



## Member Spotlight

### The Grand Champion, unsurpassed, first-rate hay carrier collector and idol to many

This group has over 180 members, which is small by most association standards, but one person I think can be credited for the start of our group. If not for this person I know my collection, knowledge, and the many friendships developed in the past few years would not exist. He has done more for the novice and experienced collectors alike, assisted in educating more people about hay carriers and collecting than anyone I know. I cannot say enough about this person. Many a collector has risen from his enthusiasm and vast knowledge. I cannot remember how many people I have talked to that share the same feelings I do. Many collectors credit him for helping and energizing them into the world of hay carrier collecting.

Steve Weeber of Iowa is this person. Steve took it upon himself and held the first hay show in 2004, and things took off from there.

His collection comprises than 250 carriers. It's not the number that is impressive, but the oddity and quality of these items.

He has so many odd, rare and unusual items that are so fun to look at. He also collects: drill ends, cast iron seats, a few Massey tractors, barn equipment associated with hay carrier manufactures paper latitude among other items.

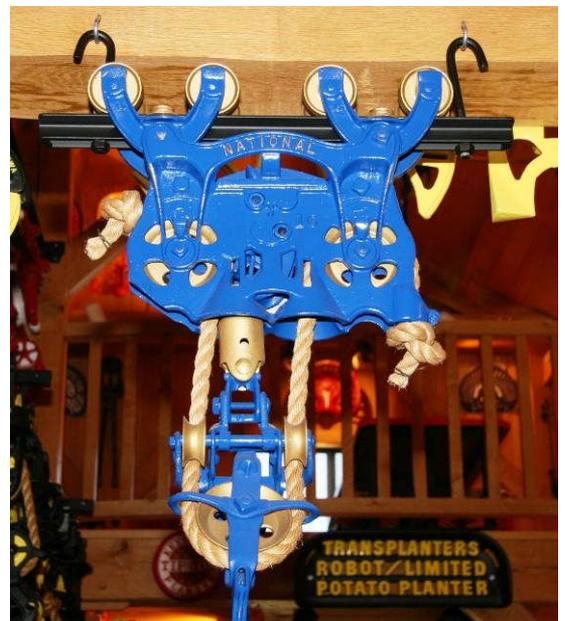
I have had the chance to visit with Steve countless times in person and over the phone and he is always ready and very giving to help the cause of the association.

Steve started collecting in 2000, however, he got interested in hay carriers around 1997-98 when he saw a neighbor's carrier that had been restored and sold at the farm auction. His first carrier was one that came from the family barn. He reflects now that it was just a common Ney, but he fell in love just the same. He held back his collecting bug then until 2000, the year he retired and then it was game on, and let me tell you, he dove in head first and still has not come up for air. I think that is what's really fun about Steve, his enthusiasm as well as his knowledge and willingness to share information with fellow collectors.

Cont.

2 of Steve's odd balls made by "National". Not much is known about these carriers.

Notice the blue cup below the bolts in the center photo. It is an oil cup for self lubricating the main sheaves.



## Member Spotlight, cont.

Today, Steve's collection consist of over 250 carriers from dozens of manufacturers. Most of the stuff he keeps is rare, a few of a kind, if not, one of a kind. It is truly educational to visit his place and take it all in. Most of his collection consists of wood beam carriers, but steel track carriers are plentiful. Some of his favorite to collect and admire are the Eagle/Miller line and Jordans. And, one of his favorite carriers is the Canadian Jones Patent. (photo 1) His favorite thing to collect by far is the hay equipment, specifically hay carriers, followed by hay forks.

He prides himself on the extreme detail in refinishing the items, the paint schemes and the detailed lettering to make it complete. Each line of carriers has its paint scheme. Odd balls fill in with other colors and schemes. Two of his rarest items are the "Barnes cut out slider" and the "Wheel and Seeder" from Fondulac, WI. (see photo 2 and 3) It is really hard to pick a favorite of Steve's, they are all awesome.

Photo1 Right side - A Canadian "Jones Patent"  
Photo 2 Left side - Barnes cut-out slider



Steve keeps his collection in what he calls the "Pavilion", a fun gathering place to absorb and appreciate all the former rust. His pavilion is used by many people and groups. Historical societies, local colleges, and even weddings and private parties have been held there. His displays are many and all are very expertly done. He also stores A LOT of items in his shop and storage barn.

He travels everywhere for his items, from New Jersey for a Fowler to Montana for a 6-tyne Jackson Hay Fork. His network of people runs deep, from wrench collectors, cast iron seat guys, tractors collectors, auctions and Ebay as well. He photo documents all his items and is in the process of cataloging his entire collection on computer.

Steve retired from Nalco Chemical Co. in 2000, which was in waste water treatment and purification. He lives in Iowa City, Iowa with his wife Jan. They have 2 children and 5 grand kids.

