



Michael Miller's logging trucks take you to another era.

Farmers And Threshermans Jubilee Marks 48th Year

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Bedford Co. Correspondent

NEW CENTERVILLE (Somerset Co.) — The higher altitude of Somerset County gives into the crispness of fall early making late summer a delightful time for the Farmers and Threshermans Jubilee.

This year marked the 48th annual event which each year, turns the tiny town of New Centerville, into a busy, bustling, area from the day after Labor Day until the end of the following Sunday.

Steam engines of every variety from lawn mowers to giant sized threshers were on display.

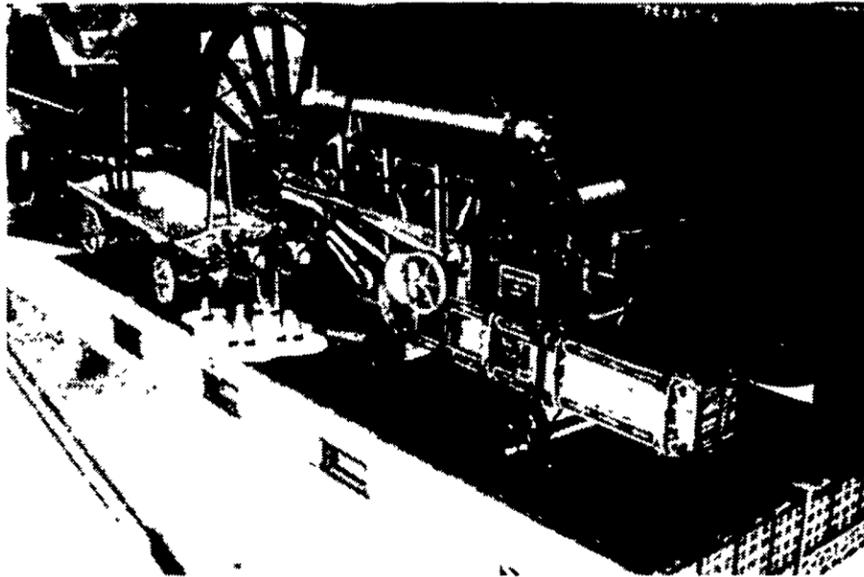
Events included a queen contest, out-house dash, quilt show and sale, garden tractor pulling contest, parades, horseshoe pitching, and tractor and truck pulls.

Kiddies Day is on Saturday and children from ages three and up participated in pedal power tractor pulls and hay bale tosses.

For those hunger pangs, which are sure to hit in that mountain air, there was plenty of food.

A huge steam run cider press provided sweet and "no fresher anywhere" cider, which was a good way to wash down the bean soup, which is served in the same building.

Other demonstrations included a ground hog thresher, flailers, horse power with tumbling shaft machine, tread power threshing, first steam engine threshing with hand feeding, self feeder threshing, baling up straw, dog-powered butter



A miniature run steam town.

churning, corn shelling, corn shredding, keystone well drilling, blacksmithing, feed grinder machine, handle making, and broom making.

Visitors purchased buckwheat flour ground on the site by a Hope Natural Gas Engine restored by Mel Bailey. The engine filled an entire building.

Michael Miller of Somerset displayed engines and old logging trucks, which quickly transports visitors back to the

days most of can't even remember. A favorite is an old logging camper that includes a four-legged bathtub.

A craft show and sale accompanied the jubilee.

Quilt makers sometimes found their quilts snatched up by buyers before they had a chance to see their ribbons.

A special feature each year is the "Jubilee Quilt" auction. Now in its 15th year, the quilt features a counted cross-stitch center designating the year. Colors are chosen by quilters who, for the past several years, have been Linda Kovak and Maxine Karns. The 2000 quilt was done in shades of deep green and burgundy quilted in the double Irish chain.

"It takes a lot of quilting," admits Linda who also chairs the quilt show, "but Maxine and I love to quilt."

An auction held on the last day of the show had all proceeds going to the New Centerville Fire Company. This year's quilt was purchased for \$2,500 by Nancy Gribble of Gribble Trucking.

"In the early years of the auction, they actually went much higher," Linda says. "The highest was \$6,000."

The jubilee is definitely an event, which offers something for everyone.



Harvey Baer of Somerset demonstrates the art of making handles. Harvey says this summer he was sick, so he taught his 14-year-old grandson the trade and he did a wonderful job.

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