

A Young Tractor Lover's Dream Comes True

On August 24, 2013, the East Alabama Antique Farm Equipment Club completed a fundraiser by giving away a restored Farmall 200 in a drawing at their annual show at Wedowee in Randolph County, which borders the Alabama/Georgia state line.

Chapter #23 member Jerry Rice (#325) held the winning ticket that was drawn by a little boy with a very enthusiastic love for tractors. Six year old kindergartner Rhett Huddleston, had high hopes that he would draw his own ticket stub and take the shiny Farmall 200 home with him.

Days before the drawing, Rhett was so certain that he would win that he would ask his dad, Jerry Huddleston, how they were going to get the tractor home? Where will we park it? Will it fit in the barn?

But it was not to be for the young tractor lover, and Jerry and his wife Diane couldn't help but notice how crestfallen Rhett became when his stub was not the winner.

The next morning at church, someone asked Jerry who won the tractor, and he hesitantly replied, "Well, we did, but I would rather a little boy I know had won it."

While eating lunch following church, Diane and Jerry decided that they would be much happier if they just gave the tractor to Rhett, and that's exactly what they did.

On Monday Jerry and Diane drove the Farmall 200 over to Rhett's house in Wedowee. The



(Left to Right) Jerry Rice (#325) Diane Rice, Rhett Huddleston (on tractor), and Jerry Huddleston at the 2014 East Alabama Antique Farm Equipment Club tractor show.

Huddlestons were not at home at the time, so they parked the tractor in the yard for them to discover when they returned.

It wasn't long before Rhett, his mom, April, and his 12 year old twin sisters, Emma and Abby, came home from school and found the tractor sitting in the yard. Rhett immediately knew that it was the tractor from the drawing and exclaimed, "Where did that come from? That's the Farmall from the tractor show!"

Before they could pull into the driveway, Rhett asked to be let out of the car and ran across the yard and hopped on the tractor. The Rices had left a card with a handwritten message from Diane to Rhett. The card quoted a Bible verse, "It is better to give than to receive," and invited Rhett to join the tractor club and enjoy and take care of his new Farmall 200.

Rhett immediately called Jerry and Diane to thank them for their generosity. He then started calling family and friends to tell them about the gift. Before long they had a yard full of company

congratulating him and admiring Rhett's sparkling new red tractor.

Later that evening, Rhett and his dad went to see the Rices to personally thank them for their thoughtfulness. Rhett now considers Jerry Rice his friend and appreciates him as an expert on tractors and wants to spend time with Jerry and let him teach him how to work on tractors.

Since all this happened, Rhett's mom says that he will sometimes say, out of the blue, "I can't believe Jerry Rice gave me that tractor."

About Jerry Rice, Rhett's dad, Jerry Huddleston says, "I can't think of a better man for my son to admire and look up to than Jerry Rice. He is a faithful Christian man, attends church on Sundays, supports his local community, loves his family, is honest, has character and class, and is an overall genuine person ... and has a good first name."

To sum up this classic example of an application of the golden rule, we'll let Rhett have the last word: "It is a dream come true for me to have my own antique tractor."



Rhett Huddleston right at home at the wheel of his Farmall 200.