

Young IH Collectors Like To Step Back In Time

By Dee George, Contributing Editor

When they were dating, Meghan Loschen wasn't particularly enamored with Travis Loschen's International Harvester tractor and memorabilia collection. That changed once she discovered IH used to make refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers. Now, a big section of the couple's Royal, Ill., garage looks like a kitchen from the 1940's.

"We probably have the most complete collection of preservation packaging and literature developed by IH," says Travis, noting that people had to learn how to preserve food after refrigerators and freezers came on the scene.

IH started manufacturing household appliances when electricity became available for rural homes. A team of women tested recipes and preservation methods at an Evansville, Ind., factory kitchen and went around the country using the moniker "Irma Harding" to demonstrate how to use freezer containers, cellophane, and other products IH sold.

"Probably our rarest piece is the original display stand they had in IH dealerships with the food packaging," Loschen says. "We also have an unopened, amber-colored glass jar of Flav-R-Sav, IH's version of fruit pectin, that is worth \$800 to \$1,200."

One interesting IH refrigerator in the collection has a foot-controlled latch to open the door.

One of the heaviest items, a chest freezer,

has been in the house since 1955 when Loschen's grandparents lived there.

"The house was so small they had to put the freezer upstairs, and it took four guys to get it up there - two pulling with a rope and two pushing," Loschen explains. "That thing sat up there for 60 years and ran nonstop without a service call."

When Loschen and his wife purchased the house 4 years ago, he took off the spring-loaded lid and removed the compressor and hinges. But it still took four people to get the freezer downstairs to the garage. Reassembled and painted, it is part of the display that also includes a restored set of Youngstown metal kitchen cabinets. Loschen and Meghan's grandfather made the red "boomerang" pattern Formica countertop.

The couple use the space as a family room with their three young children and give tours by appointment during Penfield's I&I Antique Tractor & Gas Engine Club show (July 9-12, 2020) as well as Half Century of Progress Shows every other year.

As for Meghan's interest in IH collecting, it has definitely grown, Loschen says. Especially since he restored a Farmall A, painted it pink, and gave it to her on their first anniversary.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Travis and Meghan Loschen, Royal, Ill. (ph 217 722-9294; loschenfarms84@gmail.com).



A big section of Travis and Meghan Loschen's garage looks like a kitchen from the 1940's. It's filled with International Harvester memorabilia, including a refrigerator and freezer.



The Loschen's collection also includes a restored set of Youngstown metal kitchen cabinets, and IH frozen food packaging materials and literature.



Kelly Schaus and Chris Gamble's water pump collection includes a Gould double-acting shower pump with shower head and towel rack (left) and a never-used, Flint & Walling hand-operated pump.

They Collect Old Water Pumps

If you have an old pump sitting around, Kelly Schaus and Chris Gamble may be interested. The brother and sister have 15 hand pumps and at least that many powered pumps. The collection is a natural offshoot of the Dohm Well Drilling business started by their grandfather and now employing 6 grandchildren and other family members.

"We started with one and got carried away," says Schaus. "Some were from jobs we did and a couple from a scrap pile of a retiring well driller."

The collection features pumps of different designs. It includes a Gould force pump with a shower head and towel rack. The pump can be seen in an 1864 catalogue. Production ended in 1924.

Hand pumps are a favorite of Gamble,

and she has restored and repainted most of those in the collection, as well as cistern and well pumps. Schaus prefers powered pumps, especially Flint & Walling pumps from nearby Kendallville, Ind. The company was founded in 1866 and continues in operation 154 years later.

"A couple of weeks ago I picked up a Flint & Walling from 1926 that had never been installed," says Schaus. "I also have a Red Jacket pump from the 1930's that was never installed. It sat in a barn and still had the shipping tags on it."

Some of the pumps in the collection have been restored to running condition, while others are restored just for their looks.

One of the pumps in the collection was built by U.S. Well Supply Co., Valparaiso,

Students Feeding Students

FFA members in Holmen, Wis., are feeding fellow students with produce and meat they raise in and out of school. They grow and harvest spinach, lettuce, carrots and radishes in a greenhouse on the school grounds. Hogs, cattle and chickens raised by FFA students on home farms become ingredients in main entrees.

For about 8 years the school participated in a state initiative called Farm2School that encourages using locally grown products. However in 2013 FFA members took it a step further. Liz Dohms, Wisconsin Public Radio, described how one member suggested setting up a small hydroponic project and asked if the school could use the lettuce.

That small project eventually morphed into a large, community sponsored greenhouse, complete with aquaponics, that opened this past spring. Some students tend the greenhouse, while others raise livestock headed for the lunchroom.

The locally produced food seems to have made a difference. In 2008 the high school served from 10 to 15 lbs. of vegetables a day to their 1,000 students. Today, they serve more than 100 lbs. a day. Student



FFA members in Holmen, Wis., feed fellow students with produce they grow in a community sponsored greenhouse. Radishes picked in the morning are in the salad bar by lunch time.

participation in school lunch is up as well, with about 90 percent of students eating in the cafeteria versus around 65 percent statewide.

"Our salad bar is crowded," says Sarah Mumm, who is in charge of the cafeteria. She predicts that with an expansion of the cafeteria, even more students will be eating what fellow students are producing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger King, Holmen High School, FFA Advisor (ph 608 526-3372, ext. 6333; kinrog@holmen.k12.wi.us).

Ind. Originally it was powered by a windmill to fill an elevated tank that supplied water to 5 cabins. When the wind wasn't blowing, the pump was powered by a 6 hp. Sears hit and miss engine.

"Most windmill-powered pumps also had a handle for hand pumping," notes Schaus. "If you find one without a handle, you'll see that it was removed."

Schaus and Gamble are also in the market for antique motors. They have several old hit and miss engines, including a 2 1/2 hp. United that is mounted on wheels, a stationary John Deere, and a Monitor. The latter 2 are still in the restoration process. Schaus would like to find a Woodpecker or one of several other hit and miss engines made just for the Flint & Walling pumps.

"We would like to get a 4 1/2 to 6 1/2 hp. engine and mount it to power a number of pumps on a display trailer," says Schaus. "We're also looking for a 1930's-era pickup truck that can be set up like an old service truck. It only has to run, not look pretty."

Schaus hopes to add some piston pumps to his collection and other unusual pumps and engines. "We would love to hear from FARM SHOW readers with old pumps and hit and miss engines," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dohm Well Drilling, 55100 M 51 N, Dowagiac, Mich. 49047 (ph 269 782-5818) or Kelly Schaus (ph 269 655-5844; voyager2700@yahoo.com) or Chris Gamble (ph 269 591-1188; cgamble2918@yahoo.com).