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Newsletter 43 Issue 3 - Fall 2010 - Nuts and Bolts

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Out of space
by Jeremy Steele

Obtaining remote storage space for collections is a top priority for the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum (LTM). The LTM must find a way to begin rotating exhibits in order to generate new and repeat visitors.

Storage space is key to advancing the mission of the LTM “to be the premier steward of advancements in agricultural technology through the development of collections, exhibits and programs for public benefit.”

The quest begins with space exploration. The Museum Planning Committee is currently requesting ideas and proposals that will address this top priority. For more information on how you can help the LTM, call 402-472-8389 or email jsteele4@unl.edu.

Spread the word - Do you have extra space? Do you know someone who does?

Size - Bigger the better. Tractors and equipment cover a lot of ground.

Conditions - Out of the elements. Minimize exposure to light and moisture.

Location - Within reach. There and back in a day would not be too far away.

Commitment - For the long haul. Storage will remain in the LTM’s long-range collecting plan.

Cost - Priceless. Can’t afford it and can’t afford not to have it.

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EMAIL: JSTEELE4@UNL.EDU
The Multi-Tractor
by Bill Splinter

I was reviewing a report on the Fremont Tractor Demonstrations that were held from 1913 to 1916. There they had one page on a “Multi-tractor”, made in Lincoln, NE. From what I found in Wendel's “Encyclopedia of American Farm Tractors” and the Fremont report, the Multi tractor had a 12 HP, 2 cylinder, Cushman engine. They give no location of manufacture or names of individuals involved. From the pictures we see that the tractor had a number of unusual features. Did L. M. Ward build these tractors near the Cushman facility on Vine Street? Why would he have set up a separate company from Cushman where he served as secretary? We can only speculate.

The Multi-Tractor Company, Lincoln, NE was doing business in 1913. The fender has “Multi-Tractor Company, Lincoln, NE” on one side and there is a plate behind the driver’s leg that reads “Built under the Cushman Patent”. The plow is also described as being a Cushman design as well.

The tractor was a tricycle, with the single driving wheel at the rear. It has two belly mounted 2 bottom, 14” plows that appear to be lifted separately with two levers. OSHA would go through the roof as the driver straddles the rotating shaft from the.

G whiz
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What more can you say? When it comes to restoring an Allis-Chalmers G, Don Edwards has been there and done that. Luckily for the LTM, Don did not learn his lesson the first time around.

Don recently borrowed the LTM’s 1948 Allis-Chalmers G to restore it. How often does that happen? Don disassembled the tractor, degreased and removed paint. He pounded out dents, primed and painted the tractor as well. The list goes on and on. When it was all said and done, the G was back in the LTM like new.

The G was a completely new principle of tractor and implement design embodying a tractor with a rear engine and an open frame in front. It was a radical departure from the conventional designs being offered to the machinery-starved farmers of the post-war 1940s.

“The man with the hoe now rides down the row” was the tag line for the tractor.

Will work for food
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Pop, pizza, grease and grime. That’s all students need to have a good time. The UNL Tractor Restoration Club (TRC) recently celebrated the completion of the 2010 Co-Op E3 restoration project. There are still a few things to fix, but the tractor is ready to show.

TRC members left to right, Mark Nickolaus and Doug Koozer, advisors, Ramdev Gouda, Aric Wagner, Aaron Blase, Andrew Pietzyk, Aaron Keck and Colton Knickman. Not pictured Adam Johnson, Laura Rubeck and George Buss. Andrew Pietzyk, 3rd from right, is the president of the Tractor Restoration Club. He is from Cook, NE. His major is Mechanized Systems Management at UNL. His parents are Gary and Martha Pietzyk. His goals after graduating are to go back to his home town and take over for his dad on the family farm. He really enjoys coming to the Tractor Restoration Club to work on old tractors.

TRC has received many complements for the effort put into restoring the LTM’s 1948 Co-Op E3 tractor.

A special Thank You is in order for all the donations that have been given to restore this tractor. Without these donations and the work of the TRC, the tractor would still be outside of the museum rusting away.

Before the E3 was restored, it was in rough shape.

The Allis-Chalmers G

The club now is in the process of getting the LTM’s Twin City in running conditions while preparing all the other tractors for winter.

This spring, the club will be overhauling at least two tractors. The Allis-Chalmers B and WC tractors are on the list. The students are receiving hands-on experience and having fun along the way. Thank you once again for your support.
LTM pursues IMLS grant
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For the past several weeks a grant proposal has been developed to further LTM progress toward becoming “the premier steward of advancements in agricultural technology through the development of collections, exhibits, and programs for public benefit.”

