

# Lancaster Farming Antiques Center

## Wolf's Collection Showcases Farm, Rural Memorabilia

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GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.) — The lineup of shiny tractors, trucks, and cars stretches, two deep, from Stan Wolf's machine shed to an adjoining field.

To a novice, it appears to be a collection of restored machinery and vehicles. But to antique equipment buffs, the display is one of rare and unusual mechanized treasures. Some are original machines lovingly restored,

while others are reproductions or adaptations of originals.

A museum of farm and rural memorabilia in one side of the spacious shop contains a wealth of ag antiquities and historic pieces, including the only known complete set of milk bottles from Adams County's 29 small dairy processors.

"I got my first old tractor about 35 years ago. Then, I thought I needed another. And another, and another," says Stan

Wolf, a wide grin showing from under his broad-brimmed straw hat. Gettysburg farmer, retired bus firm owner, and agriculture antiques enthusiast, Wolf has prowled countryside sales and auctions for years in search of the next addition to his noted collection of farm and equipment antiques.

For every piece, from the salvaged and restored first self-propelled combine to tiny glass creamers in his personal farm memorabilia museum, Stan Wolf has an enthusiastic and interesting story.

Probably one of Wolf's best known pieces is "Ike's" tractor, a 1955 Model 40 Cockshutt "Black Hawk." The shiny, pale-yellow machine bears a plaque noting that "this tractor was given to President Eisenhower, November 30, 1955, by Farm Bureau, as a gift."

Wolf, whose family farm was not far from the Gettysburg Battlefield farm beloved by President Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie, adamantly believed that the historic tractor belonged in Adams County. So he kept bidding at a York County sale three years ago for this lynch-pin tractor to add to his series of Cockshutt models.

Now, the beautifully-restored tractor of presidential history, along with a golf cart given the former President by the Cushman company in 1955 and used on the Gettysburg farm, is frequently seen at area tractor shows. Wolf also lines them up, with others in his unique collection, for his annual, free, Memorial Day display open house at their property on Black Horse Tavern Road.

At one end of the lineup is a piece-de-resistance for antique equipment buffs, a restored prototype of the first self-propelled combine. Originally designed in 1940 by the Allis-Chalmers firm, the machine was devised at the request of the Army Corp of Engineers as a partial answer to the dilemma of farmers who saw their manual labor forces being drafted for World War II military service.

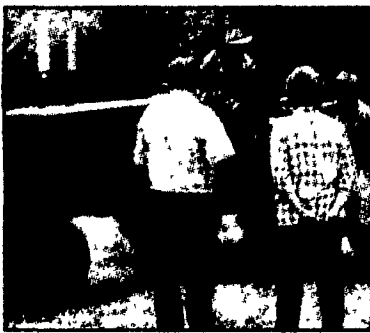
"There were five of them built," says Wolf, who reads and researches extensively for documentation of the rare pieces he treasures. "One is in a museum in England. Another was found in Tennessee after a lengthy search by a Luray, Virginia, collector."

The third and only other known one remaining in existence had long collected dust at Letterkenny Army Depot, north of Chambersburg. It was painted a dull, military-khaki-color, when Wolf first saw it, and had never been run for its intended purpose. Belts and webbing had dry-rotted from the long period of non-use. After extensive searching, Wolf was able to find replacement parts, including a webbing located in a distant county through Lancaster Farming's Mailbox Market.

Though some fellow collectors, as well as his wife, LaVaughne, urged Wolf not to change the color, he argued that the original — from Allis-Chalmers — had been orange, and not Army khaki. Since its restoration, this irreplaceable piece, painted shiny A-C orange, has attracted visitors like a magnet at antique events in



Julie Shuyler, Orrtanna, center, entertains 16-month-old twins Stephanie and Allen Shuyler with the horn of Stan Wolf's replica of a one-horse carriage, converted to run from a lawn-mower motor.



Stan Wolf fires up his 55-horsepower Montgomery Ward tractor for some visitors.

eight states.

Keeping company with the diminutive, 3-foot-head combine are other Allis-Chalmers-made pieces including a 1947 road grader, a one-row cultivator machine, and a classic model "B."

Another guaranteed attention-getter is a pair of white-painted Farmall tractors.

Wolf remembers the unusual colored tractor from his days of working his first job, at the Gettysburg area International Harvester dealership. In early 1950, the I-H company painted 580 "C" models white before shipping them to participating dealers, who had agreed to exhibit them at county fairs and farm shows in their areas of the country. The white color of the traditionally-red, Farmall model guaranteed them to get special attention, especially when young fellows like Wolf ran them in popular tractor rodeo events.

"I remember we had five white Farmall "C" models at Littlestown for a rodeo," says Wolf, of one local event. After the exhibit season had ended, the white demonstrator models were all hauled back to the dealers and painted the familiar I-H red before being sold to buyers.

Wolf searched diligently for one of the white demo-models, eventually finding his first at a sale in West Virginia. The white pair join a complete "set" of the Farmall's of the era lined up in



The first self-propelled combine had a three-foot cut and a relatively small motor, a machine designed to help with wartime harvest when many of the nation's young rural labor force were fighting World War II. This machine originally belonged to the military.



This corn-cutter machine, made in Canada, held a pair of riders who gathered sheaves of corn stalks while a sharp blade running along the angled platform at bottom sliced them off. Armfuls of cut corn were laid into piles for chopping for silage, or to fashion into corn shocks for drying ear corn.

