



Maasdam's collection includes this "in the box" John Deere Model "A".



Photo courtesy Toy Farm Magazine, Lamoure, N. Dak.

Toy collector Maasdam's basement is filled with more than 150 linear feet of showcases filled with his collection.

6,500 PIECES AND STILL GROWING

Iowan's Farm Toy Collection May Be The World's Largest

By Bill Gergen

Walk into the basement of Larry Maasdam's rural home near Clarion, Iowa, and you find yourself in a virtual toy museum. Over 6,500 toys fill the glass shelved walls. In all, there's over 150 linear ft. of showcase and the amazing collection, started only 10 years ago, is still growing.

It already may be the world's largest private collection of farm toys. It's divided fairly evenly between tractors and implements, and construction toys. But there are also trucks, Model T banks, cars, and even an antique steam shovel. Most of the toys were mass produced and a few were hand made.

"I don't concentrate on variations within tractor models. I'm more interested in having one of everything that was produced," says Maasdam who owns only a few duplicates for trading purposes. He owns most of the toy tractors ever made by U.S. manufacturers, and has collected foreign-made models from Germany, Austria, Italy, England, Holland, Spain, Czechoslovakia and Russia.

Two of the first tractors Maasdam bought when he started collecting farm toys 10 years ago are a cast iron McCormick-Deering built in the early 1930's, and an Oliver 77 in "like new" condition built in the early 1950's. He paid \$35 for the 1020 and estimates it's now worth \$100. He paid \$7.50 for the Oliver 77, now worth about \$150.

For security reasons, Maasdam won't say which tractor in his collection is the most valuable or unusual. But there are a few of which he's especially proud.

He slides open one of the glass panels and pulls out a Cockshutt tractor made in Canada. "This is one of the most expensive toy tractors anywhere. I won't even try to guess what it would bring."

He pulls out a Case 800 built in 1957. "New in the box, this tractor would bring \$800. And I've got the box."

He picks up another cast iron Case tractor, this one hitched to a cast iron manure spreader. Both were built in the 1930's by the Vindex Toy Company which long ago

went out of business, making these toys especially valuable.

Maasdam also owns a Vindex-made cast iron plow, new with original paint and never played with. "It would bring \$700 to \$1,000. And this rare Oliver Super 55, without the plow, would bring \$300."

He removes other toys: A Massey 44 disk and plow, a self-propelled combine, a manure loader. "They're all valuable because they're die cast, quality made, and the manufacturer went under. Toys like this you could have bought new in the 1940's for \$1.50. Today, new in the box, they'd bring at least \$600."

One of his favorite toy tractors is a red, new-in-the box 1950's era David Brown farm crawler which Maasdam got in a trade with an English friend. "This tractor is very rare. I don't know of any others like it in the U.S."

Maasdam's oldest toy tractor is a Waterloo Boy 1912. His largest toy is a working Case steam engine built to a 1/6 scale. It's equipped with an oiler and is steam pow-

ered.

How has he managed to build such a fantastic world-class collection in only 10 years while, at the same time, running a business and supervising 12 employees?

"Friends, business associates and foreign contacts play an important role in keeping my collection growing," Maasdam told FARM SHOW. "They serve as a network and keep a watchful eye on toys that may interest me. Also, as I travel with my construction crew, I check the antique shops and talk to folks who may have a lead on a rare toy tractor or implement."

As extensive as his collection is, Maasdam says he has no intention of sitting back and letting it become an inactive hobby. He buys, sells and swaps at all major farm toy shows throughout the Midwest. "I never know where I'll find that next new farm toy that will make my collection even more complete," he told FARM SHOW.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Maasdam, Rt. 2, Clarion, Iowa 50525 (ph 515 532-2901).

WORKING SCALE MODEL OF 'SAGENG' BUILT FROM BLUEPRINTS, PHOTOS

North Dakotans Build Self-Propelled Threshing Machine

"It works and threshes just like the real thing," says Lorne Lund of the 1/3 scale model of an original Sageng self-propelled threshing machine which he and two other North Dakota farmers built last winter.

"We've run full-length wheat, oats and barley through the machine but found it works best if you cut straw into shorter lengths so we usually bring a tin snippers along," says Lund who demonstrated the one-of-its kind threshing rig at threshing reunions last summer.

So far as he knows, it the first and only working scale model of the original "beltless" and self-propelled Sageng thresher.

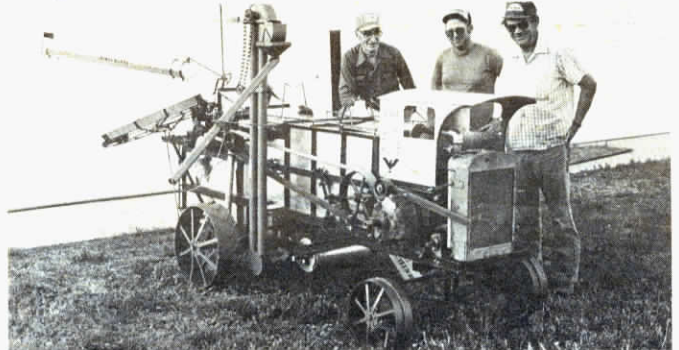
Halver Sageng, a Dalton, Minn., farmer and Lutheran minister, built 21 of the unique threshing machines between 1908 and 1912 before going bankrupt. There are no known original Sageng threshers in existence.

The original was powered by a 70 hp motor and equipped with a 36 in. cylinder and a double set of straw racks. "It had a lot of threshing capacity and must have done a good job," says Lund. "It was designed primarily for stack threshing. When you got done stacking, you could just put the

machine in gear and back up. You didn't have to reset the belts or anything. Being self-propelled, it was a one-man operation during a time when most other threshers required four men to operate. The Sageng was also unique because it had two swing feeders, one on each side of the blower, which conveyed grain bundles into the machine. Also, the feeder and blower were located on the same end of the machine.

"This latter feature of having straw fed and blown out the same end posed some challenges for us in building the scale model because the straw has to make a 180° turn. When straw falls off the top straw rack, it tends to lodge on the bottom rack. That's probably why, on conventional threshing machines, the feeder and blower were on opposite ends so the straw could go straight through," says Lund, who teamed up with his son Keenan, of Nome, and Alfred Stiedl, of Fingal, to build the working 1/3 scale model. Not one of the three had ever seen the real working machine.

The trio used an old blueprint, and three old photos which they enlarged, as a guide in building the "authentic as possible" scale model. They began building the thresher in



Alfred Stiedl, Keenan Lund and Lorne Lund (from left to right) used an old blueprint, and three old photos, to build the scale model.

January a year ago and finished by April, investing about \$2,000 and 2,000 hours in the project.

The scale model, made of 24 ga. galvanized tin, is 9 ft. long, 6 ft. high at the top of the elevator, and 20 in. wide. It's powered by a 17 hp, 4 cyl. Hercules motor fitted inside the cab. It has a top travel speed of 1 mph.

The North Dakotans salvaged gears and

other parts from used equipment and made many of the parts by hand. They're proud of their unique self-propelled thresher and plan to demonstrate it this summer and fall at threshing reunions and other events throughout the Midwest.

For more information, contact: Lorne Lund, Rt. 2, Box 158, Enderlin, N. Dak. 58027 (ph 701 437-3406).