

Tractor as old as he is

Lancaster Countian to compete in stock championship pull

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
HARRISBURG

Although man and machine can be considered veterans, it will be a new experience for both this Thursday afternoon when they compete in the Pennsylvania Stock Championship Tractor Pull at Harrisburg.

As the machine lunges forward to drag the weighted sled down the track, it will be its first such competitive attempt after an approximate quarter-century of spring plowings through fall harvests as a Lancaster County farm tractor.

Gripping its wheel for the first time in full-size pulling will be Leonard Hollinger, Mount Joy, who has extensive experience in pulls but only in the smaller garden tractor classes.

"It's quite a step up in competition," Hollinger explains, "but it will be interesting to see what we can do. Someone told me a similar tractor did pretty well in pulling so I thought I'd give it a try."

His tractor is a Co-Op Model E4, which was manufactured quite some time ago by Canadian Cooperative Implements Limited. That firm is no longer in business.

"I'm not even sure of its exact age, but it must go

back to somewhere in the mid-1950's," Hollinger says.

At 22 years old, a few years younger than the tractor itself, Hollinger will be competing in the 5500 pound weight class of the stock tractor competition. In stock pulling, competition is limited to farm tractors with no visual engine modifications.

"All I've done so far," Hollinger says, "is tune it up with new plugs and points. I'll be putting a different set of tires on it, too. But otherwise, the tractor is just as we took it in on a trade recently."

Leonard is the youngest member of the R.S. Hollinger and Sons, Inc., farm equipment dealership at Mount Joy, which includes his father Russell, and brothers, LaMar and Lynn.

"I know it's going to be quite a bit different from pulling with garden tractors," he says. "It seems to me that a lot more is going to depend on the machine itself."

Hollinger doesn't think he will have the extra operational flexibility that he had when driving a garden tractor.

"With a garden tractor I could do more as a driver," he explains.

"First, I tried for a good

weight balance between the front and back of the machine. Then, I'd shift my weight, while still remaining on the seat, to help compensate for track conditions.

"If the front end started to rear up, I'd lean forward a bit or if I needed more traction in the rear, I'd lean back.

"I could also shift my

weight to either side if one of the wheels started spinning.

"But shifting my weight isn't going to make any difference on a full-size tractor. This Co-Op tractor

has a six-cylinder engine though and is solidly built for a machine its size."

Although it will be his initiation into the full-size (Turn to Page C16)



After a quarter-century of Lancaster County farm work, this vintage tractor will be driven by

Leonard Hollinger, Mount Joy, in Stock Tractor Pull at Harrisburg next week.

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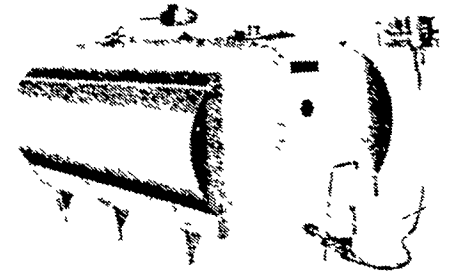
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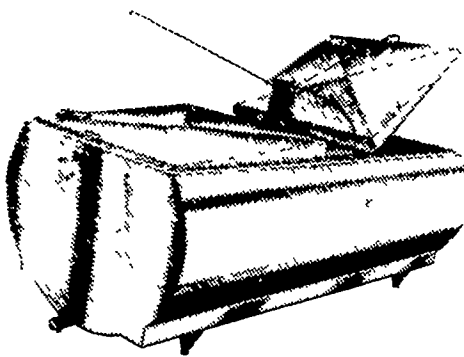


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