

"Great Weather - Greater Museum Day - Greatest People!!"

by Darnell Fraser

*Although I am a museum member, I know practically nothing about STEAM which is mostly what the Rocanville Museum is all about*

*But I do know about people - and people, volunteers helping our museum day turn out to be a great success is what THIS article is all about.*

The Nucleus of our organization: As with every wheel, there is a hub, and the hub of the museum goes on everyday. This hub at our museum, are the few people who are dedicated and have the time to be there everyday. Tending to the general maintenance of the buildings, fixing and running our Steam and sundry other exhibits, greeting our many visitors, cataloging, labeling, cleaning, bookkeeping, and all the other duties that are required on a daily basis. But preceding MUSEUM DAY, and until it is over, these people and the rest of our membership run at high gear to make it a success.

THE HUB:

Everett Rice: Everett said his feet were about worn down to his knees by the time the day was over. He was the overall co-ordinator and was running from place to place all day long all the while trying to visit with exhibitors and anyone that wanted an answer to a question. Everett & Bill Dennstedt did the stooking for the threshing demonstration.

Phyllis Ore: Phyllis was also on the move, co-ordinating the food end of the Museum Day, from digging potatoes, ordering the food, picking up everything that was not delivered, preparing food and getting it on the tables for the barbecue. As our Secretary/Treasurer, she delivered the cash floats for ticket sales, and tallied the cash to deposit

after the day had ended. Before the event, she spent days of cleaning, dusting, and polishing.

Bill Ore and Lew Behrns: These fellows do maintenance all year long. Bill works with the Steam and small engine end of the museum, Lew fills in the gaps, everything and anything. They were both extremely busy all day, getting the various engines started and supervising the threshing and carousel.

Joe Callin: Joe is the only one of us who has had first hand experience with steam tractors when they were in their hey-day. He comes regularly from Whitewood, despite his eighty-two years, and his help is invaluable. Wherever a steam engine is running, Joe will be there.

Ken Goodman: Ken spends a lot of time at the museum, getting various Diesel and Steam exhibits up and running, and he was busy at that on Museum Day. He just moves to where the need is greatest.

THE SPOKES:

For those of us that are not available on a daily basis, we do try to give as much time after our other commitments as possible. Before and during our Museum Days, I'm afraid the Museum takes precedent over almost everything else.

Larry Mills: Larry ran various small Steam engines, took part in the threshing display, and was in charge of the sound system, getting the oats to roll and the wheat to grind for flour, the Chefs to cook and cut the meat, the drum for the loonie tickets, and composing and copying

the programs for distribution.

Garry Birkenshaw: Garry operated the Steam Tractor, with the assistance of Ray Behrns and Joe Callin, for the threshing display. He was also responsible for the live entertainment consisting of the "After Eights" and Bernard Fafard. Some of our membership are farmers, and so were some of our entertainers. We were happy with the two groups that did provide top notch listening for us that day. The weather provided a great harvest day for our supporters and members even though it meant they could not all be with us.

Tom Hayden: Tom did take the day off from farming to run the carousel for the museum day. One small child coaxed him from the threshing display to give her a ride. The look in her eyes was something he could not resist. The children were thrilled by the carousel rides all day. Tom helped to carry the food from the kitchen to the barbecue.

Gerry Miller: Gerry was right in the middle of his harvest also, but took time out in the morning to help and ran the flour mill in the afternoon before

many farm women carried out our barbecue supper to the fields, so the farmers would not miss out.

George Williams: Our Computer Nut (self admitted) was instrumental in keeping our public informed during the day on the loud speaker system, of what and when various events were happening. Not one to stand idle, when he wasn't talking he was busy selling tickets both for the supper and for our Loonie draw. George computerized our agenda. His value to our museum has been proven many times over with the program he wrote to catalog artifacts on our computer.

Muriel Palmer: We're happy to have Muriel as a new member, that woman doesn't ask what needs to be done, she just goes ahead and does it! Muriel was on the food committee and worked in the ticket booth, her invaluable assistance is one of the reasons this museum day was such a success.

Margaret Behrns: The great thing about belonging to the museum is all the nice people you meet and Margaret is only one of them. Margaret worked tirelessly all day, Mainly with the food but also in the ticket booth.

Tom Mitschke: Tom is also a new and talented member. He did much of the work on the fountain and he was right on the spot when engine repairs were needed in a hurry. He helped with the carousel, Great having you with us Tom, and thanks.

