Paul worked the dusty side of the baler

By JERRY WEBB University of Delaware

It was a hot day in July and a crew of men and one small boy were loading hay bales left by a pick-up baler. The year was 1942. There was a war on and farmers were lucky to get enough help to make a crew. Those with plenty of kids were fortunate because field hands were hard to get even though some could get draft deferments. It was patriotic back then to go to war and farm boys went even though they didn't have to.

So the farming was done by old men, small boys, women and a few drunks as that old machine could who couldn't pass a physical make them.

but could sober up now and then long enough to bale some hay and earn a few bucks.

Paul was one of those drunks. He worked the dusty side of an old Case baler like no one else could. He'd be right there tying those wires with the dust so thick you could hardly see him. Paul's clothes would be soaking wet with sweat and his face a different color from field dust and chaff. But he never complained. In fact, he never said much of anyting. He just chewed a great mouthful of Beech-Nut tobacco and tied bales as fast

Two pullers go full distance

BUCK — An THE Elizabethtown man driving an Allison Aircraft powered tractor, and a Lancaster Countian who serves as secretary of the National Tractor Pullers Association, were the only competitors at last week's Buck Tractor Pulls to go the full distance on the 300-foot dirt track.

Galen Spickler won the 9000-pound open class with his aircraft engine machine, beating Harry Griest of Coatesville who was good for a distance of 268 feet and six inches. Greg Manners of Ringoes, N.J. was third with a pull of 252-8.

In the 12,000 pound open class, however, Griest's IH 1456 proved to be too much for the Allison Aircraft. Griest won that class with a pull of 242 feet, followed by Spickler at 238-3 and Tom Middleton of Ridgely, Md. aboard an IH 1066 who went a distance of 236-3.

Les Houck of Kinzer drove a Cockshutt 40 which is powered by twin Dodge 440 cubic-inch engines to win the 7000 pound modified class. Manners, aboard an M 55, placed second at 270-3, and Don Landis of Berlin, Pa. was good for third at 268-6.

READ LANCASTER follow: 7000 pound super stock

Results of other classes

Harold Stauffer, Ephrata, Deutz, 272-9; 2. Marlin Brubaker, Quarryville, AC D-21, 262-10; 3. Coleman Wheatley, Bethel, Del., JD 4010, 245-6. 9000 pound

super stock

1. Tom Middleton, 287-5; 2. Harry Griest, 274-5; 3. Marlin Brubaker, 252-11. 5000 pound

super stock

1. Coleman Wheatley, Bethel, Del., JD 4020, 250-11; 2. James Ringler, Berlin, Pa., IH 560, 246-8; 3. Dave Hitchner, Bridgeton, N.J., AC 180, 246-3.

5000 pound modified

1. Gary Mills, Fallston, Md., 427 Chevy, 244-4; 2. Dave Johnson, Deerfield, N.J., 427 Chevy, 237-8; 3. Bill Cobb, Shiloh, N.J., two 327 Chevys, 235-10.

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Jerry Webb

It was generally thought that Paul had an incurable disease and was slowly dying. But no one was sure. He was a big husky man who could do two men's work and had no idea of his own strength.

He was a day-hand, working for neighboring farmers who would call on him when they had work. During the threshing and haying seasons he was always busy. What he did the rest of the time was not known. They said he visited relatives out of state when he wasn't at home in that old converted chicken house. Maybe he was sort of a one man migrant crew working the hay and wheat fields of Missouri in the Summer and the vegetable fields of Florida in the Winter.

He always did manual labor - never drove a tractordidn't even own a car. He was the one who pitched bundles - a shock a throw if you wanted - stacked straw from the thresher or tossed hundred pound hay bales over his head into a hay loft. He always took the heavy end of a two-man job and small boys soon learned that

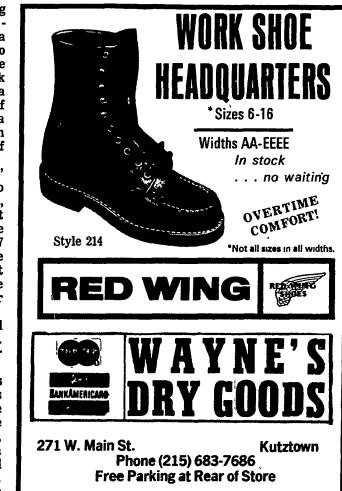
Paul could be a big help during a hot, hard day.

Being a nine-year-old farm boy back then wasn't very easy. There was hard work like dragging bales, sacking grain and digging post holes all jobs a little too big for a boy. But Paul was there to help out, demonstrate the best way to hold a pitchfork or hay hook and how to lift a hay bale the easy way. And if there were 12 bundles in a shock, he would more than likely pitch seven or eight of them.

Paul was the "Big John" of agriculture. He could do backbreaking work all day, take his \$5 pay and spend it that night on booze, and be right back in the field at 7 a.m. the next day. Maybe he'd shake a little and sweat more than the rest, but he never quit and he never complained.

Paul went away one Fall and never came back. Maybe he died in Florida or wherever it was he went. Small boys weren't always told the truth. It was probably just as well that he didn't come back. By the time the war was over. farmers had switched from threshers to combines and bales were tied by machine. His skills were no longer

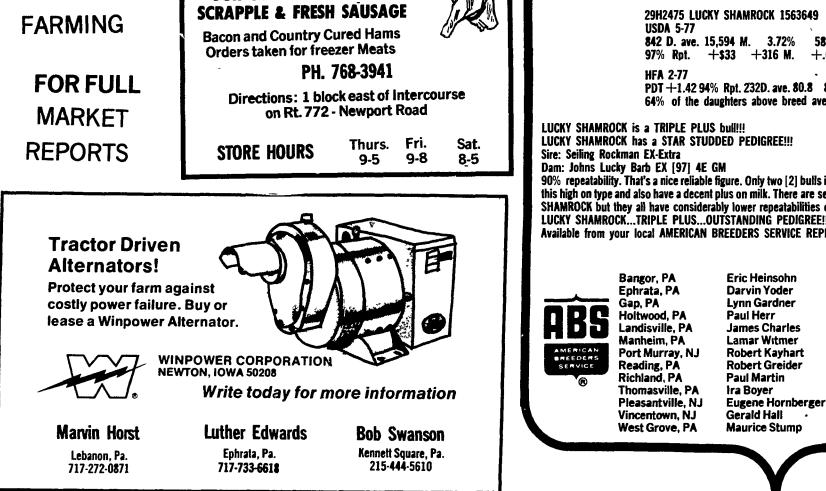
needed. Mechanization hands, as men like Paul were replaced his kind as called, became a thing of the agriculture moved out of the past - something to be horse and manpower era into remembered as part of farm a more modern mode. Day life from another time.



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