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Story on Mark Wells 656 Hydro!
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IH Book Review

Check out the 2020 Show Schedule for the Vernon VT plow Day! That’s Kim Spaulding on his 300 back in 2009!

Our membership meeting is on March 29th at Noon at Harold Fosketts shop in Woodstock CT

Visit us on the web at www.IHCNE18.com
Chapter 18 New England Officers, Directors and Advisors

Officers:  Mark Wells, President and Director  508-523-6835  mfarmall1950@gmail.com
Expiration of term – 2021
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djc170201@gmail.com
Expiration of term -2020
Kim Spaulding, Secretary & Director  (978) 433-5540
spaulding29@charter.net
Expiration of term -2022
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Expiration of term -2020

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Expiration of term -2022
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Expiration of term -2020
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Expiration of term -2020
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gdmsr@charter.net

Please send articles, information, and stories about International Harvester
Products to the following email address:  ihchapter18@gmail.com
See us on the Web/Internet at www.ihcne18.com

Chapter 18 Membership Report for Spring Newsletter 2020

As of now we have 261 current members in Chapter 18. Of these, 235 expire on
6/1/2020. Please remember to send in your renewals as directed.

Mark Wells, Membership Secretary

Annual Dues are $30 ($15 for the National, $15 for Chapter #18)

As a reminder, annual dues of $30.00 are due by June 1st each year. Checks should be made payable to
Chapter 18 and mailed to our Treasurer, Donna Callahan at 201 Oak St. Franklin, MA 02038.
Membership Dues Renewal Form

Please mail your check and application to:

Donna Callahan, Chapter 18 Treasurer
201 Oak Street
Franklin, MA 02038

(Checks made out to New England IH Collectors Chapter # 18)

Date: ____________________________
Name: ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City/Town: _________________________________________
State: __________ Zip: __________
Phone # __________________ Email Address: __________________________
Check Number ______________

Please renew your membership before the listed date.
Keep Our Membership Numbers Strong!
The membership numbers are increasing; don’t miss out on the fun!

TREASURER’S REPORT as of January 25th, 2020

Beginning Balance: $11203.73

Debit Credit
Insurance: $705.00 Renewals: $60.00
Norwell VNA: $50.00 Renewals: $60.00
Norwell Aging: $50.00 Renewals: $90.00
Nationals: $120.00
Puzzles: $47.75
Print Factory: $410.00
Gary Munsey (Stamps) $203.23

Ending Balance: $9827.90
## 2020 Chapter 18 Show Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 29th at noon</td>
<td>Chapter 18 Spring Membership Meeting</td>
<td>Foskett Equipment</td>
<td>187 Peake Brook Road Woodstock, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Cancelled</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18th</td>
<td>Vernon VT. Plow Day</td>
<td>Tylers Excavating</td>
<td>3521 Fort Bridgman Rd. Route 142 Vernon VT. 05354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17th</td>
<td>Bristol’s Round Up</td>
<td>Bristol’s</td>
<td>80 Witches Spring Road Hollis, NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22nd, 23rd, 24th</td>
<td>Bernardston MA Gas Engine show</td>
<td>Pratt Field</td>
<td>257 South St. Bernardston MA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23rd</td>
<td>Litchfield Plow Day</td>
<td>J&amp;F Farms</td>
<td>Field is on Route 3A Litchfield, NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6th, 7th</td>
<td>Granite State Engine &amp; Tractor Show</td>
<td>Bristol’s</td>
<td>80 Witches Spring Road Hollis NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27th &amp; 28th</td>
<td>44th Yankee Engine-utility Show</td>
<td>Orange Airport</td>
<td>80 Airport St Orange, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12th</td>
<td>Pepperell Crank Up</td>
<td>Pepperell MA Town Field</td>
<td>10 Hollis Street (Rte 111) Pepperell, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19th</td>
<td>Chapter 18 Picnic</td>
<td>Lamson Farm</td>
<td>40-54 Cross Rd, Mont Vernon, NH 03057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24th-July 26th</td>
<td>25th Eliot Antique Tractor &amp; Engine Show</td>
<td>Raitt Farm</td>
<td>2077 State Road Eliot, ME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 8th &amp; 9th</td>
<td>12th Annual Power of the Red</td>
<td>Cricket Hill Farm</td>
<td>1716 Main St. Route 101 Dublin, NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 15th &amp; 16th</td>
<td>Granite State Antique Truck Show</td>
<td>Old Concord Rd. Feather Airport West Deering NH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11th, 12th, 13th</td>
<td>49th Annual Dublin Engine Meet</td>
<td>Crickett Hill Farm</td>
<td>1716 Main St. Route 101 Dublin, NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 19th &amp; 20th</td>
<td>Greenfield Drawbar &amp; Harness Show</td>
<td></td>
<td>971 Forest Road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**International Harvester Collectors New England**  
**Chapter 18 Scholarship**

