



# STEVE REECK



*Gary,*

Thanks for the great magazine. Our whole family really enjoys it and looks forward to the calendar that is usually part of our Christmas gifts. Our family has been raised with Massey Ferguson tractors for generations starting with Marvin Reeck Sr., followed by my father Marvin Reeck Jr., who married Annie North in 1959 and had three kids—my older brother Dennis, myself and our little sister Susie. We grew up raising tobacco on the family

farm near Cashton, Wisconsin, where we used our Massey tractors for all the day to day farming chores. Today we still use them just not for tobacco anymore. The tobacco has been replaced by a hay operation.

Marvin Jr. worked for the Massey Ferguson Dealership, St. Joseph Equipment in St. Joseph, Wisconsin for fifty-five years. When Marvin started at the dealership in 1961, he was washing and painting equipment, eventually moving to a

mechanics position during the day and doing sales at night. In time, he started doing sales full time, worked extensively with Massey Ferguson dealer representatives. He had seen a lot of changes from the MF 35-50 Series to the 8000 Series tractors before he retired. In retirement, Marvin enjoys using the family Massey collection on the farm.

When Dennis and I were old enough, we started working at the dealership after school cleaning the shop, washing and

painting. So, when we bought our own tractors, we wanted to keep them looking new so it was natural that we repainted them. I am still painting today for a hobby. I've painted my Massey Ferguson 135, 35 and 165 that we use on the hobby farm today. The next project to paint is the MF 180. One thing we learned from our dad was to always do good work, details are very important and of course, to work hard. Like any father and son there is some arguing



Riding the transplanter as they put new tobacco plants in the ground. Dennis is on the left, Steve on the right, while Grampa North drives the Massey Ferguson 35 straight down the row. A lot of people are probably unaware that at one time, tobacco was a common crop in the state of Wisconsin.



Marvin Jr. on his MF 135 pulling a MF 66 2-16" bottom plow.



After the tobacco plants are cut, they are hung upside down on a portable rack that can be pulled out into the sun to dry.



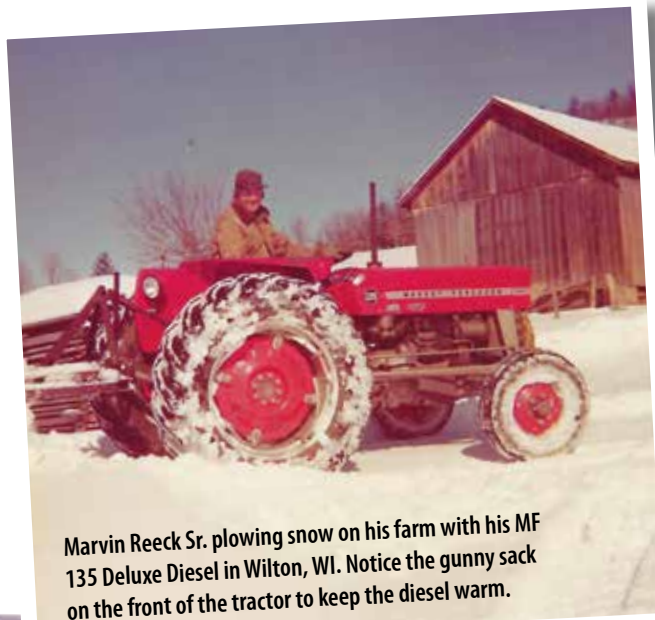
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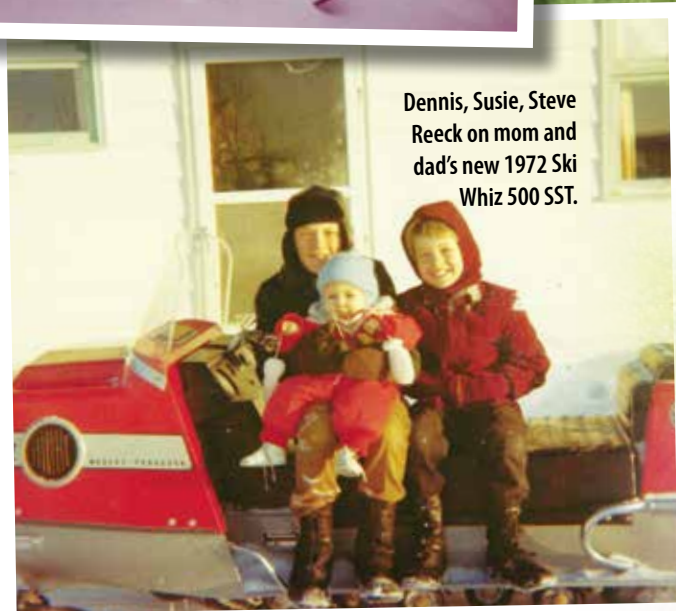
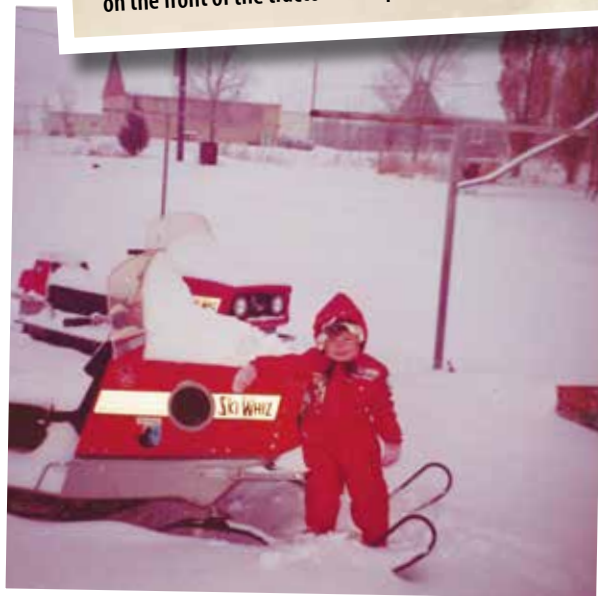
about which way is the best way to do it but we always manage to work it out. Our paint jobs include taking sheet metal, tires and fenders off to get a nice clean paint job. Working at the St. Joseph Dealership, it was the same way. I've gotten to paint MF 55 wheel loaders, 50ATLB, 600 dozers and 450S excavators.

Not only did we work hard we had to play a little too. When snowmobiling started out in 1967 and Massey came out with the Ski Whiz line, dad was working at a dealership and he got to bring one home and we all got rides on it. In the 1970's, the family got a new 500SST and we all could ride on it mom, dad, Dennis, and myself. When Susie was old enough, we added another sled. We had the 500SST, a 440 WT and many others throughout the years. Dennis still has his 440T today. Trail riding in Wisconsin was getting popular and the whole family enjoyed the sport. When Massey Ferguson stopped making snowmobiles we made the switch over to Ski-Doo in 1988.

We are still active today in riding trails in Wisconsin, Michigan, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. On one trip out west we met some corporate AGCO people. I was wearing my St Joseph Equipment gear and one of the AGCO guys asked if that old guy still worked there, we said Marvin? His reply was yeah that's him. We said, "Yes he is our dad." It was nice to see the amount of respect dad has earned from people all over the country. *LQ*



Marvin Reeck Sr. plowing snow on his farm with his MF 135 Deluxe Diesel in Wilton, WI. Notice the gunny sack on the front of the tractor to keep the diesel warm.



Dennis, Susie, Steve Reeck on mom and dad's new 1972 Ski Whiz 500 SST.

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Dennis and his dad standing next to the freshly painted 1962, MF 35 Deluxe before it headed to the farm to spend the day raking hay.