

“Metal Art” Turkey

“I like to do metal artwork using old machinery parts and recently made this colorful turkey. It’s one of my wife’s favorites,” says Arnie Johnsrud, high school ag instructor/FFA advisor in Kewaunee, Wis.

Johnsrud made the turkey using the gas tank off an Allis Chalmers WD tractor for the body. An ‘S’ tine off a Brillion harrow serves as the neck, and a combine header pea guard forms the head. A mower sickle guard is used for the eyes, with lengths of roller chain forming the wattle. The beard is made from a few metal strands off a yard rake. The wings are the notched paddles off a New Idea manure spreader, and the fan tail was made by welding together several paddles. A large notched disc blade is inside the fan tail.

The feet were made by welding together the shovel points off a field cultivator. The legs are off a New Holland silage chopper, and the knees are the knuckles from a shaft on the chopper that was used to turn the chute.

The body is spray painted brownish black, and the face has a bluish tinge. The outside tips of the wings and fan tail are painted a cream color.

“This is the second turkey I’ve made,” says Johnsrud. “The first one was made for a local implement dealer who developed severe



Turkey’s body was made using the gas tank off an Allis Chalmers WD tractor

health problems. One of his relatives asked me if I could make something out of equipment parts that he sold, so I did. After my wife saw it she asked me to make one for her. When the dealer died, the turkey was on display at the funeral home for everyone to see.”

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Photo by Mary Herbers, Little G Club

Lyle Dumont is one of a handful of people who owns a complete collection of Patio Tractors. The colorful garden tractors were made by John Deere from 1969 to 1971.

Dumonts Own Complete Collection Of Colorful Patio Tractors

Lyle Dumont had collected many old tractors and toy tractors when he saw his first set of Patio Tractors - colorful garden tractors made by John Deere from 1969-71. The dog-wood white tractor with colorful seats and hoods - sunset orange, April yellow, spruce blue and patio red - were intended to attract female customers. Though they weren’t a marketing success then, they’re very popular now with collectors. Dumont is one of a handful of people who owns a complete collection of 16, four colors in all four horsepower sizes (110, 112, 120 and 140).

Dumont was first attracted to the patio tractors when he saw a Nebraska woman’s collection at an antique show. She had restored them herself, and he asked her to contact him if she found more. After she helped Dumont buy his first one, he made it a mission to find the rest, by following up leads with private collectors in eight states.

“Within a couple of years I had them all,” Dumont says. “I have a body shop and had a guy working for me interested in garden tractors also. We started restoring them.”

Dumont found many patio tractors hidden under paint, by checking the serial numbers and spotting places where the green paint had worn. He explains that dealers painted over

the white tractors when they couldn’t sell them. They used the seats and hoods from the yellow patio tractors, which makes that color the most difficult to find. Collectors recognize the patio seats by their different edging and textured seat back. Prices for the seats and hoods range anywhere from \$500 to \$2,000 on eBay, Dumont says.

His collection is unique because all the tractors are restored. They’re on permanent display, along with other garden, toy and antique tractors, at the Dumont Museum, a private, non-profit 24,000 sq. ft. museum he and his wife, Helen, opened in 1996. The museum features a variety of restored tractors, including “the largest collection of restored Oliver tractors.” It also contains everything from horse-drawn equipment and buggies and old gas engines to NASCAR toys, Roy Rogers’ memorabilia and Lionel trains.

Dumont invites everyone to come to the museum, which is open May through October on weekends and by appointment. Check out the website for times, fees and location.

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Super A “Fire Tractor” was built in 1956 by IH, but outfitted for firefighting by another firm. Added gear included a 150-gal. water tank and a reel with 200 ft. of hose.

Rare IH Tractors Wow Showgoers

By Cindy Ladage

There were a couple of very unusual IH tractors on display at the 18th annual Red Power Roundup held near Bloomsburg, Penn., last year. One was a 1956 Super A “Fire Tractor” owned by Jim and Jane Rose.

The Super A Fire Tractor was built by IH, but outfitted for fire-fighting by the Stephan Fire Apparatus Company. Added gear included a 150-gal. water tank, a reel fitted with 200 ft. of hose, a heavy duty front bumper, and a siren. The tractor originally was used to pull a small wagon that carried an asbestos blanket.

According to the Roses, the Fire Tractor was in good shape and wasn’t rusted at all. It had most recently been used at a GE plant. The first time Jim saw the unique little tractor, he was putting out a fire at the Delphi GE plant. “My husband was a firefighter and saw this tractor at the Delphi plant. During 2005, the GM plant sold everything including this rig,” says Jane.

After buying the tractor, the next step was to find the information they needed to completely restore it. “A guy at the Hail Pump Company knew the history of the pump,” says Jim. Restoring the fire tractor for a fireman was a joy, and Jim’s found a fun use for the tractor on hot summer days.

Last June the Roses’s granddaughter graduated from nursing school. “Jim pumped the tractor up and we had a lot of happy, wet kids,” says Jane.



“Christmas Tree Tractor” is actually a modified IH Super C tractor.

Christmas Tree Tractor

Another interesting tractor at the Red Power Roundup was this International Harvester “Christmas Tree Tractor.”

The tractor was parked outside a restored IH dealership belonging to Frank “Tubby” Bartlow. The Christmas tree tractor was not manufactured by IH, says Donna Sharrow, Frank’s daughter. She explains that a manufacturer in Canada took a few Super C and SuperA tractors and added the Christmas tree apparatus. “There were only seven of them made. They were very top heavy and not a smart idea.”

The tractor the Bartlow’s had on display was used at the Abraczinska’s Nursery and was one of three they purchased in 1953.

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Old barn was turned into a 6,000 sq. ft., four-level home with four bedrooms, five bathrooms and a two-story basketball court. There’s also a walk-up cupola on top of barn.



Barn Transformed Into Million Dollar Mansion

When is an old barn worth nearly \$1.4 million? When it has been turned into a 6,000 sq. ft., four-level home with four bedrooms, five bathrooms and a two-story basketball court. The 26 acres and walk up cupola atop the barn, with its 360° view, doesn’t hurt either.

The 1875 barn near Lake Elmo, Minn. was converted to living space by a local contrac-

tor. He is now asking \$1.374 million, and realtors Sue and Dwight Zaudtke are confident they will get it.

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