
ANTIQUÉ ENGINE & TRACTOR ASSOCIATION, INC.

MARCH 2007 NEWSLETTER

“Roger’s Comments”

March came in like a lion so let’s hope it follows the “ole wives tale” and goes out like a lamb. If our membership follows the population of the Quad City area, one forth to one third of you lost electricity the end of February long enough for your house to get cold. We hope none of you had any serious long-term effects. So much for my comments on the weather this month.

Our March meeting has been changed because of a change in our program. Bob and Tom DePauw will explain their organic farming practices and what they do to comply with the requirements on their farm. This is different from the farming most of us remember as kids or as farming is practiced on the farm down the road. The location has also been changed to the Lounge area of Trappers’ Creek Grill in Geneseo. This fairly new restaurant is located on the south side of town just north of the old Deck Motel and south of the new Culver’s restaurant. They open at 8:00 AM and we will order off the menu about 8:30 with the program starting about 9:20.

On the 21st of April we have arranged a Plow Day on Rich VanWynsberghe’s farm. The location is some 3 miles south and 4 miles west of Atkinson. Directions will be better defined in the April newsletter telling how to find the farm from Geneseo. All visitors are welcome to come and watch but this is an event for members to participate. We are going to be plowing about 10 acres of alfalfa sod on some hills. This will test some of those older tractors. If we have time and enough plows, we may try to also turn over some creek bottom ground. As we are guests, please don’t bring a plow too large for your tractor or a plow that will not scour. You don’t have a plow? Contact us and we will try to have a few plows for you to use. We plan to have some “experts” available to help you adjust your plow if you so need but it would be best if you had the furrow wheel adjusted to the proper setting before that day.

Plans for our Rural Heritage Day in May are progressing. We will have breakfast and lunch in the main building. Please spread the word to all your friends to come and enjoy the day. Help us make the day enjoyable for them.

Demonstrations we would like: Quilting; rug weaving; basket making; cream separating; butter making; pressing apple juice; rope making; and many

more. We want to have a blacksmith; be able to run the tractor dynamotor; shell and grade corn for planting; and many more. What can you bring to demonstrate? Contact any Board Member or me. All people doing demonstrations will receive a free button and a breakfast or lunch ticket.

Yes, we will have an area for buying and selling old iron; literature; craft items; and flea market items. All vendors selling items will be registered for \$10 (another \$10 if you need electricity) and that will get them a button.

Gate admission is free and a Rural Heritage Day button will be available for \$3. We have space and will be happy to have you display any items that were used in rural America in the early 1900’s.

Remember that guests are always welcome at any general membership meeting. With our varied topics being discussed, some meetings may be of more interest than others for your guest but you can be the judge of that.

See you soon. Roger Mixer, President

The February AETA General meeting

About 30 AETA members braved the aftermath of an overnight snowstorm to attend the breakfast meeting at the Farmer’s Table Family Restaurant in Cordova arranged by Lenzy Stickler.

The program, presented by Francis Venhuizen and Bill Sharer, was a history of the Massey-Harris Company and their experiences in collecting M-H tractors and equipment. Francis is a past fall show exhibitor, and Bill is an AETA member and frequent exhibitor. Francis’ interest in antique tractors began in the early 1990’s after attending the Mt. Pleasant show, and his focus on M-H tractors dates back to his father’s purchase of a M-H 101 Jr. in 1945.

After extensive searching, he bought a 1945 101 Jr., and later added a 1949 Pony (seen at an East Davenport show), and a 1946 Model 81 located in Wisconsin. He also owns a M-H plow and a Field Pulverizer.

Bill’s interest in M-H products dates back to his employment in a M-H dealership. His tractor collection includes a 1949 “44”, a “33”, and a “22”, all restored. He also owns a restored M-H “50” pull-type combine, 7 ft.

No. 6 semi-mounted mower, and a M-H 3-bottom plow. In addition to his work at the M-H dealership, he later was employed in a body shop. His fall show exhibit is always a “stand out”– mechanically as well as excellent painting and finish.

