

# The Hit and Miss

## Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association

### Branch 8

Oct-Nov-Dec  
2025



Photo of a portion of Tony Ramos's International Harvester collection. An article on the history of IH is found on pages 4 and 5.

I went to the paint store  
to get thinner.....

It didn't work

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If you can't say some-  
thing nice.....Say it to  
your husband.....  
He isn't listening any-  
way !!

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## President's Message

Greetings Everyone,

We got home from our summer trip the end of July. We went to 14 states and were gone for 6 weeks. We had a lot of fun times with far away family and friends, went to the National Show in Shawnee, Oklahoma, a branch meeting and potluck in Idaho along with seeing lots of beautiful scenery and new sights. When we got back, unpacked and caught up on chores around the house and yard in Kingsburg, we set out for Morro Bay and the annual Cayucos Show the first weekend of August. Article on page 3.

A few of us from Branch 8 will be joining Branch 63 for the Annual Sierra Sky Park Fly In and Classic Car Show on October 11th.

I have been invited to present a demonstration and program at the Kings County Historical Society monthly dinner and meeting in Grangeville on October 27th. I will try to promote EDGE&TA, Branch 8 and our hobby.

The Annual Lighted Christmas Parade will be on December 6th in Downtown Kingsburg, Get your tractor out and let's light up the night ! Always a lot of fun.

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.



Happy Halloween



Grateful Thanksgiving



Merry Christmas

Glynna



## Cayucos Show August 2nd-3rd

A few Branch 8 members joined in with Branch 27 for their annual Cayucos Show. It is always a treat to get away from the valley heat in August and display at the coast. This show is only one block from the ocean and we always enjoy the cool sea breezes and the smell of gasoline and the sounds of engines chugging away. Of course the BBQ and potluck on Saturday is a plus ! There was a great turnout of Branch 27 members with lots of cool old engines and tractors. Even members from Branch 49 in the Gold Country.

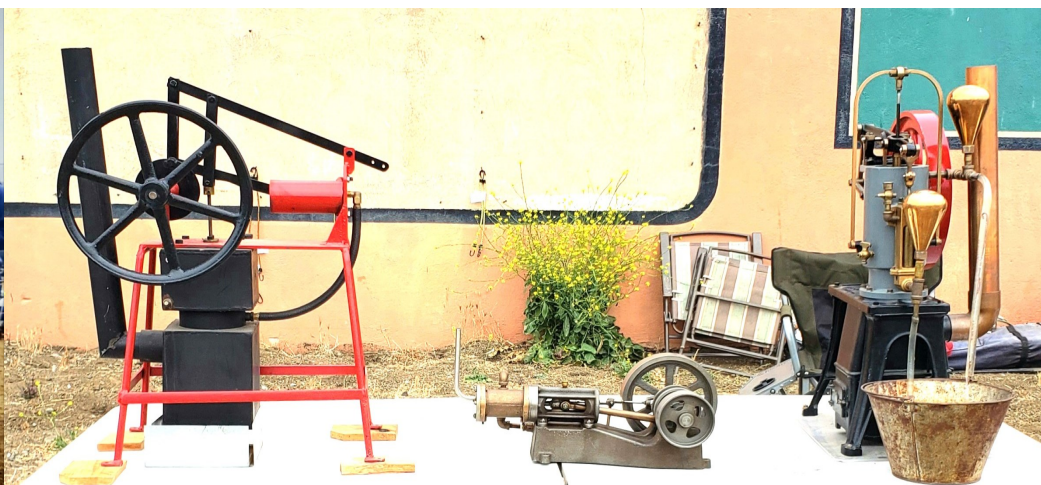
Floyd Schmall brought out his "new" Fairbanks Morse Upright. It ran like a champ.

Carl Ross brought his 6 HP 1899 Union gas engine, built in San Francisco. Sometimes it takes three minds to figure things out, or maybe the sets of muscles to pull the heavy flywheels ! Carl's cousin, Robert Simms, from El Centro is always a big help.



Jeff Fenske took two model hot air engines, one model steam engine and the hand pumps for the kids to enjoy and burn off a little energy.

Glynn Fenske cranked away on her 1885 New England Butt Manufacturing Co. Shoe Lace Machine.



## 100 Year History of International Harvester Tractors

***The Beginning of Farmall — 1923*** International Harvester engineer Bert Benjamin has a vision for a tractor that can do it all. A tractor that can replace horses. A revolutionary design that will change farming forever. The first prototype is hand built. By 1930, 200 Farmall tractors are rolling off the Rock Island, Illinois production line every day.

***The F Series—1931*** Innovation is at the heart of every Farmall, and the Farmall F series tractor launches after being designed with a more powerful three-plow tractor for farmers with 200+ acres, along with innovations like a four speed transmission and gasoline engine. Another iconic moment comes in 1936 when the Farmall goes red—No 50 Motor Red to be exact. That color continues to be a staple of Farmall and Case IH brand. Before 1936 they were painted battleship grey.

***The Letter Series—1939*** The introduction of the second generation Farmall tractor, the famous letter series, includes A and B [small sized] H [middle sized] and M [large sized] tractors features the new Culti-Vision seating for the A, B and BM models. Culti-Vision is a revelation for farmers, as it changes the way we look at fields by moving the operator's seat to the side of the tractor for a better view while row cropping. The letter series' modern design includes three silver stripes and a three-dimensional nameplate by famed industrial designer Raymond Loewy (creator of the first Air Force One livery and the "Man on Tractor" International Harvester logo). Before the last Farmall H tractor rolls off the line, more than 390,000 are produced, making it one of the most popular row-crop tractor models in history.

