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Tractors From 4 States Complete The 11th Annual River Hills Antique Tractor Club Adventure Ride

Each Tractor Has A Story

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MidAmerica Farmer Grower

ALTENBURG, MO.

“Antique tractor fever is a disease; my wife Sandy and I have looked for a pill to treat it but, there isn’t one,” states River Hills Antique Tractor Club vice president Jerry Davis. Davis of Davis Farm Supply Incorporated has worked with farm equipment his entire career. He was one of the early members of the River Hills Antique Tractor Club. “It gets in your blood but, I love it. I have met so many people. I always take time to talk about antique tractors. Each tractor has a story,” he said.

Davis has two sons and three grandsons have two sheds stocked with 20 tractors, various examples of antique farming equipment and a 1939 Ford Ferguson, a surprise Christmas gift from his family. Christmas 2009 was, “one of the best,” added Davis. He is currently looking for his grandfather’s original tractor. “I have the serial number memorized but I do keep it written down in my wallet. One of these days I will find it,” he said.

The tractor Davis is searching for is a 1959 Ford 961. The serial number is 26371. It was bought new by his grandfather, Ira Heinbockel on May 4, 1959. Hopefully, a reader will help Davis find his grandfather’s tractor.

The recent 11th Annual Tractor Adventure Ride, one of many events sponsored by the club, had over 150 tractors along for the ride. Although tractors must be at least 40 years old and be able to maintain a speed of 10 mph to participate in the adventure, the oldest tractor making the 32 mile ride through the countryside of eastern Perry County, Missouri was a 1937 John Deere A owned by Steve Maurer of Elkhart, Illinois. Antique tractors from Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri began and ended the tractor adventure at the Altenburg Fairgrounds. Following the antique tractor adventure participants enjoyed a fish fry, a drawing for prizes and storytelling.

Roy Lohmann of Perryville, Missouri has a story. He remembers when his grandfather bought a brand new 1945 Farmall B. “It was a big event. Even though I was only four years old, I can still remember that day. It was the first tractor on our farm that had rubber tires,” said Lohmann. For over 20 years, his 1945 Farmall B was the main tractor used for corn cultivation on the family farm.

Lohmann’s son, Todd, is the 4th generation of Lohmann to drive the 1945 Farmall B. While Roy drove the 1945 Farmall B in the River Hills Antique Tractor Club’s 11th Annual Tractor Adventure Ride, Todd drove his 1963 Massey Ferguson 65. Roy hopes to one day see his granddaughter, Grace, become the 5th generation Lohmann to drive the 1945 Farmall B.

There is the story about two boys from Illinois who five or six years ago, spotted a Case tractor at an antique tractor show in Missouri. The conversation went something like this. Where did

you get it? Who did you buy it from? Was his name . . .? That’s my dad!!! Needless to say the two boys bought the tractor, hid it, planned a tractor ride and begged their dad to go with them. Sunday, tractor ride day came. Dad doesn’t want to go; he doesn’t have a tractor anymore. The boys told their dad they had a tractor for him, he could drive that ‘old Case’. Dad walked up to the tractor, started to get on and stopped still in his boots. He was shocked to discover this ‘old Case’ was actually his original



River Hills Antique Tractor Club vice president Jerry Davis says antique tractor fever is a disease and he has it. “It gets in your blood but, I love it. I have met so many people. I always take time to talk about antique tractors. Each tractor has a story,” he said.

Case tractor. He bowed his head and cried. Soon he wiped the tears away, pulled himself up on his ‘old Case’ and proudly took a Sunday tractor ride with his family.

The River Hills Antique Tractor Club has been invited to participate in an antique tractor show August 10, 2013. The club will have their tractors on display at Buchheit’s of Perryville August 10, 2013 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The public is welcome. Free admission.

Upcoming club events include:

American Threshermans Association in Pinckneyville Illinois August 14th to August 19th. The club will have a tent set up for anyone wanting more information about membership. This event features an extensive antique tractor part and antique tool flea market.

Kaskaskia picnic Labor Day.

Altenburg Fair September 20-21.

Plow Day date to be announced.

River Hills Antique Tractor Club brings Santa to town.

Check out these events. Club members Jerry Davis can be reached at 573-547-4556, Dennis Lappe can be reached at 573-768-0212 or Allen Muench can be reached at 573-587-2813 for additional information. The River Hills Antique Tractor Club is the proud sponsor of FFA Scholarships and various other charitable events such as Cousin Carls. Δ

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