The 10 wagon, 36 horse hitch hauled 1,500 bu. of wheat from Gleichen to the Calgary Stampede.

Photo courtesy Deryk Bodington

How About This — A 36 Horse Hitch!

It began in the early 1920's as a friendly rivalry between Slim Moorehouse and Harry Allen of the Vulcan-Arrowood district of southern Alberta, Can., as to who could haul the most grain.

Twelve, 16 and 20 horse teams were used, each trying to outdo the other. Interest became so great that the Canadian Percheron Association took up the idea, and with horses borrowed from various ranchers of the area a 36 horse hitch of Percherons was assembled.

In July, 1925, a 10 wagon outfit loaded with 1500 bu. of wheat set out from Gleichen for the Calgary Stampede. Billed as "the longest team in the world," with six outriders, a wagonmaster, and an accompanying chuckwagon, the outfit appeared in the Stampede Parade. The team was able to turn on a city block corner, thanks to special hitches devised for the occasion. Two of them involved in the record-setting event are still around: Walter Ward lives at Brooks, Alberta, and Ted Bartsch at Pouce Coupe, British Columbia.

George Ward, chairman of the Stockmen's Foundation of Calgary, recently unearthed the story and 58-year old picture of the event.

(Reprinted courtesy Western People magazine, Sask., Can.)

Jeanette Eichacker photo

Two Percherons pulled the 1886 hearse to the cemetery.

Wisconsin Company Rents Grain Dryers

By Doug Sorenson

Next grain harvest season, you might want to eliminate the hassle of trucking your grain from farm to elevator and back to get it dried. Instead, you might consider renting on-the-farm drying equipment.

This service is just getting started in a few areas and is probably going to become more popular. Proponents say it's cheaper than owning or leasing drying equipment, or trucking to the local elevator.

One successful dryer rental service is R.T. Enterprises in western Wisconsin, which completed its first season in 1982. The company rents a 220-bu. and a 180-bu. American dryer to farmers. The dryers are on trailers for easy transport, and the rental system includes a 580-bu. or 680-bu. wet bin and two augers. The farmer furnishes his own LP gas.

"All this rents for a fee of 15 cents per bushel dried," says Rick Kitchner, owner. "One auger goes from the wet bin to the dryer and the other from the dryer to the grain bin. The farmer needs to furnish only an auger to the wet bin."

The smaller unit will dry 100 bu./hr. and the big one 180 bu./hr. Last year, the typical customer dried 8,000-9,000 bu. of corn. Running on a 24-hour basis, that tied up the small dryer for four days and the big one for 2½ days per customer.

The company's rental fee covers all maintenance and insurance on the equipment.

What are the advantages of renting a dryer over owning, leasing, or drying at the elevator?

"Lower cost and more convenience," answers Kitchner, "but you also get better quality because you can regulate the time and temperature of your drying. Also, you keep your own corn rather than getting back somebody else's as you do at the elevator."

Beloved Rodeo Booster Gets Cowboy Farewell

By Jeanette Eichacker

A local bystander estimated it had been over half a century since a horse-drawn hearse had entered the gates of St. Mary's cemetery west of Salem, So. Dak.

Late one afternoon last January, an 1886 hearse, pulled by a pair of husky, black Percherons, bearing the casket of Ben L. Brune, 81, of rural Sioux Falls, wound its way to the gravesite near a row of aged, tall pines.

Brune's life began at Salem in 1901, where he was born on the farm south of Salem. Most area horsemen knew him as his credits include past president of the Hiawatha Horseman Assn. and Sioux Empire Saddle Club and first sponsor of the March of Dimes Trail Ride.

In 1945 Brune began the Flying B Rodeo Co. at Soldier Field, Chicago, and brought rodeo to South Dakota. He helped many cowboys get their start in rodeo and his home was referred to as a "mutual gathering place" for horse lovers and rodeo riders.

Brune was always willing to let kids ride his horses and raised many young cowboys. Some professional rodeo riders credit their success to him.

Expansion to more units will depend on what happens in the government's set-aside and payment-in-kind grain programs. Also, the rental fee is adjusted to be in line with corn prices and the moisture content of corn.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Kitchner, R.T. Enterprises, Highway 25 S., Menomonie, Wis. 54751 (ph 715 235-6854).

So Brune's friends felt it was only fitting to give him a cowboy funeral. Six pallbearers on horseback led the way from the McCook Country Club lot where the transfer of the casket was made from the modern, sleek, black limousine to the vintage, horse-drawn hearse for the final ride to the snow-swept cemetery. Mourners said Brune died with no undue suffering "with his boots on" going to aid a friend. They mentioned his abilities as a left-handed roper and a bulldogger.

Brune had said, "You've always got to have a big grand entry."

His friends gave him an extraordinary, grand farewell "I've entered the hearse in several area parades where it has won "best of the show" awards. However, Ben Brune's was the first funeral for which we were asked to participate." Ken Tschetter, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., told FARM SHOW. He bought the 1886 horse-drawn hearse, built in 1886, and still in mint condition, five years ago at an auction in Scenic, S. Dak. "People nowadays are taller and the caskets longer. Consequently, modern caskets barely fit inside these old horse-drawn hearses. If one was too long, the rear doors could be left partially open to accommodate it." he points out.

Tschetter adds that he'd be willing to "go most anywhere" with his horses and hearse to participate in funerals for hire. "We could bring along extra buggies and carriages for the mourners, dignitaries or whatever to put on as elaborate a funeral as the family wanted."

For details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Tschetter, 4100 Ash Groove, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. 57103 (ph 605 334-4987).