



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Farming has long been an integral part of the history of the Face of Fillmore. The earliest citizens left the safety of the fort to till the soil and plant their crops. Having been first settled in late October of 1851, farming would have to wait until spring. With a relatively mild first winter, the settlers were out early with their plows and teams.

On March 7, 1852, in a letter to the editor of the Deseret News in Salt Lake, Anson Call, head of the settlement, reported: "The brethren have been plowing and sowing for the last ten days with nearly all the teams in the settlement. The ground breaks easily and we feel highly pleased with the appearance of the soil."

Cultivation in three main areas near Fillmore were frequently mentioned in histories: The Old Fields, the East Ditch Farms, and the North Canyon Fields. The list of the farmers contains the very first settlers who came the previous fall, many of which still have posterity farming the local area.

A visit to the property on Old Field Road owned by Gordon and Sharon Eastwood gives the visitor a step in the farming's past. Gordon's antique tractor collection contains some twenty plus tractors with interesting stories to tell of each.

Gordon and his wife were drawn to East Millard County after his retirement to the peace and quiet, and to his family's roots in the area. He is the grandson of Hyrum Mitchell and the son of Nina Mitchell Eastwood. Uncles, cousins and other relatives were around to welcome him "home".

Gordon was raised in California and moved back to Utah in 1980. The very next year an advertisement of an antique machinery show in South Jordan caught his wife's eye and that was the beginning of his current interest in old machines, especially tractors. The next year he bought his first antique and has been collecting and rebuilding them ever since.

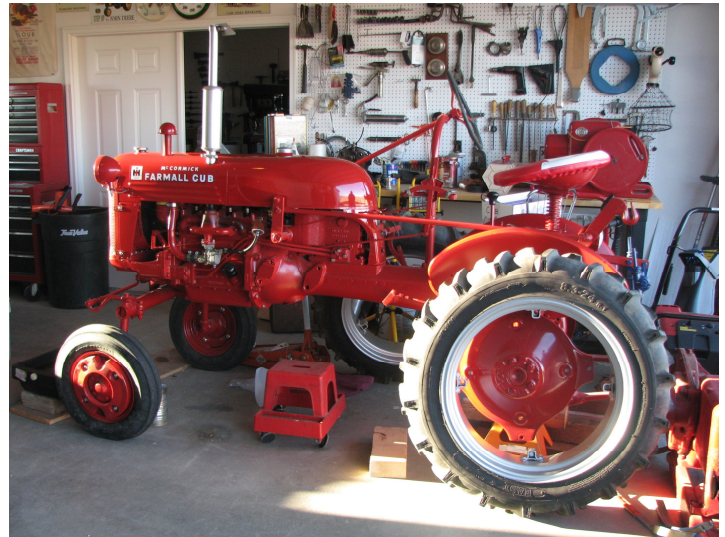
Gordon's oldest tractor is a 1925 McCormick Deering. Horsepower for this early model was measured differently than it is now. This Model 10/20 has 10 horse power to the draw bar and 20 horse power



to the belt pulley. He says this particular model probably sold new for about \$500 - \$600 - a far cry in size and price from what farmers currently pay.

Sporting a new red paint job and sitting in a prominent place in the garage is a 1952 McCormick Farmall Cub which Gordon with the help of a few friends has nearly finished the restoring. It started out as a winter project, he explains. That was two years and three months ago. He hopes to have it completed in the next couple of weeks. This nine horse power tractor has an offset seat which allows the farmer to see exactly what is happening right in front of the tractor.

Also in the garage to be worked on is a 1936 Co-op. This model of tractor is seldom found in the West. In fact, there are only three in the state of Utah and all three are owned by Mr. Eastwood. Interestingly, two of them have serial numbers only



one number apart. This tractor has a six cylinder Chrysler engine and a Dodge truck transmission. After he bought this tractor which had been sitting for years without use, he was able to get it running in just two days.

One of the other of the three Co-op's has an interesting background. (Seen first in the line of tractors) Gordon obtained it from a man in St. Anthony, Idaho. For a time, this tractor was the only means of transportation that the Idaho family owned, so it was slightly altered to meet their needs. Instead of a regular tractor seat, the seat was removed and a plank was put in its place – room enough to seat two. The farmer had also added a windshield to make highway driving more pleasant.

Other farm implements are found in Gordon's yard, as well, including a horse-drawn mower and a horse-drawn corn planter. These are found next to an oil dispenser from a gas station of years ago. Near these is a corn chopper used by Gordon's grandpa and neighbors who had bought it together and all had used it on their farms. It sat at Doyal Mitchell's farm for years until Gordon retrieved it, and using a metal detector, found most of its missing parts. Gordon told us of a visit he and his wife made to an Amish farm back East and saw its owners using the exact same model of corn chopper pulled by a team of four horses.

Gordon is a member of the Utah Antique Machinery Association, with its unofficial headquarters in Utah Valley. He says there are also other Millard County residents who are members of the group. This group has been in existence for over 30 years and recently two other clubs have organized, one in the Ogden area and one in St. George.

A visit to Gordon Eastwood's collection was a step into farming's past in the Fillmore area somewhere between the present day and the first pioneer farmers who settled the Face of Fillmore.