Jacob Kiel, a 19-year-old from Stillwater, Minn., owns 3 Hudson pickups. They were produced in Detroit from the late 1920's to 1947 and were actually built on car frames.

"Hudsons are rare and were very advanced for their time. They were a large pickup with a lot of chrome and styling," says Kiel.

Old Hudson Pickups Appeal To Minnesota Teen

While many of his friends dream of owning a big new 4-WD pickup, 19-year-old Jacob Kiel is more interested in Hudson trucks built in the early 1900's.

"I'm a fan of orphan trucks, not big brand name stuff," says the Stillwater, Minn., college student. He's put his money where his passions are and purchased three Hudson pickups to go along with his IH tractor collection.

"Hudsons are rare and were very advanced for their time," Kiel explains. "They had conveniences and creature comforts–like roomy interior space. They were a large pickup with a lot of chrome and styling to them."

Produced in Detroit from the late 1920's to 1947, Hudson pickups were actually built on car frames. Everything from the back of the cab forward was the same in a car or pickup, Kiel says.

The early lighter chassis bodies were used as panel delivery trucks and light pickups. Hudson beefed them up in 1937 with Terraplane models. The Terraplane Big Boy pickup was a 3/4-ton and 7 in. longer to carry heavier loads.

"It's the first year Hudson made a special frame for pickups," Kiel notes.

His favorite year model is 1937, and he owns a 1937 Hudson Terraplane Model 78 Big Boy. He also owns a 1941 short wheelbase 1/2-ton pickup and a 1946 Big Boy pickup.

"One of the neat features of the '41 and '46 is that their hoods open backwards from the factories," Kiel says. "All Hudson trucks through 1936 had suicide doors, which open backwards compared to modern cars."

His 1946 pickup is in the best condition and is the one Kiel takes to car shows.

With only 3,000 commercial vehicles made in Hudson's highest production years for trucks, they tend to be rare, but not as expensive as Fords or Chevrolets from that era.

Though he's busy studying to be a mechanical engineer and hopes to one day work on agricultural machinery, Kiel says he always has time for Hudsons.

"I love old trucks and tractors," he explains. "I'm now after anything Hudson. I like to hear from other collectors."

For those interested in learning more about the Hudson company, he suggests checking out the website, www.hudsonclub.org.

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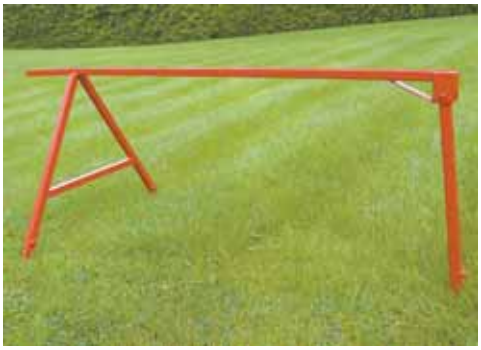

"Grain stooking horse" has a 5 1/2-ft. long main beam equipped with A-frame legs at one end and a hinged leg at the other end.

One-Man "Grain Stooking Horse"

David Reid, an 86-year-old farmer from Chilliwack, B.C., recently sent us photos of a simple invention he built for a way of farming that disappeared a long time ago. It's a one-man "grain stooking horse".

A stook, also referred to as a shock, is a circular arrangement of cut grain stalks placed on the ground in a field. Typically, sheaves of grain such as wheat, barley, or oats are "stooked" so they're ready for threshing.

"If you've ever stooked a field of grain that was cut with a grain binder, and it had its fair share of thistles in it, you'd treasure my invention," says Reid. "It's easy on your back, prevents thistle slivers, and saves walking time. I take it to antique tractor shows where they have field demonstrations and thresh grain the old way.

"The idea idea came to me some years ago when we used forks for stooking, to keep the thistles away from our bodies. There always had to be 2 people involved, working together. It was often difficult to find the second person, so I designed this device."

The stooking horse is made from 1-in. sq. tubing and has a 5 1/2-ft. long main beam that's equipped with A-frame legs and a handle on one end, and a 21-in. long, single hinged leg on the other end. All the legs are adjustable, allowing the main beam to be positioned 24 to 30 in. off the ground.

Reid makes an 8-sheave stook, with 4 sheaves on each side. To begin stooking a field of grain, he sets the stooking horse in the track of the grain binder's bull wheel and travels in the opposite direction that the binder traveled, bringing in 2 rows of sheaves from each side.

Using a fork, he places the first 2 sheaves against the main beam at the A-frame end, sloping them slightly toward the single-leg end. Then he goes to the opposite side of the stooking horse and places 4 sheaves against the beam. He finishes the stook by going back to the other side and placing 2 more sheaves there. Then he grabs the handle and pulls the unit out from under the stook. The single hinged leg automatically collapses and the unit slides out from under the stook, without disturbing any of the sheaves.

"The single leg hinges on a 1/4-in. bolt, which allows it to collapse as the stooker is pulled," says Reid. "I can adjust the height of the legs, depending on the height of the sheaves, by removing a bolt and moving it up or down in one of the bolt holes provided.

"It weighs about 11 lbs. If I built another one I'd make it out of aluminum so it would be even lighter to carry around."

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When the operator pulls on the handle, the single hinged leg automatically collapses and the unit slides out from under the stook, without disturbing any of the sheaves.

Retired Farmer Builds Toy Implements

Retired, and with a bad back, Tom Mach has discovered that building miniature implements suits him. The materials are lighter to lift, but the part he enjoys – figuring out how to create design details – is as challenging as working on full size tractors.

"I had these pedal tractors and nothing to go behind them," explains the retired Wagner, S. Dak., farmer. "I started building implements as a hobby to pull behind them."

His first creation was a folding tandem disk. Thanks to a die for the disks, made by his son, Tracy, the project wasn't too difficult, Mach says. He trimmed the rough-cut blades to size on a lathe. The disk axles run on the same type of ball bearings used in pedal tractors.

Mounting a 2-row corn picker on a Deere pedal tractor took a lot of trial and error and about a month of work to complete. It includes snapping rollers and a simulated elevator.

"I wanted to get the look of the Deere 227 mounted corn picker," Mach says.

He uses 16 to 18-ga. metal for most of his projects, but used wood for the walls on his third project – a grain wagon.

"I like to play with this stuff," Mach admits. "I belong to a tractor club and show them at meetings."

Tom Mach builds implements to pull behind pedal tractors, including this folding tandem disk. Photo below shows a 2-row corn picker mounted on a Deere pedal tractor.

His next project, a field cultivator, has him busy figuring out how to make the sweeps in miniature.

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