Our scholarship program is open to high school seniors and students who intend to further their education at a four year college, community college, or other similar institution. The scholarship is available for students who plan to pursue a career in an agricultural field (veterinary, agriculture, automotive/ engine work, etc.).

The scholarship award is for one year, and will be sent directly to the institution to be used to pay educational expenses.

There can be multiple winners in a given year.

Candidates do not have to be Chapter 18 members; this is open to all of the New England states.

For a chance to be awarded the Chapter 18 scholarship, you must enter by: **JUNE 1ST, 2020**.

Please submit a short biography including your Name, Age, Semester, School and why you feel that you are eligible to win. Submit your information to IHC NE Chapter 18 by email: **ihcnechapter18@yahoo.com**

In the past several years, Chapter 18 has given scholarships totaling $9,000 to students majoring in the agricultural field.

We are able to provide these scholarships through funds that are raised by chapter members buying and selling tickets for our annual raffle tractor, as well as memorial donations that have been made in honor of members who have passed away.

We created the scholarship program to be sure that the love for agriculture will live on.
For Sale and Wanted Items – see the website for a full listing of previously posted items as well

Wanted: Swinging drawbar for 1940ish Farmall B.

Contact: Gary D. Munsey, cell: 508-243-7001, email: gdmsr@charter.net

Directors Meeting at Chuck Moore’s House in Sullivan NH
January 26, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Wells at 11:15 am.

All Directors were present and five Advisors were present. Kim read the minutes of the last Directors meeting held on November 17, 2019. They were approved by a voice vote. Donna gave her Treasurer’s report with a balance of $9827.90. She also said both trailers have been registered for 2020.

The Director’s approved $100.00 for Gary Dow’s mother who had recently passed. Gary is a member of Chapter 18 and was on the original Board of Directors as Secretary. Donna will deliver the check in person to the rest home.

It was mentioned and approved to not renew the policy on the contents of the Chapter trailer not including the raffle cub tractor.

Mark Wells gave the membership report with 259 members as of today. He also said that as of today, Michelle Wheeler has resigned the position of Membership Secretary. Mark will take on the Membership Secretaries position as of today.

Donna’s Treasurers Report and the Membership Report were approved by a voice vote.

Most of the meeting was taken up with the shows and events that Chapter 18 will attend for the 2020 season. Jonathan Bevins will order the peddle tractor that we have as a raffle soon.

We have made a preliminary list of shows that Chapter 18 will attend for the 2020 season. As soon as we get a definite date etc., we will have cards printed up and it will be published in a subsequent newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm followed by a great meal of ham and beans etc., and served by Shelby Moore and others. Everyone thanked Shelby for her hospitality and good food.

Respectfully Submitted

Kim C. Spaulding

Secretary of Chapter 18 of N.E.
My Newest Tractor

In 2017, I decided it was a good idea to obtain a loader tractor to use with our equipment stored in our building in Minnesota. We have a few plows, some with steel wheels, and loading these plows onto a trailer was a scary proposition. After looking for a while and missing out on a few tractors, my brother was approached by an acquaintance who had a Farmall 300 for sale with a loader. When I saw the 300, I was liked that it was in excellent shape for its age. It also has almost every option available for the model. The TA even worked. So, we bought the 300 with the 33A loader and it has made all the difference. I have found it to be very useful. My brother initially thought a 300 was “too new” but he has come around to my way of thinking and now really enjoys the tractor. The feature that sealed the deal for me was that it has power steering. It also has Fast Hitch which is a plus as I have become a big fan of Fast Hitch ever since I bought my 200.

Since I was happy with the “too new” tractor, I felt the need to pursue a model that was even newer. When I was a kid back in the ‘60s and ‘70s, I fell in love with the ‘06 series of Farmall tractors. On one trip to a local dealership, I snuck up on a new 806 and loved it. Later, I saw articles on the hydrostatic drive concept that IH was developing for tractors. When the 656 Hydro was introduced, I thought is was just perfect.