M-H History

Like many other current and former farm equipment companies, Massey-Harris resulted from the merger of two firms - those owned by Daniel Massey and Alanson Harris in 1891 in Canada. Massey had begun manufacturing implements in 1847, and Harris had purchased a small factory in about 1857 and was manufacturing implements. Massey and Harris were number one and two, respectively, in Canada before merging.

Massey-Harris entered the U. S. market in 1910 by purchasing a controlling interest in the Johnston Harvester Company of Batavia, New York. The company entered the tractor business in 1928 by purchasing the J .I. Case Plow Works, but immediately sold its rights to the “Case” name to the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Co.

Although expansion was limited during WWII, the company convinced the war production regulators of the need for marketing their newly designed M-H self-propelled combines to facilitate small-grain harvesting and thus aid the war effort. The result was the famous “harvest brigade” of 1944.

Due to the financial stress in agriculture in the post-war period, increased competition in the farm equipment industry, and lack of a strong dealer organization, M-H merged with the Harry Ferguson Company in 1953, and the new company (M-F) acquired Perkins, Ltd. in 1958.



Bill Sharer and Francis Venhuizen

Reported by Fred Stickler

The Early Massey-Harris Company

By Larry Gay

Our story begins in 1847 when Daniel Massey bought a small machine shop near Newcastle, Ontario, and started manufacturing farm implements. Daniel's son, Hart, soon joined the business and he obtained the Canadian manufacturing rights to a popular U.S. mower and reaper. More factory buildings were added after a hay rake was added to the line and a railroad was built through the area, which expanded the company's area of distribution. In 1880, the company built a larger factory in Toronto and moved its operations there.

Allanson Harris followed a similar path with the purchase of a small factory in 1857. His son, John, obtained the rights to manufacture in Canada another brand of popular U.S. mower and reaper. In 1871 the Harris Company built a new factory in Brantford, Ontario, which was doubled in size in six years. As reapers evolved into binders, the Massey and Harris companies became the two major players in the binder business in Canada. Finally, the two companies decided to stop battling each other and joined forces in 1891 as the Massey-Harris Company. In response to this merger, the Patterson and Wisner companies decided to merge and then before the year was out, agreed to be purchased by Massey-Harris. The next year, Massey-Harris expanded again by buying 40 percent of the Verity Plow Company and moving its operations to the former Wisner factory in Brantford. Then in 1910, the company expanded into the U.S. by purchasing the Johnston Harvester Company of Batavia, New York.

Massey-Harris entered the tractor business in late 1916 when it became the Canadian distributor for the Big Bull Tractor, which was rated at 12 drawbar horsepower and 24 horsepower on the belt. This three-wheel tractor with one drive wheel and a 2-cylinder opposed horizontal engine was first sold in 1915 as the improved replacement for the Bull tractor, which was built in 1914. The Bull models were the first small tractors that Midwest farmers could afford and were the sensation of the 1914 and 1915 tractor demonstrations. However, the Big Bull tractor was plagued by reliability problems and Massey-Harris stopped selling it at the end of 1917.

The second attempt of the Massey-Harris Company to enter the tractor business consisted of building a new factory near Toronto in Weston, Ontario, and assembling the Massey-Harris No. 1 tractor in 1919. This tractor was based on the Parrott tractor built in Chicago and was powered by a 4-cylinder Buda engine

for a rating of 12-22 horsepower. It was characterized by two large diameter front wheels and a radiator mounted parallel with the length of the tractor. Massey-Harris No. 2 was an improved version of No. 1 with shields over the bull gears. Massey-Harris No. 3, with an increased power rating of 15-28 and the radiator mounted crosswise, was built in 1922 and 1923.

