



International Harvester Collectors • Chapter #23

ALABAMA

Late Summer 2020

Chapter #23 Well Represented at South Dakota Red Power Round Up

Red Power Round Up 2020 was originally scheduled for June 25-27 at Huron, SD, hosted by Chapter 21. When the coronavirus began impacting the entire American population in March, it was not certain if the show could actually go ahead as planned. Rather than cancel the show early in the pandemic,

Chapter 21 elected to move the date to the weekend of August 8-10, keeping the option to cancel if needed. Fortunately, the show did come off, using social distancing guidelines and face masks, on the new dates, even though attendance and displays were significantly less than is usually seen at the national show.



(L-R) Randy Bodine, Jana Bodine, Jane Roberts, Sherman Roberts, Sam Braddy, Scout Couey, Larry Couey, Skylar Couey, Gary Couey, Kim Couey Lindsey, Buddy Banks. The display consists of a "Chattanooga" cane press with syrup-making evaporator pans.

SEE MORE RPRU 2020 PHOTOS ON PAGE 6

Next Meeting • 11:00 a.m. September 19, 2020

Hartselle Depot Days, previously scheduled for September 19, 2020 has been CANCELLED due to the Pandemic. The Chapter #23 meeting, also scheduled for that show, will now be conducted over the ZOOM online app.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING, TURN TO PAGE 4

Randy's Ramblings

• President's Letter from Randy Bodine •

My pastor has a saying, "we should not be fearful, but we should not be foolish, either". No one really knows what to do when it comes to the COVID-19 virus. I love telling the story about the farmer and the flood. A farmer was sitting on his front porch watching it rain. The sheriff came by and said the valley was going to flood and the farmer should get in the car with him and he would take him to safety. The farmer refused and said "the Lord is going to take care of me" and the sheriff left. A little while later, a man came by in a boat and the farmer was sitting on the roof top of his house. He told the farmer that the dam was going to break and flood the valley and he should get in the boat. The farmer refused and said "the Lord is going to take care of me", so the man in the boat went on his way. A while later, a helicopter came by and the farmer was standing on top of his chimney with water up to his shoulders. They threw down a rope and yelled for the farmer to grab hold and be pulled to safety. Once again, the farmer refused and said "the Lord is going to take care of me". The scene then shifts to heaven, where the farmer arrives angry and confused. He wanted to know what had happened. The Lord said, "I sent a car, a boat, and a helicopter. What else did you want me to do?"

I know you are smiling if for no other reason than to shake your head at my corny jokes! However, sometimes we need to be reminded not to be foolish – especially when it comes to this virus. So be safe and do the right things to keep yourself healthy. Of course, keeping everyone safe is the reason why so many shows have been cancelled. However, it doesn't change the fact that I miss seeing everyone in the club – it's been so long I even miss the ones I don't like. I miss getting together under the tent, listening to all the tall tales, and looking at tractors!

Jana and I enjoyed our trip to Red Power Round Up 2020 in Huron, South Dakota. Even though we were a little "fearful". It was good to get to attend a show and visit with friends from across the country, really for the first time this year. South Dakota Chapter #21 did a great job under the circumstances. They truly made lemonade with the lemons they were given. The displays and tractors were plentiful and wonderful. I just wish more people could have attended to appreciate the effort South Dakota members put into making it as big as possible. The only thing I regretted is when they rescheduled, it conflicted with

Piney Chapel, which I understand had a great show. However, it did split the Bodine crew so we could support both shows.

We left RPRU 2020 and social distanced in the vastness of North Dakota. We went to the Case IH/Steiger Plant in Fargo, where they produce the Quadtrac and large four-wheel drive tractors. We saw fields that remind you of the ocean where you can't see the other end. I have traveled to a lot of places and can honestly say I have never seen as many red tractors still working the fields as I did in North Dakota. Almost every farm we drove by had International Harvester tractors. I wanted to stop and take pictures every time I saw one, but if I had, we would still be in North Dakota (or divorced)!

