

# Antique Tractors & Trucks

Heidrick Ag History Center

Spring 2011



*You're Invited on June 14*

## Ag History Center Member Reception

### Ag History Center Member Reception

**Tuesday, June 14, 2011**

**6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

***The Courtyard at the Heidrick  
Ag History Center***

1962 Hays Lane

Woodland, CA 95776

Please RSVP by June 10

[liz@aghistory.org](mailto:liz@aghistory.org) or 530.666.9700

On June 14<sup>th</sup> the Heidrick Ag History Center is hosting a Member Reception to thank its members and sponsors for their support. The event will also celebrate 15 years of operation. Non-members are encouraged to attend the festive evening and consider adding their support to this world class museum and its collections.

You'll see our newest antique acquisitions, mingle with friends, and meet our board of directors, staff and volunteers.

This evening event will also feature some of the delicious appetizers we are now creating in our kitchen. Of course, we will feature some local wines to complement your palate. Simas Family Vineyard and Berryssa Gap Winery already have agreed to pour.

This may be a great opportunity to begin or renew your membership. Whether you are a new or continuing member, just fill out the membership form (see page 5 in this newsletter or our website) and send it to us with your check or credit card information. Of course, you can join or renew your membership by visiting the Center at any time.

The reception will also allow members to consider involvement as Center volunteers. With your permission, we will collect your email address for less costly communication.

"We are breathing new life and resources into the Ag History Center, and we want our members to get connected or reconnected to the living history our museum offers," said Executive Director Lorili Ostman. She added, "I recognized the wow factor of the collections from the very beginning. What I have learned in the last six months is how dedicated the community is to preserving the collection for our future. We are bringing people together. "



***The Courtyard at the Heidrick Ag History Center will be the setting for the Tuesday, June 14th Member Reception.***

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# THE OLD PLANK ROAD

Submitted by Randy Pirtle, HAHC Volunteer

You may have noticed during your wanderings in the museum that there's a very interesting display of a plank road. This display features an authentic section of a real road that was built and used between 1915 and 1926. The so-called "Old Plank Road" was built and maintained by the California State Highway Department as a link between California and Arizona. Its purpose was to provide satisfactory traction for cars and trucks crossing the long stretches of sand and rock in the desert areas. First made of two single lines of planks, it was later modified to be a cross plank design as you see in the display.

So what was it like to use the Old Plank Road? People who used the road reported that it was a very rough ride. However, it was still considered very successful since getting across the sand without the planks was nearly impossible, especially without a team of horses and wagons. The road was intended for motorized vehicles and they just couldn't get through without those stubborn wooden planks.

My great uncle, Bryan Isbell, told me stories about when he traveled the Old Plank Road. Soon after the First World War, he bought a new Model T Ford automobile in New Mexico. Although this was pre-Great Depression, times were tough on the family farm. He heard that there was work in the Los Angeles area and decided to make the trek west to find employment. He got some food together and jumped in his Ford.

I recall him telling me that there was not a lot of traffic during those early years of the 1920s. That was just as well, because the Old Plank Road offered only one lane of traffic and occasional wooden turn-outs. The idea was that you would drive until you saw someone coming from the other direction. Then the decision was: who was going to move out of the way first? If there wasn't a turn-out handy, somebody had to "chicken out" first. Apparently there really was some sort of pecking order, and here's how it worked:

If you were a rich guy driving a shiny new roadster or sedan, you got the right-of-way. People with more modest automobiles were expected to yield. Unfortunately, giving the right-of-way also meant having to leave the plank road onto the sand and sinking down to the axles. When one of those shiny new roadsters came through, Uncle Bryan saw modest Fords and Chevys veering off onto the sand, and he would just pull off as well. After the roadster's dust settled, the 'chickens' on the sand had to help one another out. They attached ropes to their bumpers and pulled one another back on to the planks.

I remember asking Uncle Bryan if there was a lot of fist-waving, shouting, and mayhem when the high-class cars came along and everyone had to dodge them. His answer: "No. . . it was just the way it was."

So, the next time you're driving down one of our country roads filled with potholes, remember how things used to be between California and Arizona on the Old Plank Road. Isn't it nice to have a museum that reminds us of how far we've come?



## *May we send you email?*

We need your email address to communicate with you effectively without the expense of paper, printing and postage. Please email [aghistory@aghistory.org](mailto:aghistory@aghistory.org) saying that we can send you email.

