

March 2009

# HIT & MISS

Journal of the Western Antique Power Associates

## THE FIRST WOMAN BOILERMAKER

Frank Moody recently told me the story of his aunt, Frances Meskimen. Frances lived in Roxana, Oklahoma, during the big oil boom of the early twentieth century.

Frances' husband, Ross, ran the Roxana Boiler and Welding Works. The company served the wildcat oil drilling operations in the region. They had to be available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Work had to be completed in the least amount of time, because shut-downs were extremely costly to the drillers.

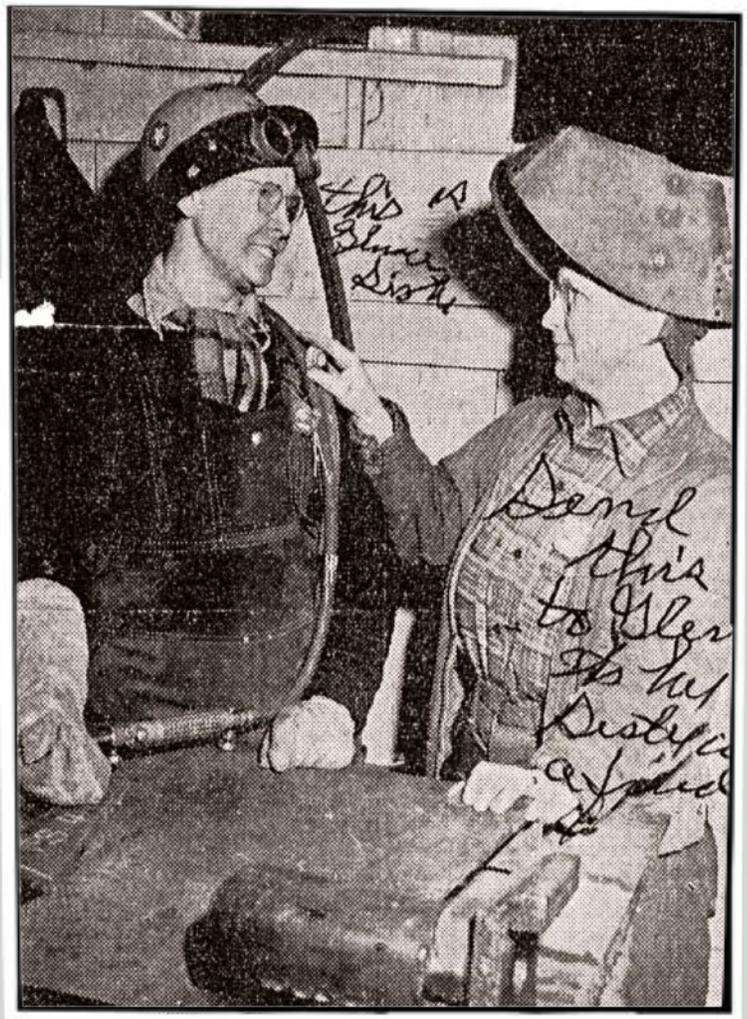
Re-tubing boilers was the most lucrative job for the company, because it was a big job and had to be completed quickly. They used their own invention, de-scaler that was powered by a gasoline engine. It would cut days off of a retubing job.

Frances said of the work, "A man's size job it was, this boilermaking. Heavy work, day and night, but even so, I got a terrific bang out of it all."

In 1924, Frances received national fame as the only lady boilermaker in the world.

During World War II, Frances served our country as a burner at the Sea-Tac shipyard.

Today, Frances Meskimen is immortalized at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, located in Richmond, California. You can visit the park online at <http://www.nps.gov/rori>.



*Frances Meskimen and Louise Hall, both shipbuilders, are shown here at the Sea-Tac shipyard on Puget Sound.*

This article was written by Rob Skinner with the help and resources of Frank Moody and H. Frances Meskimen MacCannell, PhD.

# From Vice President Bob Swan

A new year has begun and I'm hoping and praying for a bright and progressive 2009 for all WAPA members and loved ones, and I hope we can grow our membership with new and dedicated members.

Toward that end, I believe that Larry Madole's Fun Day-Swap Meet-Get Together on January 10, 2009 was an excellent idea and start for the year. Thank you Larry for your dedication, thoughtfulness, and hard work. Perhaps some of the guests and friends from other clubs will choose to join WAPA also and help us grow and realize some of our some of our dreams and goals, such as a museum and permanent home.

