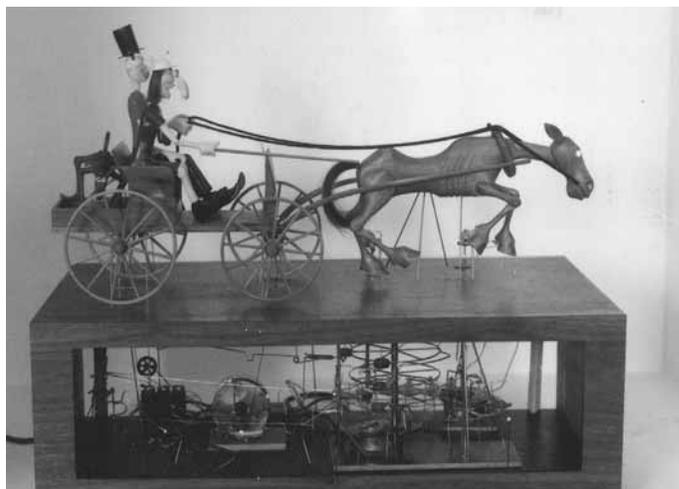


All the works in the Boyer Museum of Animated Carvings were made by 80-year-old Paul Boyer. Shown here are three tom turkeys fighting over a “pretty hen”.



This horse and buggy is just one of over 65 displays including wood and metal sculptures that twist, turn, dance and hammer. Visitors push a button to activate the scene.

One Man’s Museum: His Carvings Move And Tell Stories

The Boyer Museum of Animated Carvings is alive with art, including wood and metal sculptures that twist, turn, dance and hammer.

There’s the piece with three tom turkeys fighting over a “pretty hen.” Then there’s the hillbilly protecting the still, watching for revenuers. His eyes bug out every time he sees the lovely lady stirring the mash.

All the works come from the mind and hands of Paul Boyer. At 80, the Belleville, Kan., folk artist still creates despite a series of health issues including the loss of a leg and an aneurism that nearly took his other leg.

“We have over 65 displays,” says Boyer’s daughter, Ann Lewellyn, who volunteers with her sister, Candy Sanford, to run the museum from May to September and by appointment. “Candy and I grew up with this, but we still notice new things all the time.”

The pieces, usually no bigger than a couple of feet across, have a wooden scene on top and a glass case below showing the handmade gears in the mechanism that brings the scene alive – like the roofer putting on an outhouse roof, or an intricate wire maze that bounces bearings onto six drums. Visitors push a button to activate the scene.

“I love the calliope,” Lewellyn says. “It’s extra special because it’s dad’s favorite piece. Mom was a wonderful musician, and dad worried about tuning it right, and she helped on that.”

Boyer was inspired by his father who

carved a propeller for a wind charger for electricity for their home – the first in the county to have electricity. The propeller is in the museum, as is Boyer’s first animated piece he made when he was 12 – a farm scene with musicians and chickens that ran off the updraft from the wood stove.

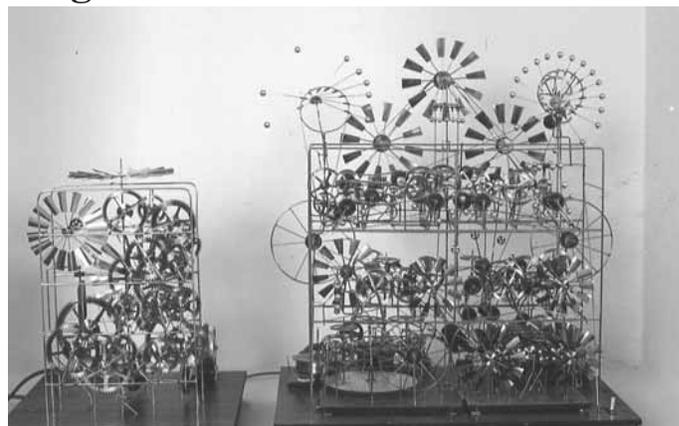
There are pieces for everyone: a Rumely oil-pull tractor and thresher, head-butting goats, dancing Indians and dueling piano ladies. The museum is housed in a former ice cream factory that Boyer’s brother purchased in the 90’s.

“It’s just a joy,” Lewellyn says, to have people come and see her father’s work. Boyer comes to the museum occasionally to oil and check out his pieces. He works on new pieces also.

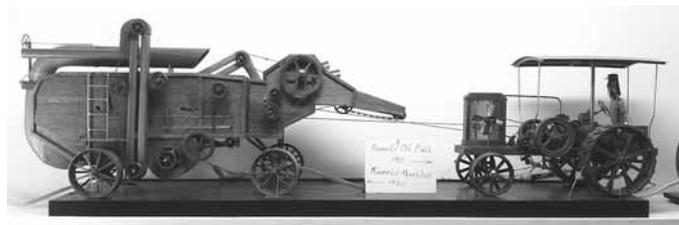
The museum is open by appointment year round, and 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday between May and September. Cost is \$5/ adults, \$2/children 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. All the money is used to maintain the museum.

Plan to spend at least an hour, Lewellyn suggests. Some visitors spend up to 4 hrs. checking out the details in Boyer’s carvings and clever mechanisms.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Boyer Museum of Animated Carvings, 1205 M. Street, Belleville, Kan. 66935 (ph 785 527-5884).



These 2 metal sculptors feature interlocking gears, propellers, and other mechanisms that amaze and delight visitors.



There are pieces for everyone, including this Rumely oil-pull tractor and thresher.

Three Of A Kind: Big, Middle, And Little Moline

Ike Martin has more than 100 tractors in his Minneapolis Moline collection but one tractor really stands out because he owns 3 versions of it – big, little and middle-sized.

Martin bought the full-sized A4T-1600 and restored it. He built the other two from scratch, a 1/2-scale model he calls A4T-800 and an A4T-400, a 1/4-scale model.

As a tractor parts business owner he had plenty of parts and scrap material to fabricate the smaller articulated tractors.

He used a rear end from a Minneapolis RT as the base for his 800, and he powered it with a Cummins diesel engine. The base of the 400 model is a Steiner tractor and it’s powered by a 3-cylinder Kubota diesel engine.

“It’s turbo-charged and sounds good in there,” Martin says of the Kubota engine.

He spent about a year’s worth of his spare time on each tractor, making modifications and fabricating most of the parts. He took his time figuring out the scale and aligning the wheels to ensure the articulation worked well. The planning and work paid off.

“I had the 1/2-scale (800) tractor at a Moline show and a man checked it out real



Ike Martin owns 3 versions of his Minneapolis Moline A4T-1600 tractor – big, little and middle-sized. He built the 1/2-scale and 1/4-scale models himself.

close,” Martin says. “He was an engineer who had worked for Moline, and he was impressed with how I got everything according to scale.”

Martin added all the details, including a working 3-pt. hitch, and his home-built versions attract a lot of attention when he takes them to shows.

Fellow collectors tease him about running

out of numbers for the A4T model. There likely won’t be an A4T-200, he says. But he does have a A4T-1600 toy tractor to go with his collection.

He is pleased with how his scale models turned out. Though they were challenging, he notes a more recent project has been the most difficult.

“I built a 1/2-scale Caterpillar D4 and

plow,” he explains. “I fabricated the Caterpillar’s undercarriage, and building it took four years of work. It took a year to make the plow.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ike Martin, Martin Tractor Parts, 866 Green Spring Rd., Newville, Penn. 17241 (ph 717 580-0246 or 717 776-7542).