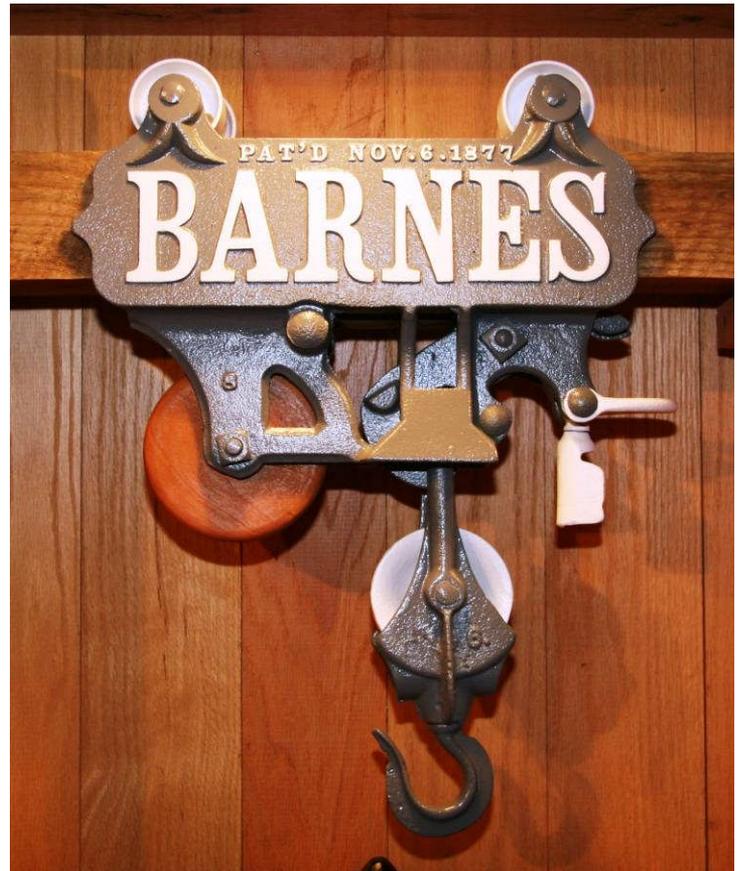
I highly recommend visiting Steve if you are ever in the area. In addition to collecting, Steve and Jan donate a lot of time and effort to many functions in the areas. Steve donated 40 plus carriers for decoration to a local camp called "Camp Courageous", a camp for disabled children.

Steve can be reached ([haycarrierman@netins.net](mailto:haycarrierman@netins.net))

Member Spotlight, cont.



Photo 3 Wheel and Seeder

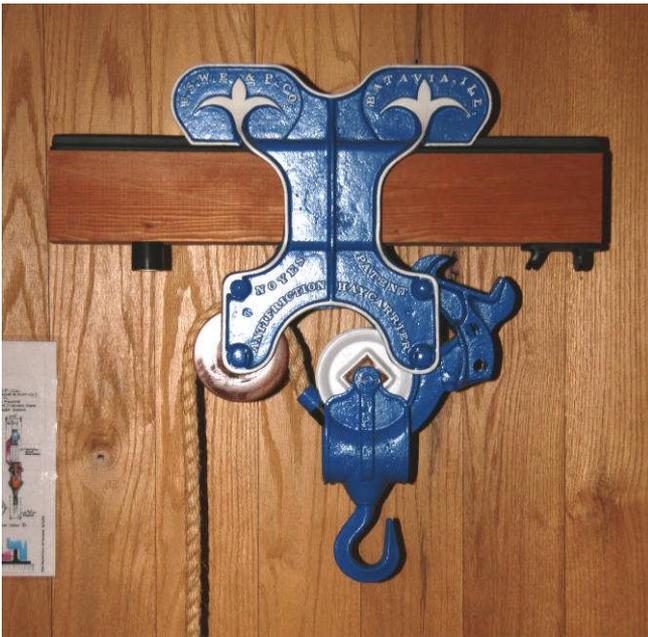


Another Barnes



Right and Left - Some of my favorites of Steve's. Boyd's Patents made by Stowell Manufacturing of South Milwaukee WI.  
Center - Steve with a set of rare Stowell interlocking sling pulleys.

**Member Spotlight, cont.**



Left - A US Wind, Engine and Pump Company

Above - Assorted Myers pulleys hanging above the bar area

Below - A Myers New Departure System (awesome)

On the Right side - a great collection of HHH  
On the Left side - Eagles/Millers and Porters



## Feature Story, The History of Hay Carriers

I am sure a lot of us know some of the history of hay equipment, but I thought I would run a story to fill everyone in so we are all on the same page. This story was forwarded to me by Dennis McGrew of Michigan. I have added a few things from other sources as well. Hope everyone learns something.

