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WOODEN MODELS PATTERNED AFTER OLD-TIME EQUIPMENT

Hand-Carved Farm Tractor And Wagon

An Illinois farmer's hand-carved tractor and wagon drew lots of attention at the recent Farm Progress Show where they were displayed at the Moews Seed Company booth. He carved the 2-ft. high tractor and 3-ft. high wagon out of pine.

"I made the tractor last winter for my 5-year-old boy," says Bill Carlson, Biggsville, Ill., who farms and also custom builds wood products. "A Moews seed dealer saw it and fell in love with it. It's the first wooden tractor I've ever built. I saw a photograph of another wooden tractor in a wood shop magazine and thought it would look good in front of the wagon, which I made earlier.

"I've taken it to several craft shows and it

always gets a lot of attention. Everyone tells me it looks like an old Deere R tractor except that the belt pulley is on the wrong side. It also has a front-mounted hand crank, hand clutch and brake levers, steering wheel, seat, exhaust pipe, gas cap, and engine block. I made the tractor's rear wheels to look like steel wheels. They were the most difficult to make because I had to cut a lot of wood pieces at different angles."

Carlson custom-makes the wagons from oak or pine and sells them for \$250. He says he's willing to sell the tractor for \$500.

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"NEW IDEA" UNVEILED BACK IN 1840'S

Is This The First Stripper Header?

The harvesting world has been turned on its ear by the new Shelbourne Reynolds stripper combine that strips grain heads off stalks without the use of a cutterbar. But is it really a new idea? According to the Australian magazine *POWER FARMING*, the first combine stripper was actually developed way back in 1842 by Australian inventor John Wrathall Bull.

Unlike the earliest reapers developed in Britain in the 1820's, which had cutterbars similar to those still in use today, Bull's stripper had a stripping comb with long teeth and a reel on which were mounted four beaters, ground-driven through a series of cogs and belts. The heads were gathered by the comb, beaten and stripped of grain. The grain flew up into an enclosed chamber which, when full, was emptied.

The stripping comb design used in that first combine was around in various forms in Australia for many years after that, including a stripper harvester developed by James Mellor, another Australian, in 1857. In 1923, the stripper was incorporated into a self-propelled harvester that competed with cutterbar-type machines.

Eventually the stripper-type machines lost



James Mellor of Australia built this stripper header in the late 19th century.

out in the competition with other machines but there are still a few rare models of these early strippers on display in agricultural museums in Australia.

(Excerpted from a report by Frances Wheelhouse in *POWER FARMING*)

FARM SHOW

Ag World



Teams of humans compete against each other pulling an old International Farmall M with transmission in neutral. The course is 100 ft. long. A stop watch clocks the times.

YEARLY EVENT ATTRACTS BIG CROWD

First-Of-Its-Kind Human Tractor Pull

An Illinois town that first gained fame for its Cow Chip Throw may soon gain fame for another "first" - the Human Tractor Pull.

Unlike conventional "pulls" where tractors pull weighted sleds, this first-of-its-kind contest pits teams of humans against each other pulling tractors.

The new sport has fast become the most popular event at the yearly Sweetcorn Festival held in July each year in Chatham, Ill. The brainchild of the Chatham JC's, human tractor pulls have been staged for the past four years. Mark Workman, of the JC chapter, says the human tractor pull is a big crowd pleaser that has added to the attendance of the annual festival.

"We had five or six teams pulling this year. We have sections for both men and women," he says.

The idea is to pull against time. Teams pull an old IHC Farmall M with the transmission in neutral. The course is 100 ft. long. A stop watch clocks the times.

"Teams are getting better at it. This year the best time was 9.4 sec. The women's teams are right up there at about 11 sec.," says Workman.

There are five pullers on a team. Local rivalries are sometimes set up among teams. The accompanying photo, for example, shows a team of Wal-Mart employees pulling in competition against a team from a local K-Mart, which eventually won the contest. Trophies are given to the winning team. There is no entry fee.

"So far we haven't been challenged by any other towns but we would welcome the competition," says Workman.

The little town has also gained fame for its Cow Chip Throw, staged each year to raise money for charity. There is a \$5 entry fee. This year \$760 was raised for a local girl with leukemia. "Anybody can get into the act. Politicians always do. They're so used to throwing it anyhow," says Workman.