

AGRICULTURE

Massey in Perth

The link between Massey-Ferguson and Western Australia, was first established in Perth, as far back as 1909.

At that time, both the Massey-Harris Co. of Canada and the Australian H.V. McKay Company (which became Massey-Ferguson (Australia) almost fifty years later), set up arrangements to sell agricultural machinery to Western Australian farmers.

The H.V. McKay organisation elected to use an agent, William Sandover & Co., initially for their representation. In those early days, parts and machines arrived at Fremantle Harbour by ship and parts were moved by barge to the Perth city wharves at the bottom of Barrack and William Streets.

During 1930, as a result of restrictive Tariff laws governing the import into Australia of farm equipment, the Massey-Harris Co. and H.V. McKay Pty. Ltd. formed an amalgamation and the new Company known as H.V. McKay Massey-Harris Pty. Ltd., began its Perth operation.

As a key element in its Australian distribution network, the Massey-Ferguson Perth Branch services the requirements of a comprehensive dealer group stretching northward beyond Geraldton, to Albany on the southern shores of the state . . . eastward to Southern Cross. These dealers, in turn, cater for the equipment needs of agricultural end-users and industrial machinery operations throughout the length and breadth of the territory. In a State which contributes substantially to the nation's granaries . . . where large tracts of agricultural land are given over to cereal cropping . . . the Company's grain harvest machinery has always maintained a proven reputation for performance and reliability. This high level of acceptance by the farm community continues to be a significant aspect of Massey-Ferguson's healthy participation in the W.A. market place thanks to the contribution made by both Sunshine (Victoria) and Brantford (Ontario) manufactured grain combines.

The Symonds Story:

Farm tillage systems in Australia and Canada are being advanced by a unique trading arrangement between two machinery manufacturers.

Symonds Products of Perth, Western Australia has teamed up with Leon Manufacturing Co. of Saskatchewan in a product exchange arrangement that is setting new agricultural trends in both countries.

Darrell Symonds, a farmer, turned manufacturer, has earned the title of Australia's fastest growing machinery manufacturer, with the high volume production of heavy blade ploughs and scrub rakes for land clearing, and air seeders and cultivator bars for crop sowing.

Many Australian farmers who initially purchased Symonds blade ploughs for land clearing were later encouraged by Darrell to turn them to soil renovation and moisture conservation work.

His conviction was that after decades of fast disc ploughing and scarifying, most Australian farm soils

had been extensively damaged, and that the Canadian concept of conservation tillage was the most suitable means of soil reclamation.

The heavy blade plough quickly proved that deep tillage without disturbing the topsoil could increase moisture retention and crop production as well as controlling erosion and salt encroachment. However, the big units were too limited for broadacre application.

Darrell Symonds first saw the range of Leon tillage equipment at a field day in Australia and soon after was in Canada for talks with the company's principal Leon Malinowski.

Within 13 months Symonds Products was Leon's leading world distributor of the Canadian made range of chisel-sweep ploughs, rod weeders, harrows and rock pickers, and the company has lifted its Canadian imports from 45 containers last year to 100 this year.

Conversely, Leon Malinowski was quick to see the potential of the Symonds airflow seeder, and after a highly successful demonstration to Canadian farmers entered into a manufacturing agreement with Symonds.

The first 100 Canadian built Symonds seeders have just been completed and will go to eager buyers in both Canada and the United States.

As airseeding takes over in North America and conservation tillage continues to expand rapidly in Australia, both Symonds and Leon are destined to play an increasing role in the agricultural economies of both countries.



Mr Darrell Symonds with the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture, Mr R.C. Old. Mr Symonds is holding an award from Leon, Canada.