



Waterman and his combine-collecting buddies recently put six of their old machines to work.

**FARM
SHOW**



MACHINES HARVESTED 10 ACRES IN 3 HOURS

Combine Collectors Stage Harvest Rally

Do you have an old combine parked back behind the barn in the weeds?

If so, you might want to clean it up, bring it inside, and put it under lock and key. Because if Illinois farmer Frank Waterman gets his way, that old hunk of steel may one day be worth a small fortune.

That'll only happen if combine collecting goes the way tractor collecting has gone the past few years. Many antique tractors - and even not so old tractors - now sell for much more than they did when new.

Waterman started collecting old combines about 20 years ago when he got the chance to buy a Deere 30 pull-type at an auction. It was fitted with an after-market platform auger instead of an apron. It was a combine his father had always wanted but had never bought.

He had so much fun "playing" with the old Deere machine that he started looking for other "old timers". He now owns another 10 pull-type machines that he bought at bargain basement prices ranging from \$5 to \$50.

Included in his collection is a 1955 Massy-Harris pull-type, a Case No. 50, a

Massy-Harris Clipper, a 1950 Allis Chalmers 50, an Oliver 18, and a 1942 IHC with a 4-ft. header.

One problem with collecting combines is that they take up a lot of room although, as Waterman notes, older model combines are really not that big. He has an empty building where he keeps all 10 machines.

This past 4th of July, Waterman held a first-of-its-kind antique combine harvesting rally. Conditions for harvest were perfect so he called a number of friends to see if they'd like to take the old machines to the field. The men ran six old machines, harvesting 10 acres of wheat in about 3 hrs. with plenty of rest stops for fun and conversation along the way.

Waterman notes that collecting is popular in his family. He is the father of Jane Aumann, the wife of well-known auctioneer and publisher Kurt Aumann, who publishes the "Belt Pulley", an antique tractor magazine.

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Home-Built Load Fan For Antique Steam Equipment

To run steam powered antique farm equipment, you need to have something for the equipment to power. Many steam thresher shows use large load fans.

Roger Wessels, Fairbury, Ill., wanted to start a steam threshing event but he couldn't find a load fan to use. He decided to build one of his own. It turned out to be more of a project than he had expected. Even though he is an experienced "do it yourselfer" who has had a number of inventions featured in FARM SHOW in the past, it took him nine 14-hour days to build the fan.

He used a 5-ft. long 2 1/2-in. solid metal shaft mounted on a pair of pillow block bearings. Fan blades are 2 ft. square, made out of 5/16-in. thick steel plate. One of the trickiest steps was mounting the heavy blades. They had to be carefully centered in order to run smoothly. Heavy strap iron that runs across each pair of blades holds them in place.

A large pulley mounts on one end of



The 2-ft. sq. blades provide resistance.

the shaft. Wessels also built the pulley from scratch. The fan mounts on skids made from large, heavy-gauge tubing so it can be easily towed.

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Redl drove this tractor 4.6 miles on two wheels.

Photos courtesy Profi International

ONE FOR THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

Tractor Daredevil Achieves World Record

You've never seen stunts like those performed by Johann Redl, a tractor-driving daredevil from Austria who was recently profiled in "Profi International", a European farm magazine.

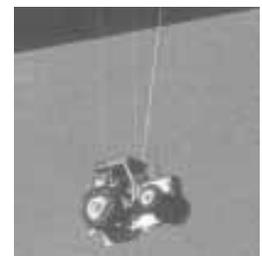
The 39-year-old's tractor exploits are becoming legendary. For example, Redl set his first world record in 1991 for driving a Steyr tractor down a 1.8 mile course on its two front wheels, something that earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Two attempts to break his own record failed at an Austrian race track in November 1994. The third time was the charm and Redl guided a tractor 4.6 miles on two wheels, more than doubling his own record. That earned him a revised entry - with photo - in the Guinness book.

Since then, he's continued to earn a reputation as one of Europe's most daring stunt drivers. One of his most spectacular stunts took place under a bridge in Austria.

Redl used a production model, 58 hp tractor to climb through the air from the ground up to the bridge, 625 ft. overhead. The only modification to the tractor was to attach special pulleys to each wheel to wind up the four ropes the tractor would climb. Dimensions of the pulleys were critical for the successful climb, since diameters had to be evenly matched between front and rear to keep the tractor level during the climb.

On October 25, 1995, Redl clipped him-



Redl put pulleys on all four wheels and used them to raise the tractor into the air underneath a 625-ft. high bridge.

self onto a mountaineering safety rope and climbed into the tractor cab. The 1 1/2-in. dia. ropes were attached to the tractor pulleys, Redl shifted into low and the tractor started its ascent - lifting off the ground under its own power.

The climb took 20 minutes until the tractor was suspended, spider-like, underneath the bridge.

Still, the most dangerous part of the stunt - the descent - was yet to come. It required shifting from forward to reverse with all four brakes completely locked to keep the tractor from sliding down the ropes out of control. After a few tense moments, the tractor slowly began its descent, finally touching down.

"I am still alive," were Redl's first words exiting the cab. (Profi International)