

The Hit and Miss
 Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association
 Branch 8

Oct-Nov-Dec
 2024



Happy Fall and We will be Grateful for cooler temperatures. Happy Halloween.

“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe.”

— Albert Einstein

Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving. And, Hope that we All have many things to be Thankful for this fall.



Inside this issue

President's Message	2
Editor's Message	2
National Show	3&4
NW Regional Show	5
Thoughts	7
Rest of the Story	8
Branch 8 News	9
2024 Branch 8 Officers	9

Merry Christmas to everyone.



President's Message

Greetings Everyone,

It must be true what they say about the older you get the faster time flies, because it just seems like a few weeks ago that 2024 started and now here we are thinking about the holidays. Hope that you all survived the terrible hot summer that we had this year. I, for one, will be really glad to see fall and cooler temperatures get here. Glynna and I had a great summer trip. We went to the EDGE&TA National Show held in Medina, Ohio and then on the way back home we went to the North West Regional Show held in Huntley, Montana. Look for the articles in this issue. Along the two month, 6,000 mile journey we saw several friends and relatives. We also were able to learn a lot about our country and history. We went to four Interpretive centers where we found out new information about our Indians and how they were treated by our government back in the 1800s. We saw and heard about the Lewis and Clark expedition and visited where the Oregon, California, Mormon and Pony Express trails intersected. It was interesting to tour the Little Big Horn National Park where Custer had his Last Stand. After the NW Regional Show we went back by Yellowstone National Park for a few days. This is an awesome place that everyone should visit at least once in their lifetime. We left home at 1 am on the 4th of July due to extreme heat in the desert. It was a high of 120 degrees that day and not fit for man nor beast ! Then coming back home we had 40 mph winds in Nevada and hard rain and even a little bit of snow at the top of Donner Pass the end of August !!! Quite the range of weather. It was hard to get out of California and hard to get back in !

Branch 8 has a parade on Saturday evening, December 7th in downtown Kingsburg. This is the Santa Lucia Parade that we have been participating in for several years. So, dig out your tractors and batteries, generators and Christmas lights and come on out to join us for a fun evening. Call for more information.

We are looking forward to a busy spring show season so use this winter to get all your tractors and engines ready to display or drive in a parade.

Until We Meet Again, Stay Safe and Stay Healthy Jeff

Editor's Message: I am always looking for articles to put in the newsletters. Please send me anything you think would be of interest to the members. Come on guys, I'm sure some of you have some neat restoration stories or tales of incredible barn finds. I am running out of things to fill up a newsletter. Glynna

Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor National Show

Medina, Ohio hosted by Branch 192



The National Show this year was held in the Eastern Region on July 18th-20th. The evening before the show they held a Youth Driver seminar and testing where eight young people ages 12 to 15 completed the course and were given a Youth Driver Certificate. They started with a test of about 20 questions to make sure they were familiar with all the aspects of tractors, including safety features. Then they all went to their respective tractors to take the driving part of the test. Each student had one

adult club member leading them through all the drills. They had to start, stop, back up to equipment and name all the controls and what they do. They also each put chock blocks at the rear tires to keep the tractor from rolling when parked, had a fire extinguisher and slow moving vehicle sign on the back of each tractor. After they passed this part they were led around the area in a private parade. Then



they were given their certification that a parent or other responsible adult signed. All 8 passed and seemed pretty proud to be driving in the parade. We were really impressed with this class and feel that this younger generation is the future for our club. We Need these young people. The Big Tractor Parade was held on the 18th to kick off the Show. There were 70 tractors including 7 driven by the young people that took their Youth Driver Certification Test the afternoon before. There were lots of old tractors, engines and farm equipment at the show. Every color !



They had pedal tractor pulls for the kids and everyone seemed to have fun with that.



National Show Continues

They even had a display of vintage snow mobiles. That is definitely something you don't see here in the Central Valley !



