

park's collection of old steam engines, many of which he himself has studied, acquired and restored.

"I guess I just like playing with old toys," he said.

His massive early CASE tractors ran thrashing machines to separate kernels from wheat stalks in the early 20th Century.

Meanwhile, at the logging museum, energetic young people will demonstrate and compete in logrolling, chain-saw cutting, tree climbing and axe throwing. A short distance from there, visitors can ride on an historic trolley, a

gigantic steam tractor and on a miniature railroad.

For decades, attendees have swarmed to see the "Parade of Power," presented each day at noon. Volunteers drive an impressive procession of tractors, roaring, steaming and clattering, around a half-mile track.

In 2020, the Oregon Heritage Commission recognized the Great American Steam-Up with an Oregon Heritage Tradition designation. The Steam-Up, said Katie Henry of the Heritage Commission, "allows Oregonians the opportunity to ... learn

about the history of machinery and farm equipment. It's also a unique event that contributes to the heritage tourism of the area."

These days, the park is run entirely by more than 700 enthusiastic volunteers from all walks of life that work to honor the beginnings of this exceptional place. Tomczyk said that he and other volunteers gladly take on the challenges "because we feel a need to preserve our history in an active way, not just in the written record."

"We want to give back to our community in a way that is enjoyed by others,"

Tomczyk said, "and hope that some of our efforts and enthusiasm will outlast us, and be enjoyed well into the future."

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