Even though most of the shows up until now in Alabama have been cancelled, we did get to visit with club members at the Crossroads of Dixie show in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee – which was good medicine for the soul for so many. Hopefully, the more shows that take place, like Piney Chapel and Lawrenceburg, the more people will plan to continue with their shows. Dothan still plans to have their show at this time, but so had all the other meeting locations. I would encourage you to make plans to attend our fourth quarter meeting at Landmark Park in Dothan on October 17. If it is any indication from the few shows that have gone ahead, it will be a big one. People are just ready to get out and go do something fun. If something changes, we will let you know.

On that subject, the best way for us to get the word out between newsletters is by email. If we do not have a good email address on you or you are not receiving our emails, please send Clay an email at cnordan@me.com and he can get your email address added.

The schedule has been updated and any shows that have been cancelled that we know about have been noted. If you are associated with or know of a show change, please let me, Gary, or Clay know so we can get the word out.

Speaking about cancelled shows, you will notice that Hartselle Depot Days on September 19, the planned location for our third quarter meeting, has been cancelled. The show may have been cancelled, but our meeting will take place by ZOOM, like our other two meetings. ZOOM is simple to use and you can attend either on your computer, iPad,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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Ronnie Lott

Sherman Roberts

**Minutes of AL Chapter #23
International Harvester Collectors
Meeting Online via ZOOM
11:00 a.m., June 13, 2020**

5 Directors present

Conrad Bell Clay Nordan
Buck Brown Donnie Wedgworth
Jason Moore

2 Advisors present

Robert Bodine
Sherman Roberts

8 Members present

Gary Bell Randy Bodine
Brad Bodine Larry Lemmond
Jana Bodine Jane Roberts
Matt Bodine Leonard Summerford

This meeting had been previously scheduled to take place at Hanceville, AL on the campus of Wallace State Community College at the Alabama IH State Show for 2020. Due to the Corona virus pandemic, the college withdrew their permission for the tractor show to be held on their property, so in order to conduct our second meeting of the year, the ZOOM online meeting app was employed again in the same way it was used for our first meeting of the year in April.

When it was determined that a quorum of five directors were present for the virtual meeting, president Randy Bodine was able to call the meeting to order as usual 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 \$6551.23 following payment for the spring newsletter and some smaller expenses. He made a motion to accept the minutes, there was a second, and the motion passed.

He reported that our active member number remains at 312 which is the same number he reported at the meeting in April.

Following his printed agenda, which had been distributed by email ahead of time, Randy welcomed everyone who had been able to join the ZOOM meeting.

The agenda then called for a discussion of Winter Convention 2023, which had been a topic at our previous meeting. Randy reported that he had no new news about whether or not TN Chapter #9 had put in a bid to host the convention in 2022, so the question of which year might be most optimal for Chapter #23 to play host has not been resolved. After some brief discussion, it was agreed that putting some time between the Tennessee and Alabama conventions would probably be the best idea so as to not impact attendance

at either location. This topic was left on the table for future consideration once we get past the pandemic and more information is known about hosts who are selected in the next few years.

Moving on with the agenda, the "B" Cotton Picker restoration project was the next topic.

Randy reported that tires had been delivered to the shop at Bodine Farms in Guntersville. He related that he was very fortunate to locate a rare set of "new/old-stock" Firestone 45" tires through M.E. Miller Tire Co. in Ohio. They are the correct vintage tire for this tractor, so they add much to the authenticity of the restoration. He said that he tried to get them donated, but Miller would only sell them to us.

Randy said that the mechanical work on the project is finished and that reassembly now needs to be completed so that it can be rolled out and additional coats of red paint applied.

In conclusion, it was decided that work-days on the "B" project would be held at Bodine Farms on both Friday and Saturday June 19 and 20.

Next was a review of our chapter meetings that are remaining for the rest of the year as well as all the shows still on the 2020 schedule. Randy reminded everyone that the location for our third meeting of the year has been moved to Hartselle Depot Days on September 19, but it is subject to change as well. Right now the meeting at that show remains in effect. Then we'll go to Dothan for our fourth and final meeting of the year on October 17. He said that as far as he knows that show is still ready to go at this point. Randy summed up the Hartselle and Dothan situations by saying that the status of both is "wait and see".

