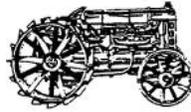
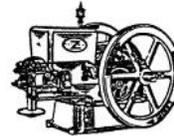


THE QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS



↑ UPDATE



December 2010

President's Notes

Another year is coming to a close and like the media we tend to look back and compare it to other years and try to predict what the next one will bring. If next year is as good as this one we should be very satisfied. We had three very successful shows with the weather cooperating which made for record breaking attendance. We also received many donations that are helping to add to our collection of antique equipment and machinery.

In the last newsletter I was about to head to Vermont to have our saw mill blade hammered. We had changed the blade from 48 inch to 52 inch to help our Cat D8 engine out. The engine was having trouble maintaining the higher speed required for the 48 inch blade. So by putting on the 52 inch blade the speed required could be reduced to 650 RPM. This did work out as planned except the new blade had lost its tension and was wobbly hence the trip to VT to fix this. So off to Vt. we go armed with only a Google map. We think we are there but the numbers on the mail boxes don't match the map. On the third pass by a road grader working the dirt road we are on the grader guy stops the grader and without me saying a word he says he's right ovah theyah pointing to a barn in the middle of a field. I guess the 52inch saw blade hanging out the back of my truck was a giveaway. So I had to ask Bruce the saw blade guy why the numbers on the mail box don't match his address. He says that they had changed the numbering on the road and he never got around to changing his because everyone knows him. Only in VT. Bruce invited my wife and I to his shop the next day to watch him work on our blade. What a pleasure that was. This guy is a true artist. I think the saw blades stand at attention and salute him when he arrives He's that good. To make things even more picturesque His place is on top of a hill with a million dollar view of the surrounding mountains.

Due to a recent donation we now have another saw mill. It's a portable mill about a hundred years old or so made by Amidon in East Willington, CT. The metal parts are in surprisingly good shape and we are in the process of replacing the wooden parts. All the wood is being sawed on our mill and planed to size on site. Kind of a nice feeling. Some recent changes in duties. Linda Towne has retired as secretary and newsletter editor. Linda also was elected to the board of directors. Barbra Goodwin is acting secretary until the next election. Dianne Tewksbury has taken over the duties of newsletter editor.

On the legal front, we had a court date of Dec. 9th to iron out our legal issues. However the court postponed that date stating a lack of judges. No new date has been set at this time.

Happy holidays!

Notes On Donations and Some History - by Dave McClary 12/10

Donations of two drill presses have been received, one in September from an East Haddam estate along with some other machines and equipment. This first one is a Champion Blower and Forge, of Lancaster, PA, 21" conventional belt driven drill with a power feed system, which is in very good condition. In November, a unique appearing 20" drill press made by Barnes Drill Co. of Rockford, Ill, was received from a local donor. In the 1870's there were three Barnes brothers running the W F & John Barnes Company, with the youngest brother, B Frank Barnes, in the position of superintendent. They made conventional drill presses and expanded the line to include radial drills and other machinery. In 1899 B Frank split up with the two older brothers who renamed the company the Rockford Drilling Machine Co. B Frank Barnes formed the B Frank Barnes Co. from which he resigned in 1907 and formed another company, the Barnes Drill Co. This company specialized in geared drive drill presses but also began developing honing machines for use by the automotive industry. The company is still in operation today known as Barnes International with a wide range of products. The donated drill press is dated as about 1910 to 1920. It is unique in that it has an all gear drive from a waist level pulley at the back driving an angled shaft through two pairs of bevel gears to the top of the spindle. This drive train is enclosed to ensure cleanliness and smoothness in the drive. There is a power feed feature making this drill comparable but distinctly different from the Champion drill press. Needing some cleanup and minor repairs, it will be on display alongside the other to show the comparison of the two styles.

For those interested in tool manufacturing history, the Brown & Sharpe Company of Providence, RI, is notable for its shifting focus on the needs of industry over a century or more in time. It started with David Brown, a clock tower and watch maker and repair enterprise in Providence. His son, Joseph R. Brown (1810-1876) served an apprenticeship as a machinist and joined his father's firm which became Brown and Son in 1833. Sewing machines became another line of business for the firm, these selling under the name of Wilcox and Gibbs in time. The father left the company in 1841, with Joseph continuing the business. In 1850 he invented a linear dividing machine for inscribing scales in accurately equal divisions. The next year he invented one of the first vernier calipers making it possible to measure to one one thousandth of an inch for the first time. It should be understood that early milling machines were always