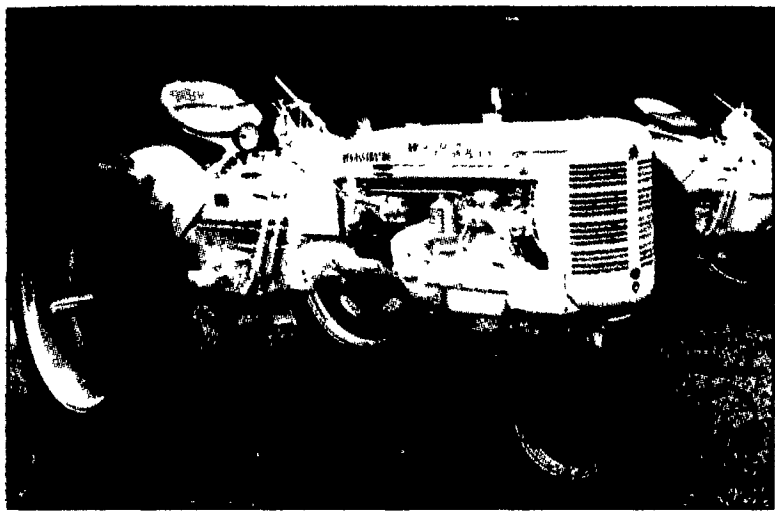
Wolf's collection, models A, C, H, and M.

An assortment of lesser-known tractors add to the interest in Wolf's extensive collection of rarities. For instance, there's the unusual 1948 "A" Long tractor, manufactured in Tarboro, North Carolina, distinguished by its unique paint scheme — a red body accented with bright green wheels.

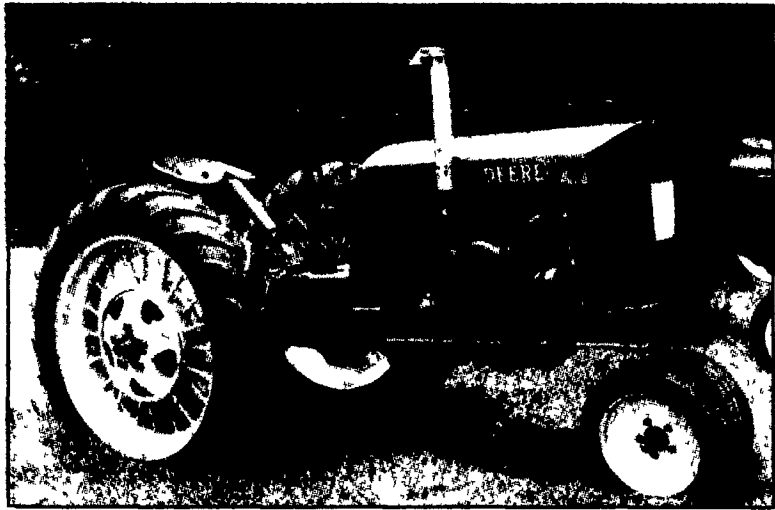
"There were only 17 of those made and about eight are restored," says Wolf of this obscure piece of farm equipment history.

Shortly after the machine made its debut, the Long company was sued by International Harvester for patent infringement and lost when the case went to court. Wolf relates how angry farmers from the region where the tractor originated threatened

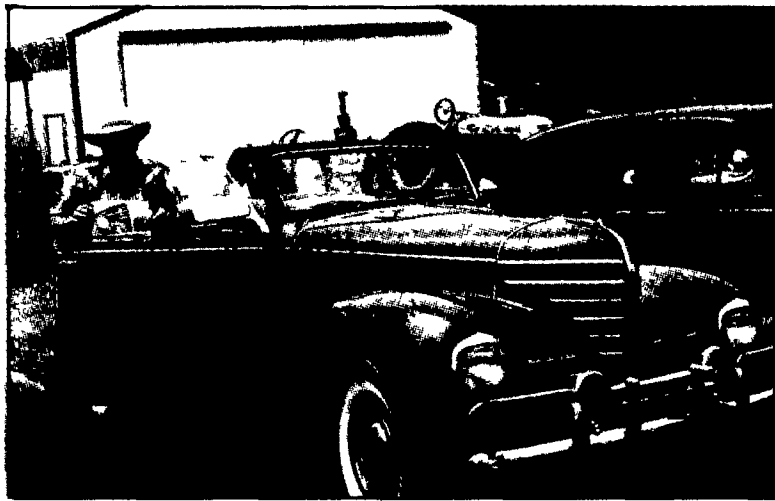
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A limited number of 1950 C Farmall demonstrator tractors went to selected dealers, painted white to catch farmers' eyes at county fairs and farm events. After a demonstration period, the white tractors were taken back to dealer shops and painted the traditional Farmall red. Stan Wolf currently owns two of these rare collector pieces.



In a wartime marriage of machinery due to parts shortages, two dozen tractors were cobbled together by a small company in Indiana, using a John Deere body powered by a Model-A Ford engine. Thus, the short-lived and very rare "Ford-Deere" model tractor, like this one in Stan Wolf's collection, came to be.



Restored to an original fiery shade of orange, Stan Wolf's 1939 Plymouth came to his shop in bushel baskets and five-gallon bucketfuls of pieces. He paid \$50 for an original advertising booklet of the car to prove to skeptics the automobile's paint job's authenticity.