### A BIT ABOUT HAY CARRIERS

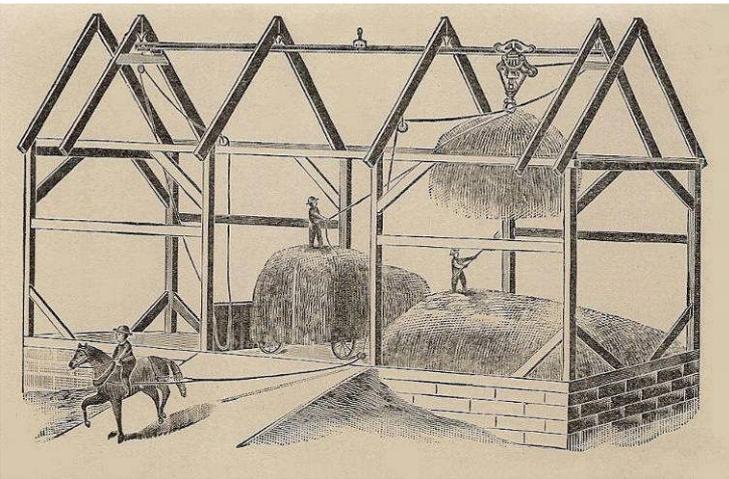
By Dennis McGrew

#### Getting the Hay Crop in the Mow

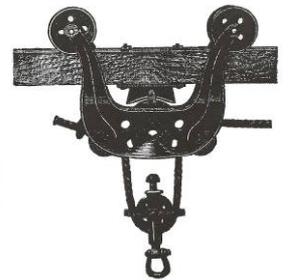
Putting up hay in the mid-1800s was both time and labor intensive. When the crop was in blossom at its peak food value; it would be cut by men swinging giant swaths with their scythes. After drying in the sun it would be raked by hand into small piles; or gathered into haycocks by "sweeps" pulled by horses. From there it was forked onto a wagon and then forked again into the barn loft.

With the advent of horse-drawn mowers – cutting a swath of usually three or four, sometimes up to six feet at a time; haymaking took a big turn. Hay loaders were developed by the 1870s and dump rakes dragged the hay into crude windrows. Horses pulling a wagon with the loader behind would straddle a row. The loader elevated the hay onto the wagon where it had to be forked into layers making a uniform load.

Early hay "handling systems" in the barn were pretty basic; often consisting of an over-sized pitchfork fastened to a draft line running through a pulley made up to a rafter in the barn roof. Experimentation evolved with simple "carriers" made of wood which were pulled along a 4 x 4 wooden track in the peak of the barn. These designs had no locking mechanism which required the horse team to hold the load on the draft rope to keep it suspended as it traveled on the track.

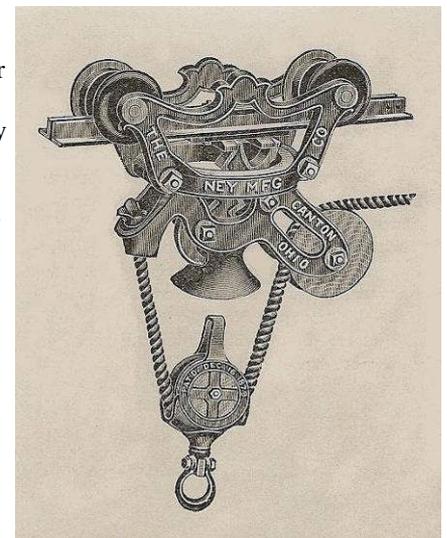


The development of malleable iron, as opposed to cast, eventually led to all metal hay carrier designs that were stronger and longer lasting. A brake was designed in the carrier which would hold the load; taking the weight off the draft rope and the horses. Hay carriers of the 1880s limited the farmer to only one draw along the barn. He would have to climb to the top of the barn and reverse the carrier and/or the draft rope. Introduction of the Swivel Car and Swivel Reversible models resolved this problem. A design common by 1885 used a ring separating the trolley mechanism from the car. Eventually various styles of steel track, were introduced making the carrier system much easier to operate.



#### The Hay Carrier

Company records indicate William Louden received a U.S. patent for the world's first hay carrier on September 24<sup>th</sup> 1867. In 1868 the first cast iron hay carrier appeared.



## Feature Story, The History of Hay Carriers

Carriers needed to be simple, dependable and strong enough to support the loads. Downtime with a valuable crop on the ground could quickly result in a disastrous loss.

Jim Moffet and his wife, Pat, have accomplished extensive patent research. They've provided the hobby with access to a myriad of background information on hay carriers and their inventors and manufacturers. A "bridge index" has been made available whereby the user need only plug a hay carrier patent number into the U.S. Patent Office website to access info on each individual carrier. The following are some interesting observations made by Mr. Moffet as a result of his research:

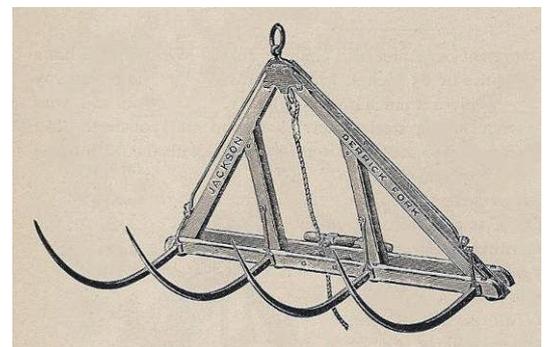
**"The era of the hay carrier would run some 80 or 90 years; however, by 1910 most of the technology had leveled off. There were perhaps as many as 50 companies manufacturing carriers but it is widely accepted that about 60% of the market was produced by about eight companies. There were some 335 patents registered; but it appears only around 180 were actually produced. While wood track was dominant in the beginning, and some rod and cable carriers were built for mostly outdoor applications, by 1905-10 most carriers were built for steel track of various configurations. After review of over 8,000 different types/brands of hay carriers, the following conclusions are made:**

- 1) Rare trolleys (if there is such a thing) were the poor designs. If they didn't work well, not many were sold.
- 2) Early inventors were from the East.
- 3) Later inventors were from the Midwest.
- 4) Companies located in the Midwest dominated the market in its "hay days."
- 5) If you plot the number of patents by year, the fertile inventive period was 1880-1910.
- 6) The horizon for the hay carrier market, from infancy to maturity, was 1865-1942."

