



The 27-mule hitch was a joint project. Farmers from all over Washington and Oregon brought in their mules. Engine-powered combine has a 16 1/2-ft. header.

## 27-MULE HITCH PULLS 60-YEAR-OLD DEERE COMBINE

# “Mule Power” Harvests 100-Bu. Wheat Crop

Thousands of people who flocked to the Don Thomas ranch near Wabburg, Wash., during wheat harvest got to see a sight that might never again be repeated - a 27-mule hitch pulling a 60-year-old Deere 36B combine harvesting a 100-bu. per acre wheat crop.

It was a joint project with farmers from

all over Washington and Oregon bringing their mules. “There probably isn’t a farmer in the country who has 27 broke mules of his own he could put together,” says Doug Hutchins, Auburn, Wash., who attended the event and sent FARM SHOW these photos.

Hutchins was fascinated by the mule-powered harvest because as a youngster he

participated in grain harvests with 40 mule hitches pulling ground-driven combines. “It took a lot of coordination to keep that many mules in line while running through the hilly Palouse area of East Central Washington,” he says.

The Deere combine in the photo is fitted with a 16 1/2 ft. header and is powered by an

85-hp. Hercules engine. Hutchins says it did an excellent job cutting and cleaning the wheat.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Doug Hutchins, 2701 Fir St. S.E., Auburn, Wash. 98002 (ph 206 833-6473).

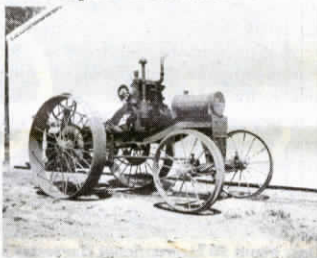
## He Made His Own Antique Tractor

“It has run a lot of miles in parades and gets a lot of attention from people trying to determine the origin of the various parts,” says Clint Ficken, Murdock, Kan., about the antique-looking tractor he built out of a collection of parts from old machines.

“I spent years scrounging through salvage yards, dozens of farm sales, and along miles of tree rows looking for parts. In the summer of 1989 I bought a J. I. Case hay baler engine at a sale and also found the frame from an IHC Titan 10-20 tractor on a neighbor’s farm.

“I junked out a model 26 Massey Harris combine which yielded the transmission, differential unit, sprockets and chains, steering sector and other assorted parts. The rear wheels are from an IHC combine.

“I’m not sure what machine the front wheels and axle came off of. The steering wheel is from a Twin City tractor. The gas tank came from an M-M combine with the



Ficken built antique-looking tractor out of collection of parts from old machines.

MM logo stamped on each end. I figured the MM should stand for something so I invented Murdock Machine Works, Murdock, Kansas, which I put on each side of the gas tank using stick-on letters.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clint Ficken, Box 11, Murdock, Kan. 67111 (ph 316 297-3045).

## Wife Put Tractor On Top Of Silo For Husband

“It was an early Christmas present from my wife,” says Charles Saelens, Durand, Ill., about the 1950 Minneapolis-Moline “U” now on top of an unused silo on their farm.

Saelens, who recently retired, bought the tractor new. It was the first tractor his son, Nick, ever operated and was always referred to as “Nick’s tractor”. Several years ago Nick died in an accident so the tractor has a lot of meaning to the family.

“We had a crane out here to do some work on elevator legs so when they were done, we just had them lift it up on top of the silo,” says Saelens, adding that although the tractor no longer runs he had given it a fresh coat of paint about a year ago to preserve it.

“I love having it up there,” he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles Saelens, 13027 Baker Rd., Durand, Ill. 61024 (ph 815 248-2512).



## LIMITED EDITION CARDS MAY BECOME AS COLLECTIBLE AS BASEBALL CARDS

# Trading Cards For Tractor Enthusiasts

By Dianne L. Beetler

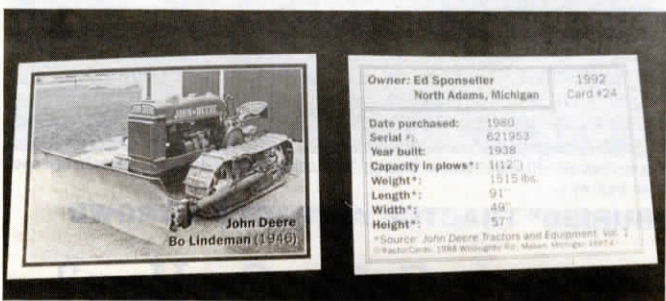
If you love tractors you’ll love these new collectible trading cards featuring various models of John Deere tractors.

TractorCards are just like baseball cards with a color photo of the tractor on the front and all the vital information on back including year built, weight, dimensions, power and the owner and serial number of the tractor featured. The back of the card also gives the number of the limited edition card.

Ray Schmidgall of Mason, Mich., who owns the TractorCard business with his

family, says interest has been tremendous. Some of the first cards, issued in 1991, have already gone up in value.

The company produced 25 different cards in 1991, 25 more in 1992, and plans to offer 50 cards in 1993. Cards are sold in sets of 5 each for \$3.00 or in super sets of 25 (\$12). Cards are sold primarily by mail order although some Deere dealers and hobby shops plan to carry them. Schmidgall notes that he’s still in the process of educating people about TractorCards.



TractorCards feature photo on front and data about tractor on back (two different cards are shown here).

Tractor owners now often submit pictures of their tractors in hopes that they will be featured on a card. The Schmidgalls hope to expand to other tractor models in the future, including the upcoming 1993 set. They started with Deere because they’re the most widely known.

The Schmidgalls have also started a

quarterly newsletter called “TractorCard Trader” for collectors of the new trading cards.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Schmidgall, TractorCards, 1988 Willoughby Rd., Mason, Mich. 48854 (ph 517 676-1835).