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Meet the Mikkelsens — Myrtle and Harvey of Silverton, Oregon

Each year these grand people treat the Western Steam Fiends Association members as well as the general public to an old time steam threshing show at their place one mile west of the City of Silverton.

Needless to say this kind and enthusiastic couple are a great credit to our club and to the community at large.

We feel very fortunate to have such kind and generous members in our organization.

Harvey is a native son being born in the area. Myrtle has spent most of her life in and around Silverton.

In 1944 they purchased what is known as the Jorgenson place where they reside at present.

Except for two years the threshing bees have been an annual event since 1954. This show is part of the Silverton Harvest Festival each year with entries of engines, separators, water tanks in the City Parade.

In 1950 Harvey's collection of engines began when he bought a 16 H.P. Russell from Fisher and Krenz of Waldo Hills West of the City.

His collection to date consists of 18 steam traction engines, 4 portables, 5 stationary steamers, 15 gas tractors, around 50 single cylinder stationary gas engines and 5 grain separators plus many other antique items such as old cars and one Model T Truck.

Each year 5 acres of grain is bound and stacked, to be threshed by at least two steam stationary machines during the demonstration.

Besides furnishing show grounds and most of the equipment, Harvey also acts as Oregon director for the Western Steam Fiends Association, being installed in 1963.

Many, many thanks to the Mikkelsens for making our Oregon threshing shows possible.

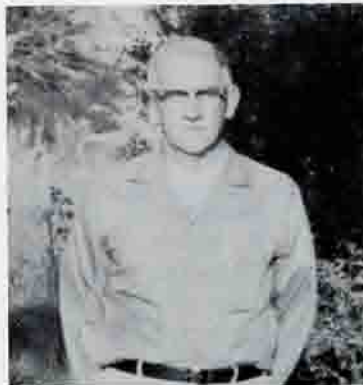
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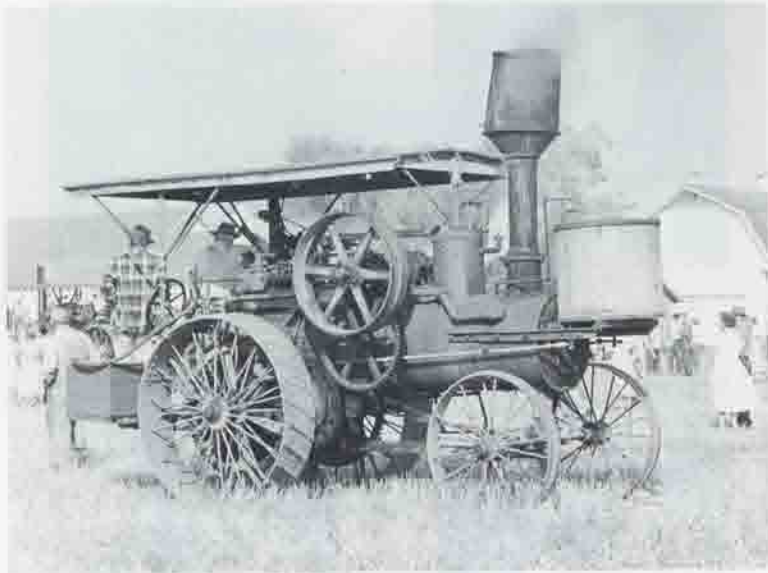


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Buffalo Pitts — 14 horse twin cylinder 1898. This picture also gives part of Mikkelson Buildings and Snack Bar to right.

Mikkelson Engine on front cover is a 10 horse power case portable. Built in 1882 — Purchased in Pendleton 1954 from Keider of Pendleton. Present owner is Harvey Mikkelson.

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This is start of grain harvesting - a 6 ft. McCormick Binder in use here and used other years for grain cutting. Mr. Mikkelson is on tractor to pull Binder and Lovlien on Binder. Been cutting around 5 acres each year for threshing Bee.

