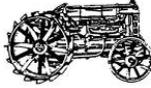


THE
QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS



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UPDATE



SEPTEMBER 2009

President's Notes

Since our last newsletter things continue to change at the farm. The July show has come and gone and it was a good one by all measures. The weather was very good for middle of July and as the weather goes so does the crowd. Other than the HCEA show in 07 this was our best attendance for a July show. We have a new clay pulling pit for the garden tractor pulls that was well received. There were 40 tractors pulling which is a good turnout. The doodle bug guys are pulling on Sunday which eliminates the conflict of having two pulls on Saturday and helps fill in the Sunday show. The saw mill is running twice a day on Saturday and Sunday and continues to be a great attraction. The sand pit area was a beehive of activity as nearly everything there was running. We plan to do the same at the October show. Also remember that on Sunday of the October show the annual consignment auction will take place. So bring out the old iron and see what you can get for it. Last year's auction was hurt by sky-high scrap prices and not so great weather. We are planning to do better this year. There's already a bunch of stuff in the auction area with some time remaining to show time.

The election of officers in October isn't going to be very exciting as there were no new candidates submitted for the four officer positions and there are no openings for the board of directors.

The legal matters continue to move along at a snail's pace. The gun club with the Historical Society's backing continues to put up signs claiming two thirds of the show field. The signs read do not mow after June 15th. Were we to honor that, the field would be useless to QVEA to have shows there with grass standing 12 to 18 inches high. Of course we feel their claim is baseless. It sure will be nice to get this through the court system get this settled so we can move on to our goal of making the farm a first class working educational museum.

We continue to receive numerous donations. There are too many to list so look around the next time at the farm and I'm sure you will see constant change. Speaking of donations, last spring I was concerned that we would not have enough logs to feed the saw mill. I guess my concern was for not as we have received numerous donated logs of all types including some strange ones like Larch. In all, I can name at least 15 varieties. It sure is a pleasure to be able to make our own lumber for all the different projects going on at the farm. We have also brought the old Lane planer back to life. This planer is nearly as old as the mill itself, around 1900. The blades were a little dull to say the least. Club Member Karl Hansen was kind enough to fix them up in his shop and the planer is planning like new, as in 1900.

Don't forget the show coming up October 3rd and 4th with auction on Sunday. Hope to see you around the farm.

MACHINE SHOP LINE SHAFTING PROJECT - By Dave McClary

For the July show the line shaft was actually turning under motor power. A half horsepower motor with a jack shaft was used. This motor drive was donated several years ago as part of the traverse shaper that came from the Mystic Shipyard. It had the necessary pulleys to reduce the motor speed and drive the line shaft with a flat belt. The result was a line shaft turning 43 rpm which is about one fifth of the normal speed of a line shaft but good for demonstration purposes. The motor drive was mounted on a rugged shelf bolted to the back wall of the shop, most likely the same shelf that supported the motor that drove Stanley Zagray's line shaft. The next task was to put up two counter shafts above the Shepard, Lathe & Co. lathe and the Hendey shaper. Two lengths of 2 x 12 plank were fastened in place in the same way as was done for the line shaft hanger mounts. Normally a machine purchased new that was to be driven by a line shaft was furnished with an appropriate counter shaft and hangers back in the late 18th century. Today, an assortment of found and donated parts had to be inventoried, evaluated and assemblies gathered to make up the countershafts needed. There is no hardware store that can be resorted to today. For the shaper, a 32 inch long 1 5/16" shaft and two pulleys, one fixed to the shaft with a set screw and the other an idler, and two hangers were selected. A wide pulley was found that could be used to drive the two pulleys on the shaper, one for each direction of motion. A belt shifter to move the belt between the idler and fixed pulley was also needed and a pulley on the line shaft would complete the drive system. The objective was to select pulley sizes to fit the shafts and of the right diameter to achieve the desired revolutions per minute. Three pulleys needed shims made to match the shaft size. The lathe needed a system that uses a pair of clutches so the lathe can be run in both directions or stopped with a neutral position. A 48 inch long 1 7/16" shaft that had the two clutches and pulleys needed were found. Also two matching hangers, a suitable drive pulley and the other hardware were gathered. This shaft became a major project in itself because one of the clutch assemblies and a large four step pulley were stuck on the shaft due to hardened oily dirt and various dings on the shaft. Finally a four foot long chain wrench was needed to free up the pulley and the clutch assembly. A separate article will describe how these clutches work. The drive pulley selected had the right diameter but the shaft hole size was too small. The pulley was mounted in a four jaw chuck in my lathe and the hole bored out to fit the shaft. Putting up the hangers was fairly easy as they are considerably lighter than the ones for the line shaft. The counter shafts are too heavy to be put in place all assembled. The plan was to put the shaft in the hangers without bearings, use chain loops to support the shaft and slide individual parts on, shifting the shaft in and out of one hanger. The bearings could then be slid into the hanger. When all are in place and the pulleys lined up, measurements have to be taken and six flat belts cut and laced. There are no means to adjust these belts other than by cutting and relacing, or adding a length. There is a method found in an old book that can be used to calculate the length when pulley diameters and the distance between shafts is known. That calculation was made for the motor drive to the line shaft and the belt that was cut fit perfectly. It is expected that both machines will be running for the fall show.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER – Art Chester

