

The Hardin/Holle Families Pacemaker and Orchard Sprayer

I noticed this really nice orchard spraying outfit, this summer, at the National Massey Expo in Evansville, Indiana. You will sometimes see some nicely restored Pacemaker Orchard Models but one that is attached to a completely restored sprayer unit is very unusual. Since the family was in the orchard business, preserving a piece of their history was really nice to see. The original farm, founded by Ed and Louise Holle was a commercial fruit and vegetable operation. The farm was passed on to their son Vern and his wife Sherry expanding it to over three-hundred acres plus some additional rental ground. In addition to apples and other of cucumbers, squash and tomatoes

In 2017, the farm was sold after Vern suffered some health issues. All that remained was the old Massey-Harris Pacemaker and the A. B. Farquhar Orchard Sprayer. Anyone familiar with orchard production would notice the restored sprayer unit and the excellent restoration. The Farquhar Company produced many different machines for agricultural use, such as steam engines of all types, plows and separators. In 1899, the Farquhar Company

Holle, who continued the family farm, acres plus some additional rental fruit, the Holle's raised large quantities which were sold to large retail outlets.

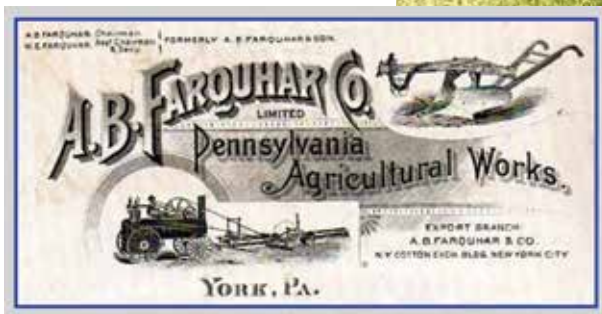
FROM BARN TO PARADE TO CENTERFOLD



Since the old Massey Pacemaker is hand cranked, it did not have an electrical system—generator or battery—and relied on a magneto to produce the necessary spark for ignition. With a quick crank, the Hardin's tractor fires right up.

was the largest employer in York County, Pennsylvania. By the 1930's the company was producing equipment that was PTO driven, like the sprayer unit pictured here. The Farquhar Company was acquired by the Oliver Corporation in 1951, which eventually moved all operations elsewhere and the entire complex was closed by 1960 and torn down in 1970.

In the early 1900's, orchard spraying was a very hazardous undertaking. The most common compounds in orchard sprays used on apples were lime, copper, sulfur, lead arsenate and white arsenic. There would usually be a tractor driver and an assistant who manned the sprayer hose. The tractor drove down the center of the row of trees while the sprayer operator directed a large jet of spray at the trees. The spray was carried by the wind great distances. Of course, no protective clothing for either operator was worn. —GH



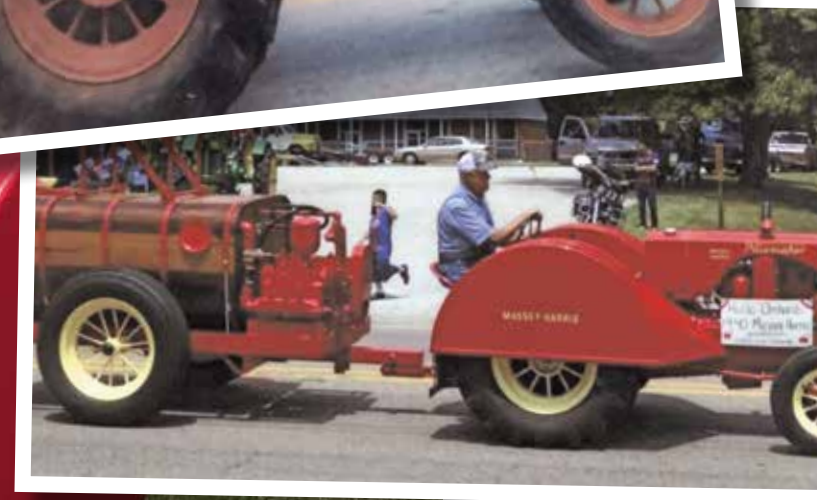
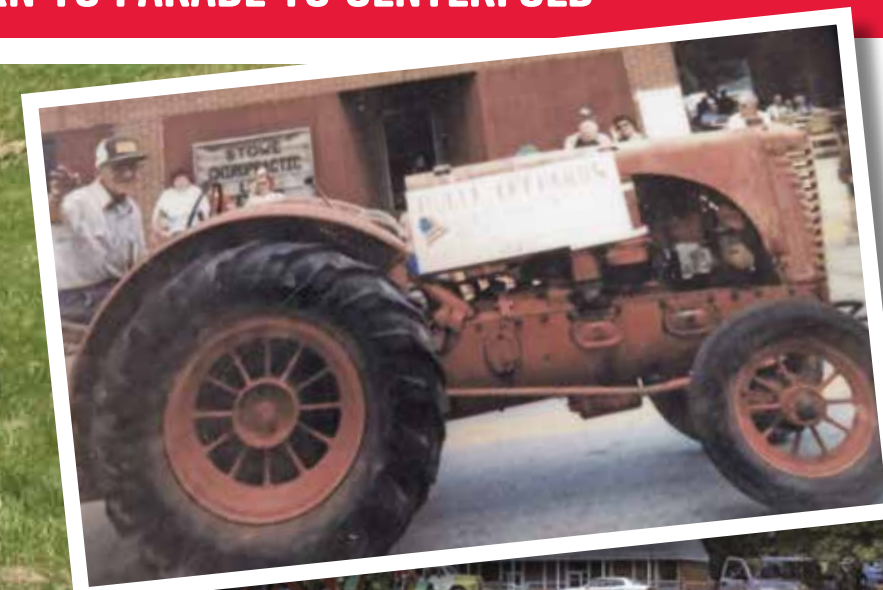
The Hardin/Holle Families *Pacemaker and Orchard Sprayer* FROM BARN TO PARADE TO CENTERFOLD

Hello,

My name is Becky Hardin. We did a photo shoot with you at the Massey Expo in Evansville, Indiana. We found some pics of the old Pacemaker and orchard sprayer. The first photo is of my grandfather Ed Holle, who purchased the Massey-Harris Pacemaker with my grandmother, Louise in 1940. It was the first tractor purchased on our family farm, Holle Orchards. It is serial # 200515 which would make it a 1937, Orchard model.

The old Massey tractor sat in the barn for many years until some of the mechanics at the farm talked my grandfather into getting it running and driving it in our local Cherry Festival Parade in Eau Claire, Michigan. The photo of him was taken in about 1986. The second picture is of my father, Vern Holle, driving the Massey and sprayer in the same Cherry Festival Parade. In 2017, he had restored it to its former beauty. Thank you for thinking of us for your magazine.

—Becky Hardin
Eau Claire, Michigan



(LEFT) Not only is the tractor restoration excellent, an amazing amount of time and effort went into refurbishing the sprayer. Most noticeable is the wooden spray tank which is probably better than when it was new.