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These are some of the boys bringing in bundles to be stacked. Since horses are gone we have to use tractor to haul bundles in.



Stacks are finished and will stand about 2 weeks till threshing time.



These are the Borte brothers at this stack. The one on stack, Francis from Winlock, Wash., and Charlie Borte from Silverton.

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8 horse Russell sawing wood at Mikkelson and some of boys helping.



Case Engine and 22x36 Red River Special separator. He has a 22x38 McCormick Deering Separator too, that is in use each threshing bee.



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Scenes of beginning to thresh and number of Spectators looking on; there are several thousand here each threshing Bee.

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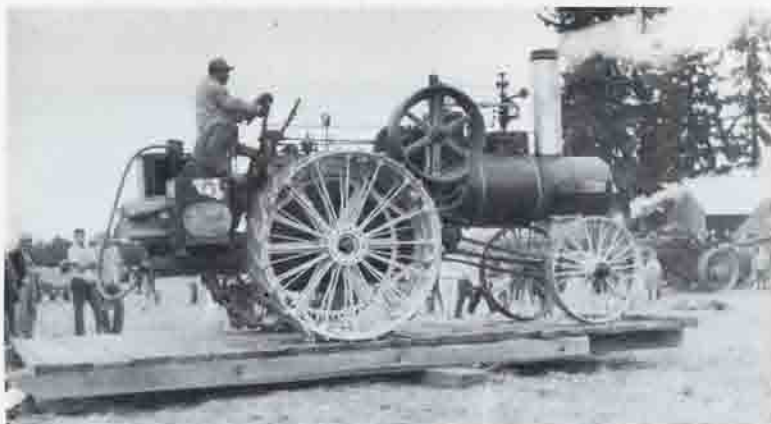
Scenes of Threshing. 22x38 McCormick Deering separator and 12-36 Russell belted to it. Water wagon standing by and also a supply of wood.



Scenes of a day's work at Mikkelson ranch. Note the black smoke; this Steam Engine getting a good workout.



Here is a line up of some of the Mikkelson Steam Engine collection. He has around 18 steam traction engines.



Harvey Mikkelson and Harvey Lively are trying to balance this steam engine on a teter totter. This engine is a 12 horse Russell No. 16,033, built in 1916. This stunt looks easy, but try it sometime!



This team of horses and wagon hauling grain at Mikkelson threshing Bee. George and Inez Mikkelson own these horses and wagon.



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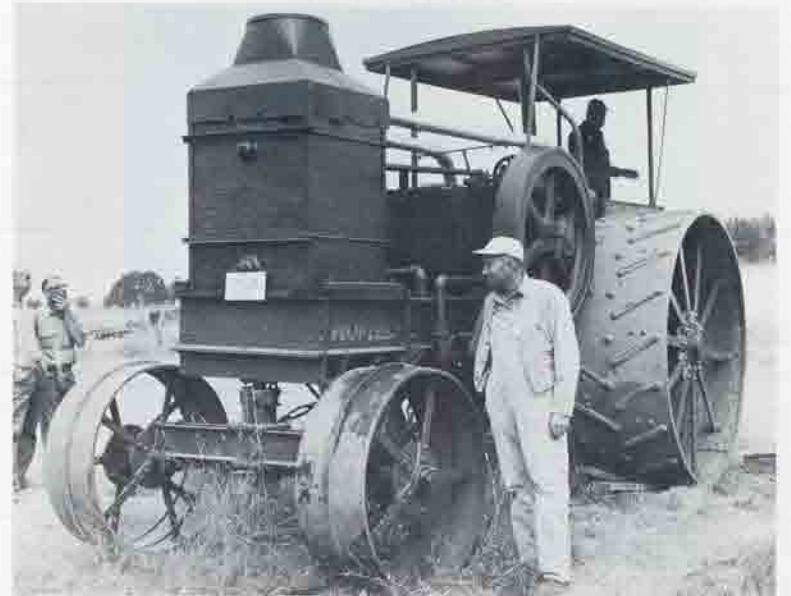
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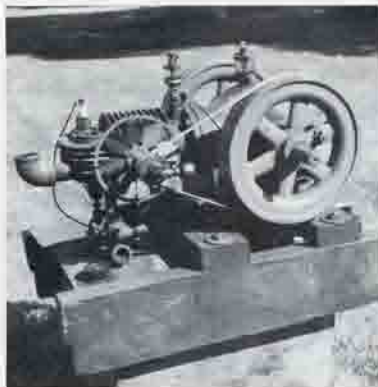
SILVERTON, OREGON



