

Southern Cove Power Brings Back Memories

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NEW ENTERPRISE (Bedford Co.)—Putt-putts putt, steam engines steamed, and machinery from another era was set to work baling, threshing, sawing, and pulling at the ninth annual Southern Cove Power Reunion.

"This has grown tremendously," said emcee Tom Ling. Held at the old Replogle school on the hill above New Enterprise, the event has nearly outgrown the vast space it now occupies.

"It brought out the 'big guns'...folks like Jesse Clapper, a two-cylinder genius. He can fix anything," Ling says. "I only hope he passes this on to the younger generation while he still can."

"Rex Beach is another mechanical genius," Ling continues. "I doubt if there is anything anywhere he can't fix."

Pleased with the growing number of tractors, Ling says they had 150 on display up from 98 last year. "We even had some

real unusual ones such as the Leader and the Three Cleat Track."

Highlights included a blind-folded tractor driving contest, a bale rolling contest, and more than 30 kids who signed up for the pedal power competition.

"It's a real community event," Tom explains. "Merchants often offer gifts for prizes before we have a chance to ask."

Working under steam power were a saw mill, shingle mill, corn husker, one of the first threshing machines ever made, and a Red Rover 2236 McCormick Baler.

There were gasoline engines of almost every variety doing a wide assortment of bygone household chores.

The Lioness Cub made bean soup and fresh apple dumplings. Cove Lions offered traditional sausage or hamburger sandwiches. There was also barbecued chicken and fresh cider as well as the ever popular Morrison's Cove Ritchey's ice cream.



This is the way hay was baled early in the century. The baler belongs to Michael Chenchoric of Williamsburg. "I operate it because he doesn't know how," says his father-in-law, Mervin Brumbaugh.

The Power Reunion has more than 100 members from all parts of Southern Cove. Friends and families attended from surrounding counties and states. The event is held each year on the third weekend of September.



John Karns of Hopewell and his prize winning gasoline engine.



Kids pedaled and pushed their way to success and an assortment of prizes at the pedal power contest held at the Southern Cove Power Reunion. Six and seven and eight and nine-year-old tractor pedal power winners were Sara Snyder, Samuel Shope (tractor) and Jessica Grubb. Standing, J.T. Widland, Kyle Brown, Paul Finnegan, and Marc Bollman.



Jesse Clapper (forefront) is a genius at keeping machinery such as this old-time baler running.

What Is Dryel?

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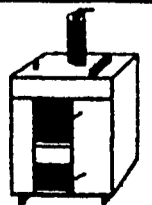
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