The National Board of Directors meet only once a year, at the National Show. Here they are on stage where they held a short meeting after the dinner on Saturday evening. Left to right, Mike Pollock, North West Director, Jeff Fenske, Director at Large and President, Michele McGill, Secretary/Treasurer, Ron Hanson, South West Director and Vice President, David Scibek, Central Director and Travis Brown Eastern Director. We were also honored to have the Medina County Hay Queen in attendance that evening. I had never heard of a Hay Queen so I asked if I could take her picture. The qualifications for Hay Queen is to be a lifetime farm girl and have a history of farming and baling hay. There were 21 Candidates and 72 year old Bettie Akers won. She rode in a hay wagon in the parade and was very busy smiling and waving. Bettie is an EDGE&TA Branch 192 member. She read us a farming poem during the meeting and seemed to take her title very seriously. Way to Go Bettie.



Our Central Regional Director, David Scibek, brought his International Orchard Model 1,200 miles from Farmersville, Texas to display and drive in the parade. The crowd was very impressed by this as in the land of corn, soybeans and hay they had Never seen an orchard model tractor. The parade announcer had him lift his cover a few times to Wow the spectators. David was also kept busy during the show with people admiring and watching the opening and closing of the top. Good Job, David !

Thank you to Branch 192 for their hospitality to us and to the good job they did hosting the National Show. Next year the National Show will be in Shawnee, Oklahoma. That is probably about half the distance and we are looking forward to going there.



North West Regional Show Hosted By Branch 29

Huntley, Montana August 17-18 2024

After the National Show we traveled across the country and went to the NW Regional Show in Huntley, Montana. We had been wanting to go to this show for several years as had heard great things about it. It did not disappoint. They advertise this as The Threshing Bee where they have Old time threshing scenes that are powered by gas tractors & steam traction engines. From field to the table; the wheat is cut with a binder, threshed with a steam engine, ground into flour, and baked in dutch ovens to produce bread. All on the same day. Unfortunately for us the makers of the bread were sick that weekend so we didn't have a chance to try the homemade bread. But, we did take advantage of the corn on the cob that was cooked by using a steam tractor. Delicious ! They also had a Blacksmith shop, a Sawmill, Tractor pulls, Tractor parades, Shingle branding, and, of course, antique engines and tractors of all sizes and colors and Kiddy Tractor pulls and Barrel rides for the little ones. There were things going on all day. One exhibitor was making home made ice cream with his one cylinder engine. Needless to say, he Always had a line up for free ice cream. We just may have indulged a few times !! They had a delicious dinner Saturday evening followed by the Regional meeting. The NW Director, Mike Pollock spoke and Secretary/Treasurer, Michele McGill gave a membership count. Fun Show. After the show ended Sunday afternoon we were invited to go back to their branch follow up meeting where they served us homemade pie and ice cream. Yum.



Left, Sue Thombrink let me ride along on her Go-Mo-Beel. It's a two holer!! When you have to go on the go !! It runs on a John Deere one cylinder engine mounted on the back. She has driven this in the tractor parades for years. A real crowd pleaser. Right is

one of the steam tractors at the show. Below that are photos of part of the blacksmith shop. It was a HOT job that weekend ! Right, a beautiful shiny red engine.



Left, Glynn displayed her 1885 Shoe Lace Maker machine and most of the time had a crowd that seemed interested, or, at least humored her !



Southwest Regional Show

Valley Center, CA September 28th-29th

This year's SW Regional Show was hosted by Branch 22 in southern California. The Bates Nut Tree Farm was the perfect setting for our show. They have tons of pumpkins, a corn maze, a petting zoo, food and shopping on site. There was a good turnout of exhibitors and large crowds of spectators both days. We had delicious catered meals prepared by one of the Bates daughters. There was a buffet breakfast on both days and a wonderful dinner on Saturday evening before the general meeting. There were four Branch Presidents at the meeting. There were at least six branches represented at the show. Jeff Fenske, as the National President, led the meeting and talked about National business and insurance. It was nice to see



