



Ken Poppitz's antique one-pass planting system includes a steel-wheeled moldboard plow, press, and grain drill. They're shown here pulled by a 1942 IH Farmall H tractor.

## Antique One-Pass Planting System

Ken Poppitz of Chaska, Minn., exhibited this 70-year-old one-pass planting system at a recent local antique tractor show.

"It includes a moldboard plow, press, and grain drill, which was how many farmers planted back in the old days," says Poppitz.

He used a 1942 International Harvester Farmall H tractor to pull a 3-bottom, steel-wheeled IH 314 plow and a 4-ft. wide offset press, with a 4-ft. grain drill trailing behind.

"The plow, press and drill are all connected in such a way that everything follows behind me like a freight train whenever I turn a corner in parades," says Poppitz.

"I got the plow from a local farmer a long time ago. It had sat around for years and got rusty, and now I'm trying to get the moldboards to scour. I got the press and drill from my wife's cousin in South Dakota, who farmed with them for many years before

bigger equipment came on the market. He seeded 300 to 350 acres every year with this set up and, with implements just 4 ft. wide, put a lot of long days in. Later on he bought a 10-ft. Deere drill and used it until just a few years ago.

"Instead of going back and forth down the field, they plowed around the field in a big square and worked their way in toward the middle. Then the next year they started in the center of the field and worked their way out. Their fields were very big, and by using this plowing pattern they didn't have any headlands to plow and no dead furrows in the field. That was the way they plowed until much bigger 4-WD tractors pulling bigger equipment came along."

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## Chainsaw Memorial Salutes Soldiers In Eight Wars

A chainsaw carving of a local Civil War hero sparked an idea for an all-wood veterans memorial in Mason, Mich.

"I thought it would be a great thing to have in a space in front of the new city hall," says Bob Raab, a former commander and member of Mason's American Legion, Brown-Cavender Post 148.

He spearheaded the effort and, working with other Legion members, decided to have 8 full-size chainsaw carvings made to depict the 8 major wars - Revolutionary, 1812, Civil War, WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam and present day.

They presented the idea to the city council, started fund-raising, and contacted Jim Madsen, the local carver who made the Civil War carving. Madsen coordinated getting the logs, providing the carving space, and finding carvers to create the statues.

A couple of things were important to Madsen and the carvers.

"We wanted to include women and ethnicity and all the military branches," Madsen says. "We tried to cover all the bases."

The Korean War paratrooper is a Native American, an African American represents the Vietnam War, a WAC represents WW II, and a Latino woman represents the soldier for the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

Ken Tynan, who served as an MP in the military and traveled all over Europe, carved seven of the pieces. The Butler, Penn., carver is known for his mastery of anatomy and carving human figures. Having been a 60-cal. gunner in the Army he was also familiar with weapons and getting the details right. He looked at photos of various soldiers on the Internet, Tynan says, and then "I just carved out of my head."

After using a chainsaw and grinder, he spent about an hour with a chisel on each

piece detailing the faces and details.

"The immensity of it was challenging, carving on 30 to 36-in. dia. hardwood logs, but I'm very proud that I was part of it," he says.

Ken Packie, a winning, competitive carver from Otis, Mass., is also proud of being part of the memorial by carving the French Revolutionary soldier.

The second important part of the project was to promote wood art by using trees from the area. The black walnut for the Vietnam War soldier was donated by a Mason landowner, for example, but most were purchased from a local tree service, including maple, black locust and ash trees.

The project took about three years to raise funds (\$30,000). The Legion got a huge cost break on the carvings because they transported, sealed, and mounted the carvings themselves.

"We've had a tremendous response to the statues," Raab says. "People bring friends and relatives to see them. Hopefully they will last about 50 years if they are sealed and taken care of."

The wooden memorial is one of the Legion's biggest projects, and fits in well with the organization's tradition of putting out flags eight times a year in the community and at the cemetery.

For people interested in similar projects in other communities, Madsen suggests finding carvers at [www.chainsawsculptors.com](http://www.chainsawsculptors.com) which features more than 800 carvers from 35 countries.

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This 10-acre corn maze was planted by a 24-row planter equipped with a new GPS-guided precision placement system.

## Corn Maze Planted By Variable Rate Precision Planter

A 10-acre corn maze on Rader Family Farms near Normal, Ill. is thought to be the first one ever planted by a 24-row planter dropping seed as directed by a new GPS-guided precision placement system.

Jason Keiser, an ag advisor for Jenner Precision, had the maze programmed by Precision Planting to tell the planter exactly what to do. The planter was equipped with a Precision vSet electric drive that controls each row. Keiser says the 10-acre plot was planted at 20,000 seeds an acre in two directions to create an elaborate design featuring a windmill, corn plants, the sun, farm buildings, the Rader's farm name and Beck's, the company supplying the seed.

Adam Rader says planting with the sophisticated system saves them money and creates a nicer looking maze. They used less seed with prescription planting and don't have the labor or machine cost to mow down standing corn to form the maze. They still have weed control costs, which are the same

using either system.

Rader says using the planting system for the maze only required a second trip across the field, something they wouldn't do on an ordinary field. They use the planting technology in their regular fields to plant at varying population rates based on soil types and fertility levels. "Each row has infinite population control, so it's indeed prescription planting," Rader says.

Rader Family Farms has been planting a maze since 2009 and normally hosts about 50,000 guests a year and more than 5,000 field trip students. The maze is open from September 12 to October 31. Admission is \$10 on weekdays and \$12 on weekends. The show site includes a 35-acre pumpkin patch, a soybean pile, tram rides, a straw castle, a large barnyard and several animals.

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Working with other American Legion members, Bob Raab had 8 full-size chainsaw carvings made to depict the U.S.'s 8 major wars. The carvings are on display in front of the new city hall in Mason, Mich.



One important part of the project was to promote wood art by using trees from the area. Most of them measured 30 to 36 in. in diameter.