Randy then moved on to the 2020 show schedule and made the remark that it's a historic and unfortunate thing to look at the schedule as it was printed in the last newsletter and see that every show has been cancelled up until Hanceville. He concluded by saying that we would just have to keep our fingers crossed and monitor the rest of the season and make adjustments as needed.

Randy then moved on to remind everyone that in these unusual times that we haven't had tractor shows to go to and make photographs for the newsletter, so Clay needs any material that our members can provide that could make good stories and features until our regular sources return.

Sherman Roberts mentioned that photos from the "B" cotton picker project would make a good source for the newsletter. Randy explained that we have had a plan all along to

run a major feature in an upcoming newsletter that will cover the project from start to finish, but we want to wait until everything has been completed before providing our membership with coverage in its entirety. Once this story has run in "Super A" we will also pass it along to *Harvester Highlights* so that every national member can also get the complete story about this unique project.

Randy then moved on to ask how many members in today's meeting were still planning on going to the Red Power Round Up in South Dakota, now scheduled for August 8, 9, & 10. He talked a bit about the possibility that it could also be cancelled at the last minute, but right now, it appears to be going forward and that he plans to be there. Sherman said that he also has every intention of being there if it comes off.

Next on the agenda was a run-down of upcoming Red Power Round Ups for 2021 and 2022 at DuQuoin, IL and Springfield, OH.

The final item on the agenda was a reminder that bids remain open for hosting the Alabama State Show in 2021 and 2022.

Randy then shared a thought on this subject related to the bad weather luck that the Southland Flywheelers had on the day of the 2019 State Show they hosted and the cancellation of the State Show at Hanceville this year due to COVID-19.

He proposed that in fairness we make an exception to our rule about re-hosting and just award the state show in the fall of 2021 to the Flywheelers and the show in 2022 to Hanceville. After some discussion, there was a motion to accept this idea. It was seconded and approved. Randy said that any other shows wanting to host in these two years would be considered.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Clay Nordan – Secretary Treasurer*

Financial Report	
Net Assets, June 2020	\$7611.32
Income	
Dues Collected.....	55.00
Subtotal.....	55.00
Expenses	
National Dues Paid	15.00
Newsletter	1060.09
Subtotal.....	1075.09
Net Assets, Sept. 2020	\$6591.23

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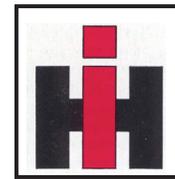
cell phone, etc to join in to see everyone, or you may use your landline and just call the number to take part in the meeting.

Located in this newsletter are specific instructions on how to participate on ZOOM. We will try to be online around 10:45 am so you may go ahead and get into the meeting and visit with others before the meeting actually starts at 11:00 am.

I hope you will join us via ZOOM on September 19 and, hopefully, in person at Dothan on October 17.

