

## An Ode To A Fourth-Generation Tractor

BY LISA RISSER

POTTSTOWN (Chester Co.)— S. Harvey Kulp Jr. remembers the day in 1936 that the old John Deere tractor was unloaded at the farm. The bright green A.O. with yellow metal wheels was about to begin a working career that has spanned four generations.

"We had horses and mules at that time too," recalled 70-year-old Kulp. "But the A.O. was like a family member."

Kulp shared the A.O. with his brother on the home farm, which had been purchased in 1903 by his grandfather, Samuel K. Kulp. The two-plow tractor worked about

### TO THE OLD A.O.

Back in the corner of the machine shed,  
Stands an old A.O. which is far from dead!  
Its paint is faded and tires are smooth  
With evidence of never being soothed.  
Many's the time in World War II  
You worked by day and twilight too.  
Back in the spring of '36 you came to our hills  
With your shiny green and yellow wheels.  
Since then, as we boys started farming,  
It was the old A.O. who started the alarming.  
As neighbors will gossip as we all do  
It was Dad's old A.O. who pulled us through.  
Always the third pull on the old flywheel,  
And you belch forth some smoke and a steady peel.  
Your next birthday you will be fifty-one.  
But your retired life has just begun.  
Four generations have steered your wheels,  
But your steady putt-putt will never keel.  
Since you came to our haven  
We have added your brothers seventeen.  
They have starters and hydraulic systems,  
But all you can boast are original pistons.  
Many's the time in a wintry snow  
You pulled forth the milk truck so we wouldn't be slow.  
Dad tells of his faithful horses and mules,  
But we will always remember this faithful steady fool.  
Several dealers have appraised you for resale,  
But down deep inside us, you are not "for sale."  
For in our hearts, you are so dear,  
Because across your front proudly you say John Deere.

S.H. Kulp Jr.

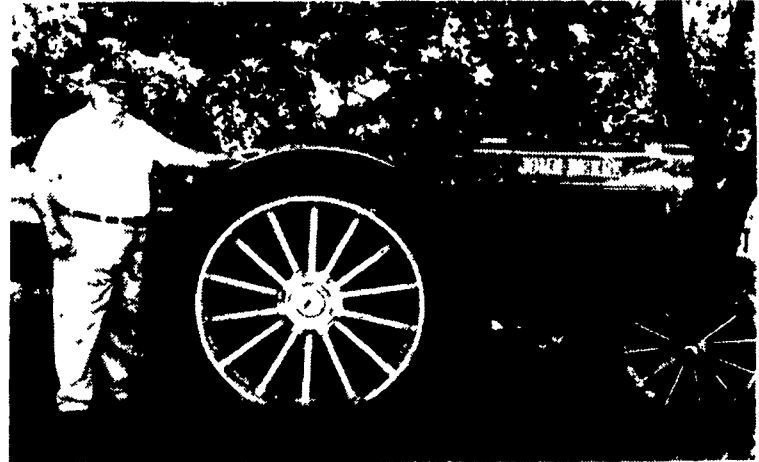


Kulp collects the old tractors that he loves so well. Included in his collection are three John Deeres, a Shepherd diesel, and a Farmall 12.

600 acres of ground on Maple Shade Farm, which began as a horse farm in Samuel's time and became a dairy farm with later generations. In its time, the A.O. has helped plant and harvest alfalfa, corn, and winter wheat.

The A.O. still runs, but is on lighter duty now. It is the prize of Kulp's tractor collection, which includes a 37A John Deere, an early H John Deere, a Shepherd diesel, a Farmall 12, and a 730 John Deere.

About 30 years ago, Kulp was moved to write a poem about the tractor that had served his family so faithfully. Read on to hear the exploits of the Kulp's John Deere A.O.



Harvey Kulp remembers the day when this John Deere A.O. was unloaded at the Maple Shade farm. The bright green and yellow tractor inspired him to write a poem about its career, which spans four generations of Kulp farmers.

