



International Harvester Collectors • Chapter #23

# ALABAMA

Fall 2018

## RPRU 2018 Show Book Gallery Preview



The photo gallery has been a major component of Red Power Round Up show books since the first one was published in 1996. With the 2018 show's emphasis on IH's involvement in the development of mechanical cotton pickers and equipment we hit on the idea of using a cotton field as the background for the gallery photos.

After considerable thought and study, the decision

was made to use "green-screen" technology to insert a separate photo of a mature cotton field, ready for harvest, behind each shot made at the show.

Out of the 230 total pictures in the 2018 gallery, 92 are of Alabama Chapter #23 members, their families, and their IH displays. The examples shown on this page give you a good idea of what to expect. Printable pre-order forms are at [www.alabamaihc.org](http://www.alabamaihc.org).



# Randy's Ramblings

• President's Letter from Randy Bodine •

On September 14, Jana and I celebrated 33 years of marriage. Now, I know that for some of you, that is not a long time. My mom and dad, Frank and Faye Bodine, had been married 47 years when my dad passed away. Jana's mom and dad, Newman and Edna Roe had also been married 47 years when her dad passed away. However, this story is not about the length of our marriage, but how our honeymoon set the wheels in motion for traveling. It was left up to me to plan the honeymoon. Since I grew up poor, on a farm, with no money, I didn't get to travel or go many places. The biggest trip I can remember was going from Albertville to the State Fair in Nashville, Tennessee and we went to that mainly to see the mule show. So, when I had the opportunity to plan our honeymoon, I made sure that we would see some places I had never been to before. We were gone seven days and stayed in a different place every night. We were constantly going and taking in all the sites. Jana had no idea that we would be doing that every chance we got for the rest of our married life. I have taken her to some wonderful places, but when you follow tractor shows, she has also been dragged to some out of the way, hole in the walls, chasing the tractor hobby.

I think my love for travel is one of the reasons I like to move the state show and the club meetings to different sites. I like to see new places and experience new adventures. I know some of you are not so adventurous, but I would encourage you to venture out at least for the club meetings and state show. Many of you go to the same shows year after year, park in the same spot and that's OK, but why not go to those shows plus one or two new shows that you have never attended? We had several people at our last chapter meeting in Fyffe, that had never been to this show. They all said how beautiful the area was and how much they enjoyed the show. They might not have attended this show if it weren't for having a chapter meeting at this location. Special shout out to Steve and Sharon Allen who came the farthest distance from Fairhope. Honorable mention also goes to Donnie Wedgworth who traveled from Greensboro and to Charlie and Sally Grimmitt who came from Sheffield. You have another great opportunity to spread your travel wings – attend the show at St. Florian. I know many of you go to this show because of the number of tractors that are reported to be there each year.

However, some of you may be like me and you have never been to this venue. Come join us on Saturday, October 6 (see map to St. Florian on page 4). This show is called Oktoberfest which celebrates the German heritage of Saint Florian. There will be music, a BBQ cook off, antique cars, arts and crafts, children's activities, and of course, antique tractors. It will be fun for the entire family. We will have our club meeting at 11:00 am. Since it is our fourth meeting of the year, we will be electing three new directors, setting our chapter meetings for 2019 and taking final bids for the Alabama State Show for 2020. Please make plans to attend and show your support for Chapter #23.

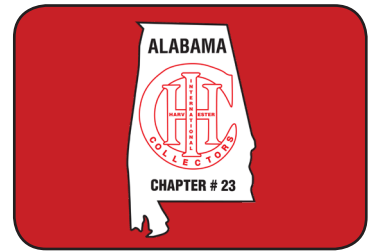
If you want a new adventure, plan to join us on our bus trip to Red Power Round Up 2019 to Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. Mark your calendars. We will leave on June 22 and return on June 30. This trip will be filled with lots of fun, entertainment and exciting stops along the way. We will be sending out more information once all the details are finalized.

Speaking of Red Power Round Up, I have had an opportunity to begin looking at the show book photos from RPRU 2018 and seeing all the places that people traveled from to spend time in Alabama. I keep seeing pictures of people that I didn't even know were at RPRU 2018. Looking at the pictures gives me an opportunity to relive it over and over in my mind. So much of RPRU 2018 is a blur to me and to many of our volunteers. However, with the wonderful work that Clay Nordan and his team are doing with this year's show book, you will have the opportunity to see hundreds of pictures that tell a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



The popular RPRU 2018 cotton picker show toy comes in this attractive collector's box.



