

HIT & MISS

Journal of the Western Antique Power Associates

Rock Island Plow Company, Part 1

By Bob Smith

My intentions for this article are to compile information I gathered from various sources and present it to you for your reading pleasure. By no means do I consider myself an engine expert or historian.

I was inspired to write this article after seeing at the Highland Citrus Festival the hard work and effort LeRoy Overstreet put into restoring the three horsepower Rock Island Plow Company engine he acquired from

Larry Madole. The engine was brought from the Dempster Ranch in Nebraska to Vista in 1983 by Bill Dempster, of Dempster Windmills. Larry bought the engine at the Vista auction.

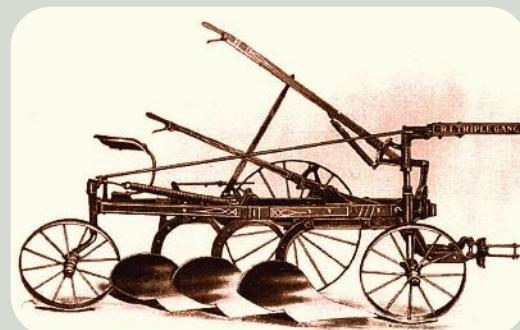
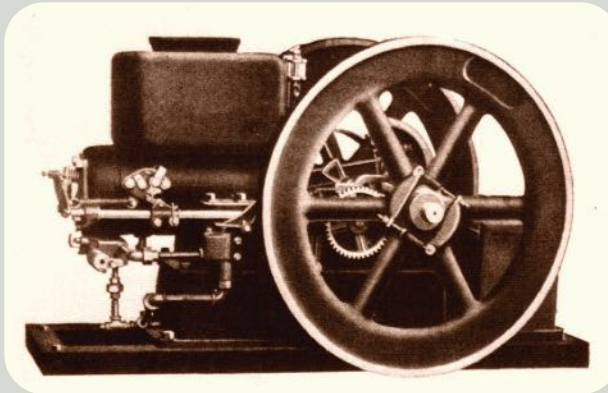
Rock Island Plow Company was established in 1882 by Charles Buford, part of a wealthy plantation family in Georgetown, Kentucky. Buford was a Yale graduate who came to Rock Island from Virginia in 1852. The company began making plows and other farm equipment. During the early 1900s, the firm decided to expand by taking on marketing arrangements with other manufacturers. After two previous agreements with Smith Manufacturing Co. and Jacob Haisch Company to market gasoline engines, by about 1914 the Rock Island engine line had taken on its final form. This series was built by Alamo Manufacturing Company of Hillsdale, Michigan. Rock Island entered the tractor business in 1914

by making a contract with Heider Manufacturing Company of Carroll, Iowa to sell their tractor. Rock Island finally bought out Heider on January 1, 1916. In 1937, Rock Island Plow Company was purchased by J. I. Case Company of Racine, Wisconsin.

A unique feature of LeRoy's engine is the cylinder and water hopper were cast in a single piece with the cylinder bolting to the frame. The engine

features a fuel pump system with a constant level fuel mixer, which provides excellent fuel regulation. Low tension ignition was a standard feature. Battery-and-coil equipment was usually supplied, but built-in magneto equipment was available at extra cost. These engines were finished in a peculiar light brown finish which compares approximately with Dupont Dulux Enamel No. 93-29607.

Part II, next month, will feature a pictorial of the restoration process by LeRoy Overstreet.



Rock Island No. 10, Triple Gang Plow. Very few companies offered a three-bottom horse-drawn plow. This plow required six to seven horses for easy operation.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD APRIL 11, 2008

Board members present: Tom Millett, Craig Maxwell, Bob Smith, Tom Millett, Kelley Garcia, Joe Siddons, Jack Johnson and Leroy Overstreet.

Board members excused: President Wayne Mabb and Vice-President Bob Swan.

Members present: George Noble, Slats Seeley, Rob Skinner, Jim Davis, John Hampton and Tom Fee.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Secretary Tom Millett in the absence of President Wayne Mabb and VP Bob Swan.

Flag salute led by Jim Davis.

REPORTS:

President: Wayne Mabb absent.