Mike McKinney, Branch 27 President, take the 15 HP Falk (photo on left) all the way from Templeton to display at the show. Jeff displayed his hot air engine and took Howard Martin's hand pumps to keep the children entertained. It is amazing how many adults ask where the water is coming from. There was a tractor parade twice daily. People stopped to watch all along the parade route. Lots of waving going on. Glynna was a cranky lady again ALL weekend. She cranked out yards of shoelace material from their 1885 New England Butt Manufacturing Co. Shoelace Machine. But now in 2024 it seems like it is a Friendship Bracelet Machine !! So many children became friends with her this weekend after watching the machine weave a strip long enough to go around their wrists. People seemed to be interested in the story and with how the 16 spools twirl around and look like they are square dancing. The demonstrations drew a crowd of children and adults alike. There were also four Model A cars that were driven around the grounds and on display. Also several hand crank displays for making rope and preparing food. Great Show



Calendar of Events

Watch the next newsletter which will come out just after the first of the year for the 2025 Calendar of Events.

Thoughts from the tractor seat.

Common sense. I'm amazed at the lack of common sense these days. There is a lot of book smart people out there... but not a lot of common sense. You could give some people a fly swatter and they wouldn't know the first thing about what to do with it.

We've all heard of common sense... but where does it come from?? Well most of it is acquired from attending the school of hard knocks, and much of it was also passed down from those that had it passed to them or had the opportunity to gain it for themselves firsthand.

Growing up on a farm, and being around animals and equipment you get a crash course in common sense from a young age. So I'll share a few things I've learned over the years.

Always check an electric fence wire with the back of your hand. Because if you grab hold of it, you might not be able turn loose.

Never accept a challenge to pee over an electric fence the results can be shocking.

If someone says the electric fence wire isn't "hot" make sure they ain't wearing rubber sole shoes on before you give it a touch.

Just because an old milk cow is gentle don't mean she'll let ya ride her.

Don't sneak up on any animal when they're eating.

All paint horses buck.

Duck eggs laying in the sun are time bombs, don't mess with em they can go off unexpectedly and the end result stinks.

Some people are like skunks, their behavior is best observed from a distance.

If something won't start check to see if it has fuel first.

Cross threading a nut is not considered a good alternative to a locknut.

When there's an option between using a crescent wrench and a boxed end wrench, always go for the boxed end.

A crescent wrench is not a hammer!!

Before you grab a hammer try the penetrating oil.

Screwdrivers are not pry bars, and a pocket knife is not a screwdriver.

You can learn how to make your pa mad and what not to do by watching your brother... and it's best not to laugh at his outcome.

You'll hurt people's feelings less if you just tell it like it is. Trying to be politically correct is the same as trying to pick up a turd by the clean end.

I've learned that most of the time luck is spelled "W O R K".

Men you should never compete with a woman. If you win you haven't done anything, if you lose you'll never live it down.

You can go broke buying bargains.

When an old man says "let me tell you something" it's best to give him your full attention.

Getting in too big of a hurry can waste twice as much time.

Just a few words of wisdom from a dumb farmer that's been there and done that. Credits Farm Life

And, now you know The Rest of The Story

In 1837, a young blacksmith saw his business in Vermont failing, leaving him unable to pay his creditors. In those days, debtors' prison was a grim reality, a place where individuals were incarcerated simply for owing money they could not repay.

Facing the bleak prospect of debtors' prison, the young blacksmith made a bold decision. He took his family and fled Vermont for the burgeoning opportunities of the American Midwest.

The young blacksmith made plows of steel, envisioning a plow that could slice through the soil without breaking as cast iron constantly did on the tough midwestern soil. And so, the steel plow was born.

With this ingenious innovation, steel plows transformed the landscape, making the fertile plains accessible to farmers.