Happy Tractoring,

Randy

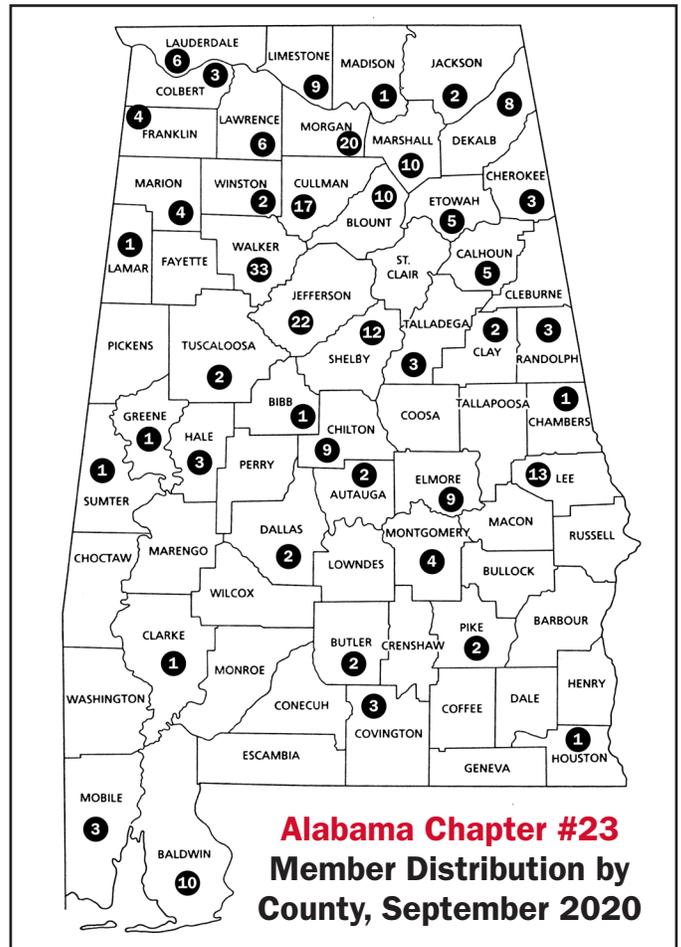


315 Active Members
3 New Members Added Since Last Newsletter



Source: alfafarmers.org

(Left) Chapter #23 director and member #444, Donnie Wedgworth stands next to Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture, Rick Pate as he presents a box of safety masks to Consolidated Catfish Co. Supply Manager Virginia Finch at their plant in Eutaw, AL. The masks were for employees and their families to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Also pictured from left to right are: Melonee Coats, Tonia Osburn, Plant Manager Gerald Sims, and Alabama Catfish Committee Chairman Sid Nelson. Donnie is Operations Manager for Consolidated Catfish. One of the highlights of Red Power Round Up 2018 for Chapter #23 was the fried catfish supper that Donnie and his friends from the West Alabama Catfish Navy hosted for workers and exhibitors at the Montgomery show at Garrett Coliseum the day before the show opened.



Alabama Chapter #23
Member Distribution by
County, September 2020

Chapter #23 ZOOM Meeting
Sept. 19 at 11:00 a.m.

TO GET THE ZOOM APP for your phone, tablet, or computer, Go to the App Store for your device and search for "ZOOM Cloud Meeting".

TO JOIN THE MEETING FROM THE ZOOM APP: When ZOOM asks if you want to JOIN A MEETING, type in the meeting ID: **840 3177 4013**

TO DIAL IN BY PHONE: 1 + (312) 626-6799, then choose **840 3177 4013#**

53 Out of State Members

Florida	6	New York	1
Georgia	11	Pennsylvania	1
Indiana	2	Tennessee	5
Louisiana	9	Texas	2
Mississippi	16		



2020 Tractor Show Schedule

Montevallo FFA (CANCELLED!)	April 4
Snead – JD Ag Supply (CANCELLED!)	April 4
Tuskegee (CANCELLED!)	April 4
Wetumpka (CANCELLED!)	April 4
Loxley (CANCELLED!)	April 11
**Snead – Case IH (CANCELLED!)	April 18
Houston, MS (CANCELLED!)	April 25
Moulton, Alex. Lumber (CANCELLED!)	April 25
Franklinton, LA (CANCELLED!)	May 1-2
Chalybeate (CANCELLED!)	May 9
New Market (CANCELLED!)	May 9
Tannehill State Park (CANCELLED!)	May 22-23
Point Mallard (CANCELLED!)	May 23
KY IH State Show (CANCELLED!)	June 5-6
Haleyville (CANCELLED!)	June 6
Moulton (CANCELLED!)	June 6
Summerdale (CANCELLED!)	June 6
**Hanceville, (CANCELLED!)	June 13
Cotaco – Soggy Bottom	June 20
NEW So. Flywheelers (CANCELLED!)	July 11
Fairview– (Hwy. 69 North)	July 11
Guntersville (CANCELLED!)	July 18
Speake (CANCELLED!)	July 25
Athens – Piney Chapel	August 7-8
Huron, SD – Red Power Round Up	August 8-10
Lawrenceburg, TN	August 21-22
Russellville (CANCELLED!)	August 22
Fyffe (CANCELLED!)	August 29
Fairview– (Labor Day)	Sept. 7
Eagleville, TN	Sept. 11-12
Town Creek	Sept. 12
Inman, Georgia IH State Show	Sept. 18-20
Hartselle (CANCELLED!)	Sept. 19
Eva (CANCELLED!)	Sept. 26
Winfield – Mule Day (CANCELLED!)	Sept. 26
Centre – Fall Fest	Oct. 3
St. Florian	Oct. 3
Gadsden HOKES BLUFF CITY PARK G Roundup	Oct. 9-10
TN #9 – IH State Show (CANCELLED!)	Oct. 9-10
Jean's on The River (CANCELLED!)	Oct. 10
Falkville – Festival (CANCELLED!)	Oct. 10
Shelby – Iron Works (CANCELLED!)	Oct. 10
**Dothan – Landmark Park	Oct. 17
Jasper – Heritage (CANCELLED!)	Oct. 17
Wedowee	Oct. 17
Hartselle – Southland Flywheelers	Oct. 24
Greenville	Oct. 24
Jasper – Veterans (CANCELLED!)	Nov. 7
Orrville	Nov. 14
Perry, GA – National Antique Ag Show	Nov. 19-21

