

Hobbyists Plan Chickentown Gas And Steam Association Show

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Somerset Co. Correspondent

Steam Show and these fellows intend to continue preserving simpler times. That's why they hope to see adults and youngsters come together for a sampling of less stressful and more fun, simpler times.

Seven years ago, the show grew out of a gathering of hobbyists who had the idea of holding a weekend get-together to demonstrate the gas and steam equipment they owned.

"It started out as a picnic of interested hobbyists — guys who were going to demonstrate and have a weekend of fun," reported Roger Raymond, Sipesville, the organization president.

"We had so much fun the first time, we decided to keep on going."

The association six years ago became a non-profit entity, but they want their show to retain its flavor.

"I would rather refine our demonstrations than go to big," Raymond said.

Dave Weimer lives near Jay Hemminger who owns the Chickentown Grove. Weimer's machines consist of a little half-scale steam engine that is 40-years old, a Farmall Cub that is 50, and a 25-year old Cub Cadet.

"Ever since I was a kid I liked steam engines," Weimer said.

Steam Association welcomes all types of antique equipment to the show. Privately-owned engines and steam engines will be featured, including the 20th century steam traction engine that Michael Miller of Rockwood owns. The rare gem was built in the early 1900s in Boynton, Elk Lick Township by Mennonite preacher, the Rev. Gideon Miller of Springs, Somerset County.

Corn shelling, corn grinding, and plowing will be demonstrated. There will be crafts for the ladies, a kiddies tractor pull, farm toys show, live music and primitive camping. Foods include chuck wagon Bar-B-Q, apple dumplings, homemade pies, and ice cream.

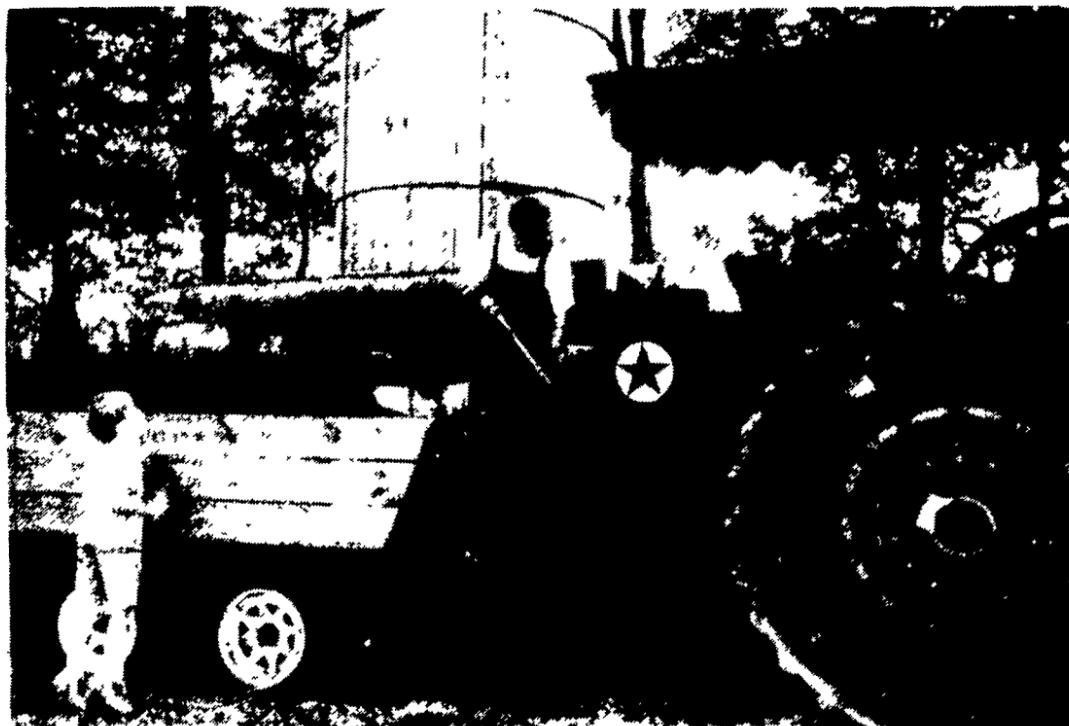
First time operators should call Raymond at (814) 445-7070, or Don Ream, secretary, at (814) 445-4752 for information and registration.

The Memorial Day weekend event will also see a 1950 E-3 Co-op tractor chanced off by the Chickentown Gas and Steam Association. If the winner doesn't want the piece, a cash option of \$500 will be made.

The Chickentown Grove is southwest of Somerset. Take Exit 10 off the Pennsylvania Turnpike. From the toll booth make a right turn at the second light onto North Center Avenue and follow for approximately two miles. Turn right onto Cannell Drive then follow for three miles. There will be directional signs along the way.

SOMERSET (Somerset Co.) — The Chickentown Gas and Steam Association Show, from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday, May 27, 28 three miles southwest of Somerset in the Chickentown Grove, is just what the hobbyists of bygone machinery, ordered. Not a hardcore commercialized event, it rather, is a laid back family affair with activities and home-made food to make anybody feel at home.

"Simpler times," is what you get at the Chickentown Gas and



Roger Raymond at the 1999 Chickentown Gas and Steam Association Show is filling the coal bunker on a 1918 50-horsepower Peerless steam engine while an interested child looks on.

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