



Jack Kreeger reconstructed this Model Y John Deere. Only 24 originals were built.

**1954 MODEL HAS LESS THAN 1 HR. ON IT;  
MODEL "Y" IS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND**

## Here's Two Unique 2-Cylinder Tractors

By Dianne L. Beetler

Hundreds of green and yellow tractors dotted the grounds around the Waterloo, Iowa, airport during the recent "Poppin' Johnny" exposition of antique 2-cyl. Deere tractors produced between 1918 and 1960.

Sponsored by Two-Cylinder Worldwide, an international organization of antique tractor collectors, more than 10,000 people showed up to see the 400 tractors on display. It was the second expo of its kind. The first was held in 1987 to celebrate Deere & Company's 150th anniversary. Expo III will be held in 1992 at the same site in observance of the 100th anniversary of the Froelich tractor, the first tractor manufactured in Waterloo. Deere later bought the Froelich company.

One of the most unusual tractors at the recent expo was a John Deere 60. Although built in 1954, it has less than one hour of use registered on it. Melvin and Annette Warren of Weldon, Iowa, discovered it sitting in a shed in Nebraska several years ago. The original owner had parked it there following a dispute with his tractor dealer over a pair of batteries. During the tractor's 35 years in storage, a tree grew up in front of the shed. The Warrens had to cut down the tree before they could remove the

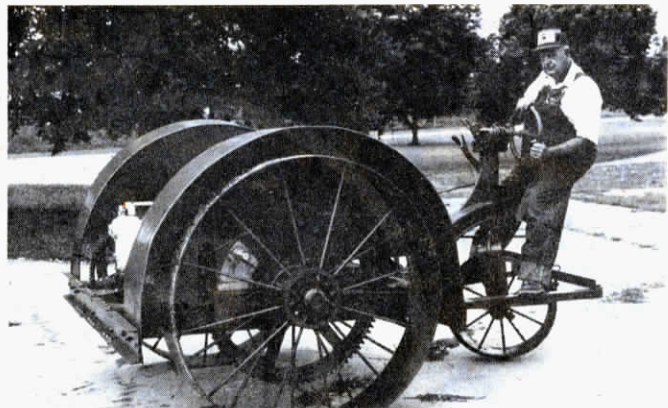
tractor. When pulled outside, the tractor had plenty of air in the rear tires but needed a little air in the front ones.

Another unusual entry was displayed by Jack Kreeger, Omaha, Neb. He owns a reconstructed model "Y" which was the predecessor to the John Deere 62. Deere built only 24 "Y" tractors, and they were all scrapped. Kreeger and a friend obtained an original engine and many other original parts. They duplicated the parts they couldn't find. Kreeger obtained photos of the tractor from a former Deere engineer, and the pictures helped him identify parts used in construction of the "Y" model.

"There are over 300 hrs. of shop work in the tractor," he notes.

Organized in 1984, Two-Cylinder Worldwide now has 16,000 members. Dues are \$16 for U.S. memberships and include a subscription to the bi-monthly TWO-CYLINDER magazine.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Two-Cylinder Worldwide, P.O. Box 2275, Waterloo, Iowa 50704 (ph 319 232-3402).



The 2-cylinder tractor had 2 drivewheels up front and a single steering wheel in back.

**NOT NAMED AFTER HENRY FORD**

## '09 Ford Tractor Prompted Start Of Nebraska Tests

This 1909 Ford tractor might have been one of the worst farm tractors ever built. It ran so poorly it prompted the start of the Nebraska Tractor Tests in 1919 after Nebraska state legislator W.C. Crozier made the mistake of buying one.

The tractor now makes up part of a collection of 42 antique tractors at the University of Nebraska looked after by Les Larsen, 82-year-old professor emeritus who headed up the Nebraska Tractor Test Labs for 29 years.

"The Ford tractor was named after Paul Ford, not Henry. He was an electrician at a small tractor company in Minneapolis that was trying to capitalize on the well-known name. It was one of hundreds of small tractor manufacturing companies that sprang up in the early 1900's - at one time after World War I there were 1,200 different tractor models being manufactured. The Ford tractor was built until 1918, when the company went bankrupt," says Larsen, adding that when Henry Ford came out with his farm tractor he had to call it the "Fordson" because the Ford name had already been claimed.

Farmers paid \$350 for the Ford tractor in 1909. It had 8 drawbar horsepower and 16 hp. on the belt. The 3-wheeled, 2-cyl. trac-

tor had two drivewheels up front and a single steering wheel in back. It was started with a crank inserted between the spokes of the left front wheel. Larsen says one of the tractor's problems was that the rear end skidded around, especially when pulling equipment, making it difficult to steer. Another problem was that all the transmission gears were right in the open, making them difficult to keep free of dirt. Some farmers complained that the tractor broke down before they could even get them home.

"It required a lot of maintenance and parts were not available. Most of the tractors probably ended up on the junk pile," says Larsen. State representative Crozier became so disgusted with his Ford he introduced a bill in the Nebraska legislature that required that one model of each tractor sold in Nebraska be tested. The bill passed in 1919.

The 1909 Ford in the University's collection was loaned to the school by Roland Spent, an Alsen, N. Dak., farmer who bought the tractor from its original owner in 1963.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lester F. Larsen, 1205 North 42nd St., Lincoln, Neb. 68503 (ph 402 466-1128).

**LETS YOU DETERMINE THE YEAR OF OLD  
TRACTORS BY THE SERIAL NUMBER**

## Serial Number Book For Tractor Collectors

"As far as I know it's the only book of its kind for antique tractors," says Kurt Aumann, about a new book he put together that lists serial numbers of older, out-of-production tractors that lets you look up the number of a tractor to determine what year it was manufactured.

Aumann, who publishes an antique farm machinery magazine called THE BELT PULLEY, says he pulled together all the serial number information on more than 300 models made by 14 major manufacturers because information on old tractors was so hard to find.

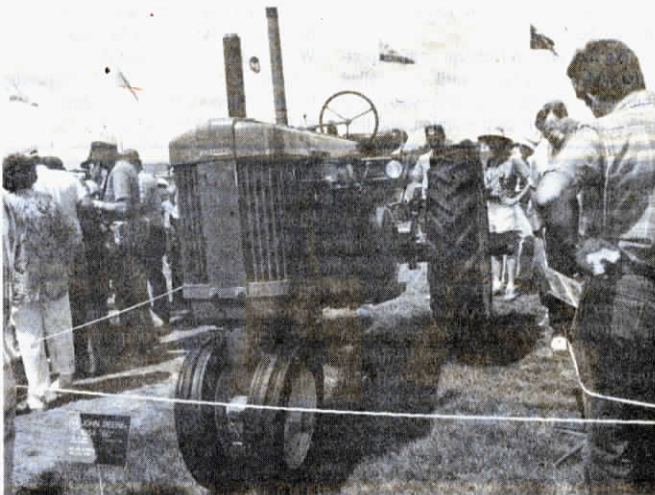
"I gathered the information over a period of a year and a half from company docu-

ments, parts books and lists from trade journals of the period. I am confident of the serial numbers within since I didn't print any information unless I found at least three lists that coincided. It took a lot of reading and sorting but the end product has been received very well by collectors who've seen it. They say it was long overdue."

Book lists models from as early as 1910 right up into the late 1950's and includes information about where to find the serial numbers on tractors and how to read them.

Sells for \$5.85 postpaid.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kurt Aumann, THE BELT PULLEY, P.O. Box 83, Nokomis, Ill. 62075.



This John Deere 60 produced in 1954 has no more than one hour of use on it.