



Up Close & Personal With The Stegalls

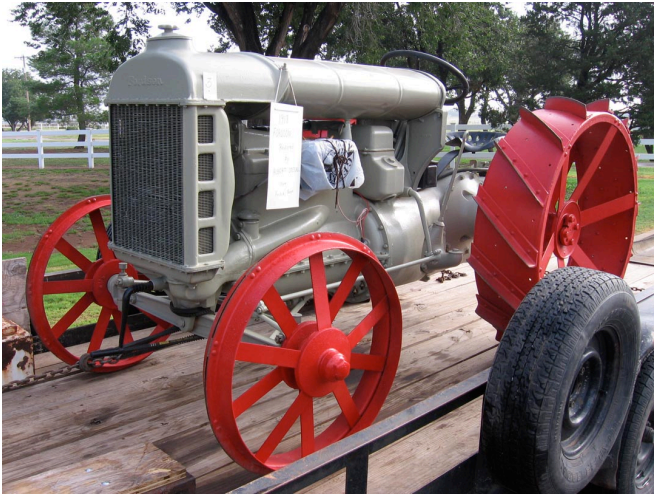


On a cold windy foggy day in February, a group of PATA members went to Fritch Tx. to view the tractor collection of Albert and Linda Stegall, shown pictured above with their 1967 Allis Chalmers D19. Waiting for us was a warmed up shop, hot coffee, and warm delicious home made cinnamon rolls. What a treat!

The Stegalls moved to Fritch after living many years in Borger. After retirement, they needed more room for their growing tractor collection as well as a place for their grandchildren to ride their off road motorcycles.

Years later, they have several barns full of already restored and ready to restore tractors, as well as an impressive collection of "future projects". Albert claims he intends to restore them all. If he does, he should live forever! Has he discovered the elusive secret to immortality?

Albert grew up on a farm in south west Oklahoma and is interested in tractors and motors of every kind. His interest includes motorcycles as well and his collection includes a 1957 Zundap, a 1964 250 Yamaha, and a 1965 160 Honda. He has a barn full of dirt bikes his grandchildren enjoy.



The crown jewel of their collection is a 1918 Fordson, shown on a trailer at our 2007 show. They went to Nebraska to pick up the first Fordson, and Linda says that was the first of many enjoyable trips they took together tracking down parts for their restorations as well as looking for other tractors to restore.

On that first trip, they went to the area where the movie “Bridges of Madison County” was filmed. Linda especially enjoyed the covered bridges that are common in that area. They also took a side trip to the childhood home of John Wayne. While stopping for gas, they discovered the attention the Fordson commands from other enthusiasts whom obviously have good taste.



Shown below is a Model 30 Caterpillar Albert acquired while they were still in Borger. It was a block away, and took quite some doing to bring it home after he bought it. He hasn't restored it yet, but has kept it running all these years and enjoys driving it around his place.



It is one of the rare models that has a gasoline engine. The day we were there, it started right up and ran fine even though the temperature was just above freezing. Had the weather been better, we would have enjoyed driving it around and tearing up the back 40 a little, but it was just too cold and windy. Maybe we can make another trip during the summer and have some fun with it. I know who to call now if I ever need a house pulled off its foundation!



In the back of Albert's well equipped shop is the frame of a Ford 9N, primed and waiting to be painted and reassembled. With temperatures near freezing, the propane heater was a popular attraction while we had fresh brewed coffee and Linda's fabulous fresh baked cinnamon rolls. Along with a wood burning barrel heater, the shop was a cozy place to hang out and talk tractors.

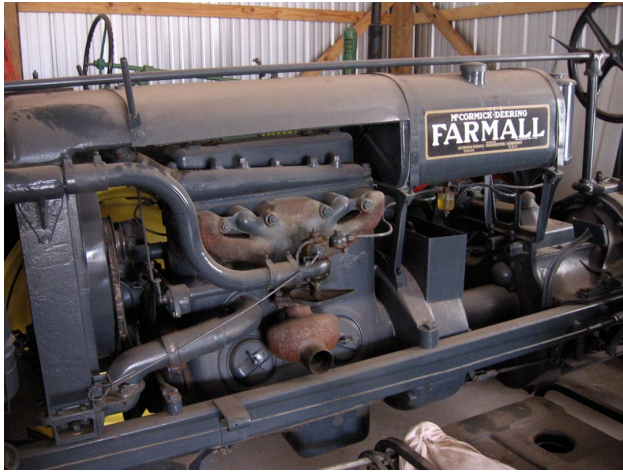
Albert is retired from Huber corporation and was a machinist and worked in their industrial engine division. He has many old engines in his shop in various stages of repair. With arc and gas welding rigs as well as presses, lathes, and tools of all kinds, he is well equipped to do anything necessary to restore a tractor.



Below is a 1939 John Deere Model B, his first restoration. It's just like one he had driven in the fields of Oklahoma. It was so cold, we didn't try to get any of the tractors outside for a good photo. They were quite happy to stay in the barn with a layer of dust on them. Too cold for a wash job anyway. Trust me, it would be mistaken for a nearly new tractor with a good bath!



Linda says Albert worked for his Dad on the farm as well as other people in the community. He was always interested in tractors and engines of all kinds, and was sometimes reprimanded for experimenting and finding other uses for his Dad's equipment or the engines on them. Albert remained silent on this subject. C'mon Albert, spill the beans, inquiring minds want to know!



Next to the Model B is a Farmall Model 30 just like the one his Dad had owned. This is the kind of tractor Albert learned to drive at 11 years of age in the fields of Oklahoma. It was his second restoration project, and didn't want to go out in the cold either.

Below that is a 1952 John Deere Model G with the hood and seat removed (I don't know why). Makes you aware of how many lever thingies there are on these machines. That's what separates the men from the boys, we know what all the levers are for!



The other completely restored tractor he has finished is the Allis Chalmers on page one. He has many other working tractors with mowers, buckets, backhoes, plows, etc. Between the restored, ready to restore, working tractors, and his extensive bone yard, he has about 40 or 50, I lost count. (Too cold to take off my gloves and shoes). Watch out Lyndon, He's making a run for the most prolific collector title!

Well, that's about all we have room for, there is a limit on e-mail size after all. We didn't even talk about all the rusty old cars, trucks, and farm implements, you should have been there. I hope we keep touring around to see other peoples collections, it sure is fun. I just hope the weather is better next time, maybe a summer tour...

OK, that's two so far. Who's next? If you are willing to show off your collection, please let me know. That's all you have to do, I'll take it from there. Hope you enjoyed it.



Ken Hanson