

York Countians Fired Up For Steam-O-Rama

JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent

SEVEN VALLEYS (York Co.)—Like many restorers of old farm tractors, Richard Reichard started out working on a tractor that had particular significance to his own life.

That tractor, a 1937 F-12 Farmall, is the one he farmed with some 40 years ago after initially having to do some restoration and repairs to it at that time.

"Then 20 years ago our son, Gene, and I 're-restored' it," Reichard said. Reichard said he's learned a great deal about equipment restoration over the years, some of it by the proverbial trial-and-error.

Reichard's sentimental attachment to that piece of equipment is apparent by the business card he has had printed for his restoration hobby, which the family dubbed "Rich's Retired Tractors."

The card features that 1937 Farmall, sharing card space with musical notes signifying his wife Trudy's piano and organ-playing service.

Both the Reichards volunteer their talents for Steam-O-Rama, the 38th annual event of the York-area based Early American Steam Engine Society. The group has its own Steam-O-Rama grounds, several acres owned by the organization near Windsor in southeastern York County.

This year's Steam-O-Rama runs Sept. 28 through Oct. 1 and features Ford and Fordson tractors and implements. In addition to vintage steam and motorized equipment of all sorts will be demonstrations of threshing, grinding baling, rock crushing, an operating sawmill, and shingle mill. Both horse pulls and a garden tractor pull are scheduled, along with musical entertainment Friday and Saturday evenings. The popular flea market is expected to draw more than 60 vendors. A 1946 VAC Case will be given away in a fund-raiser drawing.

"Our philosophy is to preserve the heritage of early American equipment for future generations to appreciate," said Reichard, one of nine Steam-O-Rama directors on the board of the 500-plus membership organization. "We emphasize family—kids, husbands, wives—and have third generations active in the show. It takes year-round planning."

Games are held for the children, along with covered wagon rides by Franklin Countian John Allen, who drives a team of mules. A miniature-sized railroad to ride is also a treat for the kid set, who can compare it to the few full-size rail cars on display.

Size of the Steam-O-Rama has doubled over the last five years and threatens to outgrow the facilities, which include permanent buildings and a heavily-used kitchen. The facility also hosts a large spring-season flea market and is available for use by various other community activities, with the Steam-O-Rama groups manning the food service facility. This active group also participates in other regional shows, including a large annual display at the York Fair, done this year in a general store theme.

Along with his own prized first farming tractor, Reichard has restored an Allis-Chalmers B that is "Trudy's tractor."

"He wanted me to drive a John Deere for him in a parade one time; I told him I'd like to have a tractor like my dad used when I was growing up," Trudy said. Before too long, a model like the one she remembered—complete with wide front-end—turned up. Lovingly restored, it's the one she now drives in the Steam-O-Rama's parade.

A 1941 John Deere B that belonged to a neighbor, who had purchased it new, also became available later and was proudly added to the collection.

"It's fun to trace them back and find out for what and how they were used by their owners," Trudy said. Having done some investiga-

tive backtracking, they have since located her father's Allis Chalmers and learned that the present owner uses it for work with potatoes—and wants to keep doing so.

"What collectors grew up with usually has a lot to do with what they like. Often they begin looking for 'Grandpa's tractor' and get interested from there," said Reichard, adding that he knows of one New York state collector who has a plaque on a restored tractor dedicating it to his grandfather.

Old tractors, adds Reichard, have even been fished out of riverbeds to be restored by determined collectors.

It's an artistic endeavor, say this couple about the restoration work. Research and historian skills are needed, along with hard work and patience, to restore an old piece of equipment. Reichard has not only had to track down hard-to-find parts for his tractors, sometimes

he resorts to making the repair pieces he needs. Often, restorers find they may need to gather a couple of tractors to get adequate parts together for one.

"I've learned you'd better not try to do it all at one time; it's not quick to restore tractor right. Some restorationists tear them to the very last bolt. You have to clean, repair, put in new seals," he said. While some old parts are actually still in-stock at a few companies, often replacement parts are located by word-of-mouth, publication advertisements or large "tractor yards" replete with a wide variety of old equipment.

Watching young people become involved in the Steam-O-Rama and restoration work has been especially rewarding to the Reichards.

"We have kids that get involved and begin restoring tractors at a fairly young age, even pre-teens," said Reichard. It keeps them busy,