The spring and the summer shows this year have continued to expand and exceeded our expectations in spectator attendance, displays and vendors. The income from these shows is a substantial part of our operating budget each year, so seeing them perform well makes my job easier. We continue to receive donations, putting us closer to being financially able to achieve our immediate goal of constructing a large farm type storage building near the saw mill. I realize we are in tight economic times, but please help out when you can.

Newsletters are now printed quarterly – March, June, September, and December. Please, **everyone** who can receive their newsletter via e-mail rather than by USPS, make that request to Linda at enwot61@sbcglobal.net It will save our printing-sorting-folding-mailing crew some labor, and save your club a **lot** of money, as well as being environmentally 'green'. For those of you who contribute to the United Way campaign, QVEA is now listed as a charitable organization allowing you to direct your donation to us for the support and expansion of the Zagray Farm Museum. We appreciate all donations in any form or size.

Happening at the Farm

Our Summer show, for anyone who missed it, was excellent! A terrific turnout of vendors, exhibitors, spectators, and QVEA staff to run the show and operate the equipment. Thanks to all who came out to play or watch. The weather co-operated for the most part, even the rain Saturday morning left as promised by the weatherman. We can always use a few more hands for various tasks, and identified a couple of 'little things' that we want to do better. The pulling pit made its debut and received high marks (thank you Chris Withington for the material and hauling!), the blacksmiths were in operation over by the kids play yard, Jayne and friends provided some musical entertainment, the equipment pit was jammin', and the saw mill drawing crowds. Fun was had by all, judging by the comments I heard. Our shows, like our grounds, continue to evolve and get larger and better! If you see something we can improve on, or a new idea, please bring it to our attention.

The new fruit trees in the orchard are doing quite well, thanks to the wet year we've been having. A couple more years and those new trees will begin producing fruit. The garden is growing nicely, although the corn and tomatoes are suffering from too much water and too little sun. I believe I'm suffering from the same problem!! The string beans have been plentiful, as well as summer squash and zucchini.

Our Hough 30 loader was getting hard starting, between ring gear starter engagement problems and being in need of an old fashion tune up, and was sidelined last fall. George Jarvis and Bob Chester did the bulk of the work, removing the engine and transmission and re-installing it after reversing the ring rear on the flywheel to get fresh teeth to the starter. Carl Hanson milled the starter adapter so as to get full engagement depth, and an electronic ignition module made that 263 international motor much easier to start and warm up.

The yellow dump truck got going again, a carb rebuild and in-line filter was all that was required. The 9' dump body on it, however, will probably not last another year and needs replacing. The Clark forklift has had the transmission removed, and is off to Cliff's transmission shop for repair. A grain wagon is under construction using rough cut lumber from our saw mill. Five trailer loads of mostly pine and spruce were hauled in from a farm in Harwinton to help feed the mill. Our wood chipper got some repairs and adjustments and is working quite well. Several other pieces of equipment that we use continuously got needed PM. It looks like George Jarvis is finishing up the Northwest 25 and is talking about putting a clamshell bucket on it, as we don't have one of those for demonstration.

The Zagray Saw Mill

Our saw mill has been in operation since the October show last year and is doing extremely well mechanically. For operator safety and to prevent damage to the mill, we purchased a professional log scanner to look for all the unwanted things that make their way into the logs – barbed wire, nails, horseshoes, clothesline hangers, and the like. The lumber coming off the mill has been used around the farm, and a couple of members have brought in saw logs for "custom cutting".

We need good saw logs donated of most species for demonstration and filling the needs of the farm, so keep that in mind if you need to clear a lot, or take that big oak down that got hit by lightning. White pine in particular is needed for siding the drying shed, but most all species can be used for something. The Lane planer that was with the mill has been sharpened and repaired and is cutting nicely. A cordwood saw, mounted on a Farmall H, was in operation at the last show, turning hardwood slabwood into firewood.

