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# ANTIQUUE ENGINE & TRACTOR ASSOCIATION, INC.

## MAY 2007 NEWSLETTER

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### “Roger’s Comments”

Thanks to those who participated in our Plow Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. The weather was perfect, the tractors worked hard and the plows scoured. Read more about this in another article.

Thanks to Tom Hitzhusen and G. T. Frimml for seeding the oats on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. This is the start of crops for our Working Farm Show in September.

Rural Heritage Day is here. Please come on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, bring your friends and enjoy the day. The coffee will be on, breakfast and lunch will be available in the main building. We will be looking for help in the kitchen and preparation before that day. If you are called for help, please say YES if you can be of assistance.

We are always looking for demonstrations of life on the farm from 1900 to 1950. Remember that each person demonstrating will get a free button and lunch. Contact any Board Member or me if you can help.

In addition to our demonstrations, we will have an area for selling any items you want to dispose of that is remotely related to our hobby. So if you bought tractors, engines, parts, tools, literature in the past and don't need it today, you can try to sell it on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We have space and will be happy to talk to you about any crafts you make or flea market items you might be thinking to sell. Remember, all people 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.

The Board at the last meeting created a Grounds & Care Committee consisting of Skip Farnam, Dick Zobrist and myself. We expect to recruit a group of people to help do the mowing, general maintenance and small improvements to keep our buildings and grounds current, fresh and inviting. Let us know how you can help.

We have updated our web site. Check us out at [www.atkinson-engine-tractor-assoc.com](http://www.atkinson-engine-tractor-assoc.com) and let us know what you think. We are always looking for suggestions to make it more informative and inviting.

2007 Show Flyers will be available at the Rural Heritage Day for pick up and distribution to your friends.

Remember the Geneseo Father's Day Parade on the 17th of June. Contact Larry Goodwin for additional information.

The Annual Farm & Fleet Show is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July in Geneseo. Again, Larry Goodwin is heading up the team working on this event.

See you soon. Roger Mixer, President

### **PLOW DAY**

It was a great day for plowing! Over 30 people were at the Rich VanWynsberghe's farm to plow and/or watch the plowing of 10 acres of alfalfa sod south of Geneseo. The plowing was a challenge, but it made for a pretty picture. The smell of newly turned soil brought back memories of some and created memories for sons and grandchildren. In addition there was 20 acres of flat heavy bean ground along the creek which was much easier going.

Those plowing included Mark Johnson w/ John Deere 80 and 4 bottom JD plow; Perry Bolhous w/ John Deere 530 and 2 bottom JD 44 plow; Art Coppejans w/ John Deere 730D and 3 bottom JD plow; Chuck Bos w/ McCormick Deering (IH) 15-30 and 3 bottom IH plow; Russ Bos w/ Case L and 3 bottom Case plow; Jeff & Steve Gowey w/ John Deere 730 and 3 bottom JD plow; G.T. Frimml w/ John Deere 730D and 3 bottom JD plow; Tom Hitzhusen w/ John Deere "B" and 2 bottom JD plow

Rich was very pleased with the job of plowing and made a nice cash donation to the club. Way to go guys.

## **RURAL HERITAGE DAY**

*Just the Facts*

Saturday, 12 May 2007

Club Show Grounds in Atkinson

Breakfast 7:30 AM Lunch at noon

**Member please bring pies to sell at lunch**

Demonstrations 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM

Free Admission for all

Show Button \$3.00

Vendor registration of \$10.00

Call Roger Mixer for more information

309/792-2416

## **News from the Board**

The farm ground has all been worked and we have 2 acres of oats seeded. Below is a picture of GT Frimml pulling the club's Oliver Superior 10' grain drill seeding oats and grass-seed. The oats will be cut and bundled this summer to be used for the threshing demo at our show this Sept. He is pulling the drill with his original condition JD 630.



In addition we will be planting 10.25 acres of corn of which 1/2 acre will be check wire planted by Perry Bolhous at the Rural Heritage Day event in May.

