



*By Dieter Krieg, Editor*

Without even a slight breeze, and pleasantly warm temperatures, it was a perfect evening for spraying corn fields with a weed killer.

Everything was ready to do just that. The p.t.o.-powered pump was lubricated and tested; all the spray nozzles were clear of debris and adjusted properly; and over 200 gallons of water were mixed with five gallons of a powerful, dark-brown herbicide.

Heading for the field, the liquid lapped the inside of the fibreglass tank, and the support chains of the spray booms, which were still upright in the transport position, jingled and clattered against the frame.

Once the spraying had begun, a steady hissing and fine mist — covering 12 rows of corn at a time — exuded from the swaying spray booms. It was easy work. All a fellow had to do was maintain constant and correct pressure, proper ground speed, and watch so that rows of corn would not be flattened by tire tracks.

On the second trip around the field, while going up a slight grade, the right wheel twisted off, taking a part of the carriage frame with it. Minus one of its two wheels, the tank-trailer hit the ground and a small amount of chemical splashed out of the opening on top. This could be just the beginning of a big disaster, I thought.

There was no way the frame could be fixed in the field. It had to be brought in. The solution was simple: bring the "300" out and use its front-

end loader to support the disabled trailer. It was more easily said than done.

With approximately 200 gallons of spray still in the tank, I estimated the

gross weight of the trailer and liquid to be about a ton. The "300" — a utility tractor with full hydraulics — lifted the load without difficulty, but this added weight to the front took away much of the traction it needed in the rear.

Progress was slow because the "300" often began to spin, not being able to keep up with the larger, more powerful "630". Several attempts were made to make it across the final slope to the barn. It was like trying to go up a hill on an ice covered road. Of particular concern to us was the detrimental effect the chemical spray

would have on the soil if it were spilled during this hectic maneuvering. Also, we tried to avoid running over the corn — something we succeeded in only partially, because with shifting loads and spinning tires, we were often pulled off course by the dangerous cargo between the two tractors.

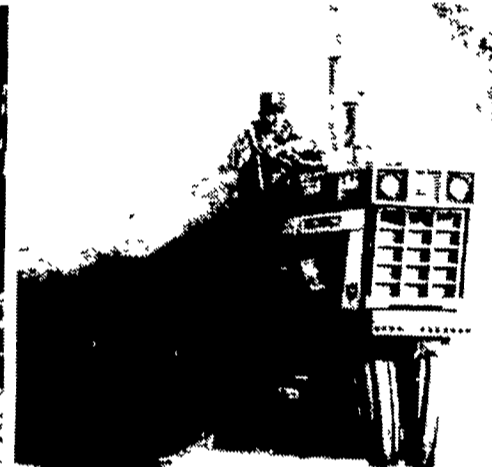
A perfect evening for spraying corn ended with about five acres of ground covered, and the equipment resting on a pile of concrete blocks waiting for tools and a torch. Tomorrow the weather conditions might not be ideal for spraying. That is part of Life on the farm.

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