

“Almost Heaven” Lawn Mower Graveyard

If you're looking for a used lawn mower or parts, Almost Heaven Lawn Mower Grave Yard in Bluffton, Ind., is a great place to start.

It's a “pick-apart yard,” says Tom McNamara, who helps his son, Scott, run the business. People come and pull their own parts, though the owners will remove parts for customers who need help.

The nearly 4-acre lot that Tom Jr. inherited from his father Tom Sr. in the 1970's was an auto salvage yard from 1923 to 2004, when Tom Jr. turned the yard over to his son. Scott has an inventory of about 1,700 riding garden tractors plus attachments, push mowers and some small tractors. There's room for about 3,000 mowers, and the McNamaras plan to fill the yard by steadily adding purchases from auctions and dealers.

Most customers live within a 200-mile radius of the yard, which is located 20 miles from Fort Wayne. Inventory includes equipment from the 1940's to the present, with about 200 one-of-a-kind tractors.

“Some years we sell lots of old stuff that retirees want to restore. Other years we sell more parts for people who want to keep their lawn mower going,” McNamara says. “We sell parts and whole units.”

Part of his job is posting photos on social media, and McNamara says he is amazed by the response. “When we list a photo, we get up to 5,000 people that look at it in the first hour. We never had that with car parts.”

Currently, his son Scott works at a nearby machine shop full time and takes care of the mower business after 5 p.m. Customers must call to make an appointment, McNamara emphasizes.

The yard is organized according to models - John Deere, Cub Cadet, etc. - to make it easier for customers to find the part or mower they are looking for.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Almost Heaven Lawn Mower Grave Yard, Bluffton, Ind. (ph 260 824-5087; Facebook: Almost Heaven Lawn Mower Grave Yard).



Tom McNamara operates a business selling used lawn mowers and parts. People come and pull their own parts, though the owner will remove parts for customers who need help.

Replacement Steering Wheels

A new steering wheel may be the final touch for that treasured tractor you restored. Steiner Tractor in Lennon, Mich., appears to be the place to find whatever model you need - and most any other old tractor part you can think of.

“We introduced steering wheels in the late 1990's and started with four. Now we offer them for 62 different models,” says Dan Steiner, president of the company.

Instead of re-covering original wheels, restorers buy new ones for a couple of reasons. Metal fatigue and corrosion in old steering wheels makes them thin and unreliable.

For each model, Steiner Tractor's engineers start from original steering wheels when possible, create drawings and work with manufacturers to make sure the final composite wheel fits the shaft and maintains the original design.

Besides a 12,000-sq. ft. pole barn with tractors that are used to make sure parts fit, Steiner Tractor uses 3D-CAM, 3D printing and handheld X-ray gun technology.

The company also sells many steering wheel caps, which tend to wear out faster than steering wheels.

“Early steering wheels just had naked spokes, but after World War II manufacturers started covering the spokes and also put a cap



Steiner Tractor sells new replacement steering wheels for many antique tractors.

at the center to keep water from running down the shaft,” Steiner explains.

Steiner Tractor has its own line of steering wheel caps for Allis Chalmers, International, Oliver and other tractors. They also distribute licensed caps for John Deere tractors.

Steering wheels are just one part of the business that currently has a 656-page catalog with more than 6,000 parts for tractors going back as far as the 1930's.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steiner Tractor, 1660 S. M-13, Lennon, Mich. 48449 (ph 800 234-3280; www.steinertractor.com; sales@steinertractor.com).

2-Wheeler Mounted Propane Heater Keeps Shop Warm

“I bought a wall-mount, non-vent propane residential heater cheap at a flea market and strapped it onto my 2-wheeler. It's nice and quiet and can be easily moved anywhere in the shop I need heat,” says Bob Payne, Coldwater, Miss.

He paid \$10 for the heater, which came with a 30-lb. propane bottle. He welded a metal rack on back of the 2-wheeler to hold the bottle and mounted the heater on front of the 2-wheeler, using metal straps to secure it to the frame. The 80-lb. counterweight off a Deere riding mower was bolted onto the 2-wheeler's front ledge to help offset the weight of the bottle. Payne also screwed a barbecue grill regulator onto the bottle to regulate tank pressure.

“I use it in my shop, which isn't heated. It produces a nice warm area where I'm working, much like an old pot-bellied stove does,” says Payne. “The heater is rated for indoor use so I use it only in my shop, which is well ventilated. I own a diesel jet flame heater but didn't use it very often because it was smelly and made a lot of noise.”

“This is a 5-burner heater, but if I was buying new I'd get a 3-burner unit. The 30-lb. bottle can't evaporate propane fast enough to



Wall-mount, non-vent propane residential heater straps onto 2-wheeler where it can be easily moved anywhere in Payne's shop.

keep up with all 5 burners, especially if it's cold outside.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Payne, 65 Wallace Rd., Coldwater, Miss. 38618.

“Mega Funnel” Collects Waste Oil Mess-Free

You can turn any seed box tote into a neat, clean waste oil collection system with this new oil collector.

The patented Tote-Top Mega Funnel allows you to store all your oil changing tools and supplies such as oil pans, funnels, and filters on top of the tote while they drip dry. As the fluid drains out, it's funneled down into the tote for later disposal.

The unit comes with a punched metal screen on top with a solid plastic floor beneath it that slopes down toward a 2-in. dia. hole in the center. To install, you unscrew the existing 6-in. square center cover from the top of the tote, then snap the screen on over the tote.

“It keeps your shop floor nice and clean.

All the mess involved with dirty oil filters stays on top of the screen,” says distributor Delvin Drinkall.

“Pallet forks can be used to move the tote, and to get rid of the oil you can just attach a hose to a ball valve at the bottom of the tote which is much easier than trying to dump the oil out of a 30 or 50-gal. drum. A lot of customers dump the oil straight into their waste oil furnace.”

The Tote-Top Mega Funnel retails for \$199 plus S&H.

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Tote-Top Mega Funnel comes with a punched metal screen on top with a solid plastic layer beneath it that funnels drain oil down into tote for later disposal.