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## Officers

### Randy L. Bodine – President

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### Clay Nordan – Sec/Treas.

2907 Virginia Road  
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(205) 870-1535  
cnordan@me.com

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### Buck Brown '18

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(256) 452-1793  
bbrown@tractor-equipment.com

### Charlie Grimmitt '18

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### Clay Nordan '20

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## Advisors

Charles Allen  
Wiley Johnson  
Conrad Bell

**Minutes of AL Chapter #23  
International Harvester Collectors  
Meeting at Fyffe, AL  
11:00 a.m., August 25, 2018**

7 Directors present

Robert Bodine  
Buck Brown  
Charlie Grimmitt  
Ronnie Lott  
Clay Nordan  
Sherman Roberts  
Donnie Wedgworth

2 Advisors present

Conrad Bell  
Charles Allen

21 Members present

Larry Allen  
Sharon Allen  
Sharon K. Allen  
Stephen Allen  
Harold Beck  
Retha Beck  
Gary Bell  
Jana Bodine  
Kasey Bodine  
Randy Bodine  
Bill Dennis

Sally Grimmitt  
Todd Hendricks  
Eugene Hill  
Hal Hoaglin  
Dennis Johnson  
Johnnie Lemmond  
Larry Lemmond  
Carl McMurray  
Carl Pletcher  
Jane Roberts

The meeting was called to order by president Randy Bodine and he began the meeting with an invocation.

The first agenda item was Clay's report. He had no additions to the minutes as published in the recent newsletter and said that the chapter balance was now around \$11,000 following payment for the newsletter. He made a motion to accept the minutes as printed, there was a second, and the motion passed.

With regard to membership, he reported that our active member number currently stands at 353. We have added one new member since the recent newsletter. As reported in the newsletter, we got a 27 member boost from the new members we signed up at the RPRU.

The next agenda item was an update on the Red Power Round Up, now that we are more than two months past its conclusion. Randy reported that we were very successful from a financial standpoint as well as meeting our goal of attracting a good showing of the many diverse types of IH exhibits we were hoping for.

He said that while some show toys and belt buckles remain, he has no doubt that buyers will grab them up fairly soon. The cotton picker toy, in particular, has become a hot item among serious farm toy collectors and companies that offer them for sale.

Enthusiastic cards and emails of thanks and appreciation from visitors to the Montgomery show started coming in the week after the final day, and they continue to come regularly. They have been uniformly complimentary of how organized we were and how well the show was run. Many contain warm expressions of thanks and statements congratulating us on a "Job Well Done!".

Among those happiest with their experience at RPRU 2018 were our vendors. Several of them have told Randy that they did more business

at our show than they have at any previous RPRU they have attended.

Randy then moved on to a brief summary of upcoming shows for the rest of the year and the near future. Among them were the Alabama National Fair at Garrett Coliseum, Sept. 28-Oct. 8. He asked for good ag display participation from chapter members once again, and said that move-in will be Sept. 16-26.

The national Winter Convention for 2019 will be at Kalamazoo, MI, Feb. 28-March 2. RPRU 2019 will be at Bloomsburg, PA, June 27-29, 2019. He reminded everyone to save the dates for the bus trip that will visit attractions in several states before arriving at Bloomsburg. The bus will depart on June 22 and return on June 30, 2019. The Alabama IH State Show for 2019 will be held at Boaz, AL on October 5. Red Power Round Up 2020 will be held in Huron, SD, June 25-27, 2020. And Red Power Round Up 2021 will be at Duquoin, IL, July 1-3 of that year.

The next agenda item was to ask if anyone had an upcoming show to promote? Various representatives spoke up to invite everyone to the Florida Flywheelers show in February; The Southland Flywheelers show in October; Jean's on the River in October; The "G" Round Up in October; and the show at Wedowee in October.

To close the meeting, Randy reminded everyone that in addition to chapter branded merchandise, we still have Red Power Round Up items for sale.

