

The Flywheel



Newsletter of the Atchelitz Threshermen's Association

Vol. 31, No.11 November 2013

"A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of our historic past"

Atchelitz Threshermen's Association
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Please send comments or submissions/articles
to the editor, John Black, at:
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Coming events

ATA Annual General Meeting
ATA Board Meeting

November 12 7:30 p.m. in the Canora

November 26 7:00 p.m. in the Canora

Around the site

Annual General Meeting

Don't forget to come to the AGM on November 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Canora. Four positions are up for election, so please consider running for office!

Vehicles

Gordon Proud recently donated a 1944 Case tractor to ATA. It's already in the workshop being rebuilt. Looks like it was well treated...few dents, etc. Dwayne Huesby said that he had found a brand new carburetor upstairs in the Pioneer and put it on the Studebaker Ace truck, and it's running like a charm. Wade Wade has done a ton of work on the 30 Ford AA, including painting it, and can be seen running it around the site! As you can see in the picture, it is a tow-truck no more! The Case tractor and the Sawyer-Massey road grader are next in line for painting.



1936 Studebaker Ace



Wade working on the Ford AA



Gordon Schley and the 1930 Ford AA



It used to be a tow-truck!



Case tractor waiting for painting



Sawyer-Massey road grader before



Sawyer-Massey still before!

Members

Harold Thiessen has had his heart surgery and is home doing well.

Yard Sale

We had such a successful yard sale during the small engine show last year, that we would like to do it again in May. We will start accepting items for the sale in January. Please take a look around and think about what you might like to donate for the sale.

Watches

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found. Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-ways had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and that was the primary way that they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years. This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of

watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them. So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit. That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest is history as they say. The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

Yes, it's a little known fact that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: **Richard Sears** and his partner **Alvah Roebuck!** (thanks to Casey Van den Dorpel)

Museum Hours

Please note that the Museum is now closed on Mondays and Thursdays until April. We will be open on Saturdays (10 am to 3 pm) as usual. The gates will be open, and visitors can have a tour anytime.

Flywheel by e-mail

Because of the high cost of printing and mailing, we would like to use e-mail as much as. To get your electronic copy with the coloured illustrations, e-mail John Black at atachw@yaho.ca.

ATA Executive Board 2013

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PR:	Stuart Vanderkooi, John Black, Richard Laffere, Donna Wurst, Deborah Dempster		
Museum:	John Black, Barb Walker, Jerry Parkhill, Dwayne Huesby, Deborah Dempster, Donna Wurst, Ig Wurst		

Board Matters

The PR Committee met recently and reported to the Board that they are planning to focus on getting the ATA better known in the community next year. The Committee will try to get our

information and hours into as many publications in the area--like the Leisure Guide--as possible. They will also identify groups which might want to tour or use our site and approach them, and ATA will start attending trade and agricultural shows in the area. The pink tractor and perhaps other vehicles will take part in the Chilliwack Christmas parade and would like to plan a Christmas event for next year at our site. We are now going to be listed as part of the Farm Circle Tour, and Stuart Vanderkooi reported that they were delighted that we wanted to join. This opens up lots of possibilities.

We have now received the report from BC Hydro about upgrading our heating and lighting in the ATA's building. The report said that because of our limited hours of operation during the year, a good business case for upgrading the lighting cannot be made. As a result, the Board decided that we will continue to replace old lights and ballasts, and that light bulbs would be replaced with the new types over time. Casey Van den Dorpel will look into the cost of replacement materials to give us a basis for planning in the future.

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 <p>OPERATOR</p> <p>604-795-3374 24 Hr Service / 7 Days a Week</p> <p>Office Address: 103- 45635 McIntosh Dr. Chilliwack. BC V2P 6V4</p> <p>Unlock • Boost • Deck Service Free Unwanted Car Removal Local & Long Distance Towing Underground • 4 x 4 Recovery Trailer Towing</p>	 <p>Vintage Car Club of Canada Chilliwack Chapter 46636 Mail: Teton Ave, Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 6M4 President: Barb Caldwell, 604-824-1807 Vice Pres: Leroy Clingwall, 604-859-4537</p> <p>Club meetings are the 1st. Tuesday of the month at the A.T.A. Canora Building at 7:30pm.</p>