With all that said, we have some byproducts of the mill that we would rather see used than wasted. We generate excess sawdust, along with shavings from the planer, slab and occasionally round firewood, and various sizes and species of excess boards. Additionally, if you need something cut; let us know, even if you don't have the material.

ITEMS NEEDED!!!!

There are always a few new items on our 'needed' list. Call Art at 982-5158, or Ned at 537-2252. The help in this area we've received in the past has been terrific! Thanks to all of you!

Saw logs, pine, oak, maple, ash, whatever
A second pair of log tongs for lifting logs
A 9 foot dump body for our yellow Ford dump truck
A load or two of cow manure for the corn patch
A grain wagon for harvesting the corn
Two track pads for our 1929 Universal Shovel
A pair of 6788 IH front wheel weights (fits A,B,C,H,M,W4,W6)
Steel 11 inch belt pulley for a Farmall H
Tachometer for our Cat 13000 (D8) sawmill engine
Plastic 55 gallon barrels
20"-22" mower and a leaf blower for the saw mill area

PROJECTS

A complete refurbishment of the drying shed – see Andy Milardo to volunteer!

Carriage shed (near the machine shop) rebuilding.

Repair and assembly of a bleacher set for the sawmill.

Sawmill site work (re-grading / seeding)

Sawmill framework painting.

Does anyone have a parts or service manual for a Clark CY60 forklift? Call art at 982-5158.

Lighting in the machine shop 'working' area
We have a couple F20's in need of refurbishment / repair.
Another bleacher set or two for the Garden Tractor Pulling Pit
Fairbanks Morse engine pad

And a dozen more projects, I'm sure

FOR SALE !

Model 146 John Deere loader from our 2150 tractor (QVEA owned) \$750.00

call Dave @982-5163

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

As noted in the President's notes, there were no new nominees for any of the offices and no vacancies on the Board of Directors. Thus those nominated for officers are:

PRESIDENT - NED TEWKSBURY

V. PRESIDENT – ED BEZANSON

SECRETARY/EDITOR – LINDA TOWNE

TREASURER – ART CHESTER

There will be an election at the October meeting which will be rather a foregone conclusion. One vote will be cast for each position by the President.

AUCTION

Each item left for the auction must have a tag with the owner's name, address and phone number. Tags will be available in the auction area after September 15th.

MINUTES OF MEETING AUGUST 25, 2009

The meeting was called order by President Ned Tewksbury with 23 members present.

After waiving the reading of the minutes the treasurer gave his report. As noted in the treasurer's article, QVEA is now eligible for donations from the United Way.

Letters received from CHS and CF&G were read and discussed. Gano's is holding a Customer Appreciation Day at the farm as in other years.

At the next meeting, September 29, volunteers will be needed to help with all tasks during the October show. Tasks will be assigned if no one volunteers!

Stan Barnes, who is in charge of the auction, will need more volunteers. A large tent will be placed in the auction area for the process of signing up and checking out. On the Thursday and Friday before the auction extra help will be needed to arrange things in rows and order. Please volunteer. An extra porta-potty will be placed in the auction area. The auctioneer, Ernie Eldridge, has already been contacted and will be available for the auction. Thanks, Ernie!

Committee reports were heard from the machine shop, equipment, safety and sawmill. The food trailer and show trailer are in real need of good, working refrigerators. It costs the club \$10 each to get rid of the non-good, non-working kind so, please don't just drop off junk. Contact Ned at 537-2252 if you have something applicable.

It was noted that Tom Maikshilo was present at the meeting after getting out of the hospital. He is being treated for Lyme Disease which has caused him some problems with his heart. Glad to see you back, Tom!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

COMING EVENTS

Sept. 29 – Regularly scheduled meeting at the Colchester Town Hall. BOD meeting at 6:30 PM; General meeting at 7:30 PM. October show will be discussed and planning finished.

Oct. 3-4 - Fall Show, Swap Meet and Auction at the Zagray Farm Museum. This includes a tractor parade, garden tractor pulling on Saturday, Doodle bug pulling on Sunday, sawmill demonstrations, wagon rides, machine shop and foundry. Breakfast and lunch will be served with the ice cream vendors selling dessert!

Oct. 27- Next regular scheduled meeting at the Colchester Town Hall.

Nov. 24- Regular scheduled meeting at the Colchester Town Hall.

Dec. 29- Regular scheduled meeting at the Colchester Town Hall.

PICTURE SUPPLIED BY AL HOFER.