****Alabama Chapter 23 Meeting at 11:00**

Show Books \$20

2018 Red Power Round Up Show Books can now be purchased at cost. Be sure to pick one up at the chapter tent when we are able to get together again at future tractor shows.





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(1) This photo is identical to the one you have seen on page one of this issue, with the exception that everyone is properly masked to guard against the threat that the Corona virus continued to play in all aspects of our lives in 2020. (2) Sherman Roberts accepts a specially designated RPRU belt buckle from Rick Vasgvaard of South Dakota Chapter 21 that was presented to Sherman, Buddy Banks, and Buddy's grandson Sam Braddy for "the most unique display" at the show. The display consisted of a #31 Chattanooga Cane Press and evaporator pan. (3) Jana and Randy Bodine sport their custom made face masks at the South Dakota RPRU. (4) Grady Morrow was also a Chapter #23 member attending the show. (5) Randy and Jana left Huron and went on to Fargo, North Dakota and toured the CASE/IH plant where the large, four-wheel-drive tractors and the quadtrac tractors are made. Randy is standing next to a big CASE model 470 Quadtrac displayed on the grounds of the plant. (6) Randy bumped into and got to visit a bit with Stewart Paquette (AL member #400) of Leesburg, FL at the South Dakota show. "Stew", is known for his tractor collection, his IH museum, and authentic IH dealership model that is open to the public in Leesburg. (7) Stew introduced Randy to Sargent McCormick, a direct descendant of Cyrus McCormick. This was Sargent's first RPRU and he was Stew's guest at the show.





After 8 months of cancelled tractor shows, the August show at Lawrenceburg, TN came off as planned and finally gave us a “close-to-home” show to attend. Alabama members pictured above made a good showing for Chapter #23. (L-R) Randy Bodine, Gary Bell, Conrad Bell, Adam Daniel, Logan Bodine, Sherman Roberts, Will Bodine, Owen Bodine, Matt Bodine, Robert Bodine, Luther Phillips, Teresa Johnson, Dennis Johnson, Jessica Bodine, Brad Bodine, Liam Moore, Jason Moore. Not in the picture but at the show were: Charles Allen, Harry Collins, Hal Hoaglin, Gerald Keeton, Jimmy Keeton, Grady Morrow, Ed Norris, and Terry Patterson.



Owen Bodine (#694), 2½ year old son of Matt and Hannah and grandson of Randy and Jana having a big time at Lawrenceburg at the wheel of his uncle Robert’s Super H with buddy seat.



Sherman Roberts spotted this very rare McCormick ODS6 orchard tractor at Lawrenceburg. He says only 350 were made by IH and this one hails from Arkansas.



APPRECIATING THE FARMALL **B**

Because of all the focus on the Farmall “B” Cotton Picker restoration project that has been underway by members of Chapter #23 this past year, it seemed like a good time to shine the spotlight on this sometimes forgotten or overlooked member of the Farmall letter series.

The “tricycle” McCormick-Deering Farmall B was designed for cultivating two normal wide rows compared to the wide-front Farmall A that was designed as a one-row cultivating tractor in wide rows. To accommodate more narrow rows, the tractor was

available in the Farmall BN version with an 8-inch narrower basic wheel tread.