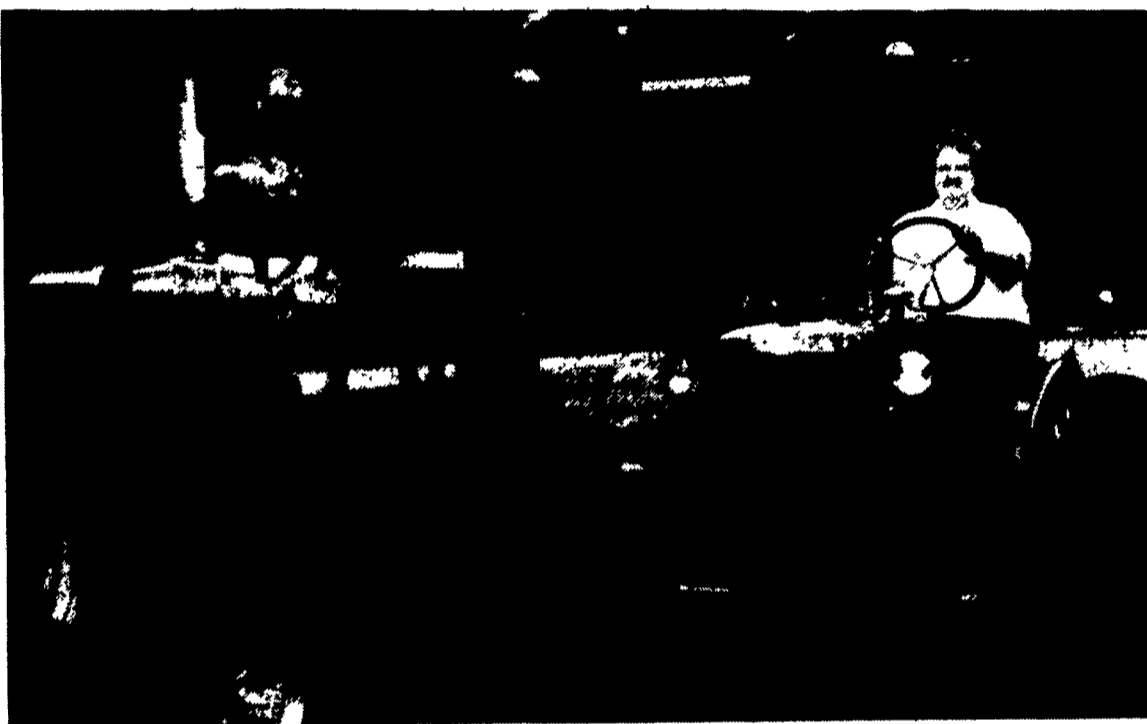
they learn respect for tools and what they can do, and they acquire skills that are useful all their lives.

"This is an equalize of people," he said. "People from all walks of life are involved in this, from those with large collections down to the little guy with one. But it's a way of preserving the past. And everyone is family."

The Steam-O-Rama organization is already looking two years ahead to 1997, when it will celebrate its 40th anniversary as a group. And, in 1996, plans are under way to feature Allis-Chalmers models at the annual late September show.

Steam-O-Rama showgrounds can be reached via Interstate-83. From Exit 7, take Route 124 east for 7.5 miles to Manor Road and turn right onto Manor Road for 1.3 miles to grounds.

For more information, contact Sue Knaub, (717) 244-2912; Donald Anderson, (717) 244-2235; or Gloria Peters, (717) 244-2954.



Richard and Trudy Reichard with the tractors he has restored. "His" is a John Deere B he used in farming and "hers" is a same model Allis-Chalmers used by her father when Trudy was a child.

Hope's 'Sparky' Lights Up Solanco Steer Show

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.)—A steer that "jumps right out at you" shown by Hope Long, Providence, was selected supreme champion market steer Thursday night at the Solanco Fair.

Hope, 10, daughter of Vickie and Sam Long, Providence, showed "Sparky," an Angus/Chianina/Maine Anjou crossbred weighing 1,263 pounds to supreme market steer. Hope, in the 5th grade at New Providence Elementary, said her father, Sam, helped her choose the calf at Miller's Club

Calf Sale in Woodsboro, Md. The calf is originally from Nebraska, according to Sam.

John Hausner, who operates an Angus breed farm with wife JoAnn in Dover, said the champion was very impressive. "You can't say enough good things about it," which exhibited a lot of meat and muscle and depth of quarter, according to Hausner.

Reserve champion was shown by Bryan Byers, 16, son of Dave and Carole Byers, Quarryville. The 1,225-pound steer won champion of the middle weight division. The steer was obtained

from Donny Waters, Airville, said Bryan, a junior at Solanco High School and Solanco FFA member.

In all, there were a total of 13 steers. Following is a list of show placings.

MARKET STEERS
Lightweight (1024-1150 lbs.): 1. Jason

Wood. 2. John Schmidt. 3. Mike Houghton. Champion: Jason Wood. Reserve: John Schmidt.

Middle Weight (1182-1225 lbs.): 1. Bryan Byers. 2. Jessica Schmidt. 3. Gary Weik. Champion: Bryan Byers. Reserve: Jessica Schmidt.

Heavyweight (1263-1328 lbs.): 1. Jason Wood. 2. John Schmidt. 3. Mike Houghton. Champion: Jason Wood. Reserve: John Schmidt.

SUPREME MARKET STEER

Hope Long
RESERVE

Bryan Byers

SHOWMANSHIP

Juniors: 1. Hope Long. 2. Jessica Schmidt. 3. Jeremy Weik. Champion: Hope Long. Reserve: Jessica Schmidt.
Seniors: 1. Josh Kreider. 2. Michael Houghton. 3. Gary Weik. Champion: Josh Kreider. Reserve: Michael Houghton.



Bryan Byers, left, won reserve champion market steer at Solanco. John Hausner judged the show.



Hope Long, right, won supreme champion market steer at Solanco Thursday night. She also won junior champion showman. At left is John Hausner, show judge.