4th Annual Hay Tool Show and Swap Meet a Great Success

On May 22nd and 23rd, the NHTCA met in Grass Lake, MI at Craig Calderone's Museum to wheel, deal, and otherwise brag about each other’s great new finds. Craig and Peggy Calderone opened the Museum to the NHTCA to hold this annual event. Craig has in just over four years, managed to acquire a large, if not the largest assortment of antique small hay equipment and tools in the nation. His collection includes 400(+) hay carriers, hundreds of barn pulleys, hay spears, hay forks, grapple forks, litter wagons and anything else to do with small hay equipment. His collection is bewildering to the general public as well as the other collectors associated with the NHTCA. All this in just over four years!! Craig refers to the collection as 600 barns all in one.

This 2-day event featured collectors from 10 states and a vast number of display items for all to enjoy. On Friday, members began showing up with display items and items for sale or trade. Vendors began shuffling in around 7:00 A.M. to set up and start the flow of rusty iron. Vendors sold all types of items: hay carriers, pulleys, all types of hay forks, slings and any many other rusty items. As vendors pulled in, collectors swarmed like flies at a picnic around each vehicle bumping and pushing to acquire the best items. At the front of the pack each time were Craig Colderone of Michigan and Dave Wilson of Van Meter Iowa, (I was not far behind). It is quite the sight to see. In the end, everyone got what they wanted and vendors left with full pockets.

In the end, the NHTCA had about 45 current members and family attend the show. The association also enlisted 10 new members at the show. In all, 10 states were represented as well as members from Ontario, Canada. From what I call tell, Darrell Sheets gets the long distance award. He traveled from Arnold, Ne, or about 1000 miles. Hats off to Darrell for this great effort!

In all the NHTCA is up to about 110-120 members.

Craig and Dave are the two gents with the gloves on. Dave has his arm out fending off Craig’s push towards the truck.
At the conclusion of the show, Steve Weeber of Iowa City, Iowa presented a short program about patent research conducted by Jim and Phyllis Moffet of Modesto, Il. Steve took their research and compiled it into a book of 180 patents of carriers we know were made. These patents date from 1866 to 1952. Each page shows the original drawings and other info pertaining to the patent. Steve also presented a rating guide for the 5 most popular manufacturers of hay carriers. This guide rates these manufactures carriers as either “Common”, “Hard to Find” or “Rare”. The manufacturers that were rated are as follows: Porter, Ney (including V.L. Ney), Myers, Louden, Hunt Helm & Ferris. This literature will help the novice as well as the experienced collector identify common versus rare items among these manufacturers. Steve with others has also started rating many other not-so-common manufacturers. Steve is seeking documentation about hay carrier manufacturers in this category. Contact Steve for more information about needed information. A book about these manufacturers will be available in the future. The existing books are available for purchase. Contact Steve at 319-683-2299 for pricing and availability.

A big thanks to Steve, Jim, Phyllis and other members who have assisted them. Keep it up!!
Death Grip carrier Mfg. by Goshen
Displayed by Jerry Kamp of Ohio

Misc items on display

Original salesman sample, by Ney Mfg. Co.
Displayed by Jim Gray of Michigan

Myers salesman sample.
Displayed by Dale Smithhisler of Ohio
Extra - Extra Cont.

NHTCA members lining up for Friday evening chow.  

Tom Schell from Ontario deals with David Colvin of New York.

Gideon Troyer and Darrell Sheets discuss the in and outs of one of Gideon’s carriers on display.  

It was a long drive for this future rust hunter. Madalynne was a trooper and had fun with aunt Susie in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Next year’s show will be hosted by Dale Smithhsler and several others who will be assisting him. The show will be held in Ashland, Ohio on April 30th and May 1st. More information will follow in future newsletters. Mark you calendars now! Dale is planning a great show and it will be fun for all. Don’t forget to bring your rusty iron for trade or sale.