



Titan tractor was lifted from bottom of pond after being abandoned 60 years ago.

LIFTED BY CRANE FROM 65 FT. OF WATER

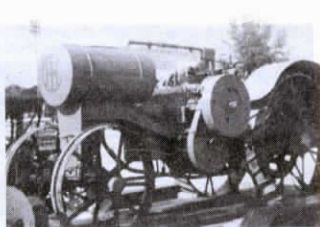
“Titan” Tractor Rescued From Bottom Of Pond

When Emil Leimkuehler of Mt. Sterling, Mo., heard rumors at a tractor show about a 1917 Titan 10-20 tractor that had been abandoned 60 years ago at a mine in his area, he decided to try to find it. He eventually located and rescued the tractor from the bottom of a 65-ft. deep pond.

The Titan had been used to power a pump to remove water from the bottom of an open-pit mine. In 1929 the mine closed down but the Titan was left at the bottom of the pit which gradually filled with water.

It took three scuba divers to locate the tractor, and a crane to lift it out. Surprisingly, the tractor's moving parts were free and the red and black stripes on its wheels were visible. The brass nameplate with the original serial number on it was still attached to the frame and the “Titan” name was still showing. He salvaged some missing pieces and began restoring the tractor to working operation.

“It draws a lot of attention whenever I take it to shows,” says Leimkuehler. “I have a sign on it that reads ‘Rescued From A Watery Grave’. There are very few Titans left today. The Titan was one of Interna-



Leimkuehler restored tractor to working condition and often takes it to shows. tional Harvester's first tractors.

“Surprisingly, there was very little rust on the transmission's gears or on the rollers for the drive chain. In fact, a thin film of oil was still on the gears and the rollers were still free to turn. I think the reason was due to a spring that kept the water deep and cold at the bottom of the pond. The tractor's oiler was missing but I was able to find a replacement (the Titan didn't have any oil in the engine, but had an oiler box on top equipped with pumps for the rods and pistons).”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Emil Leimkuehler, HCR 62, Box 3, Mt. Sterling, Mo. 65062 (ph 314 943-6440).



In the spring, Marie Olinger cleans old nests out of bluebird houses.

SPEAKS TO SCHOOL GROUPS ABOUT PUTTING UP BLUEBIRD HOUSES

She's Bringing Bluebirds Back To Farm Country

By Dianne L. Beetler

Twenty-five years ago bluebirds were near extinction in the Midwest but today they're starting to thrive once again, in part thanks to the tireless efforts of enthusiasts like Marie Olinger, Galesburg, Ill.

Bluebirds once were common across North America but the population of the once-common bird has declined 90 percent over the past 50 years. The disappearance of hollow trees and wooden fenceposts from the rural landscape meant the birds had fewer places to nest. And the increased population of wrens, sparrows and starlings - who often attack bluebird nests - also hurt their chances.

Marie learned that the bluebird's natural habitat - a hollowed-out tree trunk - can be replaced with wooden nesting boxes built to certain specifications and then the boxes can be set up in a line about 100 yards apart called a bluebird trail. Her husband Stanley started building bluebird boxes and Marie started her crusade to get other rural people to help bring back the colorful songbird.

She first got her daughters' 4-H Club to build 40 bluebird boxes. Next, she persuaded ag classes at the local high school to make up bluebird kits which they sold to the public. Local Scout groups and other organizations, as well as individuals, also

started building boxes and putting them up. Thanks to her efforts, hundreds of bluebird boxes have been set up in her surrounding area. She and her husband have 20 boxes on their property alone.

Marie often speaks to groups of children and adults about bluebirds. She wears a fake-fur bluebird costume stitched together by a local homemakers association. She also takes small groups on tours of bluebird trails.

Bluebirds usually show up to nest in March or April in her area. The female lays an average of five light blue eggs. Both parents feed the babies who stay in the nest for 2 to 3 weeks. An adult pair of birds may raise 2 or 3 groups of fledglings each summer.

Marie says bluebirds are fascinating. “They're so beautiful to look at and their song is beautiful to listen to. And they need help from humans to stay alive.”

Marie has big plans for her bluebird promotions. “I want to develop a bluebird trail all the way across Illinois,” she says.

For information on setting up a bluebird trail on your farm, write: The North American Bluebird Society, Box 6295, Silver Spring, Md. 20906-0295.

“IT'S STILL IN GREAT SHAPE”

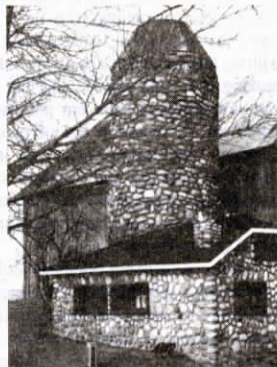
60-Year-Old Stone Silo Graces Michigan Farm

“It's still in almost-new original condition. As far as I know, there are few others like it that are still standing,” says Michigan farmer Gregg Prevost about the 60-year-old stone silo that graces his farm.

The 30-ft. high, 12-ft. dia. silo, as well as an adjacent 20-ft. long milkhouse, is built from local field stone and has a tin roof. A flat stone with the date “1933” is inset near the top of the silo.

“A lot of people stop on the road to take photos of it,” says Prevost, who raises dairy cows. “There are a few other stone silos in our area, but none of them are built as sturdy as this one. The mortar between the stones has a few cracks, but the silo still stands good and solid. The walls are 1 ft. thick. It was used mostly to store corn silage and was last used about 20 years ago, before I bought our farm.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gregg



The 30-ft. high, 12-ft. dia. silo, as well as adjacent 20-ft. long milkhouse, is built from local field stone and has tin roof. Prevost, 7315 Wolf Creek Rd., Herron, Mich. 49744 (ph 517 727-3446).