The early drawings I saw for hydrostatic drive had a hydraulic motor on each rear wheel, which was the initial concept. When IH developed their tractors, they changed the concept to have only one hydraulic motor to drive the differential. This allowed IH to keep the size and shape of the tractor the same to allow the same mounted implements to used as gear drive tractors. It would not have been feasible or cost effective to develop a new line of implements for the hydro tractors.

So, as I looked online for Farmall tractors, (a continuing hobby of mine) I found a 1971 Farmall 656 Hydro tractor for sale at a dealership in Minnesota. It was a gas model and had Fast Hitch. It was exactly what I was looking for. The price was high and I thought I could not afford it. I kept looking at the tractor, expecting it to be gone before I had a chance to really look at it. I kept up this vigil for a year or so. Finally, I could not stand it any longer and I called the dealership and spoke to the salesperson. We set up a time to go see the tractor. In preparation for the discussion, I looked up all the 656 Hydros I could find for sale and developed some cost comparisons in an attempt to negotiate a price more to my liking. The salesperson was not impressed with my cost comparisons. I learned that there is not a lot of room in the price advertised for negotiation. He showed me a $2700 bill for service done on the tractor which supported his price. We did eventually get together on a price and the 656
was mine. I had asked for it to be delivered as I did not want to attempt to haul it with the truck and trailer we have in Minnesota.

When I went to Minnesota in April for the swap meet, the 656 was there ready for my use. April is the time when we move all our tractors stored on the Le Sueur Country Pioneer Power (LSCPPA) show grounds out of the storage buildings. My plan was to use the 656 to tow them out. With the hydrostatic drive, it worked just as I planned. I could tighten up the chain easily and not jerk it. With 65 HP, the tractor was more than up to the job. To my surprise, the 656 Hydro is a bit faster than a gear drive, top speed is 20 mph. The hydros have a speedometer so it is easy to verify. The speed is handy driving out to the show grounds from our building.

While at the swap meet, I noticed a plow for sale. An IH model 311 3-14” semi-mounted plow with Fast Hitch tongs. I did not hesitate and bought the plow as soon as I could. While a 656 is supposed to be a 4-5 plow tractor, the ground at the LSCPPA showgrounds is very hard so I decided to not push my luck. The trailing wheel tire was flat and the gauge wheel tire was shot. During the summer, my brother got both tires replaced and at the show in August, I was able to use my new toy and it was fun!!

The 656 runs well and it only needed cosmetic types of things fixed. I was able to replace both the speed control knob and the high-low lever knob with parts from Steiner. At the Red Power Roundup in Bloomsburg, I found the missing 656 emblem from the right front of the tractor. There was a vendor, Jeff Forman, who calls himself “That Emblem Guy” at RPRU and he had the emblem I needed. Jeff is from Indiana and advertises in Red Power magazine. The new one is perfect and I would recommend him if you need something. The Hydros have a high-low range for the transmission. Low is obviously for field work (especially for tillage) and high is for transport. The feature is a mechanical linkage which can’t be shifted on the go. As you may know, the worst thing to do to a hydro is to pull it with the hydro engaged. The transmission is ruined in about 20 feet if pulled. The owner’s manual did tell me that if one needs to pull a hydro, put the high-low lever in neutral.

So here I am on my new tractor.
As you can see in the picture, which was taken in August at the show, the new emblem is in place on the front. I took the time to paint the panel before installing the emblem. The 656 has the power adjust rear wheels. I knew that IH offered these wheels and rims starting with the 350-450 series, but I have never seen them on an ’06 or ’56 series tractor before. I assume that they are rare on this vintage tractor. You can also see that it is in good shape for its age. I was told that 656 Hydro tractors make very good loader tractors and a lot of them ended up as loader tractors in feedlots, which is a hard life. I was lucky to find one in as good of shape as this one is. I asked the salesperson if it had ever had a loader on it and he replied no it did not. It was used primarily as a cultivating tractor, which is another reason for its condition. I assume that is why the original owner ordered the power adjustable wheels. Changing to cultivating position and back was an easy task with the power adjustable wheels.

