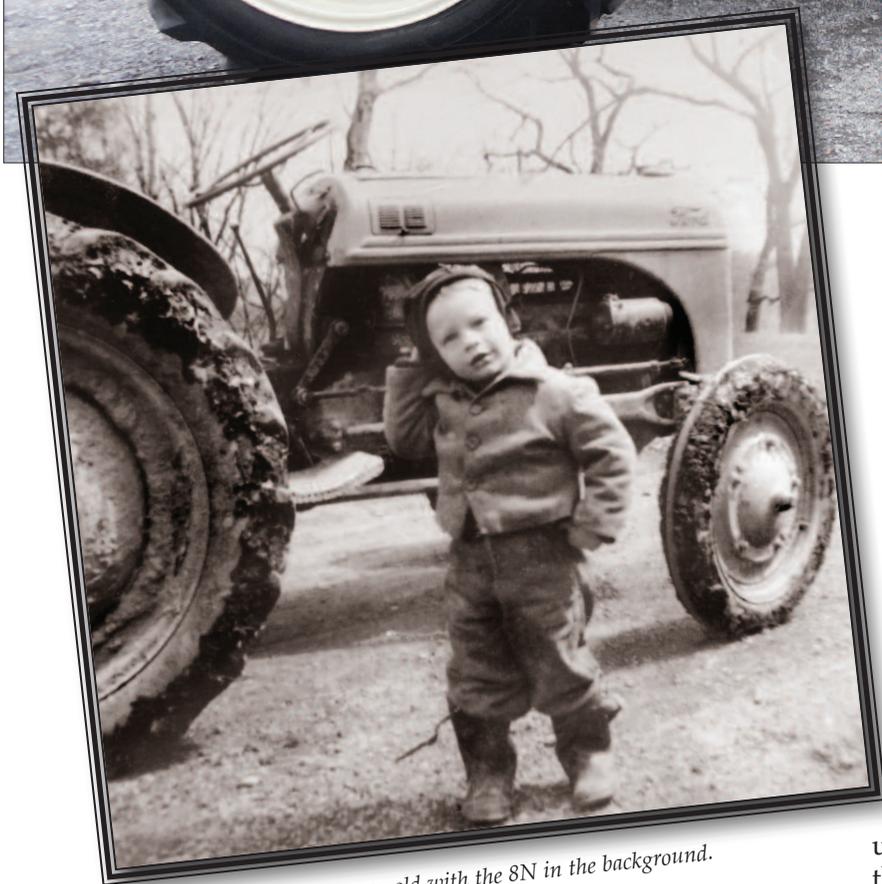


A Resto for a Weary Friend



The author at around 2 years old with the 8N in the background.

— John Wagner —

I grew up on a small farm in the Hudson Valley of upstate New York. The farm, along with a boarding house, was purchased by my grandparents in 1921. The farm grew vegetables, hogs, chickens and dairy cattle, which were used to feed the New York City boarders who were seeking a “vacation” from city life.

As on most farms in those times, the horse was the primary way to produce crops. However, in 1939, my grandfather sold the horses and purchased a Ford 9N tractor from RC Lacy in Catskill, NY. As on most small farms during the 1930s and 40s, one tractor was sufficient to meet most farm needs.

In 1948, my uncle Fred persuaded my grandfather to “upgrade” and trade in the Ford 9N tractor for an 8N. Again, the same dealership was used. RC Lacy is still a Ford dealership but of course, they no longer sell tractors!

In the 1950s the farm and boarding house were transitioned to my father and although the dairy cows were sold in the 1950s, my father and I did start a small beef herd. Through the late 1940s and right through the 1960s, that 8N was the only tractor we had to do the haying and other farm chores.

I always wanted to farm full time, but the size of our farm made that unrealistic. So, college and a career had to take front stage. However, I continued to live at the family place and farm on a part time basis. The 8N continued to be used during the 1960s and through the early 2000s, but only as a backup tractor. With larger equipment, more acreage added to the farm, and a larger herd, other tractors had to take on a majority of the farm work.

The 8N was never really neglected and was always stored in a barn or shed. However, it definitely was tired and certainly needed more than a facelift. So, in the fall of 2015, my wife and I took the plunge and decided to arrange for a restoration. Most of the restoration, including all the mechanical work, was completed by Frank McCarty. Frank runs his own business called "Frank the Mechanic." He is a master mechanic who loves to restore tractors. The tin-work was completed by Steve Ridder of Herms Body Shop. Steve is also a part time farmer but his career has been spent owning and operating a body shop.

Looking forward, I suspect that I will use the tractor for some light work such as raking and maybe moving some firewood. However, the days of working her hard and running through mud are probably behind the old girl. She is a testament to my family and the farm.

ed note: Keen-eyed observers will notice the front axle of this 8N has 9N/2N hubs! When I asked John about this, he said he recalled his father, (now deceased) commenting that they swapped the front tires off the 9N for cultivating corn.