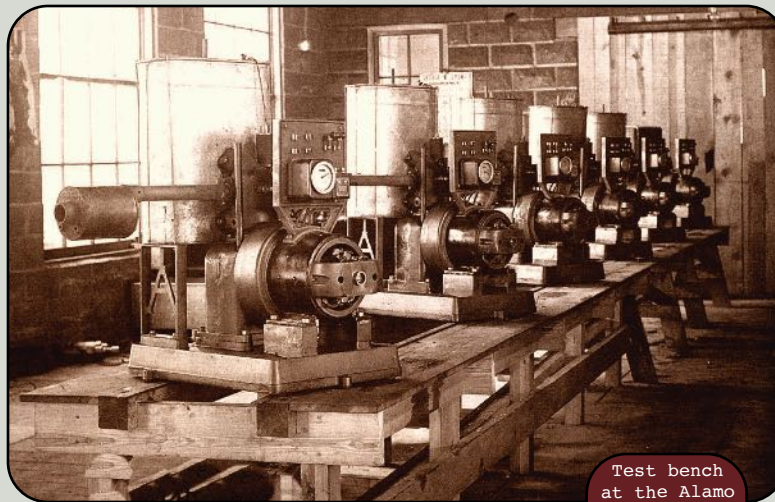
Vice President: Bob Swan absent.

Secretary: The minutes of the March 8, 2008 board meeting were approved with one correction (Jim Davis was not present at the meeting) on a motion by Millett and seconded by Bob Smith.

Treasurer: Kelley Garcia distributed a detailed financial balance sheet as of 4-11-08. Total assets are \$164,316. A Category Summary Report from 1-1-08 thru 3-31-08 show total income for the period at \$2,564.21 and expenses at \$3,313.76. Report to be on file.

Membership: Jack Johnson stated he now has **nine delinquent members who have not paid dues this year**. He asked if the board wanted to drop them. After discussion, Tom Millett volunteered to make one last phone call to each of them with the understanding that the board may wish to drop all delinquents at the May 2008 meeting.

Jack stated that he has received three checks in memory of Robert Helm and turned them over to Treasurer Garcia. Beverly Helm had informed Tom Millett that she wanted WAPA to keep Bob's annual dues and not return it to her and that the bereavement fund be placed in the appropriate WAPA account. The board thanks her for her gratitude. Jack informed the board that he would be limited on participation for a while because his wife, Kay has had a slight stroke and is in physical



Test bench
at the Alamo
factory in
Hillsdale

therapy.

Purchasing: Leroy Overstreet stated he found a new 10X10 EZ UP canopy for \$65. Our two club canopies are extremely deteriorated and we can make one good one out of the two. WAPA has had them for many years. Tom Millett informed the board that he has received the complete order of cookbooks, brochures and recipes.

Safety: Joe Siddons had no real safety issues. Inquiry was made about when the fire extinguishers need inspection. It was agreed that ours are in compliance.

Library: Craig Maxwell had nothing to report.

Shows: Bob Smith reviewed the Highland show. WAPA got third place for antique items. There were 19 WAPA exhibitors at the show. Tom Millett reported on the **San Dimas Car Show** and progress on arrangements. After much discussion, there was not enough

interest for the **Whittier Founder's Day** show and much more interest in the **Cal Poly Pomona Tractor and Car Show**. The Cal Poly show was sanctioned. Also, the **Truck Show at March Field** is on the same weekend. Also, **Branch 30** has a swap meet that weekend. It was decided by the board to inform Whittier that we would not be able to hold a show there. The **Pomona Home School** show is on May 26th. **Tulare** show is coming up from April 18 thru 20th. The **Chino Corn Feed Run** is coming up on August 23rd.

The **Woodland Track Show** in Woodland is on the 20th and 21st of May.

BREAK: 7:52 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

Editors Report: Rob Skinner spoke about his t-shirt order and asked anyone who wants one to place the order immediately.

Prado Regional Park: Nothing new to report.

Rubel Castle: Tom spoke about the open house coming up on Saturday.

Old Business: None

New Business: Jack Johnson has been housing three engine carcasses that were given to him several years ago by a non-member for the purpose of donating. Jack is willing to pay WAPA \$100.00 for their scrap value. Board approved.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: 9:00pm

Tom Millett, Secretary

Highland Citrus

by Bob Smith

The first show of the season was a huge success. Nineteen WAPA members attended with a good variety of engines and equipment. My thanks goes out to all of you who made this show something for which the folks of Highland could be proud.

This was a paid show so it helps feed the coffers. With all that hard work comes reward. The City of Highland awarded the WAPA display third place in the Festival's Best Historic Exhibit Contest. The ribbon was presented to Craig Maxwell, Librarian, at the last board meeting.



May 9, Friday

7:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

The WAPA Board of Directors meeting is held at Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs. Heritage Park Road is off Telegraph Road just west of Norwalk Boulevard. The meeting is held in the train depot next to the steam locomotive.