Also, we will plant 8.25 acres of soybeans for harvest at the Fall Show. Tom Hitzhusen

## **Annual Geneseo Father's Day show and parade**

will be June 16 & 17, 2007. It will be in the same location as in the past. Tractors, garden tractors, and equipment will be staged in the north half of the New City park. All colors are welcome. I just ask that NO steel-wheeled tractors attend. You can unload and stage your machines on Friday eve. if desired and can leave Sunday afternoon after the parade. Contact Larry Goodwin 309-944-2670

**Geneseo Farm & Fleet and AETA** is again sponsoring a show. It will be Sunday July 22 from 10-4. All colors of tractors, equipment, and garden tractors are welcome. There will be plenty of exhibitor prizes and door prizes. Contact Larry Goodwin 309-944-2670. Pre registration is encouraged.

## **Massey-Harris Combines**

**By Larry Gay**

After building some "combined reaper-threshers" for Australia and Argentina, Massey-Harris entered the U.S. combine market in 1917 by selling 15 of its Argentina type of combines in Utah. Other models of large pull-type combines followed these with an auxiliary engine for use in the Great Plains. When James Duncan became the general manager of the company in 1935, he championed the need to expand in the United States, the world's largest market for farm equipment, and the development of a self-propelled combine. Duncan recognized the advantages of this type of harvesting machine when he had served in Argentina and had seen combines modified by farmers with a second engine added to propel the combine.

In 1938, the Massey-Harris Clipper pull-type combine with a 6-foot scoop type of header, a 5-foot cylinder, and a straight through design was introduced. Built in the Batavia, New York, factory, it became a popular combine and as a result Massey-Harris began to gain strength in the U.S. farm equipment market. The second of Duncan's proposals, the self-propelled combine, made its appearance in 1938 with the limited production of the No. 20 with a 16-foot cut. It was large, heavy, and expensive, so the company decided in 1940 to produce the No. 21, a smaller, lighter version, with a 12-foot cut and later with a 14-foot cut. During World War II, the War Production Board limited the annual

**REVISITING THE JOHN DEERE 1941-42  
PRICE BOOK  
PART V  
OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS  
BY FRED STICKLER**

production of farm equipment to a percentage of that produced in 1940. Thus, the Massey-Harris No. 21 was the only self-propelled combine that was eligible to be produced during the war years.

Joe Tucker, the former general sales manager and vice president of the Oliver Farm Equipment Company, served on the War Production Board from December 1941 until July 1943. He then resigned to become the general sales manager for Massey-Harris U.S.A. A month later, Tucker appeared before the War Production Board with a proposal that the Massey-Harris Company be permitted to build an additional 500 self-propelled combines for the 1944 harvest. The combines were to be sold to experienced operators and each owner would sign an agreement to harvest a minimum of 2,000 acres with each machine for a total of one million acres. The proposal was accepted, Massey-Harris managed to find the necessary steel, castings, and bearings to build the combines, and the first shipment left the Toronto factory in March 1944 with each combine labeled "Massey-Harris Self-Propelled Harvest Brigade" on the grain tank.

Some of the combines were shipped to California and a few to the Pacific Northwest, but most were shipped to Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas and followed the wheat harvest north. The Harvest Brigade was supervised by Joe Tucker with assistance by Massey-Harris branch personnel, Massey-Harris dealers, and county extension agents. The fields to be harvested were organized by the teams and the combine owners were only concerned with the operation of their combines. The Harvest Brigade became a national event and generated a tremendous amount of free publicity for Massey-Harris. The one million-acre goal was surpassed with a total of 1,019,500 acres harvested for over 5,000 American farmers. The Harvest Brigade was repeated again in 1945 with 750 additional combines for a total of 1,250 combines in the program.

Not only did the Harvest Brigade provide a great service to the country when food was needed to win the war, it sold the American and Canadian farmer on the advantages of the self-propelled combine. It also created a large demand for Massey-Harris self-propelled combines after the war. To answer this demand, Massey-Harris built a new combine factory in Toronto during 1946 with a 526-foot long assembly line. Soon a second assembly line had to be added to meet the growing number of orders. The Massey-Harris share of the U.S. self-propelled combine market was over 50 percent in 1948, 1950, and 1951.

The 1941-42 time frame was a period of transition for Deere and its competitors. America was recovering from the Great Depression, and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 would change the world forever. The farm equipment industry quickly adjusted from peace-time to producing for the war effort.