### Evolution of the Hay Fork

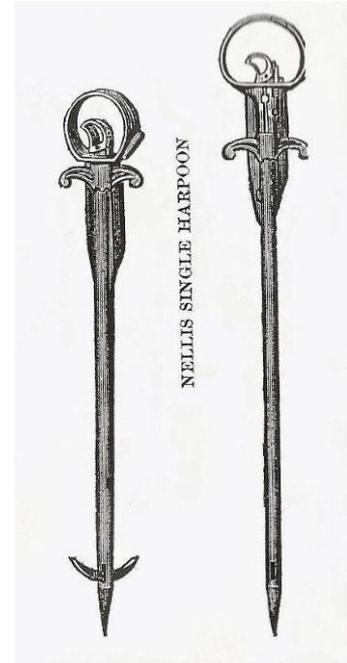
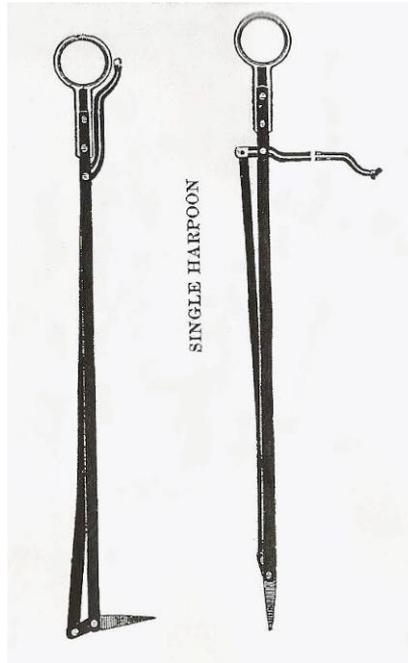
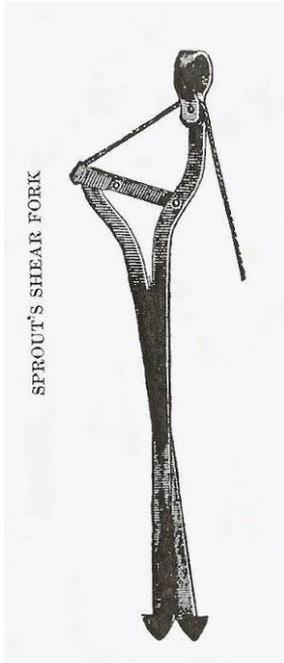
Patents for horse hay forks to "grasp" the hay from the wagon were first issued in 1854 and would total over 600 during the course of the loose hay handling era. The Jackson Fork was a design popular for many decades. An early description of its use is provided:

**"Made by the Jackson Farm Implement Co., these forks were commonly used by farmers from the mid 1800s onward. A wagon of loose hay was driven under the roof overhang gable. The fork is attached to a "trolley" riding on a track which extends the length of the barn. A rope runs from outside the barn front, through a pulley to the fork, then through a second pulley and out the rear of the barn and hitched to a horse. Once the fork is set into the hay, the horse pulls the fork up to the trolley, thence into the hay loft to the desired spot. The man there pulls a "trip" rope attached to the fork which lets the tines fall to vertical, dumping the hay. The horse is then backed and the rope in front is pulled, returning the fork and trolley to the overhang where the fork is unlatched from the trolley and is lowered again to the wagon."**

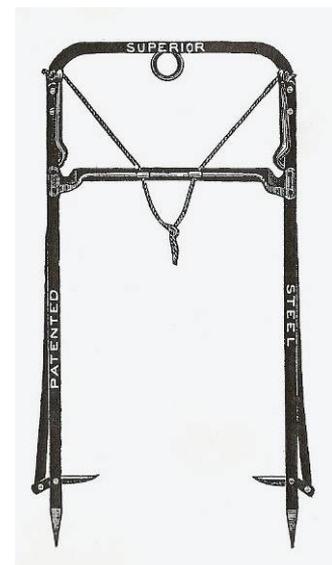
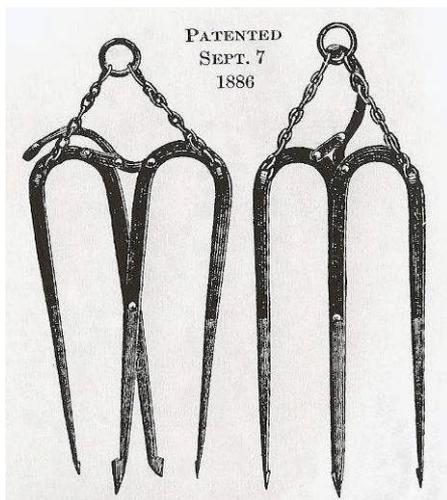


## Feature Story ,The History of Hay Carriers

Mechanical hay forks and other apparatus used to lift and hold the hay from the wagon as it was suspended into the loft evolved from rather crude blacksmith forged single “prongs” into some quite efficient styles. Personal preference as well as the type of hay or bundle being lifted off the wagon dictated popularity of the various forks. One early style in widespread use was Sprout’s Shear Fork. Another popular style was the trip handle Single Harpoon style of which the trigger trip version designed by Nellis was in use for many decades.

