



A Historical Non-Profit Corporation NEWSLETTER

May, 2016

WANTED:

The Steam Engine Association needs a person or couple of people to oversee and manage the General Store operations during the Steam Engine Show. There are several volunteers who will be helping with the store during the show, but still need someone who can be in charge. Jean Rackers and Linda Kesel have done an excellent job over the years and are stepping down from this position. If you know of someone who would be willing to take on this responsibility, or you would like this position, please give Earl Haller a call at (660) 888-9412 (cell) or (660) 834-5412 (work). If you would like to know more about this position, please give Linda or Jean a call.

The Steam Engine handbills have been printed and are available at Mo River Tire, across from the showgrounds. They are also available at the Pilot Grove Cooperative Elevator, Inc. in Pilot Grove, MO. If anyone would like to have some mailed to them, give Earl a call @ (660) 888-9412.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

If 2016 membership dues were not paid by March 3, 2016, they are now delinquent. Dues are \$20.00 for a single membership or a family (husband, wife, and children under 12) and can be mailed to Dennis Ficken, 24279 Hwy 179, Boonville, MO 65233.

2016 MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES

Thursday, May 5, 7:00 pm

Thursday, June 2, 7:00 pm

Saturday, July 9, 1:00 pm (combined workday and membership meeting at 1 p.m.)

Thursday, August 4, 7:00 pm

Thursday, September 1, 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 6, 7:00 pm

MONTHLY WORKDAYS

Monthly membership workdays are the Saturdays following the monthly membership meeting, namely **May 7**, **June 4**, and **August 6**. Although these are the scheduled workdays, anyone can work anytime they want to. Many members are mowing, trimming, and working on other projects as time permits. Everyone's commitment and hard work is very much appreciated by all.

SHOW FEATURE MOMENTS

- The Allis Chairpersons are working on getting as many tractors to our show this year as possible. Currently, they are coming from as far away as the State of Washington.
- During the show on Saturday night, the Gathering of the Orange will be hosting a banquet for anyone who would like to come. This event will take place at the junction of Highway 87 and I-70 at the Open Bible Baptist Church, first exit west of the showgrounds. Time and price will be determined at a later date.
- There is also going to be an Allis show at Louisburg, Kansas June 3-5, and the Missouri Allis Club will be having a meeting there on Saturday, June 4th, at 2:00 pm. If you have any questions, or want to make reservations, contact Danny Friedrich, Ron Eggen, or Randy Grothoff.
- There will be an Allis-Chalmers Tractor Caravan held in conjunction with our 2016 Steam Engine Show and the Gathering of the Orange in September. The Caravan will start Wednesday morning, September 7th, in Higginsville, MO and travel to Marshall, MO. The night will be spent in Marshall, then travel to Boonville, arriving at the showgrounds Thursday afternoon, September 8th. The entire trip will cover approximately 90 miles. Each participant will be responsible for their own expenses. For further information and to sign up, please contact Rick Muldaney at (636) 980-7249.

NOTE: The Caravan is in addition to the Friday Tractor Cruise hosted by the Missouri River Valley Steam Engine Association.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

- At the membership meeting in April, Mr. Andrew Dawson, President of the Missouri Chapter 1 IH Club, presented our club with a check for \$13,000.00, our club's payment from helping with the National Red Power Roundup last June, 2015 in Sedalia, MO.
- There was discussion about the possibility of two church services being held on Sunday morning during the show, because last year's service was overflowing.
- Three big projects are slated to be completed before this year's show – painting the storage building on the south end of the grounds, chaired by Earl Haller; painting the Brady house, chaired by Dennis Ficken; and concrete work in the big stationary engine building, chaired by Mike Holder and Bill Montgomery.
- Bob Painter has talked to several nurseries and is locking down some tree donations for the showgrounds.
- Dean Thiemann is working on a handicapped accessible ramp for the church.
- Chris Jones and his family from Boonville, MO have donated a metal lathe to be set up in the Association's Blacksmith Shop.
- The wheat is looking very promising for a good crop this year.
- The corn has been planted on the showgrounds.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON THE SHOWGROUNDS

Saturday, May 7 – MAPTA Tractor Pull

Saturday, June 25 – MAPTA Tractor Pull

Saturday & Sunday, May 14-15 – Swapping Days

Saturday & Sunday, June 11-12 – Swapping Days

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Raised in a family of threshermen, Mr. Leonard Bruns joined the crew of his dad and uncles when he was just five years old. His dad left threshing to work for Bangert Brothers in St. Louis when Leonard was young. Young Leonard kept on working with his uncles, who would thresh during the day, after getting off work at 6:00 am from regular jobs at night. There was not a prouder day than when Len asked if he could run the engine. Len continued working with his uncles until he was 17.

As a young adult, Len joined the Army when the United States entered into WWII. He went into the Signal Corps and deployed to Europe where he participated in both the “trial run” for D-Day, Exercise Tiger, and D-Day landing on Utah Beach. He continued in the service through the end of the war, was discharged in 1946, and continued his work in the communications field by going to work for Bell Telephone.

In the summer of 1946, he accompanied his Uncle Alf to a threshing show in Montgomery County, renewing his interest and desire of being around the engines and separators. He has attended a minimum of one show every year, more often three shows since 1946. He got steam in his “blood” and passed that love of steam along to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

He learned about a steam engine that was available in Calhoun County, Illinois, and with his non-stop talk about steam engines, one of the contractors that he worked with at Bell Telephone told him “You’re always talking about those old engines-why don’t you just buy that one over in Illinois”? He and a buddy went and looked it over and the rest, as they say, is history. He bought the 1915 Illinois engine, serial number 102, in Brussels, Illinois near Grafton, where he crossed the Mississippi with the engine on the Golden Eagle ferry to bring it to its new home in St. Peters, Missouri.

Bringing the Illinois back to life was a family project tackled by Len, Betty, Lenny and Valerie, with much assistance and support from the Arthur Ell family, close friends in St. Peters. When renovations were complete, the Illinois’s first Missouri exhibition was the St. Peters Olde Tyme Picnic, where it was shown for several years. It has been shown in Montgomery City and later moved to Boonville, where he joined the Missouri River Valley Steam Engine Association in 1981.

In the late 1980s, the 1919 Advance Rumley 20hp steam engine was added to the Bruns’ collection, following the death of a close family friend, Tate Bethman.

Earl Haller, President
Missouri River Valley Steam Engine Association
www.mrvsea.com