There is, however, an underlying for me taking pen in hand and trying to reach each member by the same medium, Rob Skinner's Hit & Miss Journal, and report that I have heard some hissing and unrest from a few members about the stagnation of the Club and perhaps some of the actions that the Board IS or IS NOT taking to appease every one.

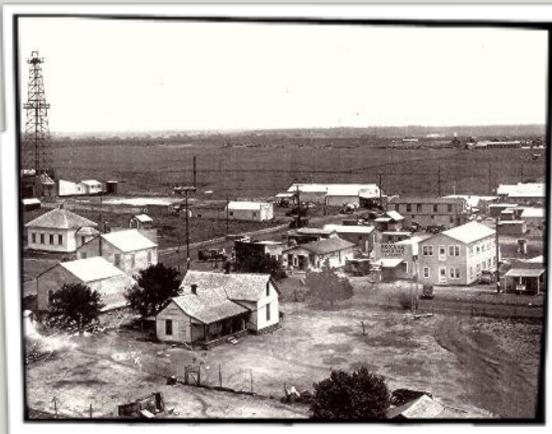
I want to plead with these members and future members that you are invited, in fact encouraged to attend our monthly meetings and bring your thoughts and desires to us in person.

If it is inconvenient or impossible to attend meetings, you can contact any Board Member. You can reach all of them by mail, wire or internet.

Have A Happy New Year and keep smiling.

Bob Swan

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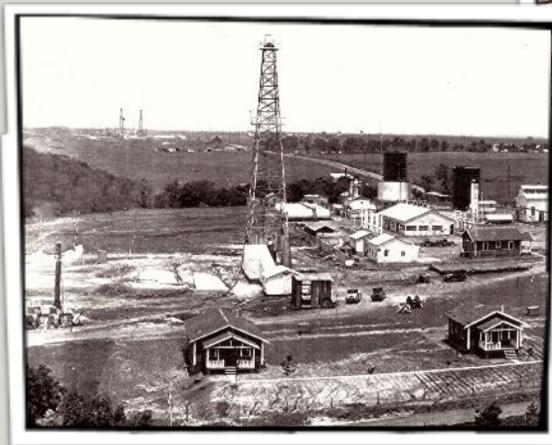
*City of  
Roxana,  
Oklahoma*



*Roxana  
Boiler &  
Welding  
Works*



*Ross  
Meskiman  
on a  
retubing job*



*Refinery in  
Roxana*



*Automatic  
tube  
descaler  
invented by  
Ross  
Meskiman*

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Board members present: Tom Millett, Joe Siddons, Leroy Overstreet, Jim Davis, Wayne Mabb, Kelly Garcia, Bob Smith, Craig Maxwell & Bob Swan.

Board member excused: Jack Johnson.

Members present: Gus Lukrofka, Dan Kato, Rob Skinner & William Ward.

Visitor: None.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Wayne Mabb.

Flag salute led by Bob Smith.

### REPORTS:

President: Wayne Mabb welcomed everyone on a rather stormy evening.

Vice President: VP Bob Swan reported that he got a call from Bill Leuer in Riverside inviting WAPA to his annual display of machines and artifacts on Saturday, 2-14-09. Bob encouraged any who can attend to do so.

Secretary: The minutes of the January 9, 2009 board meeting were approved with one correction. Dave Ruhland attended the meeting, but was not listed in the minutes. Minutes were approved with that correction on motion by Tom Millett, seconded by Bob Smith.

Treasurer: Treasurer Kelley Garcia passed around a detailed report for the 2008 year, and a current accounting of the treasury. Total income for 2008 was \$5,180.85. Total expenses for 2008 were \$6070.58. Total

loss for the year was \$889.73. It should be noted that printing of a large order of cook books, fliers and corn meal recipes accounted for \$1307.66 of the annual expense.

Membership: Jim Davis reported that Eric Hazelwood is a new member. Hazelwood was President of the club in the year of 1981. His application was approved unanimously by the board.

Beverly Helm sent in her dues along with a donation to the bereavement fund in memory of Bill Stuber, Joan Kato & Jack Hargreaves.

To date, 79 renewals, or 59% of the members have so far renewed their memberships. 37 members have not renewed.

Tom Millett read the memo sent to Rob Skinner by Mike Jones. The matter was held for new business.

Purchasing: Leroy Overstreet had nothing to report.