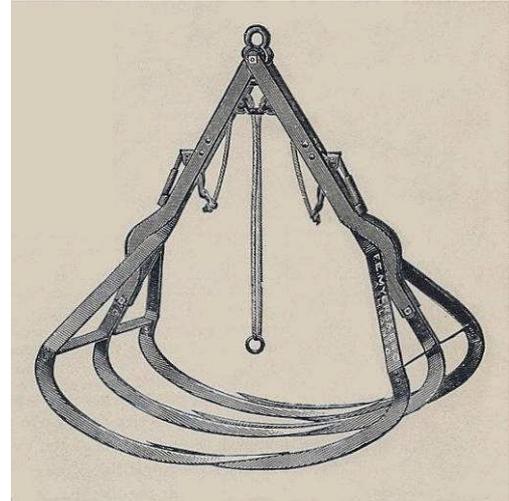
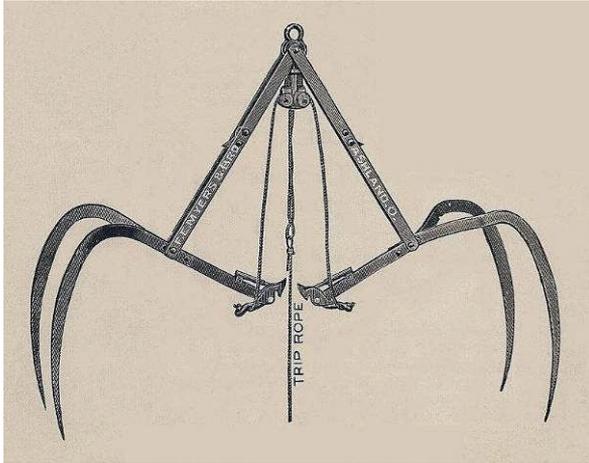


Various versions of the lever action double harpoon were used throughout the era of loose hay handling and there was even a triple harpoon version.



## Feature Story ,The History of Hay Carriers

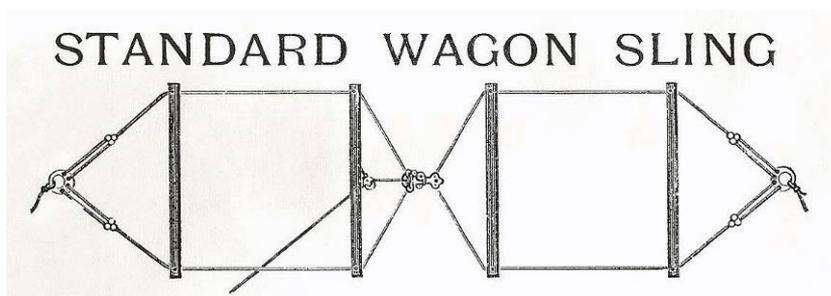
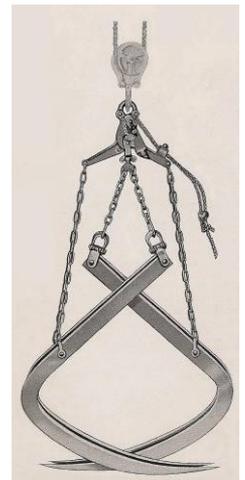
Grapple-style forks enjoyed a long-lived popularity and numerous patents for four and six-tine versions were issued



A more modern and quite popular improvement was the design of a “loose” grapple that had two pair of tines which could be set into the load for a larger bite.

### Slings as an Option

Another popular means of unloading loose hay from the wagon with a hay carrier was used in some form nearly from the beginning of trolley use – the hay sling. Slings are made up of lengths of rope, sometimes chain; spread apart by 2 x 2 sticks usually about four to five feet wide. A quick release latch either in the center or at one end is operated by a tagline. At either end of the sling is a steel ring. The sling is laid out on the hayrack with the rings usually looped onto a stake at either end of the wagon. Loose hay is distributed evenly across the sling usually to a depth of two or three feet; depending on weight considerations. Then another sling is laid out. Generally three slings are used per wagonload.



Back at the barn a pair of sling pulleys are lowered from the hay carrier and attached to the loop at each end of the sling. As the draft rope is pulled up, the sling forms a round bundle transported to the mow. With experience the man in the mow can trip the sling and lay out the hay onto the stack just the way it was loaded on the wagon. Often farmers who preferred forks would still use a sling on the first layer of the wagon; as, especially harpoon forks, would not clean the rack

## Feature Story ,

### A Hay Trolley by any other Name

Old-timers and even collectors today, tend to refer to trolleys by various other names such as: Hay Car, Hay Carrier, Horse Hay Carrier, Hay Conveyor, Sheaf Lifter, Sling Car, Swivel Carrier, Hay Elevator & Carrier, and Pitching Machine. The hay carrier was perhaps the single-most important laborsaving device invented for use in the barn. Increasingly, larger quantities of hay for winter feed could be stored in the barn as new types of construction for hay storage were adopted. By 1900, most farmers recognized the value of a good hay crop to their success and no modern barn was complete without a hay carrier system.

