

period of our history is revived, when old stories and yarns are told and retold.

It is a day when a quite remarkable display of vintage machinery of all shapes and sizes is gathered on a one hundred acre site portraying some of the history of mechanised farming in Ireland from the nostalgic era of the horse, through steam power, right up to the present day.

It is a day out for the family, a great occasion when north meets south and east meets west, a day when Cooley natives travel from all over to be present at their festival, and a day when there are ten times as many strangers in the Peninsula as Cooley folk.

It is a day when cross-border relationships are at their best, and when thousands of euro is collected and handed over to various charities, both north and south of the Border. This in itself makes it a very worthwhile and unique occasion.

Finally it is a day when Cooley people feel very proud of what has been achieved, a festival that is generally accepted as been the premier event of its kind in Ireland, and indeed out-rivals similar events across the water, and an occasion when Cooley folk invite all, whatever their beliefs, to break down all bridges and come and enjoy the show and the peaceful and tranquil atmosphere of their beautiful Peninsula.



Thomas E. Clarke with Brendan Kane and Tony Loughran on his hay slide.

SUPPORT FOR COOLEY 2007 WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Why tractor collectors love helping each other to break world records

A number of events have taken place over the last seven years which have completely revolutionised the global approach to collecting, restoring and displaying vintage tractors.

Traditionally tractors were displayed at open days and rallies where they became static exhibits with the odd parade. However, the South Africans, concerned that this did not bring out the best in their machines, arranged an event at Sandstone Estates, a large commercial farm in the Eastern Free State of South Africa, in 1999 and called it the 'Great 100 Working'. The object was to get more than 100 tractors working together in one field at the same time, and in the process to establish a World Record for the maximum number of vintage tractors working together. This was easily achieved with a quantity of 106 tractors. The World Record was established and recognised by the Guinness Book of Records.

In 2001 the Australians responded in their normal competitive way and put together an event which broke the World Record with a total of 298 tractors. Somewhat taken aback by this quick response, the South Africans decided to assemble 400 tractors in one field at one time in 2002 and called the event the 'Great 400 Working'. In fact, such was the enthusiastic response from South African tractor collectors and farmers, that a total of 730 tractors was officially recognised. The actual number of tractors was much greater but the organisers insisted that the tractors be pre-1960 to qualify.

Nearly 20,000 people turned up to watch this incredible display and as a result worldwide interest was ignited.

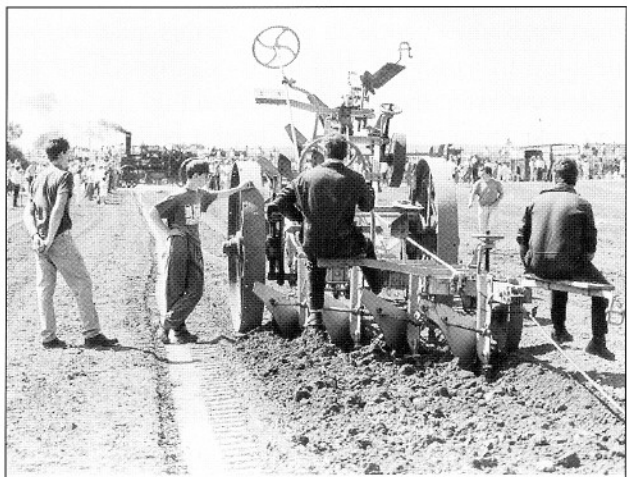
The rest, as they say, is history. The Irish responded the same year by breaking the record with 1832 tractors. Not to be outdone, the Australians lifted the bar in Cootamundra in 2004 and broke the record with 1901 tractors, although the age restriction was not rigidly enforced and the event became simply a tractor event as opposed to a vintage and classic tractor event. This formula was followed in 2006 when Britain broke the record with 2141 tractors.

The Irish, rather like the South Africans, decided that it had started as

an event for old tractors and should remain an event for old tractors. They have therefore decided to address the challenge on 5th August at Cooley. South African and Irish tractor vintage collectors have always been close, and no sooner had the ink dried on the invitations than the South Africans announced that five tractors were in a container and on their way to Ireland! For the Cooley event, tractors must be pre-1977 and the South Africans have taken this extremely seriously.

Their lineup includes an Emerson Brantingham Big 4-20 (1912), a John Deere Hi-Crop 60 (1954), a General Ordinance (Go) (1917), and a Field Marshall Series 111 (1952). Each of these tractors is an icon in its own way and certainly the Emerson Brantingham and the GO tractors are of extreme rarity. The Waterloo Boy is the charismatic machine that launched the mighty John Deere range. The Field Marshall is as British as it gets and had a huge following around the World. A spokesman for the Sandstone Heritage Trust who put this programme together, stated, "We are so delighted to support Ireland in the World Record attempt. We hope that the people of Ireland will drag their old tractors out of barns and get them ready and be there to support John Hanlon and his enthusiastic team of organisers".

Entries have already been received from the United States and we hope that other countries will also signal their support for this important event in the calendar of all vintage tractor collectors worldwide.



A big attraction at Cooley for a number of years was the 'steam ploughing' when two Fowler engines pulled a huge plough up and down the field using a wire rope pulley system.



Threshing day was 'the big day of the year' in farming circles when neighbours always arrived to give a hand.



John Hanlon at the wheel of a Waterloo Boy and Laurence Woolfe do a spot of ploughing at Cooley.