

38 Annual Swap Meet at Blue Mt. Antique Gas & Steam Engine Assn.

By Michael Ortoski

Since 1987. Features fun for the entire family, with antique gas and steam engines from the past where visitors can buy, sell and swap. Sponsored by the Blue Mountain Antique Gas and Steam Engine Association.

The first meeting was held at the Windgap School in Windgap, PA. on November 2, 1971. It consisted of about twenty five people who had a common interest in restoring and preserving antique agricultural machinery and industrial equipment. This would serve to educate about the past and instill appreciation for the future. On November 2, 1971, nine people were chosen to represent the group.

They were Paul Brodt, Russell Meixell, Nelson Remel, Stanley Souders, Raymond Ittery, Ed Yankencheck, And Leonard Ritter. With \$35.00 in a hat they set out to plan an engine show for sometime in 1972. While inquiring for a location two of the executive board people left and were replaced by Ralph Schlough and Robert Waters. The group was having a lot of trouble finding a location due to rental prices and insurance problems.

A break came when they contacted Paul Dunbar who was in charge of the Jacktown Grove. The Grove was going to be open on September 2 and 3, 1972, the Labor Day weekend, and no other events were to have the grove that weekend. The group now picked a name for the newly formed club it would be known as the Blue Mountain Antique Gas & Steam Engine Association.

The stage was set for the first show at the Jacktown grove and the Association was formed. Fundraisers included bingo, a cakewalk, and an afghan to be raffled. The afghan was donated by Mrs. Meixell. The profit from the 1972 show was \$285.45. In 1973 Jacktown Grove gave the Association a better date which was July 20, 21, and 22. The 1973 show was more successful due to better advertising and more displays, which included Browie Grubb's peerless steam tractor and a display of antique cars. With the increase in profit, the association purchased buttons for the 1974 show to help advertise and to reach many more engine collectors. The association had now grown to about fifty members. 500 buttons, and brass plaques, were ordered for the 1974 show with plans for posters with pictures. A broom maker and an antique car club were invited to attend. By 1978 the Association had purchased a grain binder, sawmill, shingle mill, and a 65hp case steam traction engine. A lease was attained with the Jacktown Community Center for the engine shows location. Through a lot of work from many members, the association has grown to one of the most well know shows in the east and has been able to maintain free parking and admission, as intended by charter group back in 1971. We would welcome you to come visit and enjoy some time with us at Jacktown. "The Home of Blue Mountain Antique Gas and Steam Engine Association. Information for this history came from Stanley Souders meeting notes.

