

## Salvage Yard Specializes In Grain Drill Parts

Burrell Drill Salvage carries everything needed from horse-drawn grain drill parts to parts for a newer Deere 8000 series drill. The Fairview, Okla. salvage yard claims more than 9,000 tons of used and new drill parts, as well as acres of used Deere and Case IH grain drills.

"We have new parts as well as rare antique parts," says Mark Burrell. "We carry high activity/high wear parts like bearings, press wheel tires and disks, but also specialty kits like added press wheels or double disks and agitators. We can help a drill owner upgrade to features that weren't available on their drill originally."

Burrell's is a family farming operation that expanded into farm equipment sales and service nearly 50 years ago. Today the family continues to farm, while the equipment business has evolved into parts for drills and other equipment. The farming experience shapes how Burrell says they approach the parts business.

"We're farmers, so we know if you're broken down and need a part, you need it right away," he says. "Often by the time people call me, they've tried 10 other yards and someone gave them my number."

Burrell says the business has changed over the years from supplying local farmers to shipping nationally. What hasn't changed

is that their business runs on farmer hours. Local farmers know they can stop by for a part any time of the day or evening. Burrell's extends the same service to farmers in New Jersey or New York via phone. Not many business owners answer after 5 p.m., much less posting home numbers on their website or in ads like the Burrell's do.

"The phone rings at the shop and at home," says Burrell. "We get more orders evenings and weekends than during the day. In fact, it really helps me if people call in the evening rather than waiting until the next morning, because I can start working on filling their order right away."

To order a part, simply check the castings number on the problem part. Make and model information are also helpful.

"Often times people don't know what the model is, but every part has a number on it," says Burrell. "If you send a picture, we can look at it and know what you need."

In addition to common drill parts, Burrell's carries drill hitches, manual and hydraulic markers, and sheet metal for drills. The parts business also carries new and obsolete parts for other implements, as well as belts, laces and repair tools for big round balers.

"Everybody sells belts, but we have the tools needed for all brands of balers," says Burrell. "People can buy the tools and



Burrell Drill Salvage carries lots of used and new grain drill parts, as well as used Deere and Case IH drills.

supplies and repair their own."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Burrell Implement Co., HC 60, Box 8, Fairview,

Okla. 73737 (ph 580 227-4494 or 580 227-3200; www.burrells.net).

## Where To Buy Horse-Drawn Plow Parts, And More

Norman Macknair is known as the guy to go to for parts for horse-drawn plows. With thousands of cast iron parts on hand, he's probably the largest cast iron plow part supplier in the country. However, the plow business is only part of what he does. Living in the heart of "old order" Amish country, Macknair, and his father before him, built a business based on supply and repair of old equipment. Today, his customers range as far as Europe.

"I recently shipped two manure spreaders to Ireland and two more to France," he says. "I have guys in Europe who give me a list of stuff they want and 6 to 10 months to locate it."

He sells and restores spreaders, plows, binders, mowers and other equipment. He estimates he has rebuilt 40 to 50 spreaders alone in the past 30 years.

"With manure spreaders, it's often best to strip them down to the frame and start fresh," says Macknair.

Macknair has 14 acres of equipment for resale and salvage, as well as new and salvaged parts for ground driven equipment.

"I stock McCormick-Deering and Deere grain binder canvas at \$140 to \$175 per set, as well as reprints of old manuals," says

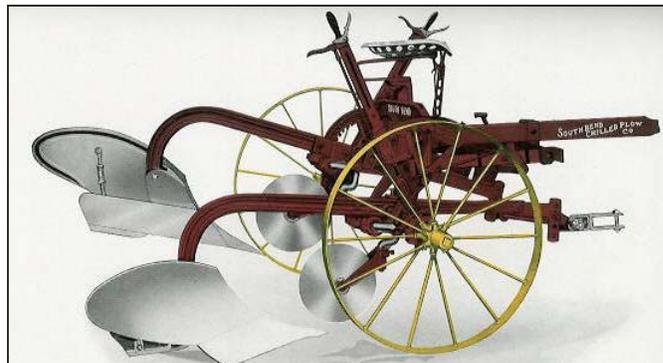
Macknair. "I have a huge selection of detachable chain as well as old cast iron links. I also carry pitmans for mowers and grain binders and make replacement parts for two-way plow hitches."

While Macknair carries many plow parts, the hardest to find, he says, are plow bottoms. He notes that many plow bottoms were regionally adapted. "What worked for one type of soil in Pennsylvania didn't work in Minnesota," he explains. "At the same time, Oliver and Deere two-way plows were common throughout the country and used the same bottoms."

Macknair ships parts throughout the country and overseas. He leaves the shipping of rebuilt, repaired and "as-is" equipment to the buyer. He does ask that customers be patient when contacting him.

"I am just a one-man show here," he says. "If you're in a hurry, call me. Otherwise send an e-mail or letter."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, B.W. Macknair & Son, 3055 U.S. Hwy. 522 N., Lewistown, Penn. 17044 (ph 717 543-5136; norman@macknair.com; www.macknair.com).



Norman Macknair has built a business based on supply and repair of old horse-drawn equipment, including cast iron plows (above). He also sells and restores manure spreaders, binders, mowers and other equipment.

## Tractor Mechanic Takes His Skills On The Road

An old black truck drives in the yard. A tall man wearing baggy bibbed overalls and a big straw hat slips out of the seat and reaches for a toolbox. Traveling Tractor Mechanic Ted Kalvitis is on the scene. He's ready to change the oil on a new Kubota tractor or head out to the woods to see if he can start an old Oliver tractor.

"This is my 21<sup>st</sup> year doing this," says Kalvitis, who started out working as an indoor mechanic. "I wanted to work outside so I developed this occupation."

A stint as a mechanic at a Massey-Ferguson dealership, along with his farm upbringing, gave him the skills he needed.

Field mechanics are not new, he notes, but he carved out a unique market for himself after he put an ad in a newspaper for the

Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The affluent area netted a wide range of clients ranging from folks who wanted to keep their old tractors running to farmers with new tractors who wanted to maintain them well.

Jobs cover the gamut. Doctoring a Zetor on a mountain; performing a transmission repair on a 1939 Ford 9N behind a barn; axle seal replacement on a Farmall C — precariously close to a shelf of ceramics. Kalvitis credits his Lithuanian genes for his fortitude in all types of weather. And unless the tractor has a serious design flaw, he always comes through with a fix — with the help of his extensive library of repair books and manuals and common sense advice from old-timers.

He's well known in the 50-mile radius he serves — not just for his mechanic skills, but

also his personality. He even writes off-beat articles for magazines such as *Antique Power*.

"He's an amazing character," says Chuck Kleine, a documentary producer with West Virginia Public Broadcasting. He's currently filming Kalvitis with some of his customers to tell the stories of why people love their tractors. The film is expected to air by mid-2011. "He's creative with his business and has lots of knowledge of local history."

Kalvitis's interest in history and mechanical skills merged when he was recently asked to remove a crankshaft from an 1850 Faber steam engine so it could be taken out of the American History Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. Kalvitis reassembled it at a Smithsonian storage site in Maryland.

But jobs such as fixing a 1950 Oliver Super

77 so it could be started for a man whose father parked it before he died, are the most rewarding.

His successful career has been part luck and part skill.

"It helped getting into the right population and having a certain tenacity to keep at it," he says.

While he continues to take his mechanic work on the road — in his second old black truck — he has also set up a shop two days a week in North River Mills, W. Va.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ted Kalvitis, HC 78 Box 86AA, Augusta, W. Va. 26704 (ph, 304-496-8067; www.oldblacktruck.com).