He also encouraged anyone with stories or photos of interest to be sure and contribute them for the newsletter.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Clay Nordan – Secretary Treasurer*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



**Aubie sits on chapter member (#263) Martha Nell Fuller's nicely restored Farmall Super A.**

great story of what an extraordinary event we held. You can find an order form for pre-ordering your show book at the chapter website, [www.alabamaihcc.org](http://www.alabamaihcc.org). Also, if you missed your opportunity to get RPRU 2018 merchandise, including caps, T-shirts, cotton merchandise, etc, we will have them available at the St. Florian show or you can

get order forms for belt buckles and cotton picker toys on the website as well.

As fall arrives, the weather cools down, which makes it easier to haul tractors and enjoy the fall tractor shows. In the state of Alabama, we also put a LOT of focus on football. Sometimes talking specific football teams is like discussing religion and politics, you are only supposed to do that among your own kind. However, I just couldn't resist showing you that not only do some tractor fans support football, but that Aubie, the mascot at Auburn University is also a Farmall Fan.

Happy Tractoring!

*Randy*

## Financial Report

**Net Assets, August 2018 .....\$12,200.96**

Income

**Dues .....110.00**

**T-Shirt Sales .....69.00**

**Subtotal.....179.00**

Expenses

**Newsletter .....1093.14**

**National Dues Paid.....45.00**

**Merchandise Expense .....55.59**

**2019 Dues Collection Postage.....300.00**

**Subtotal..... 1493.73**

**Net Assets, Oct. 2018 .....\$10,886.23**

## 356 Active Members

4 New Members Added Since Last Newsletter

**James Forman** #675/NEW  
4732 MS Hwy. 33  
Gloster, MS 39638-6004  
(601) 341-7791

**Joey Wilson** #628/25690  
314 Peachtree Street  
Apt. 476  
Roanoke, AL 36274-7424  
(Randolph County)  
(334) 646-9689  
♦ hma24339@gmail.com

**Sylvan Dyer** #676/25734  
225 Willow Creek Rd.  
Auburn, AL 36832-4117  
(Lee County)  
(334) 887-7674  
♦ dyersylvan@msn.com

**William Newton** #677/NEW  
440 County Road 115  
Lexington, AL 35648-4139  
(Lauderdale County)  
(256) 577-0918  
♦ jerrynewtonpedalpulls@gmail.com

## 52 Out of State Members

Florida ..... 7  
Georgia ..... 17  
Indiana ..... 2  
Louisiana ..... 7

Mississippi ..... 7  
Pennsylvania ..... 3  
Tennessee ..... 6  
Texas ..... 3

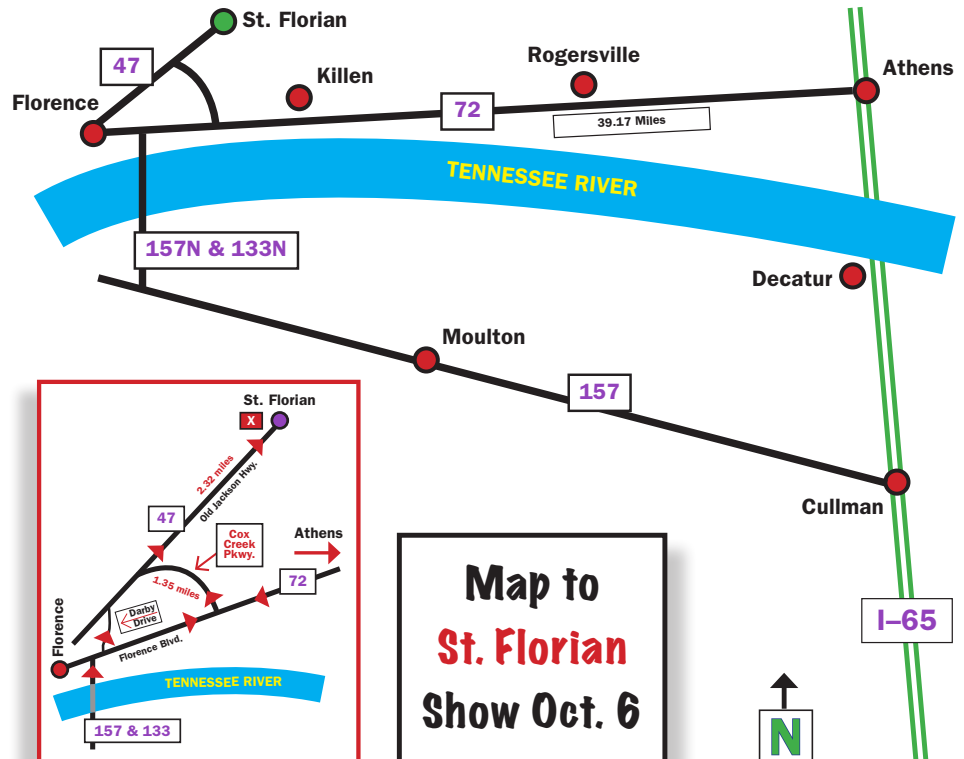
If you want to pre-order a **Red Power Round Up 2018 Show Book** but don't have access to [www.alabamaihwc.org](http://www.alabamaihwc.org) to print an order form, simply send a check payable to **RPRU 2018** (\$40 per book) to: **RPRU 2018**  
2907 Virginia Rd. • Birmingham, AL 35223