Please use this as an opportunity to verify your mailing address, phone(s) and the spelling of your name.

You'll receive the latest news for your efforts and know that your membership support is being well used. We also plan to use our website to communicate with all people interested in antique tractors and trucks:

[www.aghistory.org](http://www.aghistory.org)

# What's New at the Center?

Lorili Ostman, Executive Director

New faces will greet you at the Heidrick Ag History Center. New Board Members Richard Jenness, Mary Muller, Cathy Glaeser, Rusty Lucchesi, and Carol Gorman have agreed to join our Board. We haven't all changed. Board President Al Plocher says, "You can still look forward to seeing Paul Leathers, Cyndi Blickle, Dan Best, Wayne Ginsburg, Kent Lang, Keith Lawrie, Don Peart, and Ed Rocha." We are putting together a team of dedicated stewards that will continue the core activities of the Heidrick Ag History Center -- showcasing hundreds of antique vehicles used in the production and transportation of agricultural products. Antique Tractors and Trucks!

Depending on what day you stop by to visit, you will still see George, Judy, Audrey, or Al volunteering at the front register. Let us know if you'd like to volunteer.

If you haven't stopped by lately, come in and introduce yourself to the team. Let me introduce myself. I am Lorili Ostman your new Executive Director. I was raised on the Blodgett and Ostman Ranch in Sloughouse -- hop country in the early days. Later I obtained a B.A. at Sonoma State University, an M.A. from the University of Illinois where I became involved with the Krannert Museum. I have a 25-year plus history of nonprofit management and worked for nonprofits such as the University of Illinois, the Sacramento County Bar, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, and Legal Services of Northern California. A focus on bringing community resources together to support nonprofits brought me to the Ag History Center in October of 2010.

With the support of a dedicated Board of Directors, we are making changes. Board member Dan Best noted, "Six months ago I wasn't sure how I felt about the changes that would need to take place at the Center. It has been an unexpected journey as the Board embraces financial stability. I can't believe how much I am enjoying my role on the Board of Directors."

Our Event Center is under new management with additional offerings for the community. I'd like you to meet our new Event Coordinator, Liz Steiner, who joined us in January of 2011. Liz brings 20 years of experience in event and food service management; she also owned a small restaurant in Esparto in the early 90s. She is taking a new approach to event center management, a more full service experience. Catering is also being offered from our kitchen. Menus can be crafted to meet each guests needs. We will also be purchasing

produce locally where possible.

Our staff is a dynamic team, with each complementing and supporting the need to grow revenue streams that will support the collection. Stop by and meet Lorili and Liz and our many volunteer docents



Event Coordinator Liz Steiner and Executive Director Lorili Ostman.

## The Event Center is Now Catering

Our Event Center now features an entirely new opportunity to hold your meetings or festive occasions. We provide a full catering experience to Center customers. Our vision has expanded. To find out how we can streamline your event, just contact us. Ask for Liz Steiner at 530.666.9700 Wednesday through Saturday or email her at [liz@aghistory.org](mailto:liz@aghistory.org)

## Plan a Gift

**Place us in your Will or Trust!  
Donate Stocks or Real Estate!**

Consider making a tax deductible investment in safeguarding the genius of our forefathers who invented agricultural and transportation vehicles. Name the Heidrick Ag History Center as a beneficiary in your Will or Trust.

**Our budget is supplemented by people like you.** We do not receive federal funding.

This collection, is not just a part of Woodland, or Yolo County. It is a historical representation of an American agricultural experience. Contact Lorili Ostman, Executive Director, for more information on how to plan a major gift to support the Ag History Center.

530.666.9700  
[lorili@aghistory.org](mailto:lorili@aghistory.org)

# A Major 'Thank You'

At the Ag History Center we have enjoyed meeting you, showing you the collection, and hearing about your contributions to the museum, community, agriculture and transportation over the years. We continue to feel touched by your generosity in supporting the Center. Listed here are just some of the names who have made major financial contributions in recent months.

