

1/03

1,000,000th Tractor

At the auction in Cookeville, I was speaking with Darius Harms about whether anyone had tried to find the 1,000,000th Farmall tractor built, a Farmall M. I told him that I had seen an article about a man in Illinois buying it in the 1950's. When I got home, I had a letter from Craig Swanson of Minnesota saying that the 1,000,000th tractor had come up for sale and sold for \$11,500 to a collector near the St. Paul, Minnesota area. This really made my day- it was still in existence and someone bought it that would take care of it. This is another great piece of IH history that was saved. I emailed the man that had stored it for his uncle, who felt he was getting too old to take care of it properly. He wouldn't give me the person's name that bought it, but he did give me a little history on the tractor. I was told that the person that bought it was going to keep it in original condition, and hopefully will bring it to some IH show or put it in a museum so we can look at it.

His uncle was the second owner, buying it in the 1960's at an auction of the original owner. It was used on their farm for several years, having three overhauls. He said the 1,000,000th was still on the hood when they sold it, so I guess they kept it in the shed when not in use. It had been stored for the last several years and not run. When his uncle bought the tractor, he acquired the papers proving it was the original 1,000,000th tractor. It had been modified with a lot of M&W parts, power governor, nine speed, and live power. It also has Char Lynn power steering and 15.5 x 38 tires.

The picture below was in a 1951 IH Today magazine showing the original owner. The article following this comes out of a 1951 IH Harvester World magazine.

Darrell Darst, Editor



HISTORIC 1951 SALE: FARMER CLINT THOMAS OF MERRILL, ILL. BUYS THE 1,000,000th FARMALL MADE BY IH. IT WAS AN 'M' MODEL

FARMALL'S BIG WHEEL

L. M. Gildea is boss of a works that has made a million tractors

By JEANNE LANDREAU



THE MILENTH TRACTOR built at Farmall Works was more than a tractor to the men on the line.



ITS NUMBER PAINTED on the hood, the Farmall M was an achievement in which all took pride.



THE HONORABLE MELVIN L. MCKAY, mayor of Rock Island, was on hand to congratulate Gildea and Farmall. It was plant's 25th anniversary.



WORKS MANAGER AT INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER'S FARMALL WORKS, Rock Island, Illinois, L. M. Gildea is head man of an organization that builds a tractor every minute and a half.