

Sam's "Johnny TO the Spot" popular Steam-Era exhibit

By Janet Braida
Photo by Steven Dills

"There's always something fresh at the Steam Show" and that's why Sam Newell of Millgrove is a regular exhibitor and visitor to the show. "All the people involved are in it for fun and enjoy a weekend out," he said.

Everyone knowing Mr. Newell personally or looking for him for a first time, should keep an eye out for his regular exhibit, now having been at the show for the past decade. The unmistakable "red-capped" man sitting atop a small garden tractor pulling the famous "Johnny TO the Spot", is hard to scan over, bringing up the tail end of the regular Steam-Era parade.

"I bring 'Johnny' to the show for some fun," he admitted. "Everyone seems to get quite a laugh out of my old pal and I try to add something new to it each year to keep everyone interested," he said.

Johnny TO the Spot is a well kept, wooden two-seater outhouse, complete with all the necessary conveniences. Set in an appropriate surrounding of burdock and mulleins weeds, the contraption features a homemade clothesline complete with a host of unmentionables, several artificially perfumed flowers to "kill the aroma" and an Eaton's catalog for hours of pleasurable reading.

"Johnny was given to me by a neighbor and had been used by persons working for me at the farm during the day. It was set up in a field formerly, and as a joke I cleaned it up and used it as a display at the show," Mr. Newell explained.

Parade announcers usually tell the audiences that Sam and his "sudden service" are available in case they get caught short. "Just holler for Sam and he'll bring the Johnny to you," says Steam-Era president Ross Calder.

Besides his main Johnny TO the Spot attraction, Mr. Newell also exhibits a 1925 Ford Model T truck in the grand parade and has a collection of several "hand-me-

downs" in the building under the grandstand. The truck is driven by his son Bob in the annual procession.

The truck, fully restored, was formerly owned by his father-in-law who handed it down to him, several years ago. "The Steam-Era show is the only place it goes," he quipped. "The rest of the time it is stored along with 'Johnny' in the barn at the farm."

A century farm owner and an offspring of a family which settled in the Kilbride area in 1842, Mr. Newell has quite a collection of antiques amongst his "hand-me-downs" display. A Paul Revere lantern, brass candle shades, clocks, lamps, a buggy whip holder and ox shoes are among some of the more recognizable items. Other items in the display include an apple corer and quarterer, a brass preserving kettle, several jars and crocks, a blacksmith chair, two hand-made corn husk mats, a hand-knit bedspread, homemade quilts, brass picture frames and several toys given to him as a child.

Two items dear to his heart include a mother-of-pearl tray handed down through family generations and a self-defense weapon used by his grandfather during the Fenian Raids. "The entire lot have been handed down through the family except for two items," he beamed proudly. "All the articles displayed were used by my family at some time or other down through the years."

"I've always been interested in the show since the very first year," he said. "Most of the gems on display each year are the same, yet there is always something fresh about the Steam show," he quipped. "Those who return to the show year after year always find something new or exciting to look at or chat about. It adds good humor and friendliness to the show."

Running out of new ideas for his "Johnny", Mr. Newell pondered over his thoughts of an added attraction for next year. "Maybe a paint job, a different weed, new flowers or..." Let's wait till next year and see what he comes up with!



JOHNNY TO THE SPOT is always a big attraction, bringing up the rear of the annual grand Steam-Era parade. And the driver of the display, owner Sam Newell of Millgrove, is well known to regular show visitors. Besides his Johnny TO the Spot display, he also exhibits an old Model T truck and several "Hand-me-downs" from family members.

Migrating waterfowl up Mountsberg population

Hints of fall are upon us already — cooler weather, earlier nightfalls, the fall harvests. Among these signs of the passing of summer and the coming of autumn is the annual bird migration, and while overhead flocks are familiar to us all, perhaps it's time for a new view of this exodus.

The Mountsberg Wildlife Preserve, maintained by the Halton Region Conservation Authority as a major wildlife and waterfowl habitat area, provides excellent observation of these flocks as they feed and rest overnight.

Blue Herons too
Even though the migration is not fully underway until the middle or end of September, there are already hundreds of ducks and 60 to 80 great Blue Herons resting along the Mounts-

berg Reservoir shore. The birds are best observed by following the edge of the reservoir in the evening. Don't forget to bring your binoculars or camera.

An observation tower for 10 to 15 people is being constructed about 500 yards from the game farm buildings.

Students from S.W.E.E.P. (Students Working in an Environmental Enhancement Program) have been building nesting islands — modern platforms covered with hay and planted with vegetation — to provide suitable habitats and encourage nesting along the reservoir.

Report flocks
The Authority's program to encourage the nesting of Giant Canada Geese has resulted in a flock of 4 pair of adults and 24 young birds established at the

reservoir. Twenty young birds released in 1967 have subsequently mated with wild geese, and flocks of Canada Geese have been reported in the private ponds surrounding Mountsberg.

Also of interest in this season are the fall flowers and the autumn forest trails throughout the preserve.

A number of new varieties of pheasants and other birds have been added to the display at the game farm, along with the goats, sheep and cows already on hand.

The Mountsberg Wildlife Preserve is about five miles west of Campbellville on the Halton-Wentworth County Line north of Five Sideroad.

Will study in Europe

If a recommendation from the finance committee of Halton County Council is passed, three persons will represent the county in a trip to Europe to study local government there.

The committee recommended the warden, one councillor and one staff member be authorized to attend. Because the trip won't be until after the election of a new warden and the Milton municipal election, no names were mentioned.

Some members of a previous council enjoyed a similar trip several years ago. The council is being recommended to subsidize the trip to 75 per cent of the transportation costs.

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Obituary

Edward Bailey

A resident of Milton for almost 31 years, Edward Bailey died at Halton Centennial Manor on August 30. He was 87 years old. Born in Nelson, South Wales on Nov. 28, 1883 he came to Canada in 1910. In 1912 he married Amelia Maud Trease, formerly of Cornwall, England, in Galt. In 1943 he moved to a home on Mill St. and remained there 28 years before moving to the Manor. He was formerly employed by P. L. Robertson Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

Funeral service was held at McKersie Funeral Home on Sept. 1 with Rev. R. W. Foster officiating. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton. Pallbearers were George Newell, sons Dave, Owen and Kenneth

Bailey and grandsons Don Pruss and Ron Bailey.

He is survived by daughters Dorothy (Mrs. George Pruss) of Woodstock and Mabel (Mrs. Albert Toews) of Regina, sons Kenneth, James and David of Milton and Owen of Peterborough and a sister in Wales. He is also survived by 19 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Sweden has very strict laws, and enforcement, to prevent drunk driving. The result, according to the Hon. John A. Volpe, U.S. Secretary of Transportation is that only 10 per cent of traffic fatalities in Sweden are attributable to impaired driving; in the U.S. the figure is over 50 per cent.

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