

Tractor pulling

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 poration. He reportedly contacted fellow Lancaster Countians Lester Houck and Mark Stauffer to see if they'd be interested in

traveling across the Atlantic with their machines. Both men accepted the invitation and challenge.

The underlying reason to bring tractor pulling to The

Netherlands was to bolster interest in the World Plowing Contest, which was being held in that country last Fall. The general consensus was that a lively and noisy tractor pulling demonstration from

America could give the event a needed "shot in the arm."

It did just that. Officials for the plowing contest expected no more than 20,000 people to show up for the 2-day event. As it turned out,

28,000 were counted in on the first day, and 53,000 jammed the area on the second day.

Lester Houck, one of the pioneers of tractor pulling in Lancaster County and incumbent secretary of the National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA), remembers the preparations that were involved in making the 4000-mile trans-oceanic journey.

With tractor pulling being something totally new in Europe, the Dutch organizers needed a sled. A fully equipped and weighted

sled weighs 53,000 pounds — which made for quite a shipping order. The Lancaster Countians stripped the sled of the weight box and sent specifications to have an identical one built by the Dutch. That cut the weight of the sled in half and reduced shipping costs to \$20,000. Once it arrived in Holland, the newly constructed and properly weighted box was fit onto the sled and the contraption was ready for action. Lancaster Countian Dan Brubaker

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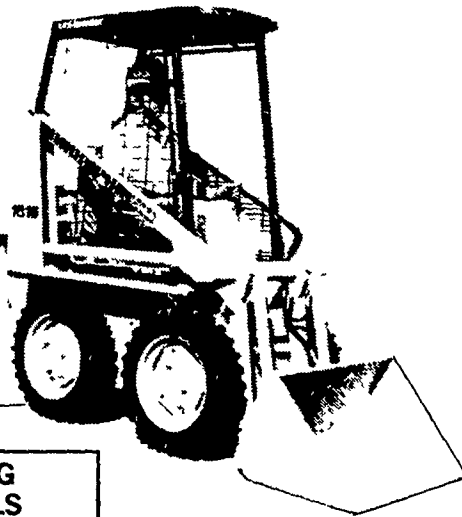
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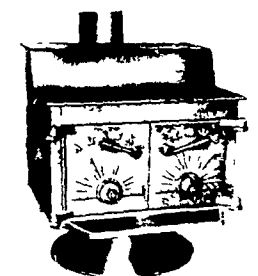
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