



Krauss Werke, Germany 1904



Albaugh-Dover Co., Chicago, Ill., 1920



Banderob-Chase Co., Oshkosh, Wis. 1915



Horton Mfg. Co., Fort Wayne, Ind., 1940

World Class Antique Washing Machine Collection

Lee Maxwell's collection of 1,071 antique washing machines in Eaton, Colo., took him 21 years to assemble. It recently landed him in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The 77-year-old's collection started with a 1920 model his wife's aunt used as a young bride, and which had been kept in the family.

Maxwell and his wife traveled the country in their motorhome, purchasing new additions for the collection as they went, and hauling them home in a trailer.

"I've restored most of them to working order, which required plenty of elbow grease," Maxwell explains. "When you first find them, they aren't very attractive and look sort of like junky old engines because they're covered in grease and dirt. Once they're cleaned up, though, they are works of art."

A variety of motors, oversized gears, twisting pipes, and wood, copper or porcelain tubs make the various models an interesting sight, according to Maxwell.

To share the knowledge he gathered over his years of collecting, Maxwell wrote a book, calling it "Save Women's Lives - The First Ever History of Washing Machines." It contains 200 color pictures and sells for \$33 plus \$3 S&H in the U.S. (\$7 S&H to Canada).

The "save women's lives" part of this title originates from the actual label on a 1907 model in Maxwell's collection. He found the exaggeration humorous, as most machines were so difficult to use, they didn't save much time or effort.

"Some of them were monstrous and I almost envision the women wearing an

engineer's cap, with an oil can in one hand and a wrench in the other," he says. "I've had many senior citizens who've toured my collection show off a scar, a bald spot, or a missing finger - all reminders of those challenging machines."

Maxwell's research has traced washing machines back to 1750, but he's heard of drawings going as far back as 1460. At the peak of the washing machine's popularity, he says there were more than 1,000 companies producing them with names like Wonder Washer, Speed Queen and Happy Home Steam Washer.

The majority of Maxwell's machines are electric, but some run on gas. At least 10 of them were made in Canada, he says.

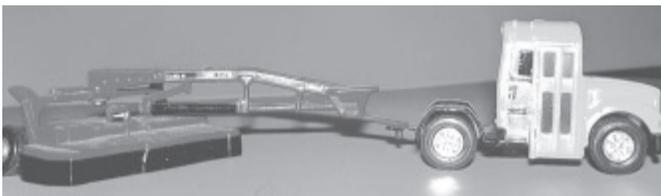
There are still many more makes and mod-

els that Maxwell would like to add to his collection, and he sometimes buys them through eBay.

"Washing machines tend to be pretty cheap to buy because there aren't that many collectors, but shipping is usually quite expensive," he points out.

Maxwell welcomes trading inquiries and says he has photos of 1,000 machines posted on his website, as well as video clips of some of them in operation.

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Paul Gentner modifies Ertl 1/64-scale schoolbus toys to do "farm work". The bus shown here is pulling a Case IH haybine.

He Makes 1/64-Scale Toy Schoolbus Conversions

"When I subscribed to FARM SHOW a few years ago, I started noticing all the stories about schoolbus conversions. That's how I got the idea to build these 1/64-scale schoolbus conversion toys," says Paul Gentner of Dearborn, Mich., who used Ertl schoolbus models.

The toys include a flatbed bale hauler, water tank hauler, livestock hauler, two tractor haulers, stake box truck, a bus pulling a Case IH haybine, a bus pulling a fifth wheel semi trailer for hauling grain or gravel, and a bus with a metal rack and handrail on top for observing tractor pulls or car races. Many of the buses are painted Case IH red, while others still have their original yellow color.

"I displayed them at an engine club meeting where a lot of members have IH tractors. People tell me they've never seen anything like them," says Gentner. "My grandchildren helped me make them."

"About 18 years ago my cousin converted a schoolbus into a dump truck. Until I subscribed to FARM SHOW, I thought he was the only one who had ever converted a schoolbus into anything."

He starts with 1/64-scale Ertl toy buses that have a metal frame and a plastic body. He unscrews the body and then uses a bandsaw to cut pieces apart before gluing them back together.



Other schoolbus conversion toys include this flatbed bale hauler (above) and a livestock hauler.



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James Link used a fiberglass conversion kit to make his Club Car golf cart look like a 1957 Chevy car. It comes complete with working headlights and taillights.

Kit Turns Golf Cart Into Mini '57 Chevy

At the recent Big Iron Farm Show we found James Link of Jamestown, N. Dak., driving around with his friend Francis Gilles in a miniature 1957 Chevy car. Actually, the car was a fiberglass conversion kit that Link's sons installed on a Club Car golf cart. It comes complete with working headlights, taillights, and a hinged hood and trunk. It uses the golf cart's original seat, steering wheel, windshield, and roof.

Link bought the kit from Custom Carts, Inc., of Sarasota, Fla. The company offers numerous other golf car kits including a Hummer, Chevy SSR, custom cruiser, custom classic, Warrior, custom taxi, camo, utility and 4-WD model. All kit components are sold unpainted and unpainted, but can be custom painted.

The '57 Chevy kit includes a front and rear fiberglass body, a chrome look grille, and

decals. The kit also includes light-up mufflers to make it look like the real thing. Options include seat back loops, carpet, AM/FM/CD console, a carbon fiber dash in wood grain or black, custom seats, rocker panels, and a primer finish.

Mike Poole, Custom Parts Inc., says, "If you want, we can sell you a turnkey vehicle built on a used golf cart chassis to keep the price down. We can add a custom paint job and custom seats, as well as custom aluminum wheels."

The kits are designed only for Club Car golf carts.

The Chevy kit sells for \$2,395 plus S&H; the Hummer kit for \$4,195 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Custom Carts, Inc., 2007 51st St., Sarasota, Fla. 34234 (ph 941 953-4445; fax 941 366-0478; www.customcarts.com; mikep@customcarts.com;).