



Franz built perfect 3/8th scale model of 1925 John Deere "D" and rigged it to operate with hand-held radio controls. Note farmer "driving" tractor.

EVERY PART WORKS

Remote-Controlled Deere "D" Replica

By Dianne L. Beetler

Visitors to the Two-Cylinder Club's Expo III show last summer in Waterloo couldn't believe their eyes when they saw the perfect scale model 1925 John Deere "D" built by Dennis Franz, Newton, Kan.

Not only is the tractor a perfect 3/8th scale model of the real thing - every part works, inside and out - it can also be operated by remote control with a hand-held radio control. And the farmer "driving" the tractor rolls his eyes, turns his head, and moves the steering wheel and clutch.

"I've built stuff all my life and I figured it would be a pretty good challenge to build. I like challenges," says Franz, who is in the plumbing and heating business.

To build the tractor, he completely disassembled a full-size 1925 "D" and reproduced each part in miniature. After 2,500 hours of work, he had a replica that weighed

about 254 lbs. and starts and runs on gasoline just like the real thing. The next step was adding remote controls, which took him another 400 hours or so.

Franz had to make many of the nuts and bolts from scratch as well as most of the parts for the gasoline engine. The gas tank holds two quarts. "I don't have to fill it because it'll run 6 to 8 hrs. on one quart," he says.

The steel-wheeled mini tractor has enough power that it will pull a pickup if the transmission is in neutral.

Franz isn't hard to find when he takes the tractor to a show. He's the guy with a crowd of people following him as he directs the little tractor around the show grounds with his hand-held radio control.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Franz, Newton, Kansas 67114.

FARMER SHOT "DEERE" THAT RAN OVER HIS PAL

Runaway Tractor Stopped By Gunfire

Tennessee farmer Jim Wood bagged a 16,000-lb. "Deere" last fall with a 12-ga. shotgun after the runaway "monster" ran over his neighbor, Ricky Blackmon.

No, Wood didn't set a new world record for deer hunters and he didn't get a trophy to hang on his wall. What he did was shoot the fuel filter off an out-of-control Deere tractor that was running in a circle in the field and had a full tank of gas.

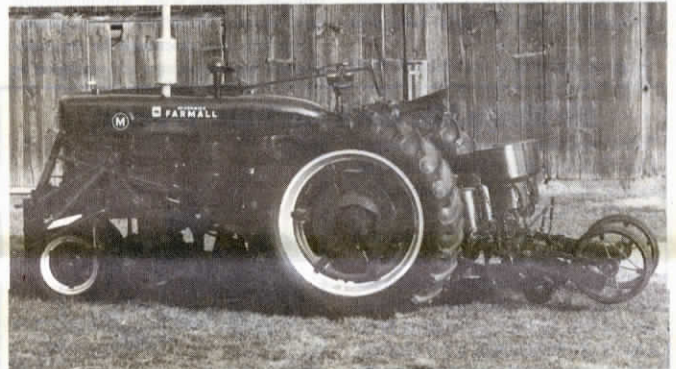
The saga started when Ricky Blackmon tried to jump start the tractor with a screwdriver while standing alongside the tractor. As the tractor motor jumped to life, the transmission kicked into gear and the tractor surged forward, running over Blackmon's body lengthwise, breaking 6 ribs and causing many other injuries.

With his chest crushed, the badly injured farmer crawled to the mobile phone in his pickup and called an ambulance first and

then dialed his friend Jim Wood for help. When Wood arrived, Blackmon was receiving aid but the renegade tractor was still on the loose, running in a circle in the field, rapidly digging a hole in the soft dirt. When Blackmon told him he had just filled the fuel tank that day, Wood decided to bring the tractor to a stop by shooting off the fuel filter and stopping the flow of fuel. He hit the filter dead on with his first shot, bringing the tractor to a rapid stop and doing no other permanent damage to the tractor.

Blackmon was treated for cuts, abrasions and six broken ribs. Deere & Co. representatives came out several days later to install a refit kit which prevents jump-starting (anyone can have these kits installed free of charge by Deere dealers).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ricky Blackmon, 5028 Mt. Carmel Rd., Covington, Tenn. 38019 (ph 901 476-7621).



Only about 50 International Harvester M-21 no-till planters were ever built.

DEVELOPED AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY, 1954 IH PLANTER NEVER CAUGHT ON

First No-Till Planter Was Ahead Of Its Time

It took 40 years or so but no-till planters are finally catching on. The world's first commercial no-till planter, however, was not a big success when it was introduced in 1953.

Developed over 10 years by engineers at Purdue University, only about 50 of the International Harvester M-21 no-till planters were built at IH's Richmond, Ind., manufacturing plant from 1953 to 1955. Weed control was the biggest problem since the farm chemical industry was still in its infancy, says Donald D. Rhine, Purdue ag engineer who has researched the history of the planter, one of which is owned by Purdue University.

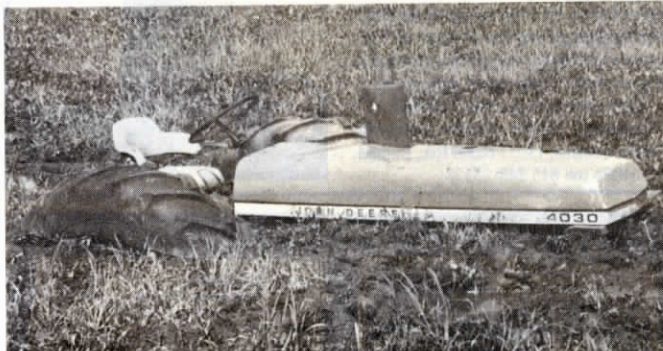
Rhine says Purdue researchers started working on a no-till planter back in 1944. Later, one of the Purdue engineers working on the planter joined International Harvester and took the University's ideas to the company, patenting the no-till planter in the late 1940's. That was the machine IH began manufacturing in 1953.

The planter was designed to fit a Farnall

tractor, with cutting discs in the front, underneath the middle and with planting units on back.

A pair of coulters up front were designed to cut through residue. They're followed by V-blades that place fertilizer into the seedbed. Fertilizer boxes mount above the V-blades. A pair of rotary hoe-type wheels follow behind the front V-blades to work up the seedbed. Seed boxes mount behind the tractor over V-blade furrow openers. Blades behind the tractor cover the seeds and press wheels trail behind.

Rhine says many of the principles used on that original planter are still used on no-till planters today. He says the planter was used successfully by many researchers and some farmers and that it would probably have caught on if weed control had been available. The planter currently owned by Purdue was purchased in 1954 by a farmer in Scottsburg, Ind., and was later given to a Purdue ag economist who donated it to the University.



Sneve created ultimate "stuck" tractor by placing salvaged tractor parts in low spot near highway.

"BURIED" TRACTOR ATTRACTS A CROWD

What's Going On Here?

Travelers along South Dakota Highway 11 near Sioux Falls got a big surprise earlier this year when they drove past the Dayton Sneve farm and saw a 4030 Deere buried up to the hood in mud.

Sneve got the idea after an unusually wet spring that made it difficult for area farmers to get their crops in and cultivated. Stuck tractors became a common sight. He de-

vised to create the ultimate stuck tractor by placing salvaged tractor parts in a low spot near the highway. He sliced the top foot or so off a pair of tractor tires, and arranged a tractor hood, muffler, steering wheel and seat on the ground.

Once his illusion was in place, he said drivers would zip by and then turn around and come back to take a picture.