### Eliminating the Horse – The Friction Windlass Hay Winch

The ad reads:

**No Team on the Draft Rope -  
That Saves a Team;  
No Man to Drive it - That Saves a Man.  
Hay Unloaded Quick - That Saves Time;  
Time Will Save You the Hay Harvest!**

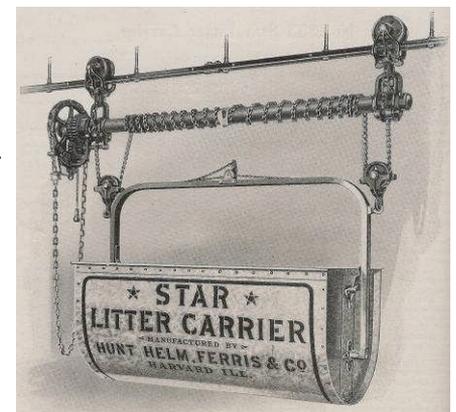
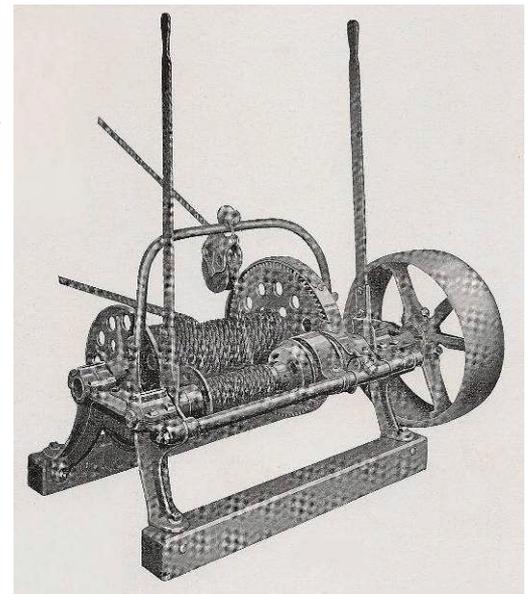
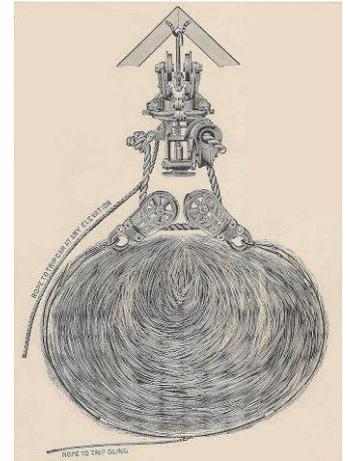
The windlass could be used with hay carriers and forks, or slings, or with any other conveyors, for handling other kinds of material. It replaced the requirement of a team and appealed to all who preferred power for hoisting hay into the mow. The hay winch, when partnered with appropriate steam or gas propelled engine, would elevate the load and run the carrier to the desired position on the track. The operator could trip the fork at will and return the carrier to the load – all using the same rope, fork and trolley formerly used in connection with the horse. It could be used in the barn, in the field with a stacking rig or a cable outfit. From four to seven and a half horsepower was required according to weight of load and desired speed.

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The machine was composed of two drums, one for the hoisting rope and the other for the trip and return rope. The drums, riding on ball bearing thrust collars, were fitted with automatic brakes under full control of the operator at all times. The Nelson manufactured machine advertised drum capacity of 150' for 5/8" manila rope with a safe operating load of 1,000 lbs. Porter offered a unit with drum capacity of 250' of 3/4" manila and a safe load up to 2,000 lbs. requiring six horsepower.

### Litter Carriers

Litter carriers were also common to many large dairy barns in the Midwest by 1900. They operated on an overhead track system made up of right angle curves, switches and other configurations. Sometimes the track system served double duty to carry a feed car as well; although most were used to carry manure exclusively. Some feed systems used a separate track. Manure track systems extended outdoors where the 10-20 bushel capacity tubs were dumped into a manure spreader or onto a pile for later disposition.



The National Hay Tool Collectors Association presents the  
**6th Annual Hay Tool Swap Meet and Show**

Featuring

THE CELEBRATED  
**NEY HAYING TOOLS**

Hosted by: **Dale Smithhisler, Gary VanScyoc, Jerry Kamp,  
 Gideon Troyer and Melvin Mast**



Where: Ashland County Fair Grounds  
 2042 Claremont Ave, Ashland Ohio  
 Watch for signs (see directions below)

When: April 29th and 30th - 2011

Time: April 29th Set up and vend 8:00 A.M. till ?

April 30th Set up and vend 8:00 A.M. till about 2:00

This show will feature **Ney** and brand equipment.

Everyone is encouraged to bring items to show and sell.  
 Ney is the feature, but all items can be displayed.

A food vendor will be available at the show offering coffee and rolls for breakfast and sandwiches for lunch.

Dinner will be available Friday evening.

**NEW THIS YEAR:**

- **AUCTION:** We are working out the details to hold a live auction at the show. Members are invited to bring hay related items for this auction. A wall hanging made by local ladies with a hay theme will also be auctioned off. More on this later as we finalize the details.
- **BEST DISPLAY:** there will be an award for best display, voted on by you and your fellow members. (more later)
- **SHIRT ORDERS:** will be available for pick up.