provided with a dividing head which accurately divided circles, such as is needed for milling gears, but were not adapted for linear work. In 1853, an apprentice, Lucien Sharpe (1830-1899) was made a partner in the firm. Sharpe started work on a wire gage size standard in 1853 and in 1857 that standard was accepted by the Waterbury Brass Association, and it is the standard used today. Broadening the business to include milling machines was aided by Frederick Howe. Howe had been involved in the design of machines for Jones and Lamson, succeeded by Robbins and Lawrence in the gun making business in Windsor, VT before and during the Civil War. Howe moved to Providence to work for Providence Tool Co. and enlisted Brown to make milling machines of his own design for his own use at Providence Tool. Howe later worked as superintendent at Brown and Sharpe. Brown developed some improvements and started the manufacture of milling machines and invented a universal milling machine for their own use in 1861. These and screw machines (turret lathes) of their own design were used in their continuing sewing machine business, but also became a well respected product for sale.

In 1866, Brown took in another partner, Samuel Darling of Bangor, ME. He had been making machinist scales since 1852 using a linear dividing machine of his own design which Brown considered to be superior to his own. A separate partnership was established as Darling, Brown and Sharpe which focused on making machinist tools that required linear scales. Darling left the firm in 1896 and thereafter their tools no longer included his name in the inscriptions. This change helps in dating many early such tools of which a number are on display at the Machine Shop.

It is informative to peruse a book compiled by Kenneth L. Cope which contains copies of Brown & Sharpe catalogs from 1868, 1887 and 1899. The early catalog focused on rules and gauges under the company name of Darling, Brown and Sharpe and on milling machines, screw machines, die holders, screw slotting machines and tapping machines. These types of machines indicate their continuing involvement in the manufacture of sewing machines and time pieces. In addition, they patented and made gear tooth cutters that had a uniform cross section allowing sharpening on a radial line without changing the cutting shape, which greatly reduced the cost of making gears. Broadening their product lines were countershaft and clutch assemblies sold with their screw and milling machines, yarn sorters and scales and yarn meters in support of the growing woolen and cotton mill industry in New England. The 1887 catalog cover summarizes their products as fine castings, machinery and sewing machines. Universal and plain milling machines, grinding, screw and tapping machines, screw finishing and polishing machines. Reels, assorters, scales and testers for roving yarn. Patent cutters for gears, taps, reamers, twist drills, irregularly formed parts for sewing machines and guns. The cover also showed medals won at international trade shows reflecting their interest in expanding into foreign sales. Their shops totaled about 122,000 square feet. Upwards of 400,000 Wilcox and Gibbs sewing machines had been produced at that time. They kept most items in stock, packed and shipped without charge and gave no discounts, demanding cash on delivery. That sounds like good business practice. Vertical spindle milling and chucking machines were newly introduced and universal grinding machines, forerunners of the one in our main room at the farm, and other forms of grinding machines were illustrated. They also sold standard sized gears, surface plates, micrometers, hand operated barber clippers (I remember those), horse clippers and all types of gauges, scales and calipers. The 1899 catalog opens with a listing of foreign sales offices in European countries from England to Russia. Their manufacturing floor area was now up to 293,760 square feet, nearly seven acres. Also indicated was that some discounts were available and credit was available on large orders. This catalog was limited to their machinists tools but most noteworthy was the significant expansion of the variety of items available rather than the standardization and consolidation seen today. An example being about fifteen zero to one inch micrometers, many of which were also available with metric scales. Times have changed and the company is no longer in business although some of their products are still being manufactured under different names.

FOR SALE: Side mount five foot sickle bar mower for Farmall Cub. Spare bar, blades and rivets. \$100 firm. Call Dave at 860-456-3932

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER – Art Chester

It's time once again for the annual call for dues. Membership in QVEA follows the calendar year and thus on January 1, dues are once again due. The \$20.00 per year membership fee basically covers the insurance on the farm and shows, our newsletter costs and perhaps a little left over for other needs. There is an envelope attached to this newsletter for that purpose. All it needs is your check inside, a stamp, and your return address. We thank you for your continued support of the Club and all that we are attempting to accomplish. 2011 promises to be our best year ever!

Our October show was a great success, as all of you who were there can attest to. It went off like clockwork, thanks to our seasoned group of volunteers. We can always use a couple more hands, even for an hour or two, so let one of us know. All of our shows are growing but the October show the most, to the point of being our largest and best attended show of the year.

Newsletters are now printed quarterly – March, June, September, and December.

Please, **everyone** who can receive their newsletter via e-mail rather than by USPS, make that request to Diane Tewksbury at dtewks@sbcglobal.net. It will save our printing-sorting-folding-mailing crew some labor, and save your club a **lot** of money, as well as being environmentally 'green'.

