

Rare Chainsaws Honored In Canadian Museum

After hearing stories about a mysterious Russian diesel chainsaw from numerous readers, FARM SHOW discovered an unusual chainsaw museum in Quebec, Canada.

The Russians never built a “diesel” saw, but Alain Lamothe, caretaker of the museum, has a Russian Druzba, with a strange handle resembling a bicycle seat and an optional hydraulic wedge.

However, there is such a thing as a diesel chainsaw, Lamothe notes. Two models were manufactured in Sweden. They’re among Lamothe’s collection of 350 rare and unusual chainsaws.

“The first diesel chainsaw was the Comet made by Como M.T. Bjerke in Stockholm in 1950,” Lamothe says. “Total production was less than \$1,000.”

The inventor was Rasmus Wiig, a Norwegian who didn’t want any electrical parts — no spark plugs, points or condenser. That meant burning diesel, kerosene or distillate.

“He injected propane into a pressurized stainless steel handle,” Lamothe explains. “He opened the handle to release and ignite the propane to heat a glow plug. Hot air was created, then the saw was tilted to inject diesel in the engine. Crank it, and it would start. The danger was that you had to keep the front burner going with propane, and it could burst. The trick was to get just enough heat on the glow plug and shut off the propane gas. It was very complicated.”

The saw was amazingly fuel-efficient and could run an hour and a half on 32 oz. of fuel. It was so waterproof it could be dunked in a barrel of water and start right up. Made of sandcast magnesium it was 18.7 lbs., a typical weight for the time, and with 49 cc it had adequate power. However it was slow running because of gear reduction, and the chain had large cutting teeth that chewed through wood slowly.

The saw was discontinued after three years, because of the safety issue and the complicated nature of starting it.

In cooperation with Bjerke, Jonsered made its version of the diesel saw starting in 1954. Models exported to the U.S. had electrically heated glow plugs (two D cell batteries). If that failed, the saw could not be started. Because of that and the saw’s limited power,

the model was also discontinued.

Lamothe appreciates the stories behind all saws. His collection is full of firsts, many of which he has fixed into working order. The retired communications technician runs a small chainsaw hobby repair shop next to the 1,000-sq. ft. museum where he displays his saws. His chainsaw obsession started in 2002 when he found a Clinton D 25 and a McCulloch Mac 10-10 automatic from the 60’s and 70’s.

“I brought them back to life, and it kind of hit me like a disease. I call it CAD - Chainsaw Addiction Disease,” Lamothe says.

Mall, Solo, Bolens, Be-Bo, Hornet, Partner, Lancaster, Indian and Titan chainsaws line the shelves along with more familiar names - McCulloch, Poulan, Pioneer, Homelite and Stihl. Lamothe focuses on early production one-man and two-man models. He has the first motorized one-man bow saw, made by Precision in Montreal in 1945 and nicknamed “King of the Woods.” He has two saws - a Bedford La Rapide and a Pioneer P35 - both of which are the only other saws of their kind known to exist.

One of his most prized saws is a 1962 McCulloch BP1, with two balanced pistons that performed similar to a turbo with a jet-like vortex. “The engineering was 25 years ahead of its time with 12,000 rpm’s with the governor at full speed,” Lamothe notes. It was all enclosed and light, but with some plastic parts it proved to be dangerous. A failure in the governor assembly could result in an engine burst and injury to the operator. There was a major recall. Lamothe has one of the 13 BP1’s known to still exist.

The collector shares his saws and his knowledge through a blog filled with photos and details about each saw. He welcomes people to visit his museum.

“What people like is that they have access to the saws and they can handle the saws,” Lamothe says. “You can see that they remember having used that saw - maybe 40 years ago.”

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Chainsaw museum in houses collection of 350 rare and unusual chainsaws.



One of the displays at the museum is this diesel chainsaw called the Comet.



This is the first motorized one-man bowsaw. It was made by Precision in Montreal in 1945.

Beef 'N Up The Troops' Morale

One Iowa-made beef stick may not seem like a lot, but it’s a very welcome taste of home for service people stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other overseas bases. The Beef 'N Up the Troops program provides an opportunity for all Americans to help send the tasty treats overseas.

“Soldiers say their favorite treats are beef sticks and powder to make flavored water,” says Dee Ann Paulsrud, Danbury, Iowa.

Since November 2006, Paulsrud and her husband, Ted, have collected donations and arranged for beef sticks to be shipped to soldiers. The Iowa cattle growers, who have a 150-cow Angus herd and 150-head feedlot, took over the program, which was started by the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association.

“What fuels my passion is that my dad was in WWII,” she says. “Dad would have loved to have had beef sticks from home.” Paulsrud’s husband and son also served in the National Guard in past years.

Thanks to a team of volunteers, all contributions go toward the cost of the

beef sticks; there are no wages for anyone or transportation costs.

People send Paulsrud money, and when there is enough to pay for at least 3,000 beef sticks (at a bulk order rate of 69 cents/apiece) she calls Triple T Specialty Meats in Ackley, Iowa. When the sticks are ready - individually vacuum sealed and packed 300/box - they are trucked by Fareway Stores to the 185th Air Refueling base in Sioux City and then loaded into the belly of a plane, shipped overseas and distributed to U.S. soldiers.

As of the first of this year, 81,000 sticks have been distributed since November 2006. Paulsrud, often called the Beef Stick Lady, typically spends 3 to 5 hrs. a day on the program. She sorts mail, works on the computer, does interviews with media to spread the story, and makes deposits into an account for the program.

Amid the checks she receives in the mail are letters from grateful recipients. One soldier slipped a beef stick into his pocket for a snack while on a mission. Instead it ended up being the only food he had in 12 hrs.

The beef stick wrapper includes ingredients and USDA info. It also says something



Photo Courtesy Joseph L. Murphy, Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman

Since November 2006, Ted and Dee Ann Paulsrud have shipped thousands of beef sticks to soldiers stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other overseas bases.

that Paulsrud feels sums up the reason she loves the program: “This gift is a token of our respect and appreciation for defending America’s freedom.”

Sending soldiers beef sticks is a simple way of remembering their sacrifice and showing

appreciation.

She invites people interested in supporting the project to write or call her or send a check to The Beef Stick Lady, 4980 320th St., Danbury, Iowa 51019 (ph 712 883-2249).