**HOTEL INFORMATION**

Amerihost Inn  
 419-281-8090  
 Holiday Inn Express  
 419-281-2900  
 Surrey Inn Hotel  
 419-289-7700  
 (1 mile from fair grounds)  
 Days Inn  
 419-289-0101  
 Super 8 Motel  
 419-281-0567  
 Bowser House B&B  
 419-289-6324

**Directions**

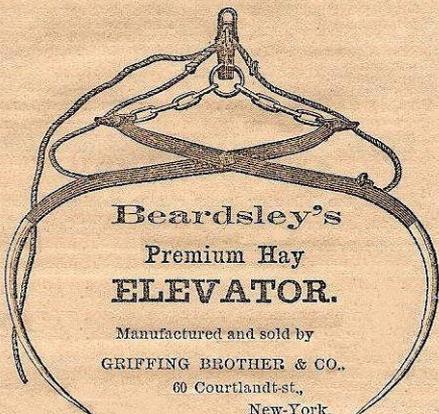
Exit I-71 take Rt. 250 west. Exit Rt. 250 onto Rt. 42 South. Stay on Rt. 42 until you reach Baney Road. Turn right onto Baney Road. The first traffic light is at Claremont Ave. Turn right. The fair grounds will be on your left.



**Shirts and Stuff,**

Shirt designs are almost done. I will send out a separate communication in a week or 2 just about shirt stuff. Be patient, stuff is on its way!

1863.



**Beardsley's  
Premium Hay  
ELEVATOR.**

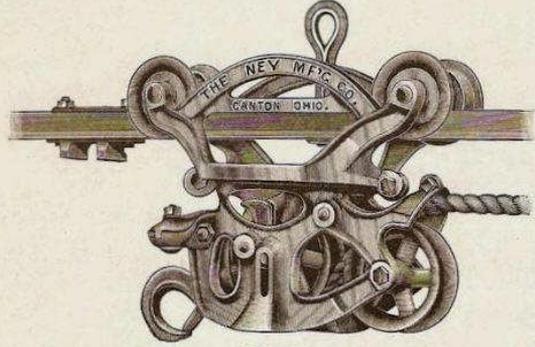
Manufactured and sold by  
GRIFFING BROTHER & CO.,  
60 Courtlandt-st.,  
New-York.

A large number of these Elevators have been used during the past season, and from its capacity to elevate hay, we challenge the world to produce its equal in lightness, strength, and efficiency to manage.  
"Unloading hay at the barn by horse power is such a simple operation that it seems wonderful how a sensible farmer can continue the excessive hard labor of lifting it, a fork full at a time, in the stifling heat of the barn of a July afternoon."

GENUINE NEY BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

## Haying Tools

WE DO NOT SELL TO CATALOGUE HOUSES AND NEVER HAVE. ARE STANDARD EVERYWHERE



No. 85

WE MANUFACTURE A COMPLETE LINE OF HAY TOOLS AND HARDWARE SPECIALTIES.

OUR NUMBER 85 IS THE BEST WIDE MOUTH CARRIER ON THE MARKET.

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE.  
Branch Houses Under Firm Name Open May 1 to Sept. 1.  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. PEORIA, ILL. COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA.

**THE NEY MFG. CO., Canton, O.**



**BOYD'S**  
Celebrated...  
Positive Forced Lock  
**HAY CARRIERS.**

Only two working pieces, each locking the other, insuring a POSITIVE FORCED LOCK, working either way. No springs—simple, sure, strong, durable.  
J. M. BOYD, Fond du Lac, Wis.

Swivel Carrier.

**CASH and CARRIERS**

Cash for carriers is our new for sale, trade or bartering page. Seller can provide me the information on items. eg. Provide a description of items you want to sell, contact information, pricing and photos if desired. Members will contact seller directly. Editor will have no interaction with the sale of an item between seller and buyer, and the terms of the sale are between the seller and buyer. Items being sold should be related to our group of collectors.

Chief

Wanted 2 Witman and Barnes 4" fork pulleys.  
Many other carriers pulleys available to trade.  
Email the Chief.

No other ads at this time.

Jim Moffet has a few Hay Fork patents books available.  
Email him at - workshop2@frontiernet.net

## More on Steve Weeber and then some,

As always, I ask member spotlights what advice they have to share with us. Steve had this to say, "Have fun and cherish the people you meet and get to know." Sounds like great advice!

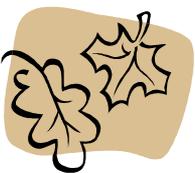
I realize I really talked up Steve Weeber, but without him, I am not really sure this association would exist. That being said, I feel a few others need to be recognized. Here are a few people I would like to mention at this time.

**Jim Moffet of Modesto, Illinois.** Jim and his wife Phyllis have spent hundreds of hours (I would guess) researching hay fork and hay carrier patents as well as patents about God knows what else. He has a book **available** to collectors with all the hay fork patents issued. He had also recently published a book about Hand Corn Shellers. More on this in an upcoming newsletter. Jim can be reached at (workshop2@frontiernet.net). You can order both of these books from Jim directly. Thanks Jim and Phyllis!

