

560 FARMALL HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE

Brian Pierce

It all began with my grandpa's 1961 Farmall 560, serial number 41158 S-Y-CC. He purchased it used in the mid 1960's in McLeansboro, Illinois. It was mainly used the first few years on the farm for plowing the fields with the 412 fast hitch plow. In later years it pulled a planter and also was used for cultivation. By the time I became old enough to drive it, the 560 was no longer the primary tractor, but it was used in some way just about every day. Grandpa fabricated a blade on the front to help with moving downed trees to cut and split for firewood and also to clean out fencerows by pushing brush. I learned to drive on this tractor and spent many hours on it.

When grandpa retired I wanted to restore it, but he said he did not want to scratch the new paint while using the blade. Grandpa passed away in 2003 and that spring I pulled the plow out of the barn, where it had been stored for several decades, to plow my grandma's garden. This was the first time I had actually used a plow. I plowed the garden the next year as well and the tractor has not been started since then. I acquired the tractor this year after my grandma passed away, and hope to get it moved to Indiana next year. As far as I know, I am the third owner. In the coming years, I will completely restore the tractor to like new condition. Even though it is in need of many repairs, it is still my favorite tractor.



Brian and the 560 Farmall at work

EARLY 1940'S FARM LIFE

Kenneth Miller

My family has used McCormick Deering equipment for many years to help them make a living off the land. Farming was hard, but all the family worked together to make life as easy as possible. My Grandfather milked 15 cows each morning before going to the fields for a long day and returning to milk that evening. In 1942 International Harvester had a vacuum milker on the market, and my grandfather felt this machine could make his life easier. He bought the milker and a McCormick Deering engine to operate the Deering vacuum pump.

At that time grandfather had no electric power on the farm. He did have a radio to listen to every night after the farm work was done and it was powered by a 6 volt battery. To charge the battery he erected a windmill and installed a 6 volt generator and as the wind turned the windmill, it operated the generator and charged the battery. He had one battery charging and one in the radio. He said the battery would last 5 days powering the radio.

My grandfather's M Farmall tractor had many uses around the farm. One use was operating the front mount buzz saw that cut the winter supply of wood to heat the farm house. Cutting wood was done all winter, as he would burn an average of 24 ricks of wood each cold season. Grandfather would fill his barn loft with chopped hay to feed his dairy cows through the winter. All summer long he cut hay with his seven foot power mower that bolted to the rear hitch of the M tractor. He used the M Farmall to cut, chop, and blow the hay into the barn with a #2 forage blower run by an endless belt.

Operating a farm in 1942 was all hands on labor but grandfather loved the work and told many stories that are cherished memories to his family.