Fred Heidrick Sr. Family  
The Morning Star Company  
Dan Best II  
Traynham Trucking

Lucchesi Family LAFTER Farms  
The Tremont Group  
Terry Wilkinson  
Doug Veerkamp

Robert Eoff  
Wayne & Mary Ginsburg  
The Joe Gnos Family  
Fred & Sandra Heidrick

M & F Farms  
Don & Vesta Peart  
Lang Orchards

Advanced Irrigation Rental  
Ag-Seeds Unlimited  
Eaton Drilling Company  
Susan Driver DBA Gary Driver  
Farms  
Mezger Family  
Pacific Coast Producers  
Eric Paulsen  
Judy Schneider

C J Schneider  
T & P Farms  
Valley Truck & Tractor

TS & L Seed Company  
Blake & Melissa Harlan  
Robert Eoff Jr.  
Shelley Hunt  
Alex McCalla  
Joe Muller & Sons  
BZ Bee Pollination  
Valley Tire Center  
Wraith Scarlett & Randolph



## *What is this Artifact?*

Most every week someone arrives at the museum to turn over an agricultural artifact or antique tractor and truck that has been in their family for years. Sometimes the use of that artifact is subject to question.

Norma Smith donated these J C Moore & Company artifacts to the Center to honor her departed husband Andrew Smith. Can you tell us what these are and what they were used for? We would all like to know.

The first person to contact us and document the name of and the use of the artifacts shown in this photo will win a \$35 gift certificate to use in our gift shop. The winner will be announced on our website at [www.aghistor.org](http://www.aghistor.org).

## Annual Membership

# ***Antique Tractors & Trucks at the Ag History Center***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Levels \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member

- Senior**            \$45 (self and companion, age 65 +)
- Individual**        \$55 (self and companion)
- Family**            \$75 (two parents and four children)
- Grandparents**    \$75 (two grandparents and four guests)
- Executive**        \$200 (self, four guests, annual use of meeting corridor)
- Business**         \$500 (self, four guests, two annual uses of meeting corridor)

VISA    Mastercard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I can help/volunteer with \_\_\_\_\_

Send me information on how to plan a gift for the future. Placing the Heidrick Ag History Center in your will or trust will go toward creating an endowed reserve of funds that will support the Center's collection in years to come.

## **Heidrick Ag History Center**

[www.aghistor.org](http://www.aghistor.org)

1962 Hays Lane • Woodland, CA 95776

Open Wednesday – Sunday

530.666.9700

April 2011

# The Company and its Tractor Design that Changed Row-Cropping Forever

## *International Harvester and the Farmall Tractor*

Submitted by Jerry Huerter, Volunteer Author

### The 1934 McCormick-Deering Farmall F-12

The Heidrick Ag History Centers Farmall F-12 tractor does not stand out in the 120 tractors in the Heidrick collection. In fact I would venture it is overlooked by most guests visiting the museum. Its location between the two large and impressive wooden combined-harvesters does not give credit to the importance it represents in how farming was improved when its predecessor Farmalls first came on scene in 1924.

International Harvester Company (IHC) was organized in 1902 with the consolidation of McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, Deering Harvester Company and three other Midwest companies also manufacturing harvesting machinery. In 1906 the new company began manufacturing what were then called traction engines, essentially stationary engines mounted on wheels and using the engine to also supply traction. The 1910 IHC Mogul in the Heidreck collection is an example. It was followed by the International Titan series also represented in the museums' collection.

Until the early 1920's IHC was a major player in the tractor business. But when Henry Ford started production of the small Fordson unit-framed tractor in 1917, he soon overtook IHC and became number one in the tractors. Its competitor at IH, the 8-16 Titan, was not in the same league. In fact by 1920 Fordson had 35% of the market compared to IHC's 15%. The other 165 or so tractor manufacturers shared the other 50% of the market.

By then International Harvester executives recognized the need for a new tractor, one for row crop work that horses were still performing. Tractors at the time had a hitch for pulling plows, etc and a belt pulley for stationary work. For cultivation of row-crops particularly, horses were still used unless the farmer could afford a second "cultivating" tractor, such as the Moline Universal motor cultivator in the HAHC collection.

Most motor cultivators featured wide front wheels with the motor mounted above them, followed by the cultivator, mower or other attachment, and tricycle steering wheels in the rear. Think of a child's tricycle but with the forward movement as if it were being pedaled backward.