The grant proposal outlined a two-year project that will help the LTM:

1) Revitalize its policy and procedure manual for collections care.
2) Develop a collections plan to serve as its guide for collections-related activities.
3) Acquire collections management software to gain intellectual control of its collections.
4) If funded, a collections manager, a graduate student and student workers will be hired. The collections manager will work with a consultant from the Nebraska State Historical Society to update and revitalize the LTM’s collections policy and procedure manual. The manual will address: 1) history of collections and collecting, 2) responsible staff, 3) acquisition and deaccession policy, 4) use and preservation of collections, 5) collections loans, 6) documentation of collections, and 7) review of collections management policy.
5) The updated manual will clarify roles and provide job descriptions for those who are responsible for managing the LTM’s collections, and it will provide detailed instructions regarding collections management procedures. These instructions will provide direction for employees to apply collections policies during day-to-day activities.

The manual will ensure that future LTM collections are: acquired legally and ethically; relevant to and supportive of the LTM’s mission; and properly managed, researched, and documented. By enacting and enforcing policies within this manual, the LTM will meet its legal and ethical obligations to protect the collections and provide public access to them.

The manual will identify the context of the intended use of the collections and will determine the extent to which LTM collections will support in-depth, scholarly research while providing the public with a general survey of a variety of topics. The document will lay groundwork for exhibits and educational program development.

Once the manual is in place, a comprehensive collections plan will be developed to serve as the guide for sustainable collections-related activities. The collections manager and research assistant will fully evaluate the scope and content of current LTM collections to refine the LTM’s larger curatorial vision.

Strengths and weaknesses of the LTM’s existing collections will be evaluated and a gap analysis will contrast the LTM’s actual and ideal collections. Audience needs that can be served by LTM collections will be identified. The collections plan will establish priorities for acquisition, deaccessioning and risk mitigation based on the needs of the LTM’s audiences, taking into account existing conditions and needed resources.

The manual and collections plan will ensure the LTM is making responsible and appropriate choices to best serve its audiences, and that it owns, exhibits, and preserves collections appropriate to its mission. It will determine ways in which the collection needs to grow to support these activities.

If the grant is funded, the LTM will also acquire up-to-date technology and collections management software to manage and identify collections. The collections manager, graduate student and student workers will utilize PastPerfect software and services to merge existing paper records with existing digital inventories and images. They will enhance collection records in PastPerfect with more in-depth research and will ensure that collection items receive proper identification linking them to their records. Project personnel will implement proper numbering and identification systems and verify locations of items. Labeling software and technology will update LTM collections labels and replace any missing labels. PastPerfect will automate many of the time-consuming tasks associated with collections and records management, including accesses, exhibits, condition reports, and incoming and outgoing loans.

Annual meeting January 25
by Jeremy Steele

The annual meeting of the Friends of the LTM is scheduled for January 25 starting at 6:00 pm. The event will be held in the lower level party room at Valentino’s on 35th and Holdrege in Lincoln, NE. Cost is $10.00 at the door.

The keynote speaker will be Ken Schroeder, Executive Director of the Edgerton Explorit Center in Aurora, NE. The Edgerton Explorit Center exists to instill and nurture in all people the joy of scientific discovery and exploration through hands-on learning experiences.

The Edgerton Explorit Center, named after Dr. Harold Edgerton from Aurora, inspires kids age 2 to 92 through exciting activities and state-of-the-art programming.

Bylaw Revisions - The Friends Board of Directors present the following to be ratified by the membership at the annual meeting on January 25, 2011.

Goal - Change operating calendar of the Friends from a calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31) to a fiscal year (Jul 1 to Jun 30) to be consistent with the University of Nebraska.

Revisions
Article III. MEMBERSHIP
Section 4. Membership Year
The membership year shall begin on (change from January 1 to July 1) of each year.

Article VIII. MEETINGS
Section 4. Annual Meetings
The Annual Meeting of the Friends shall be held (delete: in January of each year) at a date, time and place determined by the Board of Directors.

Goal - Eliminate redundancy in membership categories. Honorary Life Membership category fulfills the established criteria of the current Life Membership category.

Revisions
Article III. MEMBERSHIP
Section 2. Categories
Delete: f. Life Membership is available to any individual, family, or affiliate organization that contributes a one time or cumulative Donor II status or above.

Article IV. VOTING RIGHTS
Delete: Section 5. Life Membership
Delete: Life Members are entitled to one vote on actions taken to the Annual Meeting or at Special General Meetings.

Goal - Establish standing committee for collections stewardship

Revisions
Article IX. STANDING COMMITTEES
Add Section 5. Collections Stewardship Committee

The Collections Stewardship Committee, chaired by the Director of the Museum, shall oversee all collections related activity including acquisition and deaccessioning, use and preservation of collections, collections loans, documentation of collections and maintaining a current Collections Policy and Procedures Manual. Additional members shall include the Secretary of the Friends and a collections consultant approved by the Friends Board of Directors.

Article VI. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS
Section 3. Secretary
Add: The Secretary shall serve as a member of the Collections Stewardship Committee.
THE MODEL G Tractor with its rear-mounted engine and its broad line of quick-hitch, front-mounted implements, represents a matched combination of motorized farm tools that fills a need on every farm, regardless of type or acreage.

It makes no difference whether or not you farm a large or small acreage, or a small one, whether you specialize or practice diversified farming, the Model G tractor and its companion implements will adapt themselves profitably to some or all of your field operations.

