

Items Donated to Tired Iron by Orville Bartley and SWEPCO

Orville Bartley, a long-time member and benefactor to Tired Iron, passed away October 2018. It was known that he wished our club to take possession of items he owned and collected over the years upon his death. A factor in the distribution of his estate was that he had sold all his real property to SWEPCO with the stipulation that the company would gain possession of the property but Orville could continue residence there until his passing. After Orville's heirs had taken all they wanted of Orville's remaining personal property, Tired Iron was allowed to take what was left. This bequest included many vintage items.

Perhaps most awe inspiring of all are two International crawlers. The name tag identified one unit as a TD14A with a four cylinder diesel main engine with a separate gasoline engine for starting. Research at tractordata.com rated the main engine as (tested) 71.79 hp at the belt and 62.68 at the drawbar. The serial number reveals that this unit was a 1950 model. On the second crawler the big surprise came when Johnny Burger cleared away a motor and two hoods and discovered that it was also a TD14A. That unit was without a motor, blade, etc. and simply looked smaller. The main good news is that that second crawler might serve to provide parts for the restoration of the first.

The website listed the "shipping weight" for a TD14A as 18,300 pounds. It is not clear how much the two crawlers weighed together, but it was immediately clear that Tired Iron did not have the ability to move the units to our land. It is also obvious that SWEPCO wanted the land cleared because they hired independent movers to do the job. The two crawlers were loaded, transported, and unloaded for no charge to Tired Iron. Thanks, SWEPCO.

The photographs below reveal many of the remaining donated items. They show John Deere and Ford hay balers, small engines, a Gravely walk-behind, a fore-runner of zero turn mowers, a Jay Hawk hay stacker, and many more. Health issues considered, come out to the May 19 meeting to help decide the fate of these treasured items.



The first International TD14A crawler



The second International TD14A



John Deere and Ford hay balers



Jay Hawk hay stacker



Miscellaneous Items



Miscellaneous Items