This 20x40 Rumely was bought in 1920 by Albert Barth of Marguam, Oregon. It was used in building roads and later years was used in threshing. He sold this machine to Hilman Lovlien, Silverton in Fall of 1964.



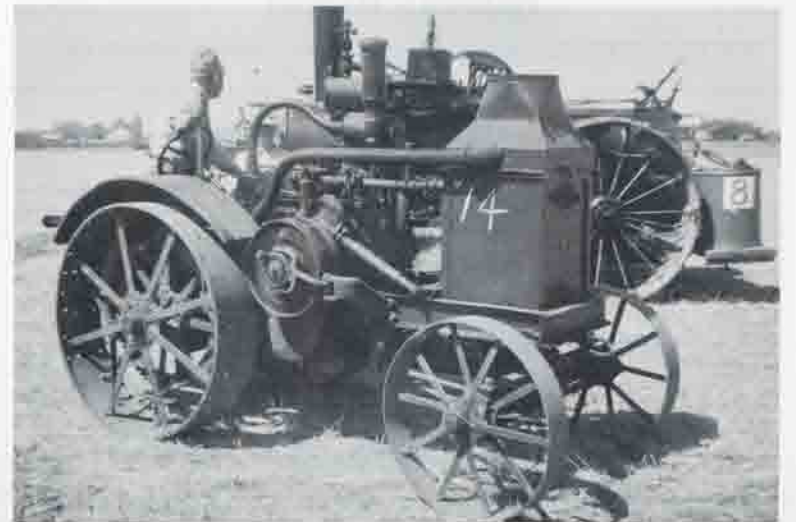
30-60 Rumely, built 1910, pick up at Enterprise. Wallowa County bought for road grading. Harvey Mikkelson bought it in 1957 and was put in running order by present owner.



This is a 3/4 horse air cooled gas engine. Hilman Lovlien, owner, has several more Gas Engines.



This is a coffee grinder which most grocery stores used years ago. Hilman Lovlien purchased it several years ago.



12-20 Oil Pull. One of Mikkelson's smaller size oil pulls.

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French Stone Burr grain, feed and flour grinder OWNED BY Ben O. Cole of Sublimity, Oregon. BUILT BY Nordyke and Moram, U.S.A. Age of this machine is approximately 90 years. Owned by the Cole family over 70 years.

STONE BURRS were mined in France and shipped around the horn in early days. It is used to grind feed for cattle, make flour, corn meal, etc. Diameter of Burr is 20 inches running at 500 rev. per minute. CAPACITY — 50 bushel feed per hour. Power required — 10 Horse Power or more.

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Amercian-LaFrance "Metropolitan" fire engine now in possession of Jeff Richardson of Scotts Mills, Oregon.

The pumper was bought new by the city of Hoquiam, Washington in 1907 and traded back to the company for motorized equipment in 1913. Some time after 1913 Albany, Oregon bought the engine, where it was in use for many years. Richardson acquired the unit from Albany in 1956.

Additional information states that when the new pumper was given its official test in Hoquiam in 1907 it required 6½ minutes from the time the fire was started until they had steam enough to start pumping. This performance was considered very satisfactory by the mayor and the city council.

It was also stated that the stoker at that time was paid \$65.00 per month and the engineer was paid \$80.00.