May 10, Saturday

Cal Poly Tractor and Car Show

Setup 7:30-9:00

This is the second annual show to promote the farm store. No trucks will be allowed in after 9:00. Reclaimed water is available. No electricity is available. There will be free In-N-Out burgers for all members attending. Bring shade because we all won't fit under the tree.

From the 57 freeway, exit on Temple and go west. One signal past Valley is S. Campus Drive. Turn left. As the road curves right,

there is a large tree. We will display in this area. If you are bringing a tractor, park in the lot to the left of the tree, unload and drive your tractor to the field across the street from the tree. You will be showing with Cal Poly's sixteen tractors.

May 11, Sunday

Antique Historical Truck Show

Setup 7:00-8:30

The show is held at the March Field museum. Off the I-215, exit Van Buren and enter the museum gates and drive slowly to our display area.

May 26, Monday, Memorial Day

Home School

Setup 8:00

From the 60, exit on Mountain Ave. Go north one block and turn right on Philadelphia. Enter the school parking lot on your right and head toward the back.

June 1, Sunday

Brentwood Science Fair

Setup at 8:00, Show starts at 11:00

Chairman: Larry Evans 626-574-8904

The location is 740 S. Gretna Green Way, Los Angeles. From the 405, exit Wilshire and go west. Turn right on Bundy. Enter at the second wide gate on your left past Montana. Lunch will be provided.

June 7, Saturday

Sonora High FFA Car Show

La Habra

Details in the next issue.

June 8

Rancho Los Alamitos Show

Long Beach

Details in the next issue.

Whittier Founders' Day Show

CANCELED!!!

Letters

I only have a few other WAPA names on my address book, so rather than forget anyone, I hope you will forward this for me to all the appropriate members.

I want to personally thank each of you for your parts in the Rubel Pharms Open House on Saturday, April 12th. Seeing those Western engines running so smoothly and looking so good got me misty. I think I have not seen these run in at least fifteen years. Having your group present to demonstrate the added toys you brought and to answer general "old engine" questions made the Pharm tours a rich experience for everyone, including the experienced docents.

If ever I can point to a successful venture in the Pharm project, our friendship with WAPA is at the top of my list.

I know that you have been preparing these engines for a couple of months now, and right from the start you were a positive and integral part of Pharm life. Every hour your members put in at the Pharm puts a smile on my late Uncle Michael's face.

You have my heartfelt gratitude for making this event such a fantastic day for hundreds of guests, and for me.

Scott Rubel

The open house was a great success. I heard nothing but positive comments when I was manning the

gate and saying "good-byes" to the visitors.

Thanks to all who participated, helped, visited, traded old stories, and generally made all our guests at ease and at home.

Thanks also the WAPA folks who made the engines run.

A big thanks to our Pharm residents who also greeted, helped, lead tours, etc.

John Lundstrom

WAPA members,

Great Job with the Westerns!!!!

Hope you all enjoyed last Saturday. All the guests seemed to have a wonderful time.

Thank you,
Culver Heaton

From the Editor

Unless you've been reading this issue back to front, you've surely noticed the excellent articles by our beloved Show Director, Bob Smith. Bob's contributions are greatly appreciated. I'm eager to see what he has for Part 2 of the article on LeRoy's Rock Island.

If any other members have original material you would like to share, contact me and we can discuss space requirements and time schedules. Also, if you would like to have your photographs published, "1280x960 and high quality" are the minimum camera settings required. Pictures are always better if the background is not filled with trash, rags and other distractions. Email them to me and I'll get them into the Hit & Miss.

If you're wondering why you aren't reading this issue well before the first of the month, it's because it's now springtime and there are shows and other fun things to divert your editor from his responsibilities.

One of the diversions was Tulare. This year was a spectacular show. For the first time in several years, the weather was warm and sunny for the whole weekend. I wish I could tell you that there were more exhibitors than ever, but I just can't say with certainty. There was so much going on in our area that I didn't get to wander into the distant areas of the showgrounds. Luckily, Larry Evans was able to get away long enough to get a couple pictures for us. Larry's are the pictures on this page. Thanks, Larry.

Until next month, have fun and play safe.

Rob Skinner
editor@wapa.us
(562) 694-2301

Classifieds

4'x8' Utility trailer. Excellent condition, includes spare tire and dolly. \$360.00 Joe Giocomarra 818-790-6292.

Three trailer frames with suspension and electric brakes, 13 to 16 feet long \$50 each. Five foot tall camel back drill press \$50.

Buzz saw frame and blade \$40. Nine mobile home axles and springs, eight with brakes \$25 each. Or possible trade for things that take up less space. Ron Haskell 951-687-6667.