Allan Stewart: Allan, his wife and family were here too, with their miniature horses for display and I know many people enjoyed them, including my husband Tom. Roy Stewart also helped Tom with the carousel.

THE RIM

People are great, you know, the museum members contacted many community members to ask for their help. We know we're bound to leave out someone, if we do, forgive us, it was not intentional

mentioned, due to the harvest, many of our supporters were not able to help, we know from previous years of their support and the importance of the harvest to this community. This year we had both, previous years supporters, and some new faces to step in when we needed them most. Again thank you all.

Goldene Mills: Goldene volunteered to be our photographer for the event and we're looking forward to some great pictures.

The Rocanville Credit Union Staff: These people put on a tremendous breakfast to start our day off just right. Very much appreciated by everyone attending, especially to those of us who couldn't get away for any reason on that day.

Ticket Booth: Margaret Behrns was with me at 7:45 when the gates opened. Then Margaret & Jack Shopland, Phyllis Ore, Muriel Palmer, Ross Armstrong, Gordon Pringle and Bill Gander, Susan Behrns, Lorraine Neufeld, Russell Maxwell, and again Margaret Shopland finished at the gate a 4:00 p.m. They had lots of people to keep them company while selling tickets for admission, supper and the loonie draw, but we do want them to know their efforts were very much appreciated.

Ticket Table: Anne Mitchell and Beryl Goodman spent most of the day sitting selling tickets for the supper and Loonie draw. They probably gave George Williams a bad time all day long but I'm certain George loved the attention. Thank you, ladies.

The Store: Shelli Hayden, Angie Behrns, Darla Anderson, Tanya and Danette Leclair were pleasing a lot of young people and other visitors at the store by selling carousel tickets and souvenirs. Shelli helped with the admission tickets, loonie tickets, supper tickets and food. She just helped all day long. We have a lot of great young people in our communities. We just ask for their help, and they come

Nick Asmundson and Dennis Hack: Our meat chefs did a great job on the roast beef for the barbecue. Dennis got things started then returned to farming and Nick stayed to tend to the turning of the roasts and put potatoes on and pull everything out at just the right time. Great meal, Nick!

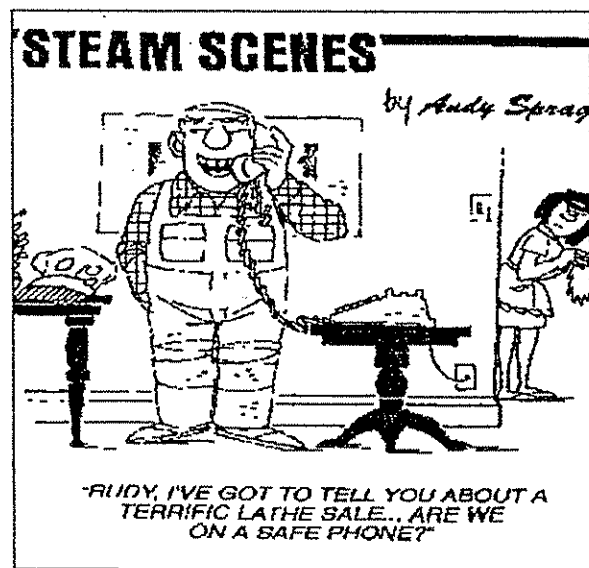
Dennis Norrie: Dennis not only helped with the meat, but was Master of Ceremonies during the entertainment part of the afternoon. He did an excellent job, we only wish he would have sung a little more and finished the songs he started. Maybe next year, Dennis?

The Ladies of the Community: One of the most difficult things to do for the Museum Day is ask for pies from our ladies. This year it was especially difficult as we knew most were knee deep in preserves, harvesting, garden clean up and all those other jobs. But did they come through for us! We asked for fifty pies in all, and we received over that amount. The Wiebe Family Restaurant gave us the potato salad and Aileen Crosson gave us a lot of buns. Our heartfelt thanks to you all.

Wives of Members: These women have helped us throughout the year and there they were again this year, just pitching in when we needed them. Betty Mills and Ellen Hack are good examples of this type of support system.

Our Exhibitors: What would our Museum Day be without them. From the Flea Market to the Prairie Dusters food booth and model airplane display to our miniature engine show, with entries by Ed Jones of Winnipeg, Bill Winteringham and Kelly Tytlandsvik from Estevan, and David Smith, Al Korom and Paul Sonnenberg from Minot, ND., as well as local items by Bill Ore and Everett Rice. The miniature wooden craft display was provided by Ken. Murray from Fort QuAppelle.

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