## Food Allergies Are Nothing To Sneeze At

SCRANTON (Lackawanna) - Have you ever eaten something which you believe caused an allergic reaction? Adverse reactions to food do occur but the number of new cases of food allergies is unknown. Estimates range from .3% to 7.5%.

Food allergies, otherwise known as food sensitivities by medical and health professionals, are more common in children than in adults. Estimates of occurrences in children range from .3% to 20%. Most children tend to grow out of food sensitivity, but food allergies that are diagnosed after age 3 tend to continue into adulthood.

The foods most commonly associated with allergic reactions in children are: cow's milk, chicken eggs, peanuts and soybeans, wheat and rye, filberts and cashews, and fish. The reactions to cow's milk, chicken eggs and soybeans are most often outgrown.

The foods that most commonly are associated with allergic reactions in adults are: eggs, cow's milk, fish, shrimp and other shellfish, peanuts and soybeans, tree nuts, and grains like wheat and rye. Reactions can occur between foods in the same biological family. For example, people allergic to soybeans are often allergic to other legumes.

Reactions to foods vary. The most severe is anaphylactic shock - severe shock that can lead to death if not treated immediately. This is rare but is typical of some people's reactions to bee stings.

Other symptoms of food allergies are gastrointestinal such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Skin reactions like hives and eczema are often caused by handling foods to which one is allergic. Other symptoms are respiratory related. It has been reported that gastrointestinal allergic reactions to foods occur in 70% of allergy patients, skin reactions in 24%,

and respiratory reactions in 4% of patients.

The most effective treatment for food sensitivities is simple - eliminate the food. A person allergic to foods must be knowledgeable about cross reacting foods and hidden sources of the allergen in manufactured foods and takeout and restaurant foods. Reading labels on food products becomes a necessity.

If a person had only a moderate or mild sensitivity to a particular food then the food can be tolerated in small amounts and may be ro-

tated through the diet every 5-7 days. If several foods are involved, they can be rotated through on different days.

Certain treatments using drugs may also help relieve symptoms, particularly in cases where the elimination of the food is difficult to maintain at all times, such as eating out, or if an individual has to rely on manufactured foods more than desired. These may also help a person maintain a less strict, but more nutritious diet.

In any food sensitivity case, a physician should be consulted for diagnosis and treatment.

## Disease Resistance A Must When Growing Tomatoes

NEWARK, DE — Were your tomato plants plagued by disease last summer? Now's the time to make sure you don't run into the same problems again this year.

Tomatoes grown on Delmarva are particularly vulnerable to wilt disease caused by two soil-borne fungi, Fusarium and Verticillium, which invade the plant through its root system. Once infected, there is no cure.

Yellow, dying leaves at the base of the plant are the first sign of Fusarium infection. Later, leaves higher up on the stem begin to look dull and limp. Symptoms usually appear during hot weather—often shortly before the first tomatoes ripen. Gradually the entire, fruit-laden plant wilts and dies while you watch helplessly.

To ensure a decent crop of tomatoes, grow wilt-resistant varieties, according to University of Delaware Extension plant pathologist Bob Mulrooney.

"Don't even think about growing tomatoes that aren't resistant to both verticillium and fusarium wilts," he advises. Many modern hybrids are resistant to one or both diseases—or at least tolerant of them. Several varieties also have nematode resistance, which is another plus.

When buying seeds or transplants, look for the initials VFN or VF in the plant name, Mulrooney says. The letters indicate the disease to which it is resistant. Varieties with excellent wilt resistance include Big Girl, Better Boy, Jet Star, Supersonic, Pik-Red, Celebrity and Small Fry (a cherry type). For canning, Heinz 1350 is a good, resistant tomato, as is Roma VF (a paste type).

Sanitation is also essential to a healthy tomato crop, the plant pathologist says. He recommends rotating crops in the garden to avoid a pest buildup in any particular spot.

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