

# QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS



## The Zagray Quarterly

December 2018

### **President's Notes** **George Lehr**

This year's show season is over and was very successful. The Engine Building continues to attract visitors with more engines operating at each show. Paul Towne led the effort to spruce up the farmhouse inside and out. Now visitors can take guided tours during the shows. I hope to get the barn cleanout effort restarted and further expand our show space. There are many display worthy items squirrelled away at the farm and the barn loft would provide a great space for them to be shown.

The effort to dig out the pond was stalled; actually overwhelmed by the amount of rain this fall. It'll have to wait till next year. Although things have been put away and readied for the winter, activity at the farm continues. With the site work complete, King Construction is now at work on erecting the museum building. If everything goes well, we'll have our new museum building by early next year.

October meeting elections were held and the director position vacancies created by Bob Chester's resignation and George Judkins' passing, were filled by Allen Alonzo and Rick Clewell. There was also news of another position to fill; Dave McClary is leaving the area and has resigned as the Machine Shop Committee Chairman. Dave has done a remarkable job researching and documenting the history of the machine shop and the machines. His installation of low speed line shafting, belts, pulleys and clutches provides the means to demonstrate how Zagray period machines worked in the shop. If anyone would like to take over Dave's duties, or knows someone who might be interested, please let me know.

There will be no December monthly meeting. See you in the spring.

# **What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life**

**Dave McClary**

That was the title of a song by Peter Appleyard playing on "Easy Listening" as I sat down to write this article. After fifteen or more years of enjoying the opportunity presented to me by QVEA I now know what the answer was back when we got started on the Zagray Farm. I was assigned to the Machine Shop Committee because I had obtained an engine lathe and was learning how to use it. Our first task was to inventory the machine tools on the farm, half of which were in "storage" un-protected, out among the trees and bushes. Some were eventually sold at the initial auction and some retained because of a then vague concept of preserving them for some purpose. The shop itself reflected the doings of Stanley Zagray, a trained machinist and oldest son of the Zagray family. The machines were obviously old and of questionable use by anyone not prepared to spend the time to learn their outdated features and secrets of operation. Examination of the electrical system resulted in shutting off the power for safety reasons. Two rusted out homemade wood stoves were removed and disposed of along with tons of other items found on the farm. Shop cleanup began and the first of two badly sagging shed roofs was torn down. The active committee member, me, eagerly tackled the task of designing and building a new roof. That process was later repeated when a second shed roof and what was euphemistically called a Quonset hut, housing several operable machines were torn down and replaced.

The shop was opened during the first public shows at our new-found home. There were offers of machine donations. Urging by club members to get the shop fixed up for their use along with the problem of unknown member skill levels and lack of available supervisory control led to the decision to create a museum of the shop to display what nineteenth century machine shops were like. A number of rare and valuable machines were accepted as donations along with many that were passed along to others at auction or to the scrap dealer. Some machines were restored and all were properly identified with signs as to makers, dates and use; information aimed at the public. The crowning achievement was to select appropriately typical old machines and provide the belt driven power system for which they were originally designed. Seeing these machines operate demonstrating the use that was made in making of such things as rifles during the Civil War has made all the work of creating the museum a very satisfying experience and a reward for what was a final career chapter for this now aging engineer. Appropriately, George Shearing's "Mr. Lucky" was playing as this article was being finished.

Thank you QVEA.

## **STATIONARY ENGINES**

**Connor Bishop**

Even though the weather has been getting colder, we have still been able to put some time into our projects. The Terex is on its way to running again – we have 2 fresh heads on a pallet ready to be re-installed. Hopefully after this job, we will have a big, functional bulldozer for any large land clearing projects in the future.

The engine for the Nelson truck loader is complete finally! Once it is installed into the machine and one remaining track adjuster is repaired, we should be able to travel the machine and hopefully steer it. Getting the rest of the works functional is a much bigger job, and may be done further down the road. However, it is sure to be a crowd pleaser as it is.

Mike spent some time on the faulty Atlas Imperial cylinder head. A valve guide had slipped, causing the air start valve to stop before contacting its seat. It is ready to be re-installed, and then the air start system can be tested. The fuel system is next to be diagnosed, because it does not seem like it will build or hold fuel pressure.

Thanks to my friend Franko, our green Ford plow truck is operational once again. With a new radiator, water pump, thermostat, transmission line patches, cap, rotor, wires, plugs, and other miscellaneous parts, we should be ready for winter plowing.