Do you have story about restoration or working your way through an issue with your vintage Ford tractor or implement? We want to hear about it. Pull together some photos and get in touch at infor@n-news.com or drop a packet of notes in the mail.



DMC-65 Ford Tractor Serial No.: 186602 Model No. 8N Invoice No. F-19263 Date 5-10 No 160446

Dist.: SHERMAN TR. & EQ. CO. Name: R C LACY ESTATE (Please print) Date: 12-12-19
 Date: 5-9-10 3g Address: CATSKILL NY Town: County: State: RFD
 TRACTOR SHIPPED Dealer Making Delivery Purchaser of Ford Tractor

FORD TRACTOR OWNER REGISTRATION WITH DEARBORN MOTORS CORPORATION
 Certificate of tractor registration must be filed immediately after sale for proper coverage under warranty and before any claims made thereunder can be honored.

Your new Ford Tractor has been engineered to serve your needs effectively. To help us do this, and in order that your requests for service may be answered quickly and efficiently, would you please answer the following questions:

SECTION I - DELIVERY CHECK LIST
 The following items as checked were covered with owner at time of delivery:
 Tools and Operator Instruction Book
 Proper lubrication method and lubricants
 Oil pressure reads approx. 3.0 lbs. at 1500 RPM
 Care of air cleaner. Oil filter. Fuel filter
 Proper carburetor adjustments
 Care of battery and ignition system
 Generator charging rate approx. 2 amps at 500 RPM
 Adjustment and care of hydraulic mechanism
 Adjustment of control spring
 Adjustment and use of brakes
 Correct tire pressure: front 2.0 lbs. rear 10 x 19 10 x 28
 Adjustment of front wheel alignment and change of tread
 Radiator care - soft water or rust inhibitor - anti-freeze
 Adjustment of fan and fan belt
 Owner has been instructed on Ford Tractor operation
 SIGNED: Charles P. Jones Person making delivery

NON-FARM USAGE
 If this tractor is to be used for "non-farming" operations please answer the following questions:
 1. In what type of business are you engaged?
 2. On what type of work will you primarily use this new Ford Tractor?
 3. What implements were purchased with this new Ford Tractor?

AGRICULTURAL USAGE
 Please circle the number preceding your answer, or write in your answer on the blank lines provided:
 (31-32) Type of farming you do:
 1. General 2. Dairy 3. Feed grains and livestock 4. Range livestock 5. Citrus fruits 6. Deciduous fruits and nuts 7. Truck crops 8. Grain 9. (Other)
 (33) Do you: 1. Own 2. Rent 3. Own and rent 4. Share
 (34) Size of farm:
 1. 0-29 acres 2. 30-49 acres 3. 50-69 acres 4. 70-99 acres 5. 100-139 acres 6. 140-179 acres 7. 180-259 acres 8. 260-499 acres 9. 500 acres and over
 (35) No. of acres tillable:
 1. 0-29 acres 2. 30-49 acres 3. 50-69 acres 4. 70-99 acres 5. 100-139 acres 6. 140-179 acres 7. 180-259 acres 8. 260-499 acres 9. 500 acres and over
 (36) Type of soil:
 1. Sandy 2. Light 3. Medium 4. Clay 5. Heavy 6. Muck 7. Back loam 8. Heavy 9. (Other)
 (37) Land is:
 1. Level 2. Rolling 3. Hilly
 Crops grown:
 38. Corn for grain 39. Corn (other uses) 40. Wheat 41. Oats 42. Rye 43. Barley 44. Grain sorghum 45. Sweet sorghum 46. Soybeans 47. Field and seed peas or beans 48. Sugar beets 49. Sugar cane 50. Hay 51. Cotton 52. Tobacco 53. Potatoes 54. Peanuts 55. Orchards (fruit or nut) 56. Grass seeds 57. Truck crops 58. Other - please specify:
 59. 60. 61.
 (38) In this the first tractor that you have used? 1. Yes 2. No
 61. What form of power did you use before?
 1. Horse (mules) 2. No
 64. Will you continue to use the above power?
 1. Yes 2. No
 65-67. What tractor does the new Ford Tractor replace?
 (Make) (Model) (Year Mfg.)
 68. What are you going to do with the replaced tractor?
 (Make) (Model) (Year Mfg.)
 What other tractors do you own that you will use alongside the new Ford Tractor?
 69-70. (Make) (Model) (Year Mfg.)
 71-72. (Make) (Model) (Year Mfg.)
 73-74. (Make) (Model) (Year Mfg.)
 75. Counting this new Ford Tractor, how many tractors do you own?
 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 or more
 On what jobs will you principally use your new Ford Tractor?
 What implements were purchased with this new Ford Tractor?
 I have taken delivery of the new Ford Tractor, and the items checked by the dealer's representative were explained to me.
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION
 Order's signature

The original registration paperwork.