

Dear Henbit & Chickweed,

*The stuff that gets wild garlic
Gets you, too, they now confirm
That's just as good as catching
Three fish with just one worm!*

Outta my wheat, weeds!
- Fred

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DuPont™ Harmony™ Extra herbicide

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'Red Power' Gears Up For Huge Tractor Convention

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ed the reaper. The company built trucks, bulldozers, construction equipment, refrigeration, milking equipment — "everything a man in a rural area needed to farm," Trapani said.

At one time, IH was named the eighth largest business in the U. S. The company had lumber, steel, and coal mining operations that enabled them to process every tractor and equipment piece from start to finish. For instance, the forges were run with coal to form the steel.

Despite "Red Power's" popularity and size, the company went out of business in 1985.

"Not because they didn't have customers. It was sort of an 'Enron' thing," Trapani said of financial mismanagement.

Some of the company's

branches were sold to other companies. Part of the company continued manufacturing trucks, which today are sold under the International name. The tractor division was sold to Case IH, which had been making orange tractors. Case IH changed their color to red.

"The color is half the secret (to success). It's all about that beautiful red paint. There's nothing like a red tractor," Trapani said.

Cub Cadet, which focuses on lawn and garden equipment, eventually assumed Case IH's tractor line.

Trapani, who sells outdoor power equipment, says the little dealers were pushed out because only big operations are desired by tractor companies.

The demise of the International Harvester company certainly does not deter its devotees.

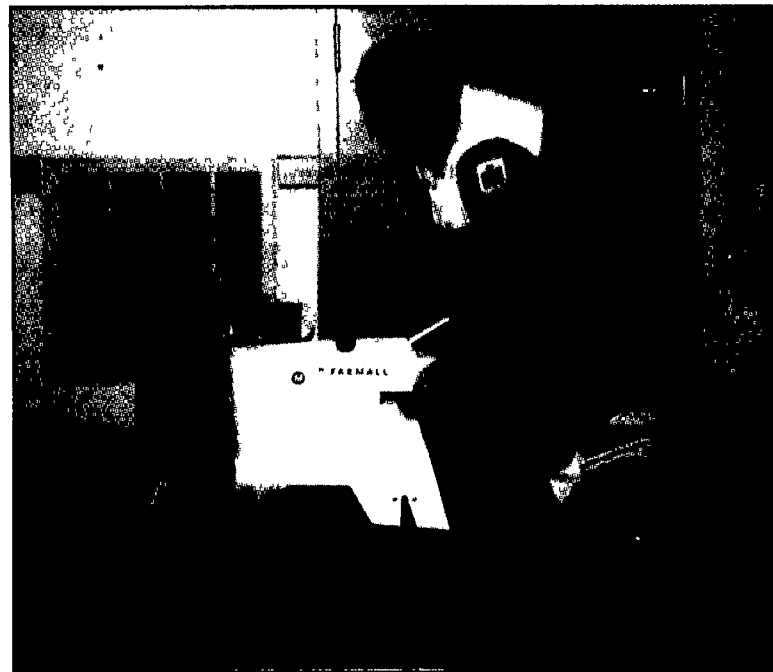
"People like to come (to the shows) and see all the equipment, especially that odd piece they never saw before." Trapani said.

Tractors and equipment varied from area to area. The South had high crop tractors to harvest cotton and the tractors used LP gas. Because of huge acreage to be farmed, the West had larger tractors than Pennsylvania. In addition to the known models, some strange-looking pieces continue to show up at shows — odd pieces that were put together to meet a particular need.

"Just one more piece," say collectors such as Trapani, who look for anything connected to the IH company. In addition to tractors and farm machinery, Trapani collects toys, a whole series of pedal tractors, memorabilia, hats, old clothing, "no matter what — even greased-stained mechanics clothing," he said.

Trapani has collected tractor models included the 1937 F12, 1931 1020, 1937 F20, IH 1947, 1951 Farmall M and H models, and a 1954 IH400. He figures it takes about a year, working about 10-15 hours a week, to tear a tractor apart, fix it, paint it, and put it back together.

Trapani is president of International Harvester Collectors of Central Pennsylvania Chapter 17. Members share their enthusiasm for red tractors and related memorabilia. The club's origin has roots to the early 1990s, when two Indiana men, a former IH dealer and a farmer, started the first IH Club. Today there are 32 chapters in the U.S., Canada, and Sweden. The clubs conduct semi-annual shows at different sites throughout the U.S.



Frank "Tubby" Bartlow on a peddle tractor. IH aficionados worldwide can visit the museum and participate in a great many events June 26-28 at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds.

Pennsylvania has three Red Power clubs with more than 500 members.

In addition to admiring the tractors and equipment, one of the focuses of the club is to offer expertise in restoring old tractors and equipment to its original showroom condition.

"But some guys like the stuff just the way they found it — rusty," Trapani said.

Club membership costs only \$10 annually. Members meet monthly and also publish a newsletter.

Trapani and Bartlow are members of Chapter 17 in charge of hosting the convention.

They selected the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds as the site because it is the largest in the state, according to Trapani.

"You don't need to be a club member to attend the convention or to display things," Trapani said.

Neither do you need to preregister, although it will save time if you do.

For general information about the show, call Trapani at (570) 275-0398. For tractor pull information, call Brian Shively at (570) 922-4841. For vendor space, call Marvin Walter, (570) 837-3386. For memorabilia displays, call Helen Barto at (570) 547-0851.



International Harvester Collector Chapter 17 President Ben Trapani rides his 1952 Farmall H at a recent event.