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Within 2 years the paint started peeling off both machines, but the company won't take responsibility and fix the problem."



Brian Oshea, Wellsboro, Penn.: "I use my **Duluth Trading Co. Bucket Boss** every day (www.duluthtrading.com; ph 866 300-9719). It holds an incredible amount of tools and parts and keeps everything neatly organized."

Matt Silveira, Placerville, Calif.: "My 2003 **Millermatic 210 MIG** welder performs well on a variety of materials including steel and aluminum (with spool gun). It's easy to maintain, load, and operate. It even works well for making difficult vertical and out-of-position welds. I haven't had to replace any wearable parts except for the torch nozzle and wire feed tip.

"My worst buy was my **Husqvarna 22** hp. riding mower equipped with a V-twin engine and hydrostatic transmission. After just 50 hrs. of use the plastic pulleys that tension the mower deck belt and drive belt both failed. The 'permanent' sealed bearings lost lubricant, which caused the pulleys to seize so that they melted and burned through the belts. I had to replace them with steel pulleys with maintainable bearings in order to use the mower again. Then at 60 hrs. the mandrels that drive the mower blades cracked. Upgraded mandrels weren't available so I replaced the original ones and sold the mower at a loss."

Charles P. Curtis, Perry, Maine: Charles owns a 2000 **Chevrolet Silverado 1/2-ton, 2-WD** pickup that recently got to 333,333 trouble-free miles. "This is the toughest truck I've ever owned. I use it to pull big trailers and to haul big loads. I change the oil only about every 12,000 to 15,000 miles, yet the engine still runs great.

"My worst buy is my **Hobart** Champion welder equipped with a Kohler engine and 10,000-watt generator. I store this welder in an enclosed trailer and take good care of it, yet at 56 hrs. the engine valves and push rods failed. Neither Kohler nor the welder dealer would help."

Conrad Curren, Spring Grove, Minn.: "I've put up many cords of firewood with my 2002 **Husqvarna 372 XP** chainsaw. No problems.

"I own a pair of old Ford trucks equipped with 300 cu. in., 6-cyl. engines and Holley 4160 4-barrel carburetors, so I invested in intake upgrades from **Jack Clifford Performance Products** and am glad I did. It has made a big difference in power and reduced fuel usage (www.cliffordperformance.net; ph 951 471-1161).

"In 2013 I bought a used 2005 **Subaru** Baja pickup with about 50,000 miles on it. Unfortunately, it cost more to own than any vehicle I've ever bought. The radiator cracked at 65,000 miles, 2 turbines failed, and a drivey wire failed at a \$900 repair cost. I could have used the money I spent on repairs on a full-sized Ford F-150. Now it needs a new timing belt, water pump, and valve cover gaskets."

James Wilkins, Anna, Ill.: "My **Milwaukee M12** lithium ion cordless drill/driver has plenty of power and is a pleasure

to use.

"My 1960's **Deere 2510** tractor still works great. I just wish it had a console."



Gene Reed, Brighton, Colo.: "My best buy is my 1999 **Ford F-250** with its 7.3 L Powerstroke diesel. It has 326,000 miles on it, and all I've had to do is replace brakes, batteries, tires, and 2 starters.

"I purchased it new in April of 1998, and it still runs like the day I bought it. I don't drive it as much as I once did. I used to buy and sell construction equipment, much of which I hauled by trailer with the F-250.



"One thing I still haul with my truck and trailer is another best buy, my **Ostberg** tractor. It's pretty unique.

"A guy named Amos Ostberg built these tractors in Salina, Kan. in the late 1930's. He stopped in 1954 when lightning struck and burned down the factory.

"I was in 7th grade in 1950 when a neighbor bought one. Many years later I ran into him at a farm sale and asked what happened to it. He said it had been sitting in the weeds for the past 30 years.

"A few years later he sold it to me, and I restored it. Ostberg started out using Model A Ford engines and ended up using 6-cylinder Chrysler flatheads. Mine is a flathead. It's a great pulling tractor, similar to a Farmall M."

Walter H. Ostrander, Millington, Mich.: "I like my **Ridgid 18-volt** cordless drill and impact driver. It works all day long and the batteries are warranted for life.

"I like my 1996 **Wheel Horse 520-H** garden tractor equipped with a grader blade, snow blade, and 60-in. mower deck.

"Our 2013 **General Electric** freezer makes all kinds of noises when it's running, but the company just says that's normal. The warranty booklet even mentions all the noises you might expect to hear. However, it does keep everything cold like it should."

Ernest Tweedy, Oxford, Ark.: "My model 20371 **Toro** Recycler push mower is hard to handle and won't idle. This mower is also hard to start."

James Gunderson, Dalton, Minn.: "My 2012 **Ford F-150** pickup runs good, but electronic warnings like 'check engine' and 'oil change' often come on and go off. The dealer tried to fix the problem but couldn't. It finally locked on 'oil change' and stayed there. The last time I brought the pickup in for an oil change I told the dealer I'd pay for the oil change as soon as they fixed the dash problem. A week later, I got a letter saying my pickup didn't qualify for a free oil change. Free, my big toe."

Tim Stegman, Neche, N. Dak.: "All of my **DeWalt 18-volt** cordless tools perform well. I use the impact driver to drive in pole barn screws and T-25 screws of all lengths.