## Next Meeting

**St. Florian  
Octoberfest  
& Tractor  
Show**

**11:00 a.m.  
Saturday  
Oct. 6  
2018**





**FREE to PUBLIC**

# FALL

## Festival and Tractor Show

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**27<sup>th</sup> October** Call Kevin Love @ (256) 404-0123 for A.M. tractor events

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## 2018 Tractor Show Schedule

Montgomery – AL National Fair .....	Sept. 28 - Oct. 8
Eva .....	Sept. 29
Boaz .....	<b>CANCELLED</b> Oct. 5-6
Centre Fall Fest .....	Oct. 6
<b>** St. Florian</b> .....	Oct. 6
Gadsden – Noccalula Falls “G” Roundup ...	Oct. 12-13
Cordova – Jean’s On the River .....	Oct. 13
Falkville Festival .....	Oct. 13
Shelby – Iron Works .....	Oct. 13
Dothan - Landmark Park .....	Oct. 20
Jasper Heritage Festival .....	Oct. 20
Wedowee .....	Oct. 20
Hartselle – Southland Flywheelers.....	Oct. 27
Greenville .....	Oct. 27
Jasper Veterans Day .....	Nov. 3
Orrville .....	Nov. 10

**\*\* Alabama Chapter 23 Meeting at 11:00 a.m.**



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# KING and I

By Thomas A. Grzyb

*Thomas Grzyb, member #212 from Jasper has been an active member of Chapter #23 since 2004. He is a former employee of International Harvester Corp. and has made other contributions to this newsletter in the past. His parents were of Polish descent and he grew up on their farm on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan near the community of Bark River. He has been wanting to write down some of the details and stories from his youth and time with IH and recently completed a brief memoir. We're grateful to Thomas for sharing some of his life's story with us. What follows is an excerpt from the complete text he submitted.*

I remember dad bought a large Belgian black horse. He weighed 1000 lbs. with the harness. His name was "KING".

Dad used King to clear land for our new home to be built in the future.

King was a great horse, we cleared land, plowed, tilled and planted hay for the farm animals. In the winter-time we worked in the woods with King. King would pull a dray of wood all day. For those who don't know what a dray is, it is a large wooden sled.

King always managed to get his knees hurt. Dad had to get a veterinarian to doctor him. When King got healed, it was too late for planting. King always slept standing up. When he would fall down he would hurt his knees. At times you could hear King fall in the barn.

Many times, working in the woods, King would fall down with a harness on. Dad had to do something! So Dad bought a 1947 Farmall "A". I plowed with a single bottom plow that was pulled behind the "A", the same plow that King used to pull. My brother George also drove the tractor. Plowing with a tractor sure beats plowing behind a horse. Shortly after we acquired the tractor, King was sent to the mink farm for mink food. We were all saddened, because King was a part of our lives.



Thomas Grzyb with his sister Dorothy on their father's 1947 Farmall A on the farm near Bark River, Michigan.



Thomas Grzyb (seated) shaking hands with Glen Sanders (#15) at the Jean's on the River show in 2015. Also in the picture are Chris Tucker (#209) at left and Ed Norris (#138).

Later on Dad bought a half track system from Arps Black Hawk Corp. that mounted under the tractor. It was a good unit to work with in the woods. With the added traction it sure made pulling the dray with pulp wood a lot easier. In the wintertime snow was very deep, so the tracks were a real asset.

My brother and I built a boom that mounted on the draw bar behind the tractor. We modified a differential from a Ford Model-A. One end was the cable drum, the opposite end had a 1/2" square key welded on. With an emergency-brake lever, with a flat bar that had a 1/2" notch that locked the shaft to keep it from turning. Using a universal joint from the PTO that powered the unit, an emergency brake was installed on the rear flat drum pulley.

