

Collection Features Old Cistern And Well Pumps

About 20 years ago, Bob Daniels started collecting old cistern and well pumps at farm auctions, mainly in the Amish and Mennonite country of Canada. "Many of them were in pieces. I then restored them, painting some with farm equipment colors," says Daniels.

He has about 50 pumps in his collection, dating from the late 1800's up until about 1940.

"Most pumps came out of the factory in black or green, but just to brighten them up I've repainted many of my pumps the same colors found on Deere, Massey, Ford and other farm equipment. I've had up to 70 pumps at one point, but have sold a few off over the years.

"In their times, these pumps were very important. Every farm and home had one," says Daniels. "At shows many people will tell me they remember a certain pump because their farm had one just like it when they were growing up."

The collection started one day when his wife suggested Daniels buy an old pump to use as a garden decoration. "I found one at an auction and was impressed with how it looked, especially the detail in the castings. They really make the pump stand out.

He often displays about 40 of the pumps on a specially made trailer that he brings to farm shows and other events.

On the trailer, he keeps a small working model of a cistern pump that shows how it works.

"Cisterns were generally located under the house where rain water was collected from the roof. The pumps were usually mounted on the kitchen counter – although there were some wall-mount pumps available" says Daniels. "The pump would lift water from a depth of up to 20 ft."

One of the most unusual pumps is a small solid brass model about 10 in. high that was used in a railway dining car, where one could pump their own glass of water," says Daniels.

Daniels's oldest cast iron pump was designed by a man named Hiram Field. "He had his name and patent date of July 15, 1892 imprinted right in the casting," says Daniels. "In fact, some of the castings on these old pumps are very ornate even though they didn't need to be, because a well pump is a very functional piece of equipment. But some companies put a lot of work into making their castings look gorgeous."

Quite a few of the pumps have copper and brass. And some of them are nicely customized.

For example, one of his Beatty well pumps is painted in a Harley Davidson theme, complete with a skull and wings insignia. A Woortman and Ward pump is painted red



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and black and used as a mailbox holder for a Farmall collector. And Daniels painted a Beatty pump green and yellow for a local Deere collector.

He has one pump that is extremely rare. "In fact, I've never seen another one like it," says Daniels. "It was made by a windmill manufacturer, and built with a big long handle at the base of the pump instead of toward the top."

He also has a couple of rare wooden well pumps that were made in the late 1800's, before cistern pumps came along.

There are still a few old well pumps around in rural areas, but they're becoming very scarce, says Daniels. "I refurbish the odd

one and sometimes sell duplicates in my collection.

"I've paid up to \$500 for a pump if it's extremely rare, but generally you can get them at auctions for \$50 to \$150."

Daniels says knockoff working pumps are still being made in China. "You can always pick these pumps out because they're very plain and a little smaller than our well pumps. 'Made in China' is printed right in the casting."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Daniels, 695 Powell Court, Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7R 3E7 (ph 905 333-9018; bob.daniels45@gmail.com).



Plastic wine glasses are turned into small, bell-shaped Christmas tree ornaments with an object inside, often with a country theme.

They Turn Wine Glasses Into Attractive Ornaments

Linda and Mike Docter have found a new use for plastic wine glasses. They turn them into small, bell-shaped Christmas tree ornaments with an object inside that often has a country theme.

The ornaments can contain everything from pigs, cows and horses to pandas, snow men, gingerbread men, and 1/64-scale toy tractors. The objects set on a fake snow base made from small Styrofoam balls, with frosty Christmas trees standing nearby.

Each ornament is made by separating the base of the wine glass from the body. The body is turned upside down and the base is then inserted into the top and glued on. A pipe cleaner is then wrapped around the bottom of the glass, and an eye-hook glued to the top.

"People often ask us how we came up with the idea to put tractors in a snow globe," says Linda. "It goes back to the question, what kind of Christmas present do you give to someone who already has everything? I wanted something different for my dad for Christmas. We go to a lot of toy and craft shows, and one day I got the idea to put a farm toy inside a snow globe."

She says it's important to find the right tractors. "They have to be just the right size,



Objects set on a fake snow base made from small Styrofoam balls.

and they can't be too heavy or the base won't support them."

Their Christmas tree ornaments generally sell for \$10 apiece plus S&H, although the price depends on the tractor model.

"Let us know which tractor model you want and we can custom make the ornament for you. Or, if you already have the tractor just send it to us," says Linda.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Linda's Country Crafts, W11794 Raube Rd., Brandon, Wis. 53919 (ph 262 623-1858; www.facebook.com/Lindas-Country-Crafts-362937187234464).

Where To Get Parts For Maytag And Many Other Small Engines

Growing up in a small Iowa town, Zach Northway loved to tinker with gas-burning engines that powered days-gone-by equipment, including Maytag washing machines. "One thing led to another and eventually I became sort of an expert on Maytag engines," Northway says. "I learned how to diagnose problems, get them running, and even make parts for them that I couldn't find at swap meets. Twelve years later my hobby has turned into a good business that's now shipping nearly 1,500 parts a week."

Northway's Flywheel Supply Company is known far and wide as the go-to place for Maytag engine parts and other brands including Briggs, Deere, Stover, Fairbanks, International and Hercules. The company's 116-page parts catalog has thousands of listings.

Northway maintains a large inventory of common parts that he sources from swap meets, buys at auctions, and removes from old engines too worn or rusted to repair. More important, his state-of-the-art CNC machine shop produces many hundreds of outdated parts for Maytag and other engines. Owners from around the world are customers.

Northway says his company grew because people realized he knew what he was talking about when they asked about the engines and the parts he carried. That early success gained more momentum when he opened a parts store on E-bay and began posting simple how-to-repair videos on YouTube and his website. Now his shop has 20 different machines and tools ranging from a 100-ton stamping press to a 20,000-lb. milling machine with full 4th-axis capability for both indexing and simultaneous milling. He has two fulltime employees plus two part time CNC programmers and extra parts loaders



Flywheel Supply Co. is known as the go-to place for Maytag engine parts and other brands. Zach Northway posts training videos on his website and on YouTube.

and finishers as needed.

Northway is only 32 years old. "I'm a youngster compared to many guys who collect and work on Maytag engines. There were more than 3 million built from 1914 to 1952, so there are a lot of them still out there."

Northway buys many Maytag and other brand engines a year, often 50 or more at a time from a single auction. "I have some that are valuable, but none in that high-priced range," he adds.

Tom Lee, a small-engine collector and acquaintance of Northway says "You can't help but trust a guy whose company motto reads 'Our kids, like our parts, are all made in the USA.' He has a fantastic shop and a personal engine museum in a converted house because his wife Ashley, who also works for the company, wanted the living room back where they live."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Zach Northway, Flywheel Supply, 235 Oak St., Le Mars, Iowa 51031 (ph 712 490-5596; www.flywheel-supply.com).