Museum: Craig Maxwell has not been able to get in touch with San Bernardino County Parks Director Phil Krause. Craig has talked with Tom Dodson about completing the EIR. Tom stated he has not been given direction by the county to complete it.

Library: Jack Johnson absent. Tom stated that Jack told him that he has noticed the floor of the library was sagging.

Shows: The 13th annual Highland Show set for March 28th was sanctioned on motion

by Millett and seconded by Swan. The Tulare Show is set for April 17-18-19th. There is a breakfast committee being formed. The Antique Truck Show is set for May 3rd in Perris this year at the Train Museum and not at March Field Museum. It was sanctioned on motion by Smith and seconded by Maxwell. The Cal Poly Car Show is being held on May 9th. This year Don Hunter has agreed to take his personally manufactured Holt tractor. He has found a trucker to move the machine for \$300.00, and is asking WAPA to find funds for the move. On a motion by Smith and seconded by Millett, the board approved for WAPA to contribute \$150 toward the move if there is no trucker that will do it for free. Bob Smith then asked for, and received, personal contributions in the amount of \$150 from members present.

Safety: Joe Siddons had nothing new to report. The fire extinguishers are in compliance for our Highland Show.

Editor Report: Rob Skinner addressed the response of an ad in the Western Antique Iron Trader.

Unfinished Business: Jim Davis brought up the bereavement fund and consideration to set up a memorial fund rather than making individual contributions. The fund would be used in either establishing an individual lasting memorial remembrance rather than money to the next of kin.

## Board Meeting Minutes (continued)

This fund could establish lasting remembrance of our members that have past away. If WAPA eventually has a museum site, we could have a brick walk of memorial. On motion by Millett and seconded by Siddons, and approved by the board, a memorial fund is established for the benefit of those family members of the first degree who have suffered the loss by death of a WAPA member. It provides that they may direct their bereavement money, or any other donation in the name of their lost relative, into that memorial fund for permanent remembrance.

Discussion was centered about having anymore ads in the Western Antique Iron Trader. It was agreed to place an ad directed toward WAPA being present the Tulare Show.

**New Business:** Tom Millett presented a proposed President's plaque being considered. Ron Haskell will be preparing the plaque and Tom will get the name plates stamped out at \$2.00 apiece. No board action needed. Don Hunter is donating a Holt brass throttle control for the plaque.

The issue of multiple years paying of dues was discussed. It was determined that it was very difficult to maintain record to do multiple year paying of dues. However, it was agreed that reminder phone calls would be in order and will continue to be done.

Adjournment: 8:55pm

Tom Millett, Secretary

## Upcoming Events

### Board of Directors Meeting March 13, Friday, 7:00 p.m.

The WAPA Board of Directors meeting is held at Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have ideas on how WAPA can become a better club, or if you just want to come and join in the festivities, please join us.

Heritage Park Rd. is located just south of Telegraph Road just west of Norwalk Boulevard. The meeting is held in the train depot next to the steam locomotive.

### Highland Citrus Festival March 28, Saturday

WAPA will be kicking off the 2009 Show Calendar with the 13th Annual Highland Citrus Harvest Festival on Saturday, March 28 from 10:00am to 3:30pm in Highland's Historic District on Center Street. Plenty of room to display and plenty of close parking for your trucks and trailers. Bring your own water, shade, and lunch if

you don't want to partake in the many food vendors available.

Directions: From the 10 Fwy in Redlands take 210/30 North. Exit Baseline street and turn left. Turn right at Church Ave. Take Church to the end and turn left onto Pacific Street. Go 1 Block to Center Street. Turn left and set up on either side of the street.

### Tulare Tulare Tulare! April 17-19 Friday thru Sunday

This is the biggest engine show in California. If you've been, no need to read further. Just don't forget to make your hotel reservations.

If you've never been, well, what are you waiting for? Just point your truck northbound, take the 5 to the 99, and follow the signs for the Agri-Center in Tulare. More details can be found at [www.farmshow.org](http://www.farmshow.org). If you preregister, you don't have to do so at the gate when you arrive.

## Editor's Message

This month's issue of the Hit & Miss was created completely from scratch using new software. The goal is to streamline the publication and to start fresh in trying to accurately reproduce colors. As luck would have it, there aren't many colors to reproduce in this issue. Next month the Hit & Miss will be a little late, as it will include a report from the Highland Show, which doesn't occur until the end of the month. Hope to see everyone there. Until then, be well and play safe. -Rob Skinner [editor@wapa.us](mailto:editor@wapa.us)