The operation was to engage the lever to power the rear flat belt pulley and PTO. Let out the clutch, and the cable drum pulley would turn, lifting a large log onto the truck. When the desired height was achieved, by simultaneously depressing the clutch and at the same time engaging the emergency brake to hold the log in position, you could swing the boom where you wanted it, and releasing the emergency brake, thus lower the log.

We also built a firewood cutting saw rig, mounted behind the tractor driven by a flat belt from the rear pulley.

An event worth mentioning took place one Saturday afternoon. The entire family was working in the woods, and the skies started to darken and a storm was brewing on the horizon. We told dad that we had to get home before the storm. We always tried to get out of work.



Dad said OK and my brother and I left the woods. My brother had a bright idea: take off our shoe laces and tie them together, and tie it to the governor of the tractor. We could then go faster pulling on the governor rod. When we got to the highway, my brother shifted into 4th gear. We were going wide open down the highway when my brother all-of-a-sudden decided to make a sharp right turn and locked the right rear wheel brake. I don't know how we avoided a tragedy. We both jumped off the tractor before it rolled over on its side. Somehow we were unscathed. I don't know why, but to this day my brother always exhibits unexplainable, irrational behavior.

Now what were we going to do?

I said let's get King and harness him up and with a chain attached to the rear wheel, we could pull the tractor back upright. We put oats in a bucket and tried to entice King to come to us from the pasture. King always came to us, but not this time!

So we decided to put plan "B" into action. Get the block and tackle and tie it to the mailbox post. As we tried to raise the tractor we pulled the mailbox out of the ground. Now what is plan "C"?

Fortunately a neighbor was driving down the highway who stopped. He had a chain that we used to get the tractor back on its wheels. But we had other issues that had to be addressed now!

Dad just bought a new muffler the day before and it was now broken off.

We decided to tell dad that it was too tall for the garage door opening and we hit it. He will buy that. In addition, the left front light was broken off. For this one, we decided to tell dad that we hit a tree coming out of the woods, He will buy that too!

Now the shifting rod was bent 90°. We removed the shifting knob and, using a long pipe, we straightened the shifting rod. The steering wheel was like an oval. Wrapping the wheel with burlap and with the aid of a sledge hammer we put it back into shape.

Now what to do with the broken radiator hose? It was time to sacrifice. We took the tire off the bicycle, and removed the inner tube, cut it to length and attached it to the radiator. It worked!

Dad came home later and went out in the field to cultivate with the tractor without any problems. At a later date we went to town to the IH dealership and replaced the radiator hose. Several months passed and the neighbor who helped us was having a conversation with dad and said, "did you know that your boys rolled over your tractor?"

To this day, dad would not have known if the neighbor hadn't let the cat out of the bag.

After high school graduation I went to work at P&H Crane Company as a machinist in Escanaba, MI, using my Dad's precision tools that were painted olive drab, which I still have.

I worked for P&H for about a year after high school operating all types of machines, and later joined the U.S. Army in the European theater as a technician in the 10th Ordnance company in Giessen, Germany from 1960 to 1962.

I returned home from the Army and went to work



This is how the '47 "A" looked with the "half-track" system installed. The improved traction it provided made a big difference in heavy snow.

for P&H, worked four months and got laid off.


I told mom I was going to go to Chicago to look for work. There wasn't any place for work in Escanaba. It is a small town. I was driving down the street and saw a big building with the name International Harvester Co. on it, stopped in and filled out an application, and went to work in January of 1963 as a numerical tape controlled vertical turret lathe operator in Dept. 9 operating a Gilding & Lewis machine. That location was on 31st street parallel to Sacramento Blvd. in Chicago, IL. I was making the rear main drive housing for the TD-15, 20, & 25 crawlers, to be assembled on the 55 line. Shortly afterwards I was promoted to a Group Leader in Dept. 9.

My uncle Fred was a tool and die maker, and retired from IH. Also my uncle Morrie worked for IH in Hindsdale, Burr Ridge, IL, and retired from that facility.

Later on I made arrangements for my brother to get a job in the same department where I worked. But first I had to teach him how to read micrometers, all types



This photo shows the homemade "boom" that Thomas and his brother mounted to the Farmall "A" to make loading logs easier.



