

HARVEST MEMORIES

I have a restless feeling as the autumn days roll by,
For I see the combines rolling beneath a bright and sunny sky.
I get feeling lonesome for the smell of new threshed grain,
For the hustle and the bustle trying to outwit the threatening rain.

For sixty years of harvest sort of gets in your blood,
Hauling grain to the elevator through sunshine, rain or mud.
I remember the steam engines and the teams and racks galore,
Grain wagons and water tanks.
"Bucking straw was a chore".

The work was hard, the hours long but no one dared complain,
For there was always a challenge of who threshed the most grain
There always was a bet as to who hauled the biggest jag,
Woe-behold the teamster who was inclined to lag.

At twelve o'clock the whistle blew. Right then began the race,
Grain wagons, racks, men on horseback, each trying for the
choicest place.

There was always a neighbor's daughter being teased by some
roving eye,

Trying hard to hide a smile while passing round the pie.
Then when the weekend rolled around, she had offers, left and
right,
From all the young fellows of a show on Saturday night.

Sunday wasn't a day of leisure, washing to do, wagons
to grease,
Racks to mend, barns to clean. There was little time for peace.
When Monday morning rolled around it was all business
once again,
Backs ached, blisters broke, but no-one dared complain.

The steamers long since have gone. The thresher's rusting in
the bluff,

No more big gangs to feed, but harvest still is rough.
For when the cloudy weather comes.
"Should we swath or let it stand?"
A lot depends on the weather when making a living from the
land.

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Tom Rollo, Miniota, MB



McClarys "Famous" Stove, No 314, made by McClary Mfg. Co. of London Ont. It was registered in 1905.

The stove shown above was purchased by Byron and Lillian Chase about 1916 when they moved to the Prosperity District to live on the farm where Mrs. Chase was raised. This was a big brick house and so needed a good heating stove for the cold prairie winters.

It is a base burner and could burn either coal or wood with a change of grates. The stove is black cast iron with nickel plated trim on the stove and base. There are doors on the front and sides with mica windows to let people see the fire inside. There are footrests on either side for people to warm their toes in winter and a special place to heat the teakettle. • • • • •

MUSEUM NEWS

Fall 1991 Issue

Vol.2 No.3

MUSEUM DAY A SUCCESS!

It could only be considered a stroke of pure luck to have such a warm, calm, shirtsleeve type of day, sandwiched between two loud and heavy rainstorms. Attendance was very good, both for the day and for the barbecue. The pancake breakfast and the barbecue were patronized almost to the limit. The mud on the grounds didn't seem to bother anyone.

A successful day, such as we had, is very gratifying to the museum staff after the many hard days of preparation. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all those who volunteered their help for the day, whether physical or material. We couldn't have done it without you. • • •

Presentation.

In a brief ceremony, Joe Dunsmore, representing the family of Mrs. Pearl Dunsmore and the late Garnett Dunsmore, presented a commemorative plate to Everett Rice, Museum Society president. The bronze plate is to be attached to the Dunsmore family windmill. The windmill, long a landmark beside Number 8 Highway, just South of the Qu'Appelle Valley, has been erected on the museum property. • • •

The merry-go-round provided a record number of rides, nearly three hundred. That number would have been much higher, had we had the qualified operators to run the ride all day. The ride is very popular with school tours, and is often operated throughout the summer upon request. • • •

A feature of the afternoon was a concert by Shorty Awaan and his Good Company Band. From 3 to 4 PM they gave us an hour of that kind of music that only a brass band can provide. • • •

The Big Engine

An artifact which interested many people was the large steam engine, the American-Abell "Cock O' The North". While its rated horsepower of 120 is not quite as great as some other steamers, it is reputed to be the heaviest of the lot.

It was originally owned by a Mr. Serbu near Regina. He used it for threshing, with a 52 inch Avery separator, and did a considerable amount of plowing also. He had it fitted with a fourteen foot long cab in which he and his helper lived during the threshing season.

The last user was the Campbell Lumber Company, near Bowsman, MB. Unfortunately, during this time, the traction gears, cab, and steering mechanism were stripped off and are long gone. The engine was obtained by the Western Development Museum in Yorkton in about 1968. We were able to get it from them through a surplus disposal auction.

We believe that there are only two more of these tractors left, one at the WDM in Saskatoon, and the other at the Alberta Agricultural Museum at Wetaskewan, AB.

We have been working on it since early in the year, preliminary to a boiler test, which it passed about two weeks before the show. Following the test came a good hard week of work to get the engine running. • • •

Winners in the Loonie draw were
\$200 Ashton Kingdon of Rocanville
\$300 Brendan Chartier of Melville
\$500 George Andruslak of Gerald
Congratulations to each of you.

Readers are invited to submit original material for publication.
Such material, if considered suitable, will be printed when space permits

Rocanville and District Museum Society Inc.