

In 1985 John Troutman, Tom Krause and Ross Hancock along with John's nephew Charlie and Ross's son Shane put together a number of antique engines along with other antique farm items in a display at the old County Shop at the corner of Cty. Hwy. 140 and Holman. The interest that came from the people in the community inspired these men to make plans for the next year 1986. The second was another great success and it began to draw other people with the same idea.

In 1987 these same men met with the County Fair Board and secured a place on the fair grounds, the north east corner of said grounds that AVF uses today. There were some problems that year and a decision was made to move next door to the Mehos place. In 1988 and 1989 they had a few more exhibitors join them and had two great years. At that time they moved two buildings belonging to John Troutman onto the grounds to house some of the displays. In the fall of 1989 because of some insurance issues and also they settled their differences with the Fair Board and moved the two buildings back onto the fair grounds.

We know these two buildings today as the mercantile and blacksmith shop. At this point today it is not sure where they put the buildings and held their show for 1990. Sometime in 1990 the original club was formed and called Arkansas Valley Antique Power and Equipment Association. Officers were elected, a membership roll started and they chose "*Preserving the Past to Show the Future*" as their purpose.

In these first few years we must say thank you to John Troutman, Tom Krause, and Ross Hancock for giving us today the inspiration to keep doing what you started.