

The Hit and Miss

Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association

Branch 8

Apr-May-June
2025



This year's featured tractor at the California Antique Farm Equipment Show was the Minneapolis Moline. Branch 8 members brought out three beautiful ones. Above is a Tony Ramos's 1952 MM UTN model LP gas tractor. The N in UTN stands for long rear axles and single front wheel. Below is Floyd Schmall's 1936 MM Twin City JTO and his 1964 MM 602. There is a story about the 1936 on page 4.



May you always
have:
Love to share,
Cash to spare,
Tires with air, And
friends who care.

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President's Message

Greetings Everyone,

It has been a busy spring show season here in Central California. You can read about the different shows and a parade that we have been to these last three months. We sadly had to miss the South West Regional Show held June 7th and 8th in Durham, California. Our granddaughter was graduating from high school and we thought we should attend her graduation party so we aren't banned from the family !! Those milestones only come once and Regional Shows come every year. Now Glynna and I are in Hot Springs, Arkansas after going to Oklahoma where the EDGE&TA National Show was held June 20th and 21st. It's always fun to go to shows in different parts of the country and see what is happening there and what kind of equipment they collect and display. We don't have any summer shows coming up due to our HOT weather but Branch 27 has a great show at Cayucos in August 2 and 3rd. It's always great to go to the coast during August and beat our brutal valley heat for a couple of days. For more information call Mike McKinney 805 235-0441.

Until We Meet Again, Stay Safe and Stay Healthy Jeff

Editor's Message: Thank you, Floyd Schmall for the article about your 1936 Minneapolis Moline tractor. Article on page 4. Glynna



In our travels after the National Show in Shawnee, Oklahoma we went to my Dad's old stomping grounds near Hot Springs, Arkansas. He was born and raised near Pencil Bluff near Mt Ida. I found out from my cousin that my Great Grandfather's old farm equipment had been donated to the local museum by some of his grandchildren living in the area. We visited the Heritage House Museum and found the equipment there with a plaque. It was an emotional moment when I put my hands on the old mule drawn plow right where my Great Grandfather and my Grandfather had put their hands over one hundred years before. My Great Grandfather was born in

1873 and my Grandfather was born in 1894 and was gored by a bull and died in 1918 when my Dad was only 6 years old. It was almost a Spiritual moment and I have to say I got a little teary eyed.

California Antique Farm Equipment Show

Agri Center Tulare

This year's show was held on April 11th-13th. Friday was basically a set up day and Sunday was a tear down day so really it has become a Saturday show. It was disappointing to see how empty the show grounds were for exhibitors and it seemed like the spectators were way down also. Branch 8 has less exhibitors every year as we have lost so many members and some of the ones we still have with us are not physically able to haul and handle this old iron ! Jeff Fenske and Carl Ross were the only members displaying their one cylinder engines. Bernard & James Ollech, Floyd Schmall, Tony Ramos, Brennen Elszy and Carl Ross brought out tractors. Carl's Oil Pull and one cylinder engine below right. Jeff's one cylinder engines and pump jacks below left. He also had the hand crank water pumps for the little ones



Photo Right: Tony's Farmall with bean cutter. Jeff gave our youngest member, James Ollech ,age 15, an EDGE&TA Youth Driver Safety Test on his 1954 John Deere 40C crawler. He passed with flying colors. He will be receiving his Youth Driver Certificate in the mail soon. Picture, below left, shows Jeff talking to James, and his Dad, Bernard, after the test. James enjoyed driving his crawler in the tractor parade at the show. Brennen's Farmall and two John Deere tractors below right.



1936 Minneapolis Moline featured at the California Antique Farm Equipment Show

Story by Floyd Schmall



This was shown at the California Antique Farm Equipment Show. A Twin City Minneapolis Moline model JTO. Year 1936. The tractor was purchase new by Bill Gentel. His ranch was on the SE corner of Cherry and South avenues Fresno CA.

At Bill's estate sale in 1991 a gentleman from Tulare purchased the tractor for \$100. A few months later Robby and Doris Soultz were having breakfast at Denny's Saturday morning in Tulare. Robby was having a conversation across the isle about tractors with another couple of tractor nuts. The gentleman with the JTO over heard their conversation. He came over to Robby and ask if anyone would be interested in the tractor? He said yes, and his birthday is tomorrow. Robby called me and we bought the tractor that same day. That was an awesome birthday. Robby was an Awesome friend. Robby and his father started the first farm equipment show at the fairgrounds in Tulare which later evolved into The International Agri-Center. We sure miss Robby and Doris !

Reedley Street Fair Show May The 4th Be With You

We set up again this year in Pioneer Park for the downtown Reedley Street Fair/Nomad Car Show. It was another fun day in the park seeing beautiful vintage cars and listening to one cylinder engines run. We had a great turnout of exhibitors and also spectators. There were 7 engines running all day and Floyd Schmall brought out his 1947 Minneapolis Moline UTS pulling tractor and Glynna Fenske cranked her 1885 Shoelace Machine. Our Southwest Regional Director, Ron Hanson, and his dad, Bob, displayed a 1920 Stover K and The Flying Dutchman 1 1/2 HP engines, Richard Loven ran his 1953 2.75 International HB engine, Ron Shipman brought his 1 1/2 HP Fuller Johnson, John Strecker ran his 4 HP Fuller Johnson and 1 1/2 HP



John Deere, and Jeff Fenske brought his 1916 2 HP R&V and 1 1/2 HP Air Cooled Associated Chore Boy. Left are the engine guys, Bob Hanson, Ron Hanson, Jeff Fenske, Richard Loven, John Strecker & Ron Shipman.