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 Joe Criswell







**Thomas' brother and brother-in-law in action cutting fire wood with belt pulley power from the Farmall A.**

of precision instruments, blue prints, speeds and feeds of various machines, and all the jargon that went with it. When he had the interview it appeared he had years of experience.

He was assigned to Dept. 9, where I taught my brother the ropes. Later my brother served an apprenticeship for tool and die. At a later date I arranged employment for my brothers-in-law. Ed went to the hammer shop, and P.J. went on the 55 line as an assembler. They made TD-15, 20, & 25's. They also assembled track loaders, 175s and 250s. IH also had a smaller crawler on the 37 line.

While working at IH I attended night school at Bogan Junior college for 2½ years and later resigned and pursued a career in Engineering.

In 1977 under Archie McCardell's tenure IH closed its doors, only after he received a \$1.5 million bonus. After Archie resigned in May of 1982 running IH debt to \$4.5 billion, (some say he was fired), IH never recovered from a union strike.

In 1986, my brother George was transferred to and later retired from the Melrose Park, IL. IH facility that became the Navistar International Corporation. They made truck engines. Brother-in-law Ed went to Ford Motor Co. in Chicago Heights, IL. and retired from there. P.J. went to the Libertyville, IL. IH division. In November of 1952 Hough Corp. became a wholly owned subsidiary of International Harvester Co.

Later Hough sold to Dresser Industries, and Dresser became Komatsu/Dresser. They closed their doors at the location and PJ had to retire.

I was married to my late wife Verna for 42 years. We relocated to Jasper AL in 1993. I later joined the Alabama Chapter #23 IH Collectors Club and I go to as many shows as I can.

I purchased a 1951 Farmall Super "A" from a bluegrass music friend. I partially restored it, and gave it the nickname "Cyrus".

I brought the one-horse plow with me to Jasper that I used to clear land and farm with "KING". It is on display on my front lawn.

Now you have it! "KING and I". King for the horse and I for International Harvester.



# The Joke's On ... Who?



Buddy Banks (#228) of Bogalusa, LA frequently ships tractor carburetors to Cullman, AL for Preston and Stanley Jones to rebuild and repair. This happens so often that little communication is required. When the repair is complete, the refurbished carb is simply shipped right back to Buddy. Prior to the Red Power Round Up, Buddy decided that he would have some fun with these good friends by sending them a Cub carburetor that was beyond repair. It came off a Cub that had burned and a big hole had melted into one side. In addition, the fire had deformed the shape of the whole thing.

Since Buddy hadn't heard from Preston and Stanley he checked with them to see if the carb had gotten to them. They had sniffed out Buddy's prank and were ready for him when he called. They told him that there were no delivery problems and they were in the process of fixing it, just as if there was nothing out of the ordinary going on.

No more communication was exchanged about the carburetor until they were all at the Red Power Round Up in Montgomery in June. During one of the daily watermelon cuttings, the Jones brothers paid Buddy a visit and, all with a straight face, presented him a box containing the repaired carburetor. Buddy realized that the tables had been turned on him when he saw that the Jones "repair" included considerable amounts of Duct Tape and the addition of a short length of PVC pipe. The Jones's had a nice audience of tractor friends on hand to witness Buddy's reaction and to see who got the last laugh.

(Above, L-R) Hope Banks, Buddy Banks, Stanley Jones, Randy Jones, Preston Jones, Leon Jones.







(Top) Chapter #23 members gathered under the tent for the meeting at Fyffe on August 25. (Lower left) RPRU branded merchandise, belt buckles, and show toys available for purchase at Fyffe. (Right) Members visiting and shopping following the meeting.



Harold Beck (#107), left, coordinates the tractor show portion of Fyffe UFO Day each August with his wife, Retha (#542).



Carl Pletcher (#471), explaining his excellent miniature Ford with 3-point hitch attachments to an interested visitor at Fyffe.





(Above) the tractor parade gets going at Fyffe. (Inset above) Buck Brown on a nice Super H at Fyffe as the parade concludes. (Right) Larry Warden (#596), a member from Fayetteville, TN with his two orchard tractors at the annual Lawrenceburg show.



(L-R) Conrad Bell, Larcus Mayo, Brandon McCulloch, Mike Gallahar, Gary Bell, Jane Roberts, Sherman Roberts, Logan Bodine, Robert Bodine, Ronnie Lott; at Eagleville.



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