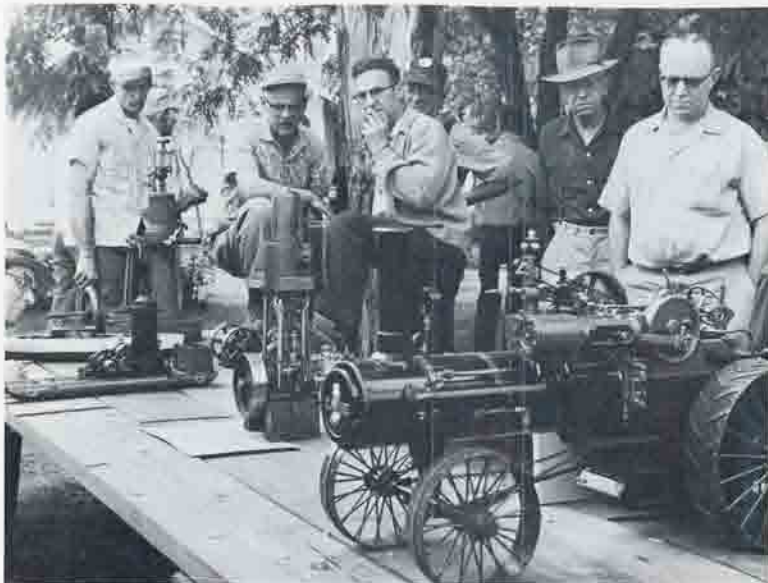
The unit was pulled by two bay horses, Jed and Cliff, of about 1,400 lbs. each.

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Miniature Scale Models that run. There are many interested spectators discussing how many hours to build these miniature models.

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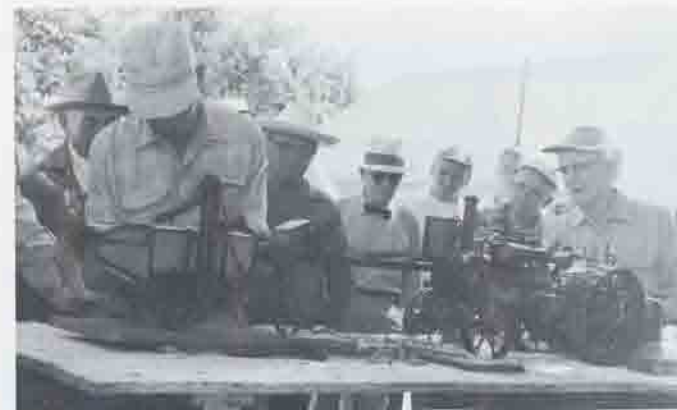
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Marlyn M. Hadley Miniature Models which he built during his spare time. He lives in Albany, Oregon.



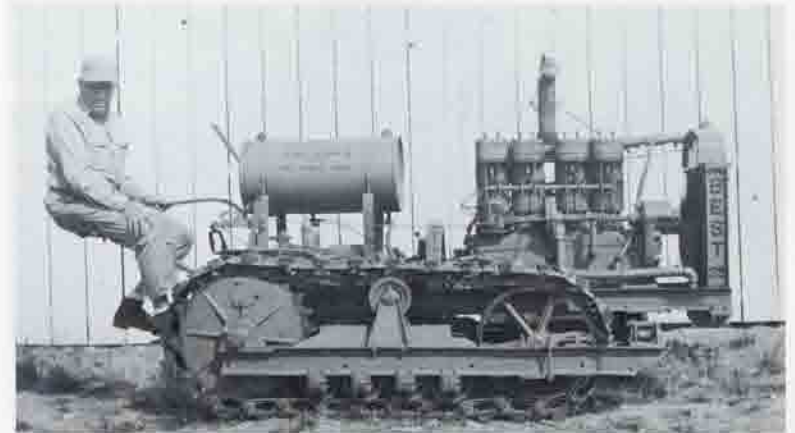
Here is a complete outfit that runs. It took many hours to build this to scale model. The owner of this outfit is unknown. Since I had a picture of it, I put it in.