For those of you who contribute to the United Way campaign, QVEA is now listed as a charitable organization allowing you to direct your donation to us for the support and expansion of the Zagray Farm Museum. Pfizer Foundation also has a volunteer program that provides QVEA with substantial donations each year, based on the volunteer work of members who work or are retired from Pfizer. We appreciate all donations in any form or size.

Happening at the Farm

It's the time of the year when we button everything up for another winter, and try to find additional protected storage space for our growing collection. A couple of additional temporary shelters have been added to the ones already in service. We've been checking

antifreeze, closing up the buildings, removing signage, and generally just putting things away for the winter. An Amidon portable saw mill, a kerosene fired steam cleaner, and an IH350TA utility backhoe were donated.

The Zagray Saw Mill

We have been cutting most every Sunday until it became too cold. We've completed all the rafters needed for the drying shed, and cut replacement timbers for our newly donated C. S. Amidon & Sons portable mill. The planers and joiners have also been busy, shaping the timbers to make them uniform and easier to work with.

We had an opportunity to purchase an 1800's Chase shingle mill and decided that it was so unique we could not pass it up. It is an early mill, completely manual in operation, unlike the later mills that automatically index the block for the next cut. The blade on this mill is unique also, in that it is horizontally mounted. The owner brought the piece on Sunday of our October show. We unloaded it in the afternoon, and while we were checking it out he mentioned that he had never run it in the 20 years it was in his shop and would be interested in hearing about it when we got it operational. One thing led to another, and pretty quick it was checked out, oiled, and belted to a tractor. It was sawing shingles before the former owner reached his Massachusetts home! We are still on the lookout for a later shingle mill, but thus far the price tags on ones that were available have been too high, given the other strains on our treasury. There was a large maple tree in my backyard that unfortunately had to be removed to make way for my new workshop. It yielded two saw logs that we cut into 2 X 10s, joined and planed. They will become the workbench countertops for the shop. It is a pleasure to be able to use some of this timber for something other than firewood.

The saw mill continues to be a major attraction at our shows, and a pleasure to watch and operate. We will resume cutting in the spring as soon as weather permits.

Remember that the material cut at the mill may be specific to a particular job or member.

So if you need something, check with Dave @860-982-5158 or Ned @860-537-2252 so you don't inadvertently use lumber slated for another project.

If you have trees taken down, please keep the sawmill in mind and cut the logs into lengths preferably 8'6", 10'6", 12'6", 14'6" or 16'6", depending on what will yield the best timber. We can arrange to pick them up if necessary. Most all species can be used, but hardwoods in particular are in the shortest supply.

We have slab wood, sawdust, and planer shavings (makes great fire starter!) as byproducts of this demonstration area available.

ITEMS NEEDED!!!!!!

There are always a few new items on our 'needed' list. Call Art at 982-5158, or Ned at 537-2252. The help in this area we've received in the past has been terrific! Thanks to all of you!

A replacement for our Yellow Ford 600 dump

A grain wagon for harvesting the corn

Two track pads for our 1929 Universal Shovel

A pair of 6788 IH front wheel weights (fits A,B,C,H,M,W4,W6)

Steel 11 inch belt pulley for a Farmall H

A leaf blower for the saw mill area

Vacuum pump, clutch and brake pedal assy, and seat for a 1988 F250 diesel

PROJECTS

Some additional removable show posts around the pond and in the parking areas need to be added for additional vendor spaces and to guide the spectators in where to park.

**A complete refurbishment of the drying shed – see Andy Milardo to volunteer!
Carriage shed (near the machine shop) rebuilding.**

Repair and assembly of a bleacher set for the saw mill.

Lighting in the machine shop 'working' area

Another bleacher set or two for the Garden Tractor Pulling Pit

Fairbanks Morse engine pad

If you see something that needs doing, speak to one of us about it and your ideas to correct it. This is your club, we need your input and assistance!

FOR SALE !

Model 146 John Deere loader from our 2150 tractor (QVEA owned) \$750.00

1986 Chevrolet Suburban 4WD good driveline - parts only \$300

call Dave @860-982-5163

More FOR SALE Items

Log loader fork lift White-Haortson 6-cylinder Cummings engine 4" wheel drive Model 4/78 LL reverse Otoro diesel, four 45' steel I-Beams, door frames, doors, shingles, wood boxes and bins of bolt nuts, etc.
Home 860-228-3607. Cell 860-573-0851 (Lou)

Tewksbury (QVEA)
90 Park Road
Colchester, CT 06415

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NAME
STREET
CITY
STATE/ZIP
PHONE
E-MAIL

DUES ARE \$20.00/YR PER PERSON PAYABLE WITH APPLICATION--INCLUDES QVEA DUES AND INSURANCE.

RETURN TO: QVEA, 180 SOUTH PLUMB RD, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06