In 1924 IHC introduced their new tractor, the McCor-



Farmall F-12 changed row-cropping.

mick-Deering "Farmall". That designation was first used for their unsuccessful motor cultivator no longer being produced. The original version though was "Farm-All" on their motor cultivator. The goal was to have a general purpose tractor that could perform all the work on a farm and so eliminate the need for a team of horses. The new design had the large powered wheels in the rear, the driver situated over the rear axle with steering and operating controls at his finger tips, followed by the transmission, engine and radiator, the tricycle front wheels under the radiator and with a modified unit framing from the rear axle to the front wheels as a means to mount a two-row cultivator or other equipment. It is hard to imagine now but the newly designed tractor was considered somewhat "radical". Of course we have had over 85 years to get used to the new configuration as it remains the same basic design of tractors today! The major reason for being considered radical was the two-wheel 10 inch wide tricycle front axle to go between rows, rather than the wide front axle on tractors at the time.

The tractor did what the company hoped with over 134,000 produced by the end of its production in 1932. However competition was fast catching up, coming out with similar designs and more powerful engines. So in 1930 the IHC Executive Council determined the need for three new Farmall models. Rather than using horsepower designations such as a model 15-30, they went to plow size, terminology farmers understood. That resulted in

the original Farmall of 1924 now being called the "Regular". For the new models the designations were: F-20, the 2-plow; F-30, the 3-plow and F-40 a 4-plow. The next year they decided a new light-weight 1 or 2 plow tractor was needed. That tractor was designated the Farmall Model F-12, the model in the HAHC museum.

In 1938 the tractor became the Farmall F-14. The only change was they designated rated engine speed for the F-14 at 1650 RPM from the F-12's rated engine speed of 1400 RPM. The F-12 produced 10hp at the drawbar and 15 horsepower off the belt or pulley. Both tractors had the same IHC A-10 carburetor, F-4 magneto and A-C fuel pump. The IHC 113-cubic-inch cylinder gas engine featured a 3" bore and 4" stroke. Optional was a special manifold at a cost of \$10 so the engine could burn kerosene or distillate. A small gas tank for starting was mounted on top of the hood. There were 3 forward speeds at 2 1/4, 3 and 3 3/4 mph.

The 1934 Farmall F-12 in the HAHC museum weighs in at 2500 lbs. compared to the original Farmall Regular at more than twice that weight. It has the adjustable wide-front axle, an extra \$45. It does not have a belt pulley, only the shaft on the right side of the transmission. My research indicates the pulley was standard equipment so evidently it was removed perhaps for more clearance for a cultivator or other mounted equipment. It has the standard quick-hitch and power-take-off. Optional equipment not on this tractor are: 5 inch spikes \$22 a set; hydraulic lift attachment \$58; rear fenders \$15; and rear wheel weights \$13.

In 1939 the newly styled A, H and M Farmalls were introduced and the entire "F" series was phased out. A new era for the International Harvester Farmall began.

## Farm Life Displays Given New Life

Submitted by Jackie Scott, HAHC Volunteer

Have you seen the new "home on the farm" displays at the Museum? Last summer Barbara Bacon, Cathy Fleming and Jackie Scott worked hard to re-create replications of home life on the farm: the Laundry Area, the Sewing Room and the Kitchen.



The Sewing Room was redesigned and spruced up last summer.

The Laundry Area was the first display that was worked on. The ladies moved the items that were temporarily placed in the kitchen area over to the doorway that leads to the patio. The men on "The Tuesday Crew" painted the picket fence to enclose the area with a "clothes line" to finish off the area.

The Sewing Room features quilts, pictures and a trundle sewing machine. A coat of primer and three coats of paint freshened up the display. Short curtains hang over the windows, and the "Friendship Quilt" draws the eye into the display.

Linda Lucchessi donated a stove to the Kitchen Display. You'll want to drop by and see it. After Jim Furlong spent hours restoring it to original condition, it is a stove any family would have treasured in their farmhouse.



Farmall models M and H, along with the model A, succeeded the F series.



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Woodland, CA 95776

[www.aghistor.org](http://www.aghistor.org)

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**Liz Steiner**  
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## ***Volunteer!***

### **Support your Center with your talent and time**

Consider supporting the Center with your time and skills. There is always a need for volunteers who will further the core mission of sharing and preserving our antique collections.

- **Guest Services Greeter:** answer phones, greet guests in the lobby, staff the register, and help with miscellaneous tasks.
- **Museum Attendants:** typically greet guests within the collection, patrol the collection (keep an eye out for the safety of the collection and premises), and eventually learn to talk about the stories characteristic of the collections.
- **Outreach:** event outreach volunteers coordinate activities, staff booths, and provide set up and tear down hours.
- **The Crew:** maintain the building, grounds, and provide the mechanical expertise to repair, refurbish, and maintain antique vehicles showcased in the collections.