

Lancaster Farming *Antiques Center*

John Deere Bikes — Not Just Green, By The Way



Dave Everitt holds onto a 1970 John Deere Ladies' Touring Frame 19-inch bike, a rare item, for sale Nov. 28.



Auctioneer John Hess holds onto a John Deere blue — yes, blue — ladies' 19-inch wheel 3-speed from the 1970s.



Dave Everitt holds up the boys' StingRay bike, one of several at an upcoming auction.

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

LEOLA (Lancaster Co.) — Did John Deere actually make bikes? Yes, believe it or not.

In the late 1960s, early 1970s, a whole spate — about eight different models — were introduced sporting the traditional John Deere green, and also blue, white, and yellow.

John Deere yellow?

John Deere blue?

Indeed — and several of these bikes are going up for sale at a Wolgemuth Auction on Friday, Nov. 28, beginning at 9 a.m. on Maple Avenue in Leola.

Dave Everitt, Everitt Equipment in Ringoes, N.J., brought some of his collection of Deere bikes to the Lancaster Farming office late last week.

The bikes range from a 1970 Ladies' Touring Frame, 19-inch 3-speed to a Boys' StingRay, 20-inch, weighing about 33 pounds.

All are vintage John Deere bikes — in pretty good shape, to boot.

Auctioneer John Hess, Leola, noted that the bikes are in excellent condition, and refuses to put a value on them.

He pointed out the condition of the leather seat on the ladies' bike, and noted it was the "nicest condition of any John Deere bike I've ever seen."

Everitt obtained the ladies' bike from a New York State farm sale about six years ago. The StingRay came from a sale about a year and a half ago.

Another ladies' model, a 19-inch 3-speed, sports John Deere blue — yes, blue, from the early 1970s. The bikes came in standard Deere green and also a blue. The blue Everitt obtained about six years ago from a sale in Pennsylvania.

The blue touring frame bikes came out of the same years — the 1960s, noted Everitt.

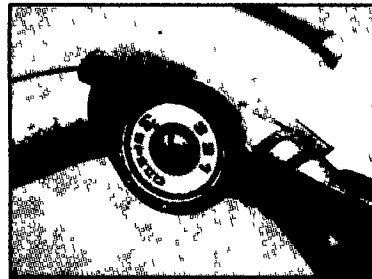
Everitt also has a vintage 20-inch high, 14-inch frame, 33-pound Boys' StingRay in John Deere yellow. Everitt noted the bikes were acquired years

ago. He had a StingRay made by another manufacturer when he was a lot younger. One day, Everitt noticed a friend painting a Deere bike green, using paint left over from a job. He started collecting Deere bikes since then from yard sales, flea markets, private auctions, and other locations.

Everitt said he has been "hunting for (the bikes) for about 15-18 years."

Deere made eight different types of bikes, including the ladies' green 3 speed, men's green 3-speed, a ladies' blue 3-speed, a white "unisex" 5-speed model, a white Deere 10-speed, a black Deere mens' racer 10-speed, a boys' Sting Ray, and a girls' Sting Ray. Everitt has all eight, and collects other items, including pedal tractors, full-size antique tractors (he has a John Deere Model B, the fifth one built, Model B1004).

Everitt, who grows about 500 acres of grain near Ringoes, N.J., also cares for horses.



A look at the 3-speed shifter on the right handlebar of the John Deere Ladies' Blue 3-speed.



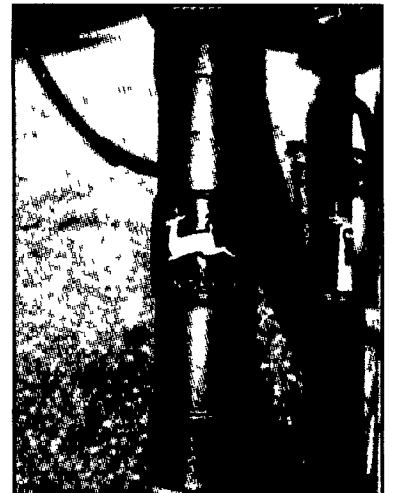
The leather seat on the John Deere Ladies' Touring Frame 19-inch bike has held up well for wear.

*All photos by
Andy Andrews, editor*

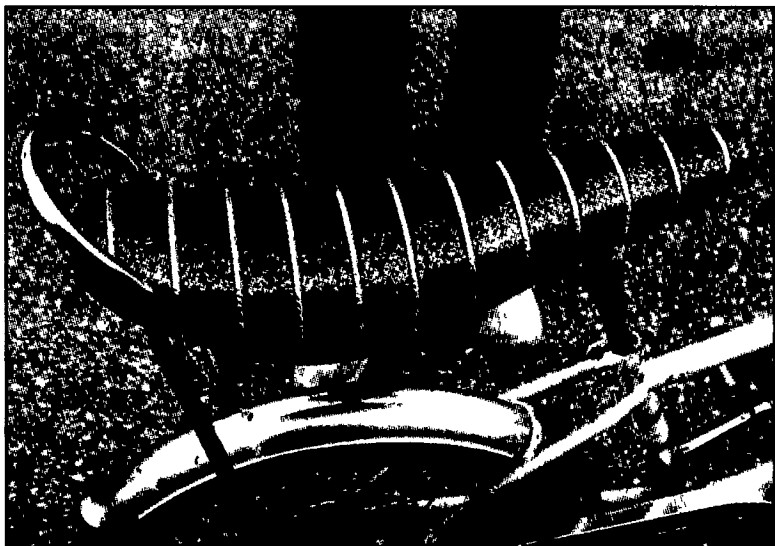
John Hess of John M. Hess Auction Service Inc., noted the bikes could be sold "after 4 p.m. or later," but the sale will go to the late hours.

"It should be a whole evening full of fun," said Everitt.

For more information, contact Everitt at (908) 782-5283 or John Hess at (717) 733-8192.



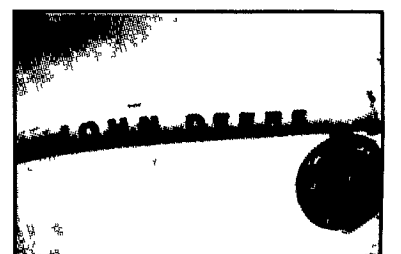
John Deere actually manufactured a blue bike.



The 20-inch boys' StingRay type bike seat has minimal wear on the John Deere-manufactured bike.



The Deere logo is clearly a part of the handlebar in the circa-1970 John Deere Ladies' Blue 3-speed bike.



John Deere manufactured this 20-inch bike, a StingRay, during those crazy days of the popular type of sporty bikes in 1969-1970. Notice John Deere yellow — yes, yellow.