Production of the Farmall B tractor commenced in 1939, ending in 1947. The model used the same basic engine as Farmall A tractors, but was capable of tread widths of 64 to 92 inches, compared to a range of 40 to 68 inches for the Farmall A. With this exception, there was virtually no difference between the two models. Both models featured 8.00-24 rear and 4.00-15 front tires as standard equipment. For 1940, the Farmall B listed at \$605.

For IH collectors, the Farmall B has become a favorite parade tractor because of its wide rear-end allows for the addition of a passenger seat. Often, a second, non-functioning steering wheel is added for visual balance and to give the passenger a hand-hold. The photographs you see here of Farmall B’s in parades have been collected at various tractor shows around Alabama in recent years.



INFORMATION SOURCES: 150 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER, C.H. WENDEL, 1981 • IH FARM EQUIPMENT PRODUCT HISTORY, 1831 – 1985, BAUMHECKEL & BORGHOFF, 1997

FOR SALE



1928 Steel Wheel McCormick Deering 15-30 tractor. Motor is free and the tractor ran last year. \$1800. Chris Vaughn, Pensacola, FL. (850) 549-8383. You can pick up the tractor in Pensacola or seller will deliver as far north as Birmingham.



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WANTED



Mechanic needed to rehab neglected 1962 IH Cub Lo-Boy. Newly acquired Lo-Boy needs some engine work, clean-up, and whatever else is required to bring it

back to life and made ready for gardening and mowing. Full restoration not needed. This will be a work tractor. Aulton Smith, Hwy. 27, Springville (St. Clair County). (205) 307-8398.

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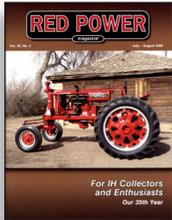
Restoring a Farmall “C” With Special Memories

by Chris L. Vaughn

U. S. Navy Chief Petty Officer (USN Ret), Pensacola, FL (Chapter #23 member #610)

Editor’s Note:

Chapter #23 member Chris Vaughn briefly told this story in a letter to **Red Power** magazine that appeared in their July-August 2020 issue. After reading it and viewing his photographs, we asked him to provide us an expanded account of his restoration project and the deeper story behind the importance of this tractor and the memories it preserves for its owner.



I was contacted by Miss June Travis in April of 2019 about possibly restoring her father’s Farmall “C” tractor. We discussed the tractor by email and I eventually received a picture of it. Believe me when I say it needed **SERIOUS** attention if it was ever going to return to the life it once knew in the hay fields and pea patches of Magee, Mississippi.

In May that same year I got an email from Miss June telling me that she and her husband had agreed to my terms for bringing life back to her father's, *brown and scorched* model “C”.

Once Miss June made the decision to restore the tractor in an attempt to bring back her childhood memories of her father, Clifford Elton, I contacted John Flowers of Bon Secour, AL and Lloyd Dillon (Chapter #23 member #394) of Foley, AL and asked them if they would accompany me to Magee to retrieve the tractor and free it from its years of despair.

A major factor in convincing me to take on this project was the story Miss June told me about a historic event her father had witnessed in the South Pacific during World War II. He had been present when “Old Glory” was famously raised in February of 1945 by U.S. Marines on Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima following its capture from the Japanese. This event was immortalized in a wire-service photo made at the time and later by an outdoor sculpture that is on display at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

With the help and support of John, and Lloyd, I loaded up my rig and headed north from Baldwin County AL to gather up this troubled Farmall “C”. When we arrive we can’t see the tractor anywhere, but Miss June assures us it’s in the hay barn.

As luck would have it, before doing anything else, we had to get my rig unstuck from the Mississippi mud in her front yard, but we soon found the tractor, as she said, in the barn across the road.

The tractor was in scrap-yard clothing when we first laid eyes on its remains. As Miss June explained it, the little “C” had been a victim of a hay barn fire.



(L-R) John Flowers, Chris Vaughn, and Lloyd Dillon soon after arriving in Pensacola with Miss June’s Farmall “C”.