1920 Best 25 Tracklayer — owned by Al Hermen, Portland, Oregon.



About a 1905 Sterling threshing machine built for International Harvester Co. Owner by Al Hermen, Portland, Oregon.



1920 Best 25 Tracklayer No. 201. Owned and restored by Carl Kirsch, P.O. Box 57, St. Paul, Oregon 97137.



1918 Holt 45 Caterpillar No. 20973. Owned by Carl Kirsch, P.O. Box 57, St. Paul, Oregon 97137.



This Engine belongs to George Walton, 2827 N.E. Hoyt, Portland, Oregon. It is 12 H.P. Russell and he has had it 7 years.

CARL HANDE HARDWARE

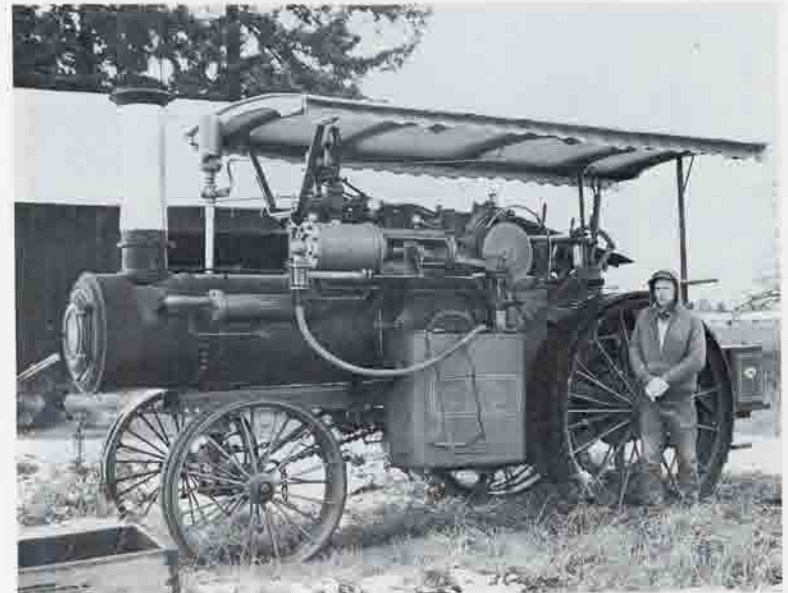
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This Straw burner boiler 1911 Model A & T named Liz' Taylor is owned by Rodney M. Pitts, Route 3, Box 47, Canby, Oregon. (This picture is also on Western Steam Fiends Badge for 1966.)

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HART PARR 2 cylinder gas tractor manufactured late 1929. 12-24, is horse power rating 12 horse on Draw Bar and 24 horse on belt. It was built to burn Distilate and Kerosene. Percy L. Dezotell purchased this tractor from Mr. A. A. Neely, Deer Island, Oregon, May 31, 1965.

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This Miniature farm display, called "Replicas of the 20's" is the way Percy L. Dezotell was brought up on the farm in Saskatchewan, Canada. This is Past History. I now have 60 head of horses and mules on machinery. This picture was taken in 1964. I now need 224 sq. ft. of space to get this up. It is on a scale of 3/4 inch per foot. I picture seeding time, summer fallow time, harvest and threshing.

This is practically the way grain farming was done in those days. The pictures represent the 10 year period from 1920-1930.

I have been approximately 8 years making these replicas, all made by hand, mostly by memory.

I am 56 years old.

—Percy L. Dezotell



This is a picture of my Steam Engine "Little Toot".

It is 3" scale, rear mounted, Garr Scott traction engine. I built it over a 4 year period. About 800 hours. The make of the boiler is Eclipse. The boiler has 11-1 in. tube 2 feet long. Made with drawn shell, one head forged in, converted to use. The ENGINE is 1 5/8" by 2", double cylinder. "Little Toot" is 5' long and the boiler is 10" in diameter. Has Pickring type governor. It travels about 3 miles an hour. One person can ride on it. Children love to drive it around.

