



IOWA MASSEY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

July 2018

Hello, my fellow Massey collectors,

Please join us on **August 17th-19th 2018** at **Belmond, IA** at the Prairie Homestead Antique Power and Craft Show for our Iowa State Massey Collectors Association state show with our fellow Massey Collectors. We plan to get together **Saturday night** in **Belmond** at **Cattleman's at the Club**. The Iowa Chapter plans to pay for all the member's meals. **Be sure to make your arrangements now to join us!** There are hotels in the neighboring towns along with 3 different campgrounds in the area. The hotel that most of us stayed at in 2011 was Clarion Hometown. Campgrounds are first come, first serve.

We are also looking for **stories, locations, museums, or fellow Massey collections** to go and visit as a group! If you have any ideas, please get ahold of a board member.

The **board members** and positions held are as follows;

Iowa MCA President, Bob Lynn

Iowa MCA Vice President, Dennis Brown

Treasurer, Jeff Van't Sant

Secretary, Tina Van't Sant

Additional board members are Bob Brumley, Larry Gerling, Roger Burgart

Here is a little story to enjoy.

Jacob's Tractor

Jacob Van't Sant loved to enter his favorite tractor in tractor pull contests. His tractor, a 1954 Massey Harris 44 Special, was claimed from his dad, who purchased it in 2009 off of Craig's List from a seller in Minnesota. We brought it home to New Sharon, Iowa to replace our 1949 Massey Harris 30 we used to blade snow out of our driveway. Since it wasn't worth fixing the many problems with the MH 30, we began using its parts to restore our other Massey tractors. Jacob started pulling the Massey Harris 44 Special in 2011. In fall of 2015, Jacob joined North Mahaska High School's FFA chapter and decided he wanted to restore one of our tractors as his FFA project the following year. We originally started to restore the 1947 MH 44-6, since most of the mechanical issues had already been taken care of in previous years. We figured it would be an easier tractor than the 1954 Massey Harris 44 Special for his first restoration project. Jacob unexpectedly passed away in the spring of 2017.

After Jacob passed away, his cousin Jared Van't Sant and his best friend Philip Spoelstra decided to restore his favorite tractor, the 1954 MH 44 Special as their FFA project. Jacob's tractor was in much worse condition than the 1947 MH 44-6. The boys started restoration right away in May, in order to complete the restoration by the deadline for the Mahaska County Fair in July.

Their first task was to start by taking photos of the tractor's original condition. Then, they took the tractor completely apart and set aside all the sheet metal for future preparations. The engine and radiator were pulled for ease of painting and the replacing of seals. The MH 44 Special and the MH 30 had to have the rear ends swapped, because the gears in the 44 transmission were damaged. The MH 30 rear end mounted directly on the 44 Special without any modifications. Next, the rubber tires had to be removed from the rims. Even though there was no fluid, the cast rims were heavy. It took 3 grown men, 2 teenage boys, a whole lot of strength and a little bit of luck, before the heavy artillery came out, to separate the rubber from the rear rims

and the center section from the rims. After many hours, they were finally separated and ready for sand blasting.

All the sheet metal, the engine, the frame, and the rims were set out and prepped for sand blasting. After the sand blasting was complete, everything was coated in primer to prevent any rust. The frame was painted on the inside of the belly, so the motor could be reinstalled. After the frame and engine were painted, the engine parts and radiator were reassembled within the frame. The rims were then painted without the rubber tires on them. The new rubber tires were mounted very carefully onto the rims and then installed onto the tractor frame.

The sheet metal was the next step to be completed. The sheet metal didn't have too many dents, but did have some minor damage from many years of use. The grill needed some straightening, and the fenders needed the rust holes fixed. The hood looked pretty good. Thank goodness there were no side or orchard shields to worry about. The paint was completed and the assembly started. All new hoses, electrical wires, and belts were installed on the tractor. New lights along with the buckets were bought, painted, and installed. The starter was rebuilt by a local parts house. After the vinyl decals were put in their proper locations, the tractor was clear coated to preserve the great red and yellow colors and give the tractor a glossy finish.

After many hours of hard work, the 1954 Massey Harris 44 Special was completed right before the July deadline for the Mahaska County Fair, where it took the prize for 1st place. The tractor was then entered at the Iowa State Fair in August where it took 3rd place in the FFA group competition. We have continued to show the Massey Harris 44 Special at the local shows and parades. It was the featured tractor at the Tulip Time Festival in Pella, Iowa on May 3, 4, 5, 2018, where it led the local tractor club in all 6 parades.



Massey Days 2018 in Dalton, WI



New Sharon FFA Tractor, Motorcycle, and Car show June 9, 2018



2018 SHOWS and MEETINGS

August 17th -19th, 2018 Prairie Homestead Antique Power in **Belmond, IA** as the **Iowa Massey Collectors Association** Sponsored State show. Dave Nelson 515-571-6838 or <http://belmondartscenter.org/index.php>

August 17th -19th, 2018 Massey Expo North America in Paisley, Ontario, Canada

2019 SHOWS

June 6th, 2019 Massey Days Summer Reunion in Muscatine, IA

August, 2018 Albert City, IA as the Iowa Massey Collectors Association sponsored State show

2020 SHOWS

Fredericksburg, IA as the Iowa Massey Collectors Association sponsored State show

2021 SHOWS

Charles City, IA as the Iowa Massey Collectors Association sponsored State show

Some shows were obtained from the following website

<http://www.farmershotline.com/farm-events?tid=27324&country=us&province=iowa>

MCA website <http://www.masseycollectors.com/Events>

Due December 2018 - Mail \$35.00 to Jeff Van't Sant 1609 155th St. New Sharon, IA 50207



Massey Collectors Association

"Old Masseys Collect The Nicest People"

Today's Date:

First Name: Last Name:

Spouse/Family (under 18):

Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Country: United States

HomePhone: Cell Phone:

Email 1: Email 2:

Membership Type: ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Current Website Username:

Jeff Van't Sant
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New Sharon, IA 50207



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