

**"IT STARTED AS AN INFORMAL SUNDAY GATHERING AND GREW INTO AN EXTRAVAGANZA"**

# 50,000 People Visit Farmer's 3-Day Show

One of the most unusual rural get-togethers we've ever seen is the yearly Little Log House Antique Power Show held each July on a farm near Hastings, Minn.

Farmer-businessman Steve Bauer and wife Sylvia of Hastings, Minn., started the show in 1990. It began as a bunch of friends and neighbors getting together to look at gas engines and an old log cabin on Bauer's farm. It quickly grew into an annual event that's now attended by more than 50,000 people over a 3-day period.

This is more than just an antique tractor show. Bauer has restored an entire pioneer village, moving all the buildings to his farm. He also built a giant replica of a famous Minnesota spiral bridge. And, of course, there are plenty of antique tractors, cars, engines, and other equipment.

Every year a different kind of farm equipment is showcased. This year's show featured Oliver tractors and Economy "hit and miss" gas engines. Next year the show will host the annual International Harvester Red Power Roundup where "anything International" will be shown.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve and Sylvia Bauer, 13746 220th St., Hastings, Minn. 55033 (ph 651 437-2693 or 1973).



The Bauers built this old-time blacksmith shop which is part of an entire pioneer village. The shop contains a hearth and tools that operate off shafts and pulleys. The limestone walls and floor were salvaged from the foundation of an old barn.



Home-built water wheel, shed, and bridge are nestled beside a dug-out pond. During the show the water wheel is used to grind flour.



The site contains a spiral bridge that's an exact replica of one that spanned the Mississippi River in Hastings, Minn. for many years before it was demolished. The replica was designed and engineered by Mike Wagner from a photo and was completed in 1995 on the bridge's 100th anniversary. The entire bridge is 240 ft. long and has a 14-ft. wide deck. The truss span is 110 ft. long, 16 ft. wide, and rises 20 ft. above the water. An old grain elevator stands nearby, also on Bauer's farm.



Most impressive building in the village is a 2/3-scale replica of St. Boniface Catholic Church, a Gothic Revival church from Hastings, Minn., that was scheduled to be torn down two years ago. Bauer reconstructed the original building to scale in exact detail, keeping the all-brick exterior, ornate woodwork, pews, and stained glass windows. The rectory is on one side of church and the original bell tower stands proudly on the other side (the full-size bell tower was too big for the down-sized church). The bell can still be rung by pulling on a rope.



Horse-drawn hearse with glass sides and back was restored to its original condition. The Bauers also own a horse-drawn pall bearer buggy that seats six people. During the show it's used to give rides over the bridge (see photo at right).



Bauer restored this 1912 Flour City 40-70 tractor with the help of Ray Nicolai, Jr. "It was built in Minneapolis, Minn., by Kinnard-Haines Co. and was shipped by rail in 1912 to Lambert Heesacker in Humphrey, Neb.," says Bauer. "We found it there in 1992, still owned by the same family."

## Want To See More?

If you'd like to see more of Bauer's unique on-farm show, you might want to get a copy of our new video, "Best Of FARM SHOW - Volume IV." Our camera crew attended this year's show in July and we've got the story on our latest video. To find out more about the video, see page 43 or call FARM SHOW at 1 800-834-9665.