

Dennis Pinkley

- I. **Where born and raised** - I was born in Berryville, Arkansas, in 1960, but we lived in Huntsville. My Dad ran a dairy farm there. When I was eleven years old, Dad sold the dairy farm and we moved to Berryville where he maintained a small farm with a few head of cows. My dad had an 8n Ford that he bought in the fifties that he used for mowing and plowing. It was the first tractor I ever drove. It was his “toy.” He was always tinkering on it after he retired. When he passed away in 1994, it came to live with me, and I use it to mow. I have always thought that I would restore it someday, but it still looks like it did when Dad used it. I look at the tractor from time to time and can still see him working on it. Sometimes things are better left the way they are.
- II. **Work Experience** - I started out doing the usual work in the hay field when I was big enough. For a few summers I helped the neighbors in the hay field where I ran a JD Model A. I pulled the crimper and raked with it. I guess that’s why I’m not a JD fan today after growing up listening to a tractor that sounded like it was missing all the time. When I turned sixteen, I went to work at Tyson Foods where I spent 26 years working in industrial refrigeration. I retired there on July 4, 2002. I married Christine (smartest move I ever made!) on the 6th of July, then moved to Rogers and began working for Barloworld as a road technician on Hyster forklifts. I still have a current Arkansas high-pressure steam-boiler operator license. I figured perhaps someday I would run across a steam tractor tucked away somewhere, which for me would be like winning a lottery.
- III. **First involvement with tractors and/or engines** - I had a shop in Berryville where I worked on Harley’s, Triumphs, and ATV’s. I have always been a gear head. One of the greatest pleasures I have is taking an engine that hasn’t started in who knows when and make it run. I had always liked having a tractor around, but other than mowing my place with it, I really didn’t have much use for another one other than the 8n. That changed when a friend and I decided to go to the Branch 16 show in Republic, Missouri. That cooked it! The ol’ tractor fever started rising! I did not realize that there were so many shows and pulls around. Winner, winner, chicken dinner! I had a use for more tractors! I bought a Minneapolis Moline ZTU that was a basket case and spent the next year and a half doing a complete restoration. My friends pretty much thought I was off my nut because I didn’t have time for motorcycles anymore.

I took Christine out for a motorcycle ride down by Harrison on our second date. She was a city girl, never having been around farm life. On the way through, lo and behold, Rusty Wheels tractor club just happened to be having a show that day. (Note: All right, I may have had this planned all along!) I figured I had better find out what she thought of this, so I whipped it in. If she didn’t care for it, it would have been a huge problem. But, to make a long story short, she liked it, our boys liked it, and so here we are!
- IV. **Club membership** - I belong to Branch 37 in Gentry and Branch 16 in Republic. I joined 16 a few years ago, and in 2005 I decided to join 37. Tractor shows are just a wonderful place to spend time with your family. The people are great, and we all get a little better educated about the past.
- V. **Items in collection** - I prefer Minneapolis Moline, but I’m not prejudiced. Let me crawfish (back up, for you northern folk) on that: I don’t much care for John Deere. I always figured they were painted green so when they broke down in the field they would blend in (I guess that one

was not politically correct). My running tractors are a 1947 MM ZTU, '46 MM UTU, '49 8n Ford, '67 Cub Cadet 71, '30 Case L, and a '37 McCormick Deering W-30. I am currently working on a '37 MM ZTU and a Twin City KTA. I also have a '47 Oliver 70, '52 MM UT, and a '35 McCormick Deering W-30 that are not running. I'm always looking for MM Z's and single head U's, so let me know if you see one sitting around.