Submitted by Mrs. Ira M. Egli
450 S.E. Allen Avenue
Beaverton, Oregon 97005



This is a 1/2 scale model truck, built by Charles Borte.



The tank of this truck is the original tank used in 1924 in Silverton. Truck also built by Charles Borte.



25 horse Fairbanks Morse Model Y. Hot head Diesel Engine with a 5 ft. fly wheel. The Ingersol Rand Compressor and Engine were donated to Harvey Mikkelson by Oregon Portland Cement Co. of Lake Oswego. They had a plant in Dallas and this engine was used there many years.

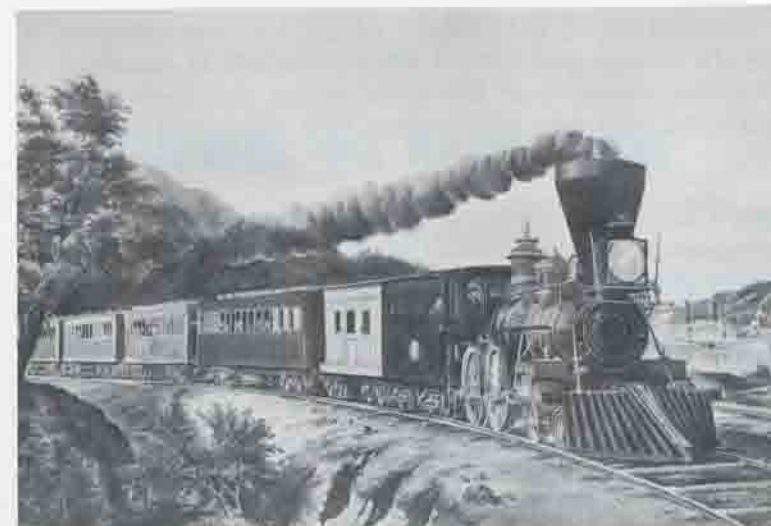


It's a Rumely-Olds 8 H.P. gas engine. Owner is Tom Graves of Tigard, Oregon, and he has several gas engines in his collection.



12 horse Russel. B. F. Sturtevant air circulator fan from old multi story school house. Originally powered by single cyl. steam engine. Here belted to 12 H.P. Russell 15820 14 blade rotor — 22" pulley.

This is one way they find out what a steam engine will do. It takes a lot of Horse Power to pull this fan.



Someone submitted this picture of the steam engine train. It is being printed in the booklet for the children to see how the folks of the earlier years traveled.

The threshing Bee committee at Mikkelson consists of three members who work with him all during the year. Each one has different things to look after such as grain cutting, stacking, car parking, fire trucks, getting water available for all steam engines, signs being made up and other miscellaneous work.

Before the big threshing Bee and during the event we have many volunteers of W.S.F.A. and others who put in many hours of service to make this a successful threshing Bee.

We the threshing Bee committee would like to thank all who put in so many hours repairing engines and other miscellaneous work for threshing Bee.

—Hilman Lovlien, Harvey Mikkelson and Charlie Borte

We wish to thank all those who have contributed so generously in time, money and effort to make this booklet a success. We are particularly indebted to those merchants whose advertisements appear in this issue and suggest you lend them your patronage where possible.

We also wish to express our thanks for those who have contributed pictures and other items of interest.

This is our first attempt to put out a souvenir booklet and as in all things first, there is always something important left out. If you will bear with us, the next one will be more complete.

We, "THE WESTERN STEAM FIENDS ASS'N" are most interested in preserving the old steam engine and the allied equipment in agriculture of the world, also the friendship of the many people that belong to the association and to the many new members and folks who attend our threshing bees.

Our heart felt thanks to the many who make up the unseen crews who get the engines ready, shock, haul and stack the grain for threshing and do the many chores that go with a successful threshing bee.

To these men who have given their time and effort we are indebted for this booklet.

Hilman Lovlien
Harvey Mikkelson
Rodney Pitts
Wally Getman
John Berry

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