Before the war, however, the farm equipment industry was undergoing another transition - - the change from horse-drawn to tractor-powered machines. The 1941-42 Omaha price book thus lists prices for both "horse" and tractor-operated machines including:

Potato Planters, Hoes, and Diggers  
Spring-tooth Harrows  
Farm Wagons, Manure Spreaders  
Stiff-tooth Cultivators, Spring-tooth Cultivators  
Grain Drills, Corn Binders  
Sulky Rakes, Sickle-bar Mowers  
Beet Lifters, Row-crop Cultivators  
Corn Planters, Disk Harrows, Rod Weeders

begin in the early 1970's, and the Omaha Branch was closed in 1972. My hometown dealership improvements in farming practices would later render some of the above machines obsolete, but they were replaced with improved product concepts that provided the same or similar function. Product design and development, although delayed during the war, were resumed in 1946.

Products vary, however, in their rate of obsolescence. "Boots" Bland's 1951 Deere Price Book indicates that the Model 999 Planter, and Model "K" Manure Spreader (Horse-drawn version of the companion 2-wheel tractor-drawn Model "H") were still available. Three-horse-hitch Corn and Grain-binders were likewise listed in the 1951 Price Book.

In 1942, the Omaha Sales Branch included all of Nebraska, the southern half of South Dakota, most of Wyoming, and the western third of Iowa. Concurrent with changes in farming practices, products, and increasing farm size, time would take its toll on John Deere dealers and the Deere sales branch organization. Several branch consolidations in southwest Iowa closed in about 1975.



<p align="center"><b>****BULLETIN BOARD****</b></p> <p><b>FOR SALE:</b> - 1949 Oliver 77 - All shields - Good Rubber, New Paint, New Motor and Overhaul. \$2,750 OBO Call 815-537-2195. The other one is - For Sale – 1941 Oliver - 60 - Good Rubber - New Paint - Good Motor - Belt Pulley, New Water Pump. \$1,800 - OBO Call <i>Cleon Eyrich 815-537-2195.</i> (a)</p> <p><b>For Sale:</b> - John Deere Model "205 Gyramor" 5 foot Rotary mower \$350. <i>Dick Black Phone 309-658-2273</i> (m)</p> <p>For Sale: 480 Case Construction King tractor w/ Loader &amp; roll bar, 1 set of JD rear wheel weights. <i>Lenzy Stickler 309-523-2744 or 309-314-1649</i></p> <p><b>FREE:</b> Classified ads for club members. Your ad will run for two months. Send ad information to Neil West, 6205 Shadowbrook Dr, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 Phone 563-332-5501 E-mail <a href="mailto:nlwest@mchsi.com">nlwest@mchsi.com</a></p>	<p align="center"><b>****CLUB ACTIVITIES****</b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>MAY EVENTS</u></b></p> <p><b>Heritage Day:</b> Saturday May 12.</p> <p><b>Main Avenue Tractor Show:</b> May 19 9 to 4 Clinton, Iowa. Huge craft show at the park - call 563-242-1715</p> <p align="center"><b><u>JUNE EVENTS</u></b></p> <p><b>Board meeting:</b> Monday, June 4, 6:00PM. Trappers' Creek Grill in Geneseo</p> <p><b>Annual Geneseo Father's Day show and parade</b> will be June 16 &amp; 17, 2007.</p> <p><b>Hillsdale Tractor Display</b> June 2nd and 3rd Sat. Tractor Poker Run Sun. Tractor Games - Door Prizes More Info - Dick Black 309-658-2273</p> <p><b>Hay &amp; Tool Swap Meet and Show + North American Dairy Convention</b> June 8 &amp; 9 Weeber Homestead Farm, Iowa City, IA phone 319-683-2299</p>
<p><b><u>2007 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS</u></b></p> <p>PRESIDENT: Roger Mixer.....(309)792-2416</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT: Ed Mayhew...(309)949-2867</p> <p>SECRETARY: Larry Goodwin.....(309)944-2670</p> <p>TREASURER: Russ Bos.....(309)944-0215</p>	<p>EDITOR: Neil West.....(563)332-5501</p> <p>FEATURE: Roger Mixer.....(309)792-2416</p> <p>DIRECTORS: George Hayes, Rich McNeill, Lenzy Stickler, Dick Zobrist</p> <p>Web site: <a href="http://www.atkinson-engine-tractor-assoc.com">www.atkinson-engine-tractor-assoc.com</a></p>

**Antique Engine & Tractor Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 267**  
**Atkinson, IL 61235**