

The world's first successful automatic pickup, self-tying hay and straw baler was dedicated an agricultural engineering historic landmark at ceremonies, Wednesday, August 8, at the Sperry New Holland Museum, New Holland.

Automatic baler designated historical landmark

NEW HOLLAND - In ceremonies at New Holland, one of the nation's first automatic tie, pick-up hay balers was designated Wednesday, August 8, as a Historical Agricultural Engineering Landmark.

Ceremonies took place in the Sperry New Holland Co.'s Visitor's Center. Formerly the New Holland Machine Co., the site is recognized as the place where the automatic baler was perfected and massproduced.

The historical landmark designation was made through the Pennsylvania Section of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE).

Speakers at the program included ASAE President Albert M. Best; Sperry New Holland official Ausmus S. Marburger and J. S. Keister; and ASAE Pennsylvania Section Chairman Paul R. Drumheller.

Best lauded Sperry New Holland for "being a real pioneer and leader in the farm mechanization movement which has meant so much to the farmer, and to the consumer...whom he supplies with food and

He noted that progress on the baler was slow during the years of World War II. From 1940 to 1947, engineers focused their attentions on

simplifying the original baler design and achieving more dependable performance. That design work resulted in the introduction of New Holland's Model 77 automatic hay baler late in 1949.

Best continued: "Since the advent of the automatic pick-up baler in 1940 and along with other advances in agricultural production and mechanization, agricultural productivity has increased about seven times, when measured in terms of output per man hour of labor input.

"In this industry, we are

constantly looking for new ways to do things while improving on the old. We need to have more innovations like the automatic pick-up hay baler in our industry.

ASAE is a nonprofit technical, scientific and education society committed to improving agriculture through the application of engineering principles. Headquartered in St. Joseph, Mich., the Society's membership includes 8,300 full members and 2,300 student members in 50 states and 90 foreign countries.



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