Thanks to the quick thinking of Mr. Travis and the local fire department, the tractor was saved from total destruction by pulling it out in time before the flames consumed it completely. Fortunately, the fire only got to the rear of the machine and was extinguished before harm came to any metal.

We soon pulled the “C” out of its resting place in the barn, loaded it up, and headed back south. On the way out of Miss June’s driveway, Lloyd chuckled to himself and then said, “You just loaded that sweet lady’s tractor onto your trailer and she then gave you an envelope full of cash, even though she has never seen or met you in her life. How did you do that?”



in his Pensacola shop, Chris tackles the disassembly of the tractor. After much decision-making and work, priming and painting are signs of real progress.



What it Took to Complete the Restoration

- New tires front and back
- New rims in front
- New clutch
- New brakes
- New crank shaft
- New cam shaft
- New pistons and piston rings
- New bearings
- 12 volt system conversion
- New distributor
- New plugs
- New coil
- New starter
- New carb
- New lights
- New seat
- New switches
- New wires
- New battery with box
- New steering wheel
- Valve job and head cleaning
- New manifold
- New muffler
- Major cleaning & sand blasting
- Primer – 2 coats
- Acrylic enamel – 4 coats
- New decals



When the restoration of the burned-out “C” was finished, it looked like a new tractor, gleaming with a bright new coat of IH red. Chris and his helpers then took it home to Miss June.

I replied that it was honest trust in an antique tractor collector. Along with my winning smile!

When I got back to my home in Pensacola, FL my lovely wife, Telly, came out and had to do a double-take when she saw the piece of scrap I brought home to work on. With eyes wide open she then gasped, “Anyone else wouldn’t believe it, but I know you can restore that thing simply because you love doing it”.

The tear-down began and the first sign of trouble appeared with the engine block. It had been repaired back in 1966 per the tag from a machine shop in MS. It had been cracked from one side to the other and brazed back in place. Later I found out from Mr. Travis the little “C” was trying to go fishing in a pond and got stuck. The block had gotten cracked from the constant yanking on the bolster when it was pulled out. I explained to Miss June that our only option was to replace it with a new block, and she agreed.

Fast-forward to 87 days later that consisted of countless hours of my labor and many new parts. What had been a true “basket-case” of a tractor sprung back to life.

Before starting work, and with preservation of the memory of Clifford Elton upper-most in my mind, I carefully removed a knotted cord that was wrapped around the steering column along with a piece of flattened galvanized pipe that was shoved down over the PTO lever for ease of engagement. I placed these two items in a bag for safe-keeping. Once the restoration was complete, I placed them back on the tractor in their place to keep the spirit of Mr. Clifford alive on the tractor.

When Miss June’s “C” project was completed, I stood back for a moment to savor the fact that I had just restored a tractor that was purchased and used by a WWII veteran who went before me to protect our freedoms on IWO JIMA. In doing so he was also insuring that I could later serve as well. And I did.

I was on active duty for 25 years in the world’s largest nuclear NAVY. My military career was a very humbling experience for me, and as I was standing there my wife appeared at the door of my shop and cried. She too is an ARMY veteran.

I loaded up the Little “C” and gathered John and Lloyd again to assist with the return trip to Mississippi. We arrived on a Saturday morning at Miss June’s hay field, and after we turned in and stopped, she and Mr. Travis came across the road to get their first look at their reinvigorated Farmall.

They were both pleased and grateful to us and treated us to a buffet-style lunch at a local eatery.

Restoring tractors back to life is humbling in many ways. I enjoy it when grown adults’ faces light up or someone sheds a tear when they see one of my restorations. Often they will say “my father (or grandfather) had one just like that”. The past is in the past, but you can certainly bring it back with a little hard work and sweat with these old tractors. So, the next time you see an old tractor in a field, in a barn, or used as yard art, remember that someone once used that tractor to make a living feeding their family and their fellow Americans.



To make the “C” restoration even more meaningful for Miss June, Chris applied a decal to the battery box acknowledging and memorializing her father as a veteran of the World War II battle for Iwo Jima in the South Pacific.

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