was operating throughout the show. A blacksmith shop was re-created and a smithy was on duty for three days showing visitors how the shoes were made. For the first time, and old country "general store" was built and it housed the Steam-Era souvenir and gift shop and film bar.

And judging by the appearance of cameras on the grounds, the weekend brought a hey-day for business for the film manufacturing companies. About one in three visitors had a still or movie camera slung around their necks. Several other "steam buffs" traipsed around the grounds carrying tape recorders, to preserve for posterity the sounds of the engines as they labored.

"Barn of Yesteryear"

One hall was filled with agricultural antiques, and it was called "The Barn of Yesteryear". Another exhibited models of equipment

and in the third hall, souvenirs were sold and antique dealers displayed wares for sale, while members put on a show of their own private antique collections. Souvenir sales were so brisk the committee was almost sold out.

A miniature railway was set up with several model steam-fired engines running daily around the 200 feet of circular track. A large sawmill was set up to cut wood for the steam engines, and it gave visitors a close look at how the tractors and engines labored to keep the saw turning as heavy maple logs were sliced into cordwood before their eyes.

A big teeter totter for engines provided a lot of fun as drivers shunted their engines back and forth to reach that elusive point of balance. Large fans were also set up on the grounds to test the strength of the "iron monsters" as they chugged and puffed and filled the air with clouds of black smoke.

Patter from Vince

In front of the grandstand, master of ceremonies Vince Mountford from Brampton held forth every afternoon of the show, with his classical patter of songs, jokes and announcements. Several groups of square dancers, the Milton Girls Pipe Band and other singers and dancers also entertained the crowds that gathered.

Steam-Era directors Earl Davison, Gordon Smith, Fred Thompson, Sherwood Hume and Allan Byers took the microphone to describe the various tractors, engines and cars as they passed the grandstand in the daily parades. Other grandstand entertainment features were races and hand-pumper fire reel races between teams of steam engine operators with separators, car races and contests to see how fast a Model T Ford could be assembled and operative.

Children had plenty of opportunity for rides, as an English double decker bus made regular trips around the race track, and Silver Spur Ranch at Ballinacraigh brought a miniature stage coach

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Next Year?

Steam-Era 1965 was hardly over before some people were making plans to come back next year!

Sunday a man from Grove City, Pennsylvania penned a letter to The Champion asking what dates the 1966 show would be held. "We enjoyed being with you folks and think you have a lovely celebration," he wrote. The Steam-Era visitor obviously wanted to make plans early to see next year's reunion.