***The Super Series—1947*** The super series begins with the Super A tractor and is followed by the Super C in 1951, the Super M in 1952 and the Super H in 1953. The super series receives numerous improvements and upgrades, these tractors largely follow the design of the predecessors, and like them, they are at the top of the class and built to last. The Super C series introduces many of these enhancements, including International Harvester's Fast-Hitch: a quick-connect 2-point hydraulic hitch system, with a line of matching implements.

***The Number Series—1954*** The number system for Farmall is introduced. Super A and Super C tractors became the 100 and 200 series tractors. The Farmall 560 tractor is one of the most popular models sold after its release in the United States, while the Farmall 1206 tractor is the first row crop tractor with over 100 horsepower, making it arguably the world's most powerful and toughest all-purpose tractor of this era. The Farmall 706 and 806 tractors make their debut in 1963. The 706 boasts a new transmission that has a four-speed main box and a two-speed range box, an optional torque amplifier (TA) that can move between gears without a clutch, power steering, and a hydraulically actuated PTO. With all these upgrades, the 706 is an instant Farmall favorite.

***The 5 Million Milestone—1974*** At precisely 9 a.m. February 1, 1974, the 5,000,000th tractor bearing the Farmall nameplate rolls off the production line at the Farmall Works plant in Rock Island, Illinois — the first tractor manufacturer to officially produce past this threshold. That tractor is the Farmall 1066 Turbo.

***Farmall Reborn—2003*** After 80 years of firsts, Farmall is once again primed to revolutionize modern farming. This time as a line of compact tractors intended for the needs of smaller farms and residential acreage — continuing the legacy of innovation and versatility into the next century.

***The Number Series Reinvented— 2012*** The legacy of unwavering innovation continues with the reintroduction of the Farmall A, B and C series tractors. Ranging in size, like they did before, these tractors join utility engineering with advanced technology for today's modern farming demands and the needs of a new generation of farmers.



## 100 Year History of International Harvester Tractors Continued

**Farmall Turns 100— 2023** With over 30 models ranging from the compact series to the 100A series and everything in between, the Farmall will always be the go-to tractor for all your can-do needs. Like the very first Farmall, the current series of tractors are designed to be versatile, powerful and productive — everything a farmer could ever need, all in one legendary machine.

**Farmall Model M**



**Farmall H 1954**



**Farmall Super M**



**Farmall 806**



**Farmall 1026 1970 Promotional**



**Classis Farmall Grill**



**Early Farmall 1930 Battleship Grey**



**New International 595**



## I Am A Farmer

I was born in a barn with no electricity — and now I video call my grandkids from a phone I carry in my pocket.

My name's Earl. I'm 75 years old, a farmer all my life, and sometimes I think our generation grew up with one boot in the dirt and the other stepping into outer space.

When I was a boy, we milked cows by hand before the sun came up. The barn smelled of hay and sweat, and your only music was the creak of a wooden beam or the rooster outside. If the tractor broke down, you fixed it with baling wire and prayer. Groceries came from the garden. Supper meant everyone at the same table, no excuses.

We measured time in seasons, not in seconds. We waited for the rain, for the wheat to ripen, for letters to arrive from cousins states away. Patience wasn't a lesson — it was life.

Then the world sped up. Tractors got GPS, seeds came from labs, and neighbors started waving from trucks instead of walking across the field. The radio gave way to the television, the television gave way to the computer, and now I hold a screen smaller than my hand that can tell me the weather, the market price of corn, or what my grandson ate for breakfast a thousand miles away.

I've sold hogs at auction and I've clicked "enter" to sell soybeans online. I've used a scythe and I've flown a drone over my fields. I've watched the mailbox sit empty because no one sends letters anymore, and I've felt my phone buzz with ten messages before I finish my morning coffee.

Some people think old farmers like me are behind the times. But let me tell you something: we've lived in both worlds. We can sharpen a plow blade and troubleshoot Wi-Fi. We can tell you when the soil is ready by the smell of it, and we can double-check the forecast with a weather app.

We know the worth of slow — of watching a calf take its first breath or waiting months for corn to turn golden. And we know the power of fast — of sharing a picture of that same field with family across the country in an instant.

Maybe that's our real gift. We are the memory keepers of the slow world and the proof that you can still learn in the fast one. We can teach the young that not everything worth having comes instantly... and remind the old that trying something new won't kill you.

I am a farmer, but more than that, I am a bridge. A bridge between sweat-stained overalls and satellite signals. Between dirt roads and digital maps. Between what was and what will be.

And if my story proves anything, it's this: you can live with your roots in the soil and your hands on the future — and still be 100% yourself

## 2025 Officers      Phone numbers are all 559 area code

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### Board of Directors

Richard Loven	530-5749	richardloven@gmail.com
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Keith Tharp	592-5154	kmtharp@yahoo.com

### Branch 8 News

Glynna Fenske along with Mary Staelgraeve were happy to watch our 2025 Scholarship recipient receive his check for \$1000 from Jeff. This year, Pierce Delport, Ron and Mary Staelgraeve's grandson, received the award. He is going back to Michigan for his Sophomore year at University of Michigan, Lansing where he is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Congratulations, Pierce.



### Calendar of Events

Sierra Sky Park Show Fresno

October 11th

Festival of Lights Parade Kingsburg

December 6th 5pm



Ya haffta know your taters...?

Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work.  
They are called Spec Taters.

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work.  
They are called Comment Taters.

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands.  
They are called Dick Taters.

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet.

They are called Aggie Taters.

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help.  
They are called Hezzie Taters.

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not.  
They are called Immy Taters.

Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others.  
They are called Sweet Po Taters..... Let's ALL try to be Sweet Po Taters



Glynn Fenske  
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