

40th Steam-O-Rama Featured York-Built Equipment

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York Co. Correspondent
WINDSOR (York Co.)—Early American tractor buffs from the York area recently celebrated a 40th anniversary and honored their own.

The annual Steam-O-Rama show was hosted by the Early American Steam Engine Society at its Windsor meeting and show grounds, Oct. 2-5. Focus of the anniversary celebration was York and York-area built machinery and related equipment.

"York was a 'hot' area of farm equipment manufacturing through the 19th and early 20th century and was really quite an industrial center in that time," said Floyd Miller, York antique equipment collector chairing the York-made portion of

the show. "A lot of the manufacturing boom came after the Civil War era and up in the early 1900s." He noted that York-manufactured equipment is featured by the Steam-O-Rama every fifth year.

An added draw to this year's steam event was the 60th anniversary of Sheppard diesels. The R.H. Sheppard Company, originally known for shoe manufacturing, became an early developer of diesel engines. Those early engines went into use as generators, marine-equipment motors, and a source of power for the military during World War II. After the war, Sheppard turned to experimenting with its diesel engine is a farm tractor model. At first, the company is reported to have repowered a Farmall M, one of the

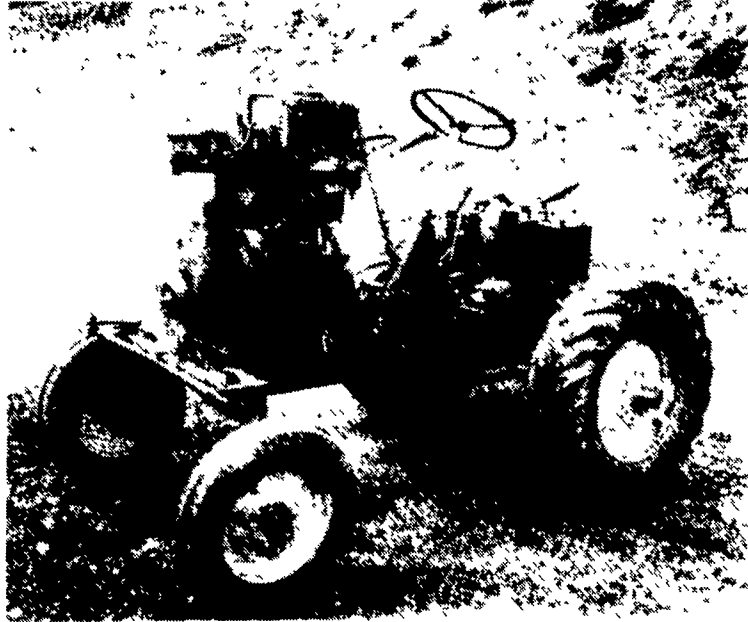
early popular gasoline farm tractors, with their own diesel engine.

According to farm equipment history sources, the first Sheppard-Diesel tractor was introduced in 1949. It was dubbed the SD-1 Model, a 5.4 horsepower, single-cylinder, air-cooled diesel tractor, sized primarily for lawn-garden type use. Larger and additional models of tractors from the Sheppard firm continued to be manufactured until the early 1950s.

Floyd Miller has restored one of the three known remaining SD-1 models and polished it to gleaming for display at the Steam-O-Rama. The other two are owned by the Sheppard firm, which manufactures power steering systems for large trucks and construction equipment.

Miller, an avowed Sheppard diesel enthusiast and equipment collector for 40 years, joked that he spends his kids' inheritance on his antique farm equipment pursuits.

"I had the 2-, 3- and 4-cylinder models and needed the one-cylinder to complete the set," said this walking encyclopedia of antique tractor lore. Miller tracked his prize down to a distant airplane hangar where it had been stored by the owner, a former employee of the Sheppard firm, and had been used primarily in its later years for mowing. He spent uncounted hours restoring to like-new the basic frame and motor that remained of the machine that, when new, had sold for \$1,065.



Floyd Miller's SD-1 tractor was little more than a motorized frame when he purchased it several years ago.

Though York-area-built farm equipment was widely known in its heyday, the Sheppard diesel was the only tractor ever manufactured in the county. As local farms were relatively small and their owners often conservative about switching from the familiar gas-powered tractor to the then-little-known diesel technology, historians note that the Sheppard's diesel did not generate widespread purchase by locals. In addition, the firm required that the full price for one its tractors be paid up front, a formidable financial barrier for many family farms.

In addition to the estimated 35 to 40 lovingly-restored Sheppard diesels on hand at the Windsor steam show, exhibitors displayed

an array of literature on the Sheppards and numerous other antique machines. He noted that factory manuals that went with new tractors, as well as a variety of other original literature, are eagerly sought by collectors of such historical data.

Other York-produced-equipment names once common around rural America included the Farquhar Company, Pullman, the United Engine Works, and Flinchbaugh Manufacturing Company. The Acme Wagon Works, an Emigsville establishment originally known as the the American Tube and Axle Company, was also familiar on farmsteads for products such as feed grinders and watering troughs.

Market Lamb

(Continued from Page A24)

Zimmerman
Young Flock: 1. Jennifer Zimmerman
Champion Southdown Ram: Jay Zimmerman
Reserve Champion Southdown Ram: Jen Zimmerman
Champion Southdown Ewe: Jennifer Zimmerman
Reserve Champion Southdown Ewe: Jen Zimmerman
SUFFOLK
Ram Lamb: 1. Adam Zurn
Ewe Lamb: 1. Andrew Gerhart, 2. Adam Zurn, 3. Adam Zurn
Yearling: 1. Andrew Gerhart, 2. Keith Bollinger, 3. Andrew Gerhart
Aged Ewe: 1. Andrew Gerhart, 2. Keith Bollinger
Pair of Breeding: 1. Andrew Gerhart, 2. Adam Zurn, 3. Keith Bollinger
Young Flock: 1. Adam Zurn
Champion Suffolk Ram: Adam Zurn
Champion Suffolk Ewe: Andrew Gerhart
Reserve Ewe: Andrew Gerhart
LINCOLN
Ewe Yearling: 1. Gabriel Bowman

Champion Lincoln Ewe: Gabriel Bowman
POLYPAY
Ram Lamb: 1. Dallasa Bowman
Ewe Lamb: 1. Dallasa Bowman, 2. Dallasa Bowman
Aged Ewe: 1. Dallasa Bowman
Pair: 1. Dallasa Bowman, 2. Dallasa Bowman
Young Flock: 1. Dallasa Bowman
Champion Polypay Ram: Dallasa Bowman
Champion Polypay Ewe: Dallasa Bowman
Reserve Champion Polypay Ewe: Dallasa Bowman
Champion Ram: Radell Peters
Reserve Champion Ram: Jay Zimmerman
Champion Ewe: Jen Zimmerman
Reserve Champion Ewe: Travis Redmond
Grand Champion Breeding Sheep: Jen Zimmerman
Reserve Champion Breeding Sheep: Radell Peters

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