It is made to order for the family operated farm and ranch, the part-time farmer, the flower or vegetable grower, the nurseryman, the poultry farmer, the fruit grower, the dairy or livestock farmer, the country estate.

Because of its low price and extreme operating economy, it is a tractor that operators of even the smallest acreages can afford to own. Because of its accuracy and precision in planting and seeding row-crops, it will profitably take the place of that last team of horses or mules that have been kept by many farmers solely for that purpose.

The Model G is not a "striped" tractor — it comes fully equipped. Electric lights, starter, full size rubber tires and a swinging rear drawer are standard equipment. Front and rear wheels are quickly adjustable to fit any row-crop spacing of 10 inches or more. The 4-speed transmission has a special low gear, making possible speeds as low as 3/4 m.p.h., which are essential for close, precision work.

From his seat ahead of the engine, the operator has a clear unobstructed view of the ground area where his front-mounted tools are working — without turning his head or twisting his body into uncomfortable positions. His seat is cradled between the front and rear wheels for greater riding comfort. Engine heat, fumes and dust are carried away by the suction-type radiator fan located behind him.

All attached tools, including the plow, are front-mounted and can be installed or removed in 5 minutes or less. You can plow, harrow, disc, plant, fertilize, cultivate, mow and perform a wide variety of other field, barnyard, and bolt jobs found on every farm and ranch. The powerful, smooth-running engine consumes only 2 to 3 quarts of fuel per hour under medium to heavy loads.

For versatility, economy and all-round usefulness the Model G is truly in a class by itself — it sets a new standard in farm power!

**G** TRACTOR SPECIFICATIONS

**POWER:** Sufficient to operate one 12-inch moldboard plow at speeds up to 3 1/2 m.p.h. in average soils at customary plowing depths, and other tools of similar or lower power requirements.

**ENGINE:** Type 4-cylinder, L-head; 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" stroke; 62 cu. in. piston displacement; compression ratio, 5:75 to 1; governed speed, 1800 r.p.m.; recommended fuel, gasoline.

**SPEEDS:** Based on governed engine speed of 1800 r.p.m. Special low, 0.6 m.p.h.; first, 2.25 m.p.h.; second, 3.5 m.p.h.; third, 7.0 m.p.h.; reverse, 2.0 m.p.h.

**LUBRICATION:** Engine, controlled pressure to crankshaft, camshaft and governor; steering, transmission and differential, oil bath. All chassis bearings operate in sealed, grease-packed reservoirs — no daily greasing necessary.

**CLUTCH:** Type, single dry plate disc; size, 6 1/2"; foot operated.

**STEERING:** Type, worm and sector; semi-reversible; broken circle steering wheel for better visibility.

**FRONT WHEELS:** Size tires, 4.00 x 12; drop-center rims; wheel treads, 36" to 64" adjustable in 4-inch increments.

**REAR WHEELS:** Size tires, 6.00 x 30; wide-base drop-center rims; wheel treads, 36" to 64" adjustable in 4-inch increments.

**BRAKES:** Individual expanding shoe type for each rear wheel. Turning radius with brake applied, 6 1/2 feet; without brake, 8.5 feet.

**OVERALL DIMENSIONS:** Wheel base, 60 1/2"; overall length, 116"; overall width — narrowest wheel tread, 42"; widest wheel tread, 70"; overall height 58 1/2"; ground clearance under axle 173 1/4"; under drawbar, 13 1/2"; shipping weight, approximately 400 lbs.

**STANDARD EQUIPMENT:** Rubber tires, rear wheel fenders, rear swinging drawbar, electric lights and starter.

**EXTRA EQUIPMENT:** Bolt pulley.

The Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company reserves the right to make changes in the above specifications or to add improvements at any time without notice or obligation.
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Motivation behind IMLS grant

In 2008, the LTM adopted a new mission “To be the premier steward of advancements in agricultural technology through the development of collections, exhibits and programs for public benefit.” In order to advance this mission, the LTM must expand and renew its policies as expectations and standards evolve.

This grant will provide the LTM with a revised collections policy manual, a collecting plan and collection management software to enhance the management of current and potential collections, their preservation and exhibition.
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Already the Co-Op has been to the State Fair, Lancaster County Fair, Waverly Camp Creek Thrashers and in the UNL Homecoming Parade.

A special Thank You is in order for all the donations that have been given to restore this tractor. Without these donations and the work of the TRC, the tractor would still be outside of the museum rusting away.

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See brochure, page 4-5

Don Edwards stands behind his work

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The project stirred up memories (headaches) of when Don restored his own G. We really appreciate all of the hours and parts Don put into the tractor. It looks great!

Final instructions from Don: “Have fun with the Little G!”

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Size - Bigger the better. Tractors and equipment cover a lot of ground.
Conditions - Out of the elements. Minimize exposure to light and moisture.
Location - Within reach. There and back in a day would not be too far away.
Commitment - For the long haul. Storage will remain in the LTM’s long-range collecting plan.
Cost - Priceless. Can’t afford it and can’t afford not to have it.

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