

Henkel's all-pine tractor was used in the early 1900's to belt-drive corn grinders, water pumps, and other equipment.

ONE-OF-A-KIND PORTABLE POWER PLANT

Rare Wood Tractor Equipped With Air-Cooled Engine

FARM SHOW reader Jake Henkel recently sent us a photo of what he believes is a one-of-a-kind wooden tractor equipped with an air-cooled engine. The tractor was used as a portable power plant to belt-drive corn grinders, water pumps, and other equipment in the early 1900's.

"The 'Easy Built' all-pine tractor was built by Sylvester McChesney of Highland Park, Iowa. The company later moved to Pipestone, Minn.," says the Aurelia, Iowa, collector. "I know it was built before 1911 because after 1911 these tractors were equipped with steel wheels rather than wooden. This may be the only tractor of its kind still in existence."

Henkel paid \$25 for the tractor 20 years ago. It was missing the original engine so Henkel equipped it with a rare 7 hp New Way air-cooled engine, which weighs 900 to 1,000 lbs. He bought it from a collector in Virginia for \$900. Henkel installed new rings, valves and tin shroud around the head.

"I understand that no one has ever been able to duplicate the honey-comb design used on this engine's manifold," Henkel notes.

Henkel wants to sell the restored tractor. He's asking \$10,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jake Henkel, P.O. Box 174, Aurelia, Iowa 51005 (ph 712 434-5400).

NOSE AND EARS LIKE A BEAR; EYES AND TAIL LIKE A CAT

Exotic "Bear Cats" Make Truly Rare Pets

If you're looking for a unique, dog-size pet, the exotic Binturong may be for you, says Pam Stephens, Auburn, Wash., who's one of the foremost authorities on the animals in North America.

"They make wonderful, intelligent pets," says Stephens, who has one male and one female Binturong. "Few U.S. zoos have Binturongs. It's extremely hard to obtain a pair because the females are very rare."

Binturongs, often known as "bear cats", are a member of the weasel family. They are native to southeast Asia where they live in dense forests.

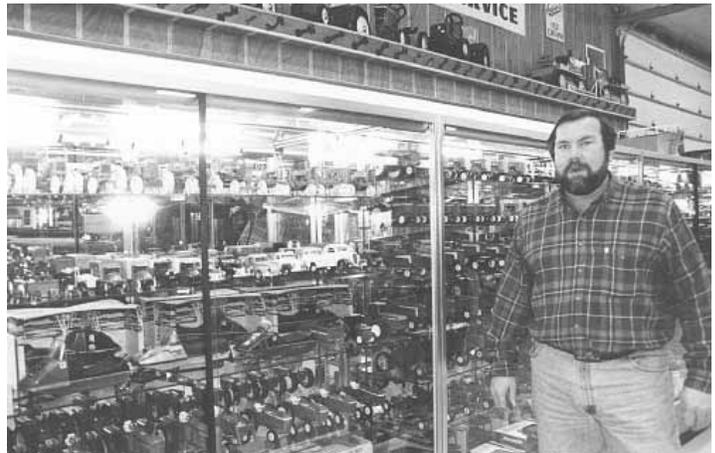
Binturongs are normally black with a gray speckling of fur on top of their head. They have 4-in. long hair with no undercoat. The head and body measure 2 to 2 1/2 ft. long, and in captivity they weigh 30 to 60 lbs. Binturongs have the nose, hair, and rounded ears of a bear and they stand on their hind legs like a bear. However, their eyes, long whiskers, and pointed ear tufts are like those of a cat. "They make cat-like sounds, and during mating season they make a throaty purring sound that's beautiful to hear," says Stephens.

The Binturong is mainly a tree dweller.



Binturongs often stand on their hind legs like a bear.

They can walk upside down, hanging from branches, and can move with great speed and agility when they have to.



Dan Dexter's collection includes more than 4,000 1/16-scale farm toys.

DISPLAY ROOM LOOKS LIKE MINI MUSEUM

Dealership Displays Giant Toy Collection

By Dianne L. Beetler

Dexter Farm Equipment is the largest volume retailer for Agco-Allis and White-New Idea in North America. But many of the people who visit the Wataga, Ill., implement dealership are not in the market for farm equipment. They come to see owner Dan Dexter's gigantic collection of farm toys.

Thousands of toy tractors, balers, harrows, combines, and other implements fill a series of glass display cases in the main showroom, while about 100 toy pedal tractors are exhibited on shelves up on the walls. Old age-related advertising signs and tools line the walls, and other farm antiques are displayed throughout the building.

"I guess I've never grown up," said Dexter to explain why his collection has grown to include more than 4,000 1/16-scale toys.

Dexter started his collection after he graduated from high school and took his first job as a farm implement salesman. When a farmer traded for a tractor, Dexter would deal with the farmer's kids, too, by offering them

a brand new toy in exchange for two or three broken ones.

Dexter does not collect new, limited edition toys. "Forty years from now, the shelf models that were sold in toy stores are going to be the most expensive because nobody kept them," he says.

Although his store carries an extensive inventory of new and used toys, items in Dexter's personal collection are not for sale. He hopes they will always be displayed "someplace where people can see them."

Visitors have driven great distances to see the collection. One set of grandparents brings in a two-year-old grandson twice a month. At first the youngster screamed with excitement every time he saw the array of toys.

"Those kinds of memories you can't put a price on," Dexter says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dexter Farm Equipment, 606 North Sparta, Wataga, Ill. 61488 (ph 309 375-6661).



A member of the weasel family, Binturongs have eyes, whiskers, and pointed ears like a cat.

Binturongs are mature at age 3. Breeding in captivity can occur year around, but peaks between January and March and again in the fall.

"Binturongs are affectionate and follow their owners around like dogs," says Stephens. "They love to have their owners feed them bananas and other favorite foods by hand. They will sniff people, and especially their hair, for as long as you'll let them. They'll crawl all over you if you sit still. The female is the boss. You can't keep males and

females together or the males will kill the babies."

Baby females sell for \$2,500; males for \$1,800 to \$2,000. Both males and females are worth more if they're hand raised.

Stephens also has six baby Coati mundi's for sale.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pam Stephens, 18230 SE 317th St., Auburn, Wash. 98092 (ph 800 227-8941 or 253 631-1231).