We have received several donations of small engines and parts, such as a 2-cylinder LeRoi, a Novo, Fairbanks Morse Z, and others. Some are in fairly good condition and might be running for our Spring show. Also, I have brought to the farm a new purchase of mine, a 25 HP 2-stroke Superior oilfield engine. It is a running, barking, fire-breathing engine and will add to the heavyweight engine side of our collection. Also, once hauling is arranged, a 30 HP 4-stroke Bessemer oilfield engine will call the Farm home too. Time for a second Engine Building!

As always, helping hands are appreciated! Whether you're interested in helping out during a show weekend, or want to come up on working weekends to work on machinery projects, maintenance, buildings, groundskeeping, or anything else, we love seeing new faces at the Farm! If you have been wanting to get involved for a while, make it a new year's resolution to stop by to get your hands dirty.

Merry Christmas, and happy New Year! See you at the Farm!

## FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER – Art Chester

It's that time of year again. 2019 dues are still \$20. If you are mailing it, make your check payable to QVEA, and mail it to 180 South Plumb Road, Middletown, CT 06457. There's no need to fill out a new membership form, but if you have changes to your address, phone number or email, please include the changes. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is also welcome. Any and all donations beyond the dues are tax deductible and very much needed and appreciated!

If you have an email address, please email Dianne Tewksbury at [dkteuks@gmail.com](mailto:dkteuks@gmail.com) to change from snail mail! That 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. The 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 are set-up with Amazon Smile as well. This program donates ½ of 1 percent of eligible purchases to a charity of your choice. The pricing is the same on Amazon Smile as on Amazon. Paste or type this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1426891> into your browser to connect to QVEA's page and get started!

### New Building

Our construction crew prepared the site for concrete footings and frost walls for the 200 X 60 main building. Electrical piping to the site was completed as well as temporary power. The foundation was backfilled and graded for the concrete floor. Additional electrical piping was installed below grade to make that job much easier later. **AND THEN THE RAINS CAME!!!!**



Things were looking pretty dismal.



We could not get a window to pour the concrete floor and finally gave up for the year after Thanksgiving. King Construction was delayed a few weeks with the same issues but started around the same time. Walls are being erected as I write this. Another very long term project is underway!







- It was just a few days after Thanksgiving when the King Construction crew started building the walls.
- Friday, Dec. 7, they were raising the last of the walls.
- On Tuesday, Dec. 11, we were surprised to see that they had all the trusses up; every single one of them!



WOW! After viewing these pictures, we can understand why Art added: "A used electricians lift was purchased to help with the lighting of the new building and future projects. We simply can't hang lights and run conduit at 18 feet off a ladder."





This stone memorial was placed at the base of the old Zagray tractor by Pete Bezanson, in memory of his father, Ed Bezanson.



### **Saw Mill**

We need to have a few days on the mill in the early spring to cut all the material needed for the mezzanine in the museum building. That project is not part of the King Construction project, so we'll be handling it. We also need to continue cutting for another engine building, even though it will probably not be built until 2020. Yes, ANOTHER!

Still wanted – Logs for the saw mill. Even though we received a substantial number of logs, we are still on the lookout for more. 16'6" pine logs in particular that are 20 inch diameter or more on the small end will make good rafters. 12'6" logs of similar size will be used for 2X4's and siding. We have a good supply, but having extra material in stock would be nice. Power has been installed to the woodworking building and the piping extended to the saw mill and tractor shed. We still need to install the wiring to the mill, and down to the tractor shed.

### **Pavilion Building**

We modified our plans to accommodate the changes the State Health Dept. requested and resubmitted them to Chatham Health. Hopefully, this will result in approval.

### **Pond Excavation**

We had a great plan to get a large portion of the pond material up onto dry land to be loaded onto trucks this fall. Everything was in place to get serious right after the Fall Show when we were not worried about blocking the road or having the need to quick clean-up for the show. **AND THEN THE RAINS CAME!!!!**

We were pressed for manpower at the same time with the site work needed on the museum building. We'll have to regroup and work on this project in 2019.

### **2019 SHOW DATES**

**May 4 & 5    July 6 & 7    October 5 & 6**

### **VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

**[ZagrayFarmMuseum.org](http://ZagrayFarmMuseum.org)**

Dianne Tewksbury  
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**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, INC. (QVEA)**

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

STREET\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL\_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$20.00 per person for one year, payable with application.

Dues include liability insurance at the farm.

**RETURN TO: QVEA, 180 SOUTH PLUMB RD, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457**