



The first chainsaws took 2 men to operate and were expensive, says antique saw collector Marshall Trover.



His portable 1933 Dow "low stump" saw rides on wheels and is powered by an Indian Scout motorcycle engine, with a Ford Model A rear end used as a transmission.

Chainsaw Collecting Catches On In A Big Way

The old chainsaw collecting dust in your barn or shop could be valuable.

"Condition and rarity are equally important," says Marshall Trover, a chainsaw collector since the 1970's. "But, don't over-restore it to make it nicer than when it was new. Don't take something rare and mess it up."

He is part of a worldwide network of collectors interested in preserving the history of chainsaws, which has become a popular hobby with the help of social media and the internet.

Andreas Stihl built the first successful portable electric saw in 1926, and Dolmar came out with a semi-portable gas saw the next year. Stihl had a successful portable gas machine by 1928. The first saws took 2 men to operate and were expensive. Trover, of Renton, Wash., lives in the heart of timber country where antique saws are especially valuable. Titan manufactured saws in Seattle, and Trover collected all the versions of the two-man saws they built including a couple of rare models.

He also appreciates the 1933 Dow low stump saw in his collection. "It was semi-portable because it is on wheels. It has an Indian Scout motorcycle engine with a Model A Ford rear end used as a transmission. It used the same chain that was used in sawmills," Trover says. With a \$900 price tag, only commercial loggers could afford it."

As the need for 2-man saws was shrinking due to the smaller timber being logged, it was McCulloch that made the "quantum leap in technology", by using die-casting technology (rather than sandcasting) for its first one-man saw, the 3-25, in 1949. The castings were more precise and less metal was needed, which made the saws lighter so they could be designed for, and operated by, just one person. This also made them superior to the other one-man saws of the period.

For "muscle" chainsaw collectors, the McCulloch Super Pro 125 with a 101B racing engine is the most sought-after collectible, followed closely by several other brands of large displacement saws of the era from the 1960's forward, including the Stihl 090.

Saws, including Stihl, Homelite, Poulan and many others that were made in the 1950's and 60's are also highly collectible - if they are in good condition and run. Mall and Mercury-Disston 2-man saws from the 1940's are fairly plentiful and can also be valuable - from \$200 to \$800, depending on condition and specific model rarity.

"Under my front porch I have hundreds of parts," Trover says, noting he purchased them from dealerships like the one his uncle worked at back when saw dealers still saved old inventory.

When one-man saws hit the market, old two-man saw prices dropped to \$20 to \$50, which made it easy to build up his collection



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- currently at about 600 saws of all models.

His collection is small compared to one of the biggest collectors. Wayne Sutton, who works for Stihl, has 1,000 saws on display at his Amboy, Wash., museum featuring Stihl saws and memorabilia (YouTube and Facebook: Wayne's Chainsaw Museum).

To learn more about chainsaws, Trover suggests joining the forum on www.chainsawcollectors.se Also, The Chain Saw

Collectors Corner lists makes and models and includes collection photos from dozens of collectors such as Trover.

Determining value is challenging, he notes, and eBay can be misleading about real values. But social media and forums provide good information from collectors.

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120-Year-Old Granary Rebuilt As A Brand New House

Old farm buildings are disappearing from the U.S. landscape faster than wet snow on a warm spring day, but Minnesotan Karin Schubert has done her part to preserve a 120-year-old granary for years to come.

Schubert reclaimed interior boards, beams and support timbers from an old metal-clad granary on her property that was set for demolition and used them in a brand new 1,650 sq. ft. two-story home.

Schubert says she always enjoyed the look and feel of the wood in the old granary on her property, which she'd used for storage. When her daughter planned on razing the structure to build a garage, Schubert realized an important piece of history, and her life, would be gone. After reading a book on farmhouse design written by a Minneapolis architect, Schubert contacted the author to raise the idea of using the granary materials in a home.

Schubert says the architect thought it was a brilliant idea and agreed to design the granary house. Her design utilizes the actual footprint of the granary and its interior stairwell and wooden storage bins. Schubert's builder dismantled the granary piece by piece, numbering each one for re-assembly.

The boards and timbers were power-

blasted to remove dust, grime, insects and imperfections, then power-brushed for a smooth and lightly textured finish. The new timber frame home uses the original lumber, with some of the framing held together by the granary's original wood pegs. A water-based varnish seals the exposed interior wood to protect and preserve the color.

Schubert's new home has three main floor rooms that replicate the original granary bins. Exterior walls are primarily windows with native wood on the interior walls and the ceiling. An open/floating staircase that leads to the upper level allows light and air to permeate the home. The upstairs bedroom has a pop-up dormer that provides more headroom than the original granary. The knee walls have built-in drawers. The upper level bathroom, nestled under the original building's gable, is accessed by a sliding barn door. The lower level houses Schubert's studio and walkout access to her gardens.

Modern interior finishings include a gallery kitchen with simple and efficient cabinets and quartz countertops. Lighting is provided by industrial metal fixtures that Schubert had located years ago. Geo-thermal heating and cooling along with triple-glazed glass and spray-foam insulation allow



Photo courtesy, Scott Amundson

Karin Schubert converted a 1930's grain bin into a single car garage, connected to her granary house by a breezeway.

energy-efficient comfort.

Completing the overall grain-themed design is a 1930's-era circular grain bin repurposed into a single car garage. It's joined to the house by a new connecting link that serves as an entry mudroom with storage cabinets.

Schubert's home took almost a year

to complete and today she savors every Minnesota season through strategically placed windows and comfortable living spaces.

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