

## **Biography of Stanley Arrowsmith**

We have Glenn Smith, the first president of Tired Iron of the Ozarks, and Arch Rambeau, Stanley's stepson, to thank for this biography of Stanley Arrowsmith. Glenn and Stanley shared a common interest in model or miniature farm-related tractors, implements, and engines. As you will read below, the two guys became fast friends. Indeed, anyone who met Stanley would instantly recognize him as an intelligent, straightforward, wonderful person to have as a friend.

Glenn compiled this history and narrative of Stanley's life after Stanley told him that he was putting him in his will because he wanted Glenn to have his model steam tractor and grain separator that he so proudly displayed at the Tired Iron of the Ozarks shows. In September 1996, Stanley told Glenn about his desire to have him continue the tradition of showing the models at Tired Iron. They were on their way to a show at Republic, Missouri, at the time. Glenn told Stanley he wanted to know a little of his life history so he could tell people about him when they asked who had made all of the equipment. Most of this narrative is what Stan told Glenn.

Stanley Ray Arrowsmith was born on July 24, 1913, in the hospital in Halstead, Kansas. Halstead is 25 miles northwest of Wichita. Stanley was one of seven children born to Ray Stanley and Hazel Fry Arrowsmith. Stanley was originally named Stanley "Gerald" Arrowsmith. When he was 27, he needed his birth certificate for a job application. When he received the birth certificate, he discovered that the doctor had mistakenly put his middle name down as "Ray." He was actually pleased with this and thought it to be an honor to be fully named after his father, Ray Stanley Arrowsmith. He said he did have to go get a lot of records changed though.

Stanley attended the "Bell School," which was a one-room country schoolhouse, from the 1st through the 8th grades. The Bell School was located 4 1/2 miles west of Sedgwick, Kansas. He attended the 8th through the 12th grade at Sedgwick High School.

Until well into his 30s, Stanley farmed about a half section of land with his dad. In 1940, he moved to Burbank, California. He went to work at Lockheed in the sheet metal and tool making division. He worked mainly with soft tooling making templates. During World War II, Stanley worked as an essential employee for Northrop Aviation on most of the company's major important aircraft, including many experimental planes. When he retired in 1978 he was Northrop's highest classified Tool and Fixture Specialist, a thirty-eight year veteran of the company.

Stanley's first wife was Adelaide with whom he had three children, nine grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Stanley married Dorothy in 1976, and they were married for 30 years. Their extended family included Dorothy's three children, nine grandchildren, thirty-three great grandchildren, and eleven great, great grandchildren. Arch, Dorothy's son, gave some interesting background concerning his mom and Stanley. They were both born in Kansas in 1913 about fifty miles apart, directly north and south of each other...Stanley in Halstead and Dorothy in Conway Springs. They met in California.

They moved to Rogers, Arkansas, in 1978 after Stan retired. They were on their way to buy a house in St. Louis when they stopped in Rogers to look around and spend the night. As they were riding around, they spotted a house under construction in the Turtle Creek community of Rogers and

bought it. Next they called Arch in St. Louis, and he asked when they would arrive there. Stan told him they had just bought a home in Rogers, Arkansas, and would be living there. Glenn stated he has often wondered what life would have been like without Stanley and Dorothy if they had not settled in Rogers.

In retirement, Stanley began fulfilling a life-long dream to build a model of a Case steam tractor and a matching separator. He started looking at this tractor and thinking about making it in 1942. He bought the kit for the front wheels in October of 1983 at a cost of \$160.00. Glenn asked him why he didn't buy the whole kit all at once. His reply was, " I figured if I could make the front wheels, I could make the rest of it, and if I couldn't, it would have been better to lose the \$160.00 for the front wheel kit than to lose \$1,700.00 for the whole kit." It is interesting that Stanley had never operated a lathe until he bought the castings for his Case steam tractor.

It took Stanley three years to complete the Case steam tractor. At one point, he had to make some small wrenches to tighten the nuts on the front wheels but later found a source where he could buy almost any small wrench he needed.

Stanley finished the Case steam tractor in 1986, and then started to build the Case 36 X 58 separator. He built the separator from pictures and memory, not from a kit like the tractor. It took Stanley one year to complete this project. He used a 1918 reprint of a Case catalog to get the dimensions for the separator, then reduced them to 1/12 scale, which was the same scale as the 1925, 60-horse power, Case steam tractor.

The first show where he displayed his threshing machine was at Valley Center, Kansas, on Labor Day in 1988. The term "threshing machine" means the tractor and separator serve as one complete unit.

The first time Glenn saw Stanley and his threshing machine was at Valley Center, Kansas, on Labor Day in 1989. He and Stanley visited for a while, and Glenn wrote Stanley's name down and noticed he was from Rogers, Arkansas. Glenn intended to go by and visit him at his home and take a closer look at his threshing machine, but did not at the time.

Glenn re-met Stanley when Glenn and other founders started our Tired Iron of the Ozarks tractor and engine club in 1992. Stanley showed up after the second or third meeting in the first year and has the distinction of having been a charter member. At the meeting, Glenn didn't recognize Stan right off, but as soon as he saw the threshing machine, he remembered him, and Stanley said he remembered meeting Glenn on that earlier occasion. As often happens in our club, the two guys with such common interests, model farm machinery, became good friends. They traveled together to several shows and enjoyed each other's company. Stanley was voted in as a vice president of our club and served in that capacity for one year.

Stanley went with Glenn to the Mid-America Toy Show in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1995. It takes three days to see this show. They determined at that time that Stan needed to take his threshing machine to that show and enter it in the scratch-built contest. They made it back to the show in 1997, and Stanley's threshing machine and sawmill won the "Best of Show Model." There were probably 200 entries that year.

Stanley's "showing days" are over now, and he passed that privilege on to Glenn by willing the threshing machine to him. Glenn considers it a great privilege to have known Stanley and Dorothy for sixteen years. The Arrowsmiths took Glenn and his family in as part of their family and made them feel at home. They celebrated births and birthday parties and many other special events in their lives.

We were all saddened when, in 2004, Stanley and Dorothy moved away from us to a comfortable

retirement community in Phoenix, Arizona, to be near Dorothy's son Arch, whom we know took care of them wonderfully well. We all have Archie to thank for keeping us posted about the circumstances of their well being in Arizona. On one occasion, Howard Hodson was able to stop by and see Stanley and Dorothy one last time.

Stanley passed away on February 10, 2005, and was brought back to Kansas for burial. Twelve members of Tired Iron made the journey from Northwest Arkansas to Stanley's funeral. In December 2006, Dorothy passed away and several members attended her funeral. Stanley and Dorothy are buried between his parents and his grandparents in Sedgwick, Kansas. There is a big vacant place in our lives now.



*Stanley (front left) with Bill and Marlene Evans at a threshing day in 2003. Howard is pitching oat straw into the threshing machine.*



*Stanley and Dorothy a couple of years ago.*