Nice shot of Floyd's MM with the City of Reedley Hot and Cold Water towers in the background !

Jeff and John getting their engines going and Glynna being a Cranky Lady giving a demonstration of the hand cranked shoelace machine. It was a great day to be in the Park. The weather was perfect, the attendance was great and there was lots of interest in our old iron. It was nice talking to so many people that asked questions and seemed excited to hear all about our hobby.

Kingsburg Swedish Festival Parade May 17th

The Annual Kingsburg Swedish Festival is held the third weekend of May in downtown Kingsburg. Every year for the last few decades Branch 8 members have driven their tractors in the Saturday Grand Parade. For the last few years our tractor drivers have dwindled and this year we only had Richard Loven driving a 1980 Massey Ferguson 255 owned by Sam Ando and Jeff Fenske driving his 1936 John Deere Model B with saw blade mounted on the front. We missed the other guys and hope that we will have more drivers and more tractors next year.

There were a few club members watching and waving from the sidewalks. Richard and Jeff were tired by the end of parade from all the waving and smiling !! Our next parade will be in the same town but will be the lighted Santa Lucia Parade in December. That is always a fun time. So, any of you out there with a tractor that wants to have a little fun, just start decorating after Thanksgiving and be ready to rock and roll December 7th. More information on this and other events will be in later issues of this newsletter.



Jeff



Richard

Here they come following the girls soft ball float. And there they go driving in front of the Historic Kingsburg Depot.



Hanford Car Show

June 7, 2025

This year there were three Branch 8 members that displayed at the Hanford Car Show. Ron Shipman ran his 1 1/2 HP Fuller Johnson engine, John Strecker ran his 4 HP Fuller Johnson and his 1 1/2 HP John Deere engines and Jeff Fenske ran his 1 1/2 HP Air Cooled Associated Chore Boy engine belted to the fly ball governor and his 1916 2 HP R&V engine and the hand water pumps. As always kids really enjoyed pumping water all day. There were tons of spectators and, of course, a craft fair. They said this was their biggest car show ever and they invited us back for next year. Hopefully next year we can have a better turnout of exhibitors.



National Show Shawnee, Oklahoma June 20th-21st

Hosted By Branch 260

It was a LONG drive to get here, 1,500 miles and three days, but it was well worth it. Branch 260 of Shawnee, Oklahoma did a great job on the EDGE&TA National Show. There were 73 tractors on display and 5 engines. They had a tractor hooked up to a wheat threshing machine and gave demonstrations throughout the show. They also did corn shelling with a tractor running the machinery. They had rope making too. They had a great tractor parade that everyone enjoyed. Also a Kiddy Tractor Pull. There were two huge steam traction engines, one a Greyhound and one a Nichols & Shepard, both 1921. The tractor pulls were canceled due to the heavy rainfall they had a few nights before the show. We were there in our motor home in Shawnee and were treated to a wild thunder and lightening show and 3 inches of rain that night !! It was touch and go for a couple of days wondering if the grounds would dry out enough to have the show. Thank goodness it was hot and windy and the grass pretty well dried out. Of course there were a few places you had to watch your step !! They ended with a Spark Show from one of the steam engines. Bet you can't do THAT in California !!



2025 Officers Phone numbers are all 559 area code

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Board of Directors

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Keith Tharp	592-5154	kmtharp@yahoo.com

Branch 8 News

This year's Branch 8 Scholarship recipient is Pierce Delport of Reedley. He is currently enrolled in Michigan State University, Lansing studying Mechanical Engineering. He is the grandson of Ron and Mary Staelgraeve, long time Branch 8 members.



Tony Ramos won the huge second place trophy for his Beautifully restored 1966 International pick up at the Kingsburg Car Show on April 19th. He has been entering it in car shows around the valley where it always gets lots of attention and awards.

Obituary: Sherwin Westra.

Tracy Westra notified us that Sherwin Westra is with our Lord; he passed away Tuesday May 6. His

Celebration of Life was held on Tuesday May 27 at 10:30 am at The Ark Church 1625 E. Walnut Ave. Visalia Ca 93292. Our condolences go out to Tracy and the family.

Now that I'm older here's what I've discovered: • I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

- My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and all-bran.
- I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.
- Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded. • Some days, you're the top dog; some days you're the hydrant.
- It was a whole lot easier to get older, than to get wiser.
- If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?
- I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.
- Kids in the back-seat cause accidents. • Accidents in the back-seat cause kids.
- It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
- The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.
- If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
- When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess. • It's not hard to meet expenses - they're everywhere.
- The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
- These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter - I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here, after".
- Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
- Have I posted this before? ☹



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