

Elvis Tractor News

Most Chapter #23 members will remember the story we included in the Fall 2007 issue of our Super A newsletter *A Tractor for Elvis*. It was written by J.H. Taylor (member #202) of Auburn and was part of a larger story on J.H.'s career in sales with International Harvester in Memphis, TN.

In the story, J.H. told about calling on Elvis' parents at Graceland in an attempt to sell him a tractor to use to keep the grounds mowed and attractive. He was successful in selling Elvis an I-300 Utility and had some humorous anecdotes to tell from the experience. The story is still available to read on the Chapter #23 website, www.alabamaih.org, under the link for "Members' Stories." There is also a home movie of Elvis driving this tractor on YouTube. Just search for: "Elvis Presley-Rare Home Movie 1957." The movie shows him mowing and getting the I-300 stuck in the mud.

In December of 2009, we were contacted by Robert W. Dye, Photography Manager for Elvis Presley Enterprises, Inc. He said that they were looking into refurbishing Elvis' 1957 I-300 Utility. He had seen J.H. Taylor's story and was looking for sources of information on the I-300 so that they could do an accurate restoration. We gave him J.H.'s contact information as well as the IH archives in Madison, WI, and encouraged him to pursue this project and let us know if we could help in any way.

In February, Robert contacted us again to say that he had gone to their warehouse to photograph the tractor, but was surprised to find an IH 424 there instead. He said that he had documentation for the purchase of both tractors and felt the 424 was purchased around 1965, but he didn't know what happened to the I-300!

We expressed our disappointment to Robert



that the tractor J.H. had sold Elvis was not in the holdings of his estate after all. But this certainly gives us all something to watch for as we scout for unique restoration projects in the future.

If anyone has any information on either of these tractors, you can contact Robert by email at rdye@elvis.com



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