



Curly white ash cab features tilt-out windows with locks.

WOODEN CAB MOUNTED ON MCCORMICK DEERING; WOODEN FENDERS ON DEERE H

A Rare Pair Of “Woodies”

“We mounted a wood cab with tilt-out windows on our 1936 W-30 McCormick Deering tractor, and wood fenders and operator platform on our 1945 Deere H. They really turned out nice,” says David Koontz, Mocksville, N.C.

“We bought the McCormick Deering on factory rubber in Dobson, N.C. When we got it, the sheet metal was in very good condition except for the fenders, which were full of holes. We completely disassembled the tractor and found that it wasn’t as worn as we thought it would be.

“When Dad and I took the back of the tractor apart, we were amazed at the size of the bull gear. After a few problems, we had completely overhauled the engine. We then started cleaning off all the metal. That was a slow, tedious job. We both did our share of cleaning, degreasing, and scrubbing. The fenders were taken to Ohio where Don Giles of G & S Brackets made a new set.

“Dad decided that we were going to build a wooden cab on the tractor. He got the idea from a photo in ‘The History of I.H.C.’ We made the cab out of curly white ash lumber. After much measuring, sawing and staining, the finished product looked wonderful. We then hung tilt-out windows with locks.

“My dad found the 1945 John Deere H in Kentucky when returning home from a tractor hunting trip to Missouri. It didn’t look that bad on the outside, but the inside was a different story. When we took the plug out of the rear end, water poured out. The engine and transmission had to be totally redone.

“We also had to buy new bearings for the entire tractor. Part of the sheet metal had to be straightened, but that wasn’t as hard



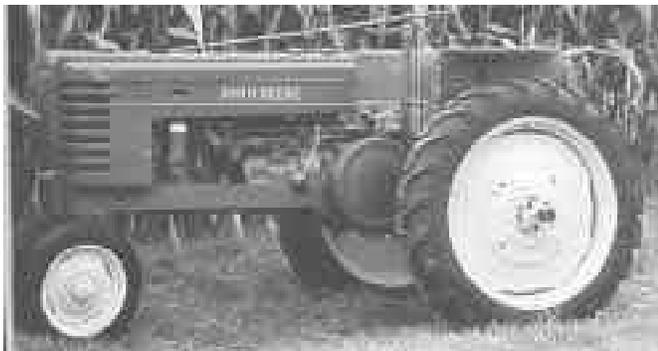
Koontz got the idea for the cab from a photo in “The History of I.H.C.”

as the engine work. We finally got the tractor totally restored, but my dad thought that the tractor was a little unsafe for my sister to drive. So he came up with the idea of putting wooden fenders on the tractor. He built a wooden operator platform and tied that into the fenders, making it impossible for someone to fall into the wheels. John Deeres are not our favorite tractors, but we fell in love with this little Woodie.

“We then decided to have a little fun with our fellow John Deere collectors. We put a sign on the fenders that reads ‘Rare John Deere Woody produced from never-before published John Deere photographs.’ This causes a stir among the serious John Deere enthusiasts.”

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“Woody” was produced from never-before published photos. Note wood fenders.

FARM SHOW



Pontoon-mounted harvester acts as front-end loader to cut, pull and gather weeds.

Boat-Mounted “Weed Eater” Keeps Lakeshore Clean

After reading a story in FARM SHOW about weed-eating fish (Vol. 20, No. 2) Edsel DeBaker, who owns shore property on a northern Wisconsin lake that’s overrun with weeds, decided to try to build a weed harvester to clean up his weed-infested lakeshore.

“It mounts on my pontoon boat and works like a front-end loader to cut, pull, and gather weeds by the ton and then dump them on shore where I can later haul them away. Lets me control weeds in the lake without getting my hands wet,” says DeBaker about the patent-pending weed harvester.

His “weed eater” was built from scratch using miscellaneous pieces of angle iron. Weeds are scooped up by a 4-ft. wide bucket equipped with a solid metal bottom with a stationary sickle blade on front. The bucket mounts on hinged arms that are raised or lowered by a remote-controlled electric winch. A pair of steel “shoes” on the bottom of the bucket allow it to slide along the bottom of the lake.

To operate the unit he lowers the arms until the bucket rests on the lake bottom, then slowly drives ahead so the sickle blade can shear off the weeds. Once the bucket is full he raises it out of the water, drives the boat to shore, and walks to the front of the boat where he uses a steel rod to hook the bucket and manually trip it. The weeds fall into a pile on the shore.

“It’s simple and lightweight. The entire unit weighs only 320 lbs.,” says DeBaker.



Weeds are scooped up in 4-ft. bucket equipped with stationary sickle blade.

“I can get a heck of a load in a hurry. I can lower the bucket a maximum of 4 1/2 ft. into the water and raise it 5 to 6 ft. high for dumping.

“This is my third generation model. I mounted the first one on front of a conventional boat but it didn’t work well because it tended to rock the boat.

“The entire unit is built in three sections that pin together. It takes only about 15 minutes to remove them and one person can carry all the pieces. The bottom section is bolted to a pair of aluminum channels that I bolted under the deck.

“I paid \$150 for the electric winch and spent a total of about \$600. I plan to market the unit this spring.”

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