



Harold Metternich is a big-time Red Power collector who owns an amazing IH museum housed in an old building on his farm.

Amazing IH Museum Housed In On-Farm Building

Retired electrician and lover of all things Farmall, Harold Metternich is a Red Power collector extraordinaire. "Some people think I'm a bit eccentric because of my museum, but I really want to preserve things that otherwise might just rust away and disappear forever," Metternich says. He bought the old building that houses the museum in 2009 and in less than a decade has amassed hundreds of items.

Harold and his wife Ruth Ann travel far and wide to collect vintage Farmall and International Harvester equipment that's often 60 to 80 years old. They bring the rusted and old equipment back to the museum workshop where Harold dismantles, cleans, repairs, and then re-assembles every piece. Everything in his museum is in working order and practically new condition. The Metternichs open the museum to the public from May through October for anyone who wants a walk through agricultural history.

Their collection includes haying equipment such as mowers, hay loaders, tedders, rakes and balers to old corn shellers, grinder-mixers, and feed mills. There's a large group of cream separators, household appliances, lawn mowers, a 60-year-old International snowblower, and old signage and posters. A 2-row beet planter, a potato digger, a bean cultivator and old corn sheller are other rare items. Restored tractors along one wall date back to the 40s, 50s and 60s while another section is dedicated to fire control.

"I was a member of the local fire department for more than 50 years and I always wanted a truck for the museum," Metternich says. "When a 1961 C0190 came up for sale in New York, I bought it and drove it home." The 730-mile trip was uneventful because Metternich says the truck was barely broken in, with only 15,000 miles on the odometer.

Metternich is always excited to show off the rare IH fanning mill, a McCormick Deering Chattanooga plow, and a one-horse grain drill that was never used. Metternich says it was ordered in Pennsylvania and was still in the original box when he acquired it.



His collection includes a large group of IH household appliances such as these IH freezers.



A member of the local fire department for many years, Metternich bought these IH fire trucks for the museum.



Everything in the museum is in working order and practically new condition.

The Farmall Museum also has dairy items including milk coolers, milkers, cream separators, and cow stanchions. Two hay cars, made in Ohio, belonged to his father and his father-in-law.

Rounding out the rare items in his collection are old Farmall metal seats, a neon IH clock, an IH Titan gas turbine as well as vintage IH oil and gas memorabilia.

Even though he's closing in on 80 years old, Metternich says he intends on continuing his extraordinary hobby. "There's still things out there I'd like to acquire to fix and display, so I'll keep at this as long as I can."

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In addition to machinery, Metternich has amassed a collection of IH parts manuals.



During the summer, visitors can check out 18 quilt gardens along a 90-mile Heritage Trail that runs through 6 towns in northern Indiana. They attract people from all over the world.

Quilt Gardens Catch On In Indiana

This year, from May 30 to October 1, visitors can check out 18 quilt gardens along a 90-mile Heritage Trail through 6 towns in northern Indiana. They'll also see as many as 21 quilt murals on barns.

The idea to combine two of the most popular hobbies, gardening and quilting, came out of a brainstorming session with local leaders in 2006, says Sonya Nash at the Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau (ECCVB). By June 2007, gardening enthusiasts had created their first gardens.

"Within 30 days we knew we had a hit," Nash says.

Now in its 11th season, the Quilt Gardens have led to new quilting businesses, exhibits, and tours that attract people from all over the world.

Most of the garden sites and volunteers continue year after year working with the ECCVB, and typically there are 18 to 21 gardens.

"We provide 70 patterns that they select from, and garden sites must have a slope with a higher back for good viewing," Nash says.

The ECCVB pays for the plants. Volunteer groups pay for soil amendments and other expenses and are responsible to weed, water and deadhead flowers to keep the garden attractive for 4 months.

"We set a minimum of 800 sq. ft. but the largest is more than 3,200 sq. ft. That's 8,000 plants," Nash says.

Because they come in multiple colors and don't require deadheading, annual begonias are popular with gardeners, but gardens must have at least two flower varieties. Ageratum, dusty miller and marigolds are also popular choices.

"The flowers peak in July and August, but many people make a pilgrimage every



Gardens must have at least two flower varieties. Begonias, Ageratum, and marigolds are popular choices.

month," Nash notes.

The gardens - and murals - have fulfilled their original intention to attract visitors, who discover shops, restaurants and other businesses near the gardens.

She adds that it's also pulled local folks together; they have community pride about the unique gardens. More than 200 volunteers are involved.

"It's a labor of love. Friendships are formed and it's a good coming together of neighbors and friends," says Terry Mark, ECCVB communications director.

The ECCVB puts together a brochure with a map of the gardens that can be picked up at the bureau as well as area businesses. Check out the ECCVB website to see patterns selected for 2018 and other information about the Heritage Trail and things to do in the area.

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