

## 2015 Threshermen's Reunion Wrap-Up

The 2015 Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede has come to a close with Georgette Hutlet, the Executive Director, reporting that the event saw very good attendance by visitors. Saturday saw a particularly heavy turnout with the grandstand being full for the machinery parade and afternoon arena events. The evening rodeo not only saw the grandstand filled but the bleachers as well.

Glen Lennox, Museum Director in charge of the Cockshutt Expo reports that the Expo was well attended by Cockshutt collectors who brought many Cockshutt items to add to the Cockshutt implements in the Museum collection. The Museum would like to take this opportunity to thank the Cockshutt collectors who attended the expo as the number and quality of the outside items added greatly to the Expo. A lot of great Cockshutt tractors appeared, including an AC sold by Cockshutt in 1929 which was still in its original paint including the painted on decal on the gas tank stating the tractor was sold by the Cockshutt Plow Company. There is not enough room here to list all the collectors who brought items so watch for a webpage on the Cockshutt Expo in the Museum's internet site. The Cockshutt Expo was well worth attending.

With the Museum's grain crop not being ripe, the machinery displays could not include demonstrations of grain binding however demonstrations of horse and tractor plowing along with the horse sweep in operation powering a stationary baler did take place. A special treat was the Museum's Marshall Model F Colonial tractor plowing with the Avery power lift engine gang plow which was purchased along with the Model F in 1914 by the Bain Family of Grosse Isle, Manitoba. The people carts were back in use with the horse drawn riding plows resulting in Reunion visitors lining up to take a ride behind the plows. The sawmill was in operation, powered by a Garr Scott steam engine. Various tractors tried out the dynamometer.

The threshing competition which was part of the arena afternoon show was a particularly hard fought competition this year with both the steam and gas outfits having their outfits in top notch condition resulting in no breakdowns marring the competition. A young team of horses pulling one of the sheaf racks provided some excitement as they caught the spirit of the competition, providing an extra turn of speed which almost upset a loaded rack in the arena. A veteran farmer in the crowd, whose father had finished with steam threshing in the fall of 38, reminisced about the first few days of threshing which was better than any rodeo. For many threshing outfits the need for teams was so great that horses that had done nothing since last threshing season were pressed into service along with half broken horses which resulted in teams running away, racks being smashed, winding up in creeks and sloughs, and fences being torn down as the crew got teams used to working around machinery again. A perennial crowd favorite at the afternoon grandstand show, the tug of war between the steam engine and the crowd, ran again with the crowd winning on Friday with the help of members of the Canadian Horse Artillery gun crew who were at the Reunion displaying their equipment. Apparently the military liked the 2014 Reunion so much, they returned for a second helping. The Royal Canadian Artillery Museum brought to the Reunion a display of artifacts including a World War Two vintage 25 pounder artillery piece along with its tow tractor. The Museum is pleased the Canadian military thought so much of the 2014 Reunion that they returned in 2015.

There is lots going on the Museum this summer. Watch for an important announcement on August 18th, 2015 concerning the 2016 Reunion. Rock the Harvest, a local music festival held in conjunction with Sprucedale Industries, a local charity working with the disabled runs August 14, 15 and 16, 2015 at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum. So come on out to the Museum, enjoy some great local musical groups and support the disabled. The Museum operates a webpage on Rock the Harvest at <http://ag-museum.mb.ca/events/rock-harvest/> which provides a line-up of the bands on the various days and other useful information for a Rock the Harvest attendee.



*The Marshall and Sons Model F Colonial tractor teamed up with its old running mate the Avery power lift engine gang plow. Both the plow and tractor were purchased together in 1914 by the Bain Family of Grosse Isle, Manitoba and donated to the Museum together in the 1960s. It has been many years since these veterans were in the field together working. The tractor was given a complete overhaul several years ago. The Avery plow only needed minor adjustments made to the power lift.*