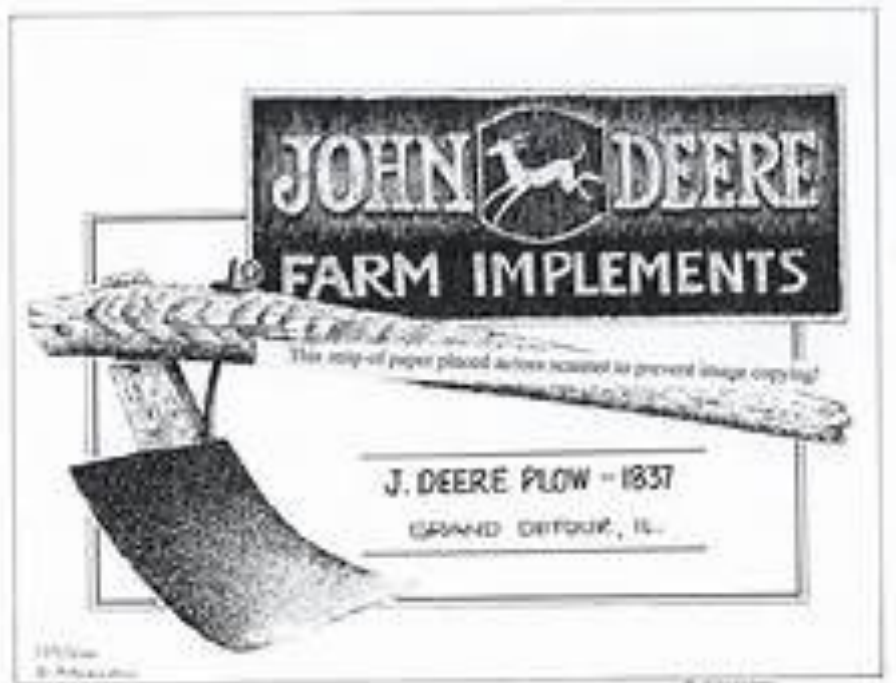
By the mid-1850s, the formerly bankrupt blacksmith was producing over 10,000 plows a year, each one bearing the mark of unmatched quality.

Today we remember him because his name is emblazoned on every piece of equipment manufactured by his company.

The name of the blacksmith who had fled to Illinois not just for opportunity, but to escape creditors threatening him with jail for unpaid debts was John Deere.

. And now you know why it's true that "Nothing runs like a Deere."

H/T "Paul Harvey"



2024 Officers Phone numbers are all 559 area code

President	Jeff Fenske	907-9734	jeff-glynna@att.net
Vice-President/Safety	John Strecker	281-7092	
Treasurer /Membership	Sharon Olson	351-4143	sharonroseolson@gmail.com
Secretary/Newsletter	Glynna Fenske	246-3544	jeff-glynna@att.net

Board of Directors

Richard Loven	530-5749	richardloven@gmail.com
Peggy Petersen	732-8502	pnutdry@aol.com
Keith Tharp	592-5154	kmtharp@yahoo.com

Branch 8 News



Charlene Martin celebrated her 90th Birthday September 14th with a party hosted by her children. Happy Birthday, Charlene, and here's to many more. Her late husband, Howard, was one of the founding members of Branch 8 in 1981. Throughout the many years Howard and Charlene were active members both exhibiting at various shows and helping keep the hobby alive and well.

Donna Wilson is home recovering after falling on her patio and breaking her right femur. After a hospitalization and extended stay in a rehab she is very happy to be home and getting back to normal. We wish her a full recovery.

Today I was in a shoe store that sells only shoes, nothing else. A young girl with a tattoo and green hair walked over to me and asked, "What brings you in today, I looked at her and said, "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator." She didn't quite know how to respond, had that deer in the headlights look.

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat" I just say, "No, it's for company!"

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, "An ambulance."

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Have you ever noticed: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice that when you put the 2 words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs"

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me.

I want people to know why I look this way.

I've traveled a long way and a lot of the roads were not paved.

Ah! Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

May you always have:

Love to share, Cash to spare,

Tires with air, And friends who care.☺☺



Kingsburg, CA 93631

1331 10th Ave.

Glyna Fenske