"I installed **Greenteeth** on my stump grinder and highly recommend them (www.greenteeth.com; ph 800 473-3683). The

This 93-Year Old Deere Is Still Working Hard

Marvin Wilson says every tractor, if it could talk, has a story to tell. And the 93-year-old **John Deere 'D'** that Wilson still uses is no exception. The story started when Marvin's grandfather Alex, along with his wife and 4 children, bought the iconic tractor sight-unseen from brochure pictures. Marvin's dad Floyd and Uncle Alton were two of the kids along on the trip to the National Cattle Congress in Waterloo when they bought it. The serial number (30446) shows it was the 46th of 50 built that year. The dealer in Greene, Iowa drove the new tractor 18 miles to Alex's farm.

Over the years the D worked hard on the Wilson farm, then continued its service on Floyd's farm, and to this day still manages a few odd jobs on Marvin's farm. At 93, the tractor has seen agriculture change dramatically, and had its share of growing pains along the way. Marvin Wilson, now in his late 80's, shares many of those stories at old machinery gatherings in Northern Iowa.

Wilson says after his grandfather put the tractor in service, two men from Deere would stop out to the farm to see how the tractor was working. They discovered an oil leak here and there, which they fixed, and asked Alex to record any mechanical problems. Spindles broke off, the parking brake handle broke, corn stalks jammed the radiator core and the engine started clicking. Floyd Wilson and his brother Alton were able to repair most of the problems and keep the tractor running.

Marvin recalls that when he was 11 years old he literally 'cut his teeth' on the D. He was using the D to pull his father, who was driving a Deere B pulling a corn picker in deep snow, when the D lurched. Wilson face-planted into the metal steering wheel, chipping one of his front teeth. He still has that chipped tooth more than 75 years later, and is happy to tell the story of how it happened.

Wilson recalls that his father acquired the D in 1937 when his grandfather's estate was settled. Over the years his dad and uncle repaired the front axles, fixed the main bearing, put in a new crankshaft, installed new rods and pistons, and a new block. They

teeth are rotatable and replaceable. Each tooth provides up to 3 fresh cutting edges which results in a longer cutting life. You can rotate each tooth to a new cutting edge in just a few seconds using only a standard wrench. The teeth come in various sizes and cutting designs so you can match them to your grinder.

"I'm somewhat disappointed with my **Honda PC 5000** portable gas-powered winch. It functions well and the little Honda engine runs amazingly well. However, the engine seems underpowered for the work it's supposed to do and is painfully slow to snake a 10-in. dia. by 20-ft. pine log out of the woods. It definitely can't handle an 18-in. dia. by 8-ft. long oak log, even when using a doubler. I do like the winch's portability and virtually limitless rope length. And when hunting, it works well to pull big game out of the woods."

Alvin Van Den Brink, Fennville, Mich.: "In 2008 I bought a used 2002 **Grasshopper 318** zero-turn riding mower equipped with an 18-hp. engine and 52-in. deck. It cuts small brush, tall grass, and weeds without any problems and without dulling the blades."

Bob Gouinlock, Attica, N.Y.: "My **Echo CS-590** chainsaw equipped with a 20-in. bar



Photo courtesy by Jeff Heinz

Marvin Wilson still has the Deere D his grandfather bought in 1923, and the chipped tooth that the tractor's steering wheel gave him when he was 11 years old.

also rebuilt the carburetor, put in a new set of reduction gears, and replaced the magneto. When it was below zero cold, Wilson says his dad and uncle would light a fire under the crankcase to warm the oil so they could start the tractor, which they did with a hand crank. With the engine barely warm they'd add water to the radiator, then drain it at night.

The Wilsons used the tractor for plowing, filling silo, powering a wood frame corn sheller and an Altman Taylor threshing machine. It also pulled a corn picker, a grain binder and tillage equipment. They even used the D to pull a slip scraper and dig a basement for a new house. Wilson says that for a long time the D was their only source of power on 460 acres of land, including a quarter section where the tractor and implements had to be trucked rather than driven. Running that size farm required running the D from dawn to dusk, with several people behind the wheel during the day, Wilson recalls.

Now in its ninth decade of operation, Wilson says the old D, which sports a weathered and worn metal exterior, is still eager to work. He says that even though the tractor has many thousand hours of operation to its credit, it's still able to pull a few implements every summer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marvin Wilson, 1263 260th St., Rockford, Iowa 50468.

runs perfect and starts up every time with no more than 5 pulls, even when it's cold. When it's warm it needs just one pull. I've used this saw to cut about 12 cords of wood, mostly black locust and white ash."

Shawn M. Wagner, Plainwell, Mich.: "I operate a tree care business and really like my 2000 **Bobcat 873** skid loader. It has a lot of power and works fast. I've tried other brands but none hold up to my Bobcat.

"Over the years I've owned 11 different **Stihl** chainsaws, everything from an 017 model to an 066. They always start right up no matter the weather, and they have a lot of power. I couldn't have run my business without them."

Phillip Zelhart, Beaverville, Ill.: Phillip's the satisfied owner of a **Case IH Scout XL 4-WD** utility vehicle. "It has plenty of power and traction and is real handy for various jobs around our farm. The controls on it are easily accessible. Also, it's very fuel efficient."

Clyde Jones, Red Oak, Iowa: A 2012 **Deere Z655** zero-turn riding mower rates as Clyde's "best buy". "I use this mower to cut about 3 acres of grass every week with no problems. It still has the original blades. I'm 85 years old but am able to mow my own yard because of the zero-turn maneuverability. It