In 1927, Massey-Harris made its third attempt at the tractor market by distributing the Wallis tractor built by the J. I. Case Plow Works of Racine, Wisconsin. The Wallis tractor was a success in the marketplace and in 1928 Massey-Harris purchased the J. I. Case Plow Works. Now, Massey-Harris had a line of tractors, a tractor factory in Racine, and additional dealers in the U.S. Massey-Harris sold their rights to the J. I. Case name to the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, which eliminated the confusion caused by having two J. I. Case companies in Racine. The standard-tread Wallis 20-30 tractor, built from 1926 to 1932 with a 4-cylinder vertical engine and a 2f-1r transmission, was "certified" to meet its horsepower ratings. In 1929, the Wallis 12-20 standard-tread tractor was added as a little brother of the 20-30. Both Wallis models were painted gray with red wheels and featured the combination boilerplate frame and crankcase.

REVISITING THE JOHN DEERE

1941-42 PRICE BOOK

By Fred Stickler

Have you ever wondered about the original retail price of an antique tractor you now own? With the "**Price List, John Deere Plow Company, Omaha Nebraska**" effective October 14, 1941, I can estimate the selling price of my 1941 Model "B" shipped from Waterloo in mid 1941. (Note the picture.)



Model "B" tractors with steel wheels and 4-speed transmissions (9 versions) were listed separately from those shipped on rubber tires with 6-speed transmissions (17 versions). The information quoted from the price book for my tractor is:

MODEL "B" GENERAL PURPOSE TRACTOR 1941 Type

Base equipment includes 6-speed transmission, manually controlled radiator shutters, with Guard, Muffler, Air Stack, Platform with Seat Support and Brake Latch, Adjustable Drawbar, Built-in Power Shaft.

My tractor, assuming the tire sizes have remained the same is detailed as follows:
No.154 Model "B" Tractor with 6-speed forward transmission with front wheels fitted with 5.00 x 16 4-ply tires with disk rear wheels fitted with 10-38 4-ply tires.

Weight: 3026 pounds

Price: \$960.50

Available factory installed options:

Power lift.....\$50.00

Starting equipment with generator (less battery).....\$51.75

Lighting equipment only with generator (less battery).\$44.00

Starting and Lighting equipment with generator (less battery)...\$60.50

I am fortunate to have the use of this book. The daughters of the former owner of my hometown John Deere dealership recently found it.

On the lighter side: "Groaners"

1. Energizer Bunny Arrested & Charged with Battery.
2. A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative
3. Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.
4. A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter
5. Without geometry, life is pointless.
6. A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

*****BULLETIN BOARD*****

FOR SALE: 1959 730 ES diesel. SOLD. 30 inch aluminum topper with locks, 8 foot full size, used very little, \$150. *Larry Goodwin 309-944-2670 eve. Or 309-945-1666 and leave message. (f)*

FOR SALE: John Deere corn 1290 planter parts; Drive wheels & tires less hubs, rubber press wheels, tongue, & some boxes all excellent condition. Cheap *Ken Frisk (309) 936-7330 after 6 p.m. weekdays.*

FOR SALE: 1968 JD 112 Hyd lift w/ front & back lift brackets, rebuilt engine, new seat, front tires & wheel bearings, Head light. Only needs paint \$850. 1975 JD 200 overhauled engine, mower deck, ag tread; complete & straight \$700. 1971 Massey Ferguson 12 Headlights, excellent chrome, exhaust shield, snow thrower, parts tractor, engine runs \$800. *Dave Carton (309)441-5915 (j)*

FREE: *Classified ads for club members. Your ad will run for three months. Send ad information to Neil West, 6205 Shadowbrook Dr, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 Phone 563-332-5501 E-mail nlwest@mchsi.com*

2007 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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*****CLUB ACTIVITIES*****

MARCH EVENTS

General Meeting: *Saturday Mar. 24th at the Trapper's Grill (located behind the Subway a couple of blocks north of the I-80 interchange) Doors open at 8:00 a.m. breakfast from menu at 8:30. Bob and Tom DePauw will present a program on Organic Farming.*

APRIL EVENTS

Board meeting: *Monday, Apr. 2, 6:00PM. Trappers' Creek Grill in Geneseo*

Plow Day: *Saturday, April 21st plow at the Rich VanWynsberghe's farm. The location is some 3 miles south and 4 miles west of Atkinson. More details to follow.*

MAY EVENTS

Heritage Day: *Saturday May 12.*

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