IH did not really recommend the hydro tractors for tillage. Of course, they said that you could use the hydros for tillage, but for extended tillage work, buy a gear drive model. I knew this but decided that it would be okay to plow with the 656 once or twice a year. The 656 has one hydraulic system and it controls the power steering, the transmission and the remote hydraulics. The reservoir level is checked via a dip stick on the operator’s platform. I check the level daily so that I do not overheat the fluid and harm the tractor. I noticed a leak beneath the remote hydraulic levels and a few other places, so I feel the need to check the level even though it does not go down very fast. I have looked at other tractors of the same vintage and noticed that a leak from the remote vales seems to be common.

One thing I noticed right away driving the 656 is how easy the power steering works. I had gotten used to the power steering system on the 300 which is a Char-Lyn unit much like the aftermarket systems used on the letter series. It works fine, but the 656 is a hydrostatic unit and is much easier and smoother than the one on the 300.

I was somewhat surprised that the plow was as easy to mount as it was. The Fast Hitch system on the 656 is newer than the one on my 200 and it levels itself rather than having to level it by hand, therefore the chances of the tongs being in the right place is higher and the Fast Hitch works as desired. The only other issue was which hose connection to use. The cylinder on the trailing wheel is a one-way cylinder. There is a small piece of land in the back that we use as “proving grounds” for our equipment. I had just finished plowing with the tractor and I was happy with the way it worked. I still need to adjust the rear wheel spacing as the wheels are too far in I think.

All in all, I am very happy with my purchase!!

*(See the photo on the back page of Mark’s IH 656 tractor with the plow mounted).*
This is a new book on IH and it is not like most of the books that we as collectors take the time to read. The book does talk about the products produced by IH, but not in any great detail. The focus of the book is on the McCormick and Deering families that were involved in and managed IH over the years. Given the subject of the book, it is somewhat dry reading with lots of dates and many characters talked about. The author developed this book from immense amounts of research on IH and the McCormick and Deering families. Many times, the book jumps forward and backward in time to tell the story. Also, events and stories are repeated in some places. A lot of the history of these families is not pleasant reading. Many of the characters in the book had very unhappy lives. There was a line of schizophrenia in the McCormick family. Kim mentioned to me that he thought that the book was a story of what too much money can do to people, and I agree. I did enjoy reading this book and I do recommend it to you. It is available on Amazon for $49.95.

**Its that time of Year again!! Cancelled!!!**

The IH Collectors Chapter 18 Spring Membership Meeting and cookout will be held on **Sunday, March 29, 2020 at Foskett Equipment in Woodstock CT.**

We look forward to seeing you at our Spring Membership meeting and cookout. We will have hamburgers and hot dogs, please bring something to share with the group. Thank you!

Foskett Equipment
187 Peake Brook Road
President’s Message

Even though this winter has not been a bad winter, at least not in my mind, I can’t wait for it to be show season. It has been too long since I drove one of my tractors.

The Directors did meet in January and developed a show schedule for 2020. The dates are posted in this newsletter so you can plan out your schedule. One thing is that there are only two plow days scheduled as I write this message. The first is Vernon, Vermont in April and the other is in October at Gorham, Maine. I went to the Gorham plow day last fall and it turned out to be a great day. The plowing was good and the field had very few stones. The event is hosted by the Maine Antique Tractor club and this is the first time Chapter 18 has advertised it. We are working on getting some more plow days and we will keep you posted.

As always, the first event of the season will be the Chapter 18 membership meeting at Harold Foskett’s in Woodstock, CT on March 29. This meeting is earlier than usual, as we are trying to avoid Palm Sunday which occurs during the normal week for the meeting – first Sunday in April. I hope to see you there and I hope the weather is as good as it usually is. The 2020 raffle Cub is ready to go and will be at Foskett’s. The agenda is the same as always; lunch at noon with the meeting after.

I am looking forward to the 2020 show season. Part of my excitement is the coming of spring and warmer weather of course, but also I enjoy dealing with the chapter members, getting to know them and sharing experiences with them.

I want to thank Michelle and Jim Wheeler for their contributions to Chapter #18 over the years. Michelle served as the Membership Secretary for several years and did an excellent job in the role. Jim was my predecessor as President and worked very hard to see the chapter through a difficult time. Most of what makes this chapter work is the dedication of the members. Thank you all.

See you this show season.
This is the photo of Mark Wells 1971 IH 656 Hydro Tractor with an IH model 311 3-14 plow at the Le Sueur Country Pioneer Power (LSCPPA) show grounds in Minnesota.