2 others are Barry and Colin Merrenoff. You see their Mechanical Advantage card throughout the newsletter and they were featured as the member spotlight a year ago or so. If you have not taken time to talk to Barry, you have missed out. You really need to check out their web site and BUY their books. They are just awesome for the collector. Maybe I am the weird one, but I have a complete set sitting next to my bed, near the coffee table and in the museum. (I got it bad) Barry has taken the first of many steps towards a complete book of hay carriers that exist. This will be expanded before long. More on that later. Barry can be reached at (see their card on last page of newsletter). Thanks Barry and Colin!

Others can be mentioned, but these members really stick out in my mind as good friends, great fellow collectors and people willing to help out the collecting world in general.

I may write the newsletters for this group, but its the people that make the group. We have such a great group of collectors that it is such a pleasure to do this and I look forward to meeting all of you. That being said, if you have not been to a show yet, do yourself a favor and come this spring. I know it's hard to get away, but I really feel if you attend the show, you will really enjoy it, **meet a lot of great people**, learn a lot, and go home with More Rust. Maybe all associations are like this one, I am not sure, but I feel we have a good group and look forward to a long relationship with it.



### It's Chili season

If you like chili, especially white chicken chili, give this one a try.



#### Ingredients

- 1 lb Great Northern Beans (cook per instructions)  
You can use canned if you wish.
- 2lb boneless chicken breast or more if desired (shredded or chopped)  
(If time, I boil whole chicken, de-bone and save stock for this recipe)
- 1 T olive oil
- 2 med onion diced
- 4 garlic clove minced
- 2 - 4oz. Cans diced green chilies
- 2 t cumin (more to taste) see **TIP**
- 1 1/2 t oregano
- 1/4 t Cayenne pepper (or to taste)
- 6 cups chicken stock
- 3 cups Monterey Jack Cheese

#### Method

- Heat oil and add onion and sauté
- Add garlic and sauté for 1 min.
- Add dry spices and cook until fragrant
- Add chicken stock. Stir well
- Add chicken and green chilies
- Cook for 30 min. on low boil
- Simmer until well combined. Stirring gently.
- When you are ready to eat, add cheese to thicken.

#### Condiments

- Sour crème
- Cilantro
- Fresh diced onion
- What ever you like on chili.
- Monterey Jack Cheese

#### **Tip**

I buy cumin seeds and roast them in a non stick skillet on high for about 1 minute, or until they are fragrant. I then put them into a spice grinder and grind them. It is awesome cumin. I use an extra coffee grinder to grind my spices.

Chief

National Hay Tool Collectors Assoc.  
c/o Doug de Shazer  
55005 897 Rd.  
Crofton, NE 68730

Phone: 402-510-8845  
Fax 402-388-4434  
E-mail: haytoolcollector@yahoo.com



## Notes from the Chief

Happy Holidays to all the members. It's hard to believe the holidays are here. Where did the time go? It seems like we say that every year. We can't fight Father Time, so let's embrace and enjoy the holidays and the time we get to spend with family and friends and the spirit of the holidays. Recently I was asked what I would like for Christmas this year. The first thing I shouted out was "a Barnes Carrier and any HHF that I don't already have!" Well needless to say, Juliet looked at me and said, "Come on, be serious." I brushed her off and went about my business.

The truth, as with most of us, is just to be home with my family and friends and just enjoy the spirit of the holidays.

The photo to the right shows Madie holding one of her baby dolls. (They were helping me decorate the porch) Soon, Madie will be holding the real thing, not just a doll, as Juliet and I are expecting in early January. Madie will then have the real thing to paw over and pick on. She will be the big sister to her baby brother, and she can't wait! That being said, all I really want for Christmas is that Mom and Baby are healthy, happy and all make it home safely to begin our new life together.

I hope everyone's holidays are good and all get to spend time with friends and family. There are a lot of servicemen and women who cannot be with their families this time of year, so remember them this time of year and pray for their safe return.

Happy Holidays to one and all.



CHIEF

### GOOD WORDS

If I had to be an animal in this world, I'd be a cookie monster!

### Thoughts

If I were a tree, I wouldn't be a mighty Oak or Maple.  
I would be a money tree, just to prove my parents wrong!

## True Story , Kids say the funniest things

A little girl went to the barber shop with her father. She stood next to the chair while her dad's hair was being cut and was eating a snack cake. The barber said to her, "Sweetheart, you are going to get hair on your Twinkie." She said, "Yes I know, and my mama says I am going to get boobs too."

One day a first grade teacher was reading the story of Chicken Little to her class. She came to the part where Chicken Little warns the farmer. She read, "and Chicken Little went up to the farmer and said, "The sky is falling!" the teacher then asked the class, "And what do you think that farmer said?" One little girl raised her hand and said, "I think he said, "Holy shit, a talking chicken!" She was unable to teach for several minutes.

## Coming Events

I am soliciting names for our baby, send me your ideas. We seem to be having trouble deciding. Of course, Doug Jr. sounds pretty good to me.  
Send us your ideas!!!

Happy Holidays!

## Technical Disclaimer

This newsletter is intended to be informative, educational and fun! Material is believed to be accurate at time of printing and if not, we tried. Send us any corrections you feel necessary. Help make this newsletter a success.

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