



# The Line Shaft

*The Official Newsletter of the*

## NORTH JERSEY ANTIQUE ENGINE & MACHINE CLUB

DECEMBER 2011

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**Happy Belated  
Veterans Day.  
Thank You, to all  
our Veterans.**

**Our Web Address: [njaemc.org](http://njaemc.org)**

**T**he November club meeting was held in the Administration Building at 7pm with 33 members in attendance. Vice President Andy gave the financial report and also went into the trouble that occurred with our past treasurer. The board members are vigilantly working on this problem and will hopefully have this taken care of before the beginning of the new year!

The idea for a Swap meet was also touched upon during this meeting, and positioned for sometime in the Spring of 2012. We will be working on implementing that into the club events over the winter.

**SWAP  
meet**

Howard Squires talked about Denville Day parade which was on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Members were to meet at 1:00pm to set up- while the parade started around 2pm. (Look for the article on Denville Day in January's newsletter.)



Bob Triebel won the 50/50 and donated his winnings back to the club. Annemarie also donated the refreshments for the evening.

The Christmas Party was then brought up. It will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00pm in the new Conservatory building on the fairgrounds-the same place we had it last year. Members were asked to sign up to bring a side dish to the party. Also, the idea of the yearly Christmas gift exchange was mentioned. Anyone wanting to participate must bring a "wrapped" gift, preferably costing no more than \$10-\$15. Tractor calendars, hand tools, and engine/ tractor oriented gifts are suggested. As in the past



we encourage creativity and there will be the option to 'swap' gifts- which usually makes for an interestingly rowdy gift exchange experience! We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

**Our next meeting will be held in the Administration Building at the Fairgrounds  
on Thursday December 8th at 7:00 PM**

**NJAE&MC Dues are "Due" in January. . . we strongly suggest members pay for the coming year! In order to receive a copy of the newsletter you must pay your dues!**

**THANK YOU!**

FOUNDED ON OCTOBER 15, 1979 BY: *Arthur Goble, Fred W. Westbrook, John Snook, Roy Bischoff & Lewis Quince*



# Bruce's Garage

Bruce Mitchell's Garage is a phenomenal place- neatly organized, heated, and equipped with all of the necessary tools to restore old, forgotten tractors. His first project was to restore three old Rototillers.

Have you ever wondered about the story behind the Rototiller, and how it came to be?

Rotary tilling probably can trace its early history to the Romaine Crosskill Digger, a monstrous European steam-powered contraption, pulled by horses in 1857. In 1910, Konrad von Meyenber of Basel, Switzerland patented the present day tiller idea and licensed the German firm of Siemens-Schuckert-Werke to manufacture machines based upon his patent. In 1918, The Simar Co. of Switzerland began manufacturing a similar machine.

By the 1920s the idea of rotary tillage was beginning to attract attention in the United States. In 1930, C.W. Kelsey became the distributor for the Siemens machine and established the Rototiller Co. in New York City in order to import and distribute these 'earth grinders'. In 1932, the Swiss Simar tiller was added to the Rototiller line of equipment.

The European tillers were quality machines, but were designed for the well-cultivated farmlands of Europe, not for the often rocky American soils. Tine breakage was a problem. Kelsey soon recognized that changes were needed, and he then designed and patented his tine shock absorber to install on the imported tillers.

By 1932, Kelsey registered the trademark ROTOTILLER® and began manufacturing the ALL- AMERICAN ROTOTILLER®, a smaller, more durable, inexpensive and easy to operate tiller in 1934. Kelsey teamed up with George E. Cluett, a wealthy industrialist who served as a silent partner, and ROTOTILLER, INC. began manufacturing operations in Troy, NY, in 1937. Over the next few years, several different models were developed. During World War II, the Rototiller factory was turned over to defense production. By the end of the war, rotary tillers had become quite popular with commercial growers and at least five American firms were building larger type tillers. Still, no one had built a small tiller for home garden use.

In 1944, ROTOTILLER, INC. made plans to convert to the exclusive manufacture of its small home gardener model and discontinue the production of its professional B-model series. An agreement was made with the Graham-Paige Motors Corporation of Detroit which licensed Graham-Paige to manufacture tillers based on the Rototiller, INC. design and sell them under the Rototiller trademark. Rototiller, INC would continue to do business under that name in Troy, but would market its tillers under the Roto-Ette trademark. Graham-Paige Motors became Graham-Paige-Frazer, then affiliated with Kaiser-Frazer, and then sold the Rototillers® through their automobile dealerships. GP Rototillers® were manufactured at Willow Run, Michigan, until July 1947, when the farm division operation moved to York, PA. (Note: at the present time, the Frazer Farm Equipment Co. of Auburn, Indiana continues to supply parts for Rototillers®.

With the manufacture of the larger tiller turned over to Graham-Paige, Rototiller, INC. moved quickly into the production of its Roto-Ette® model and by 1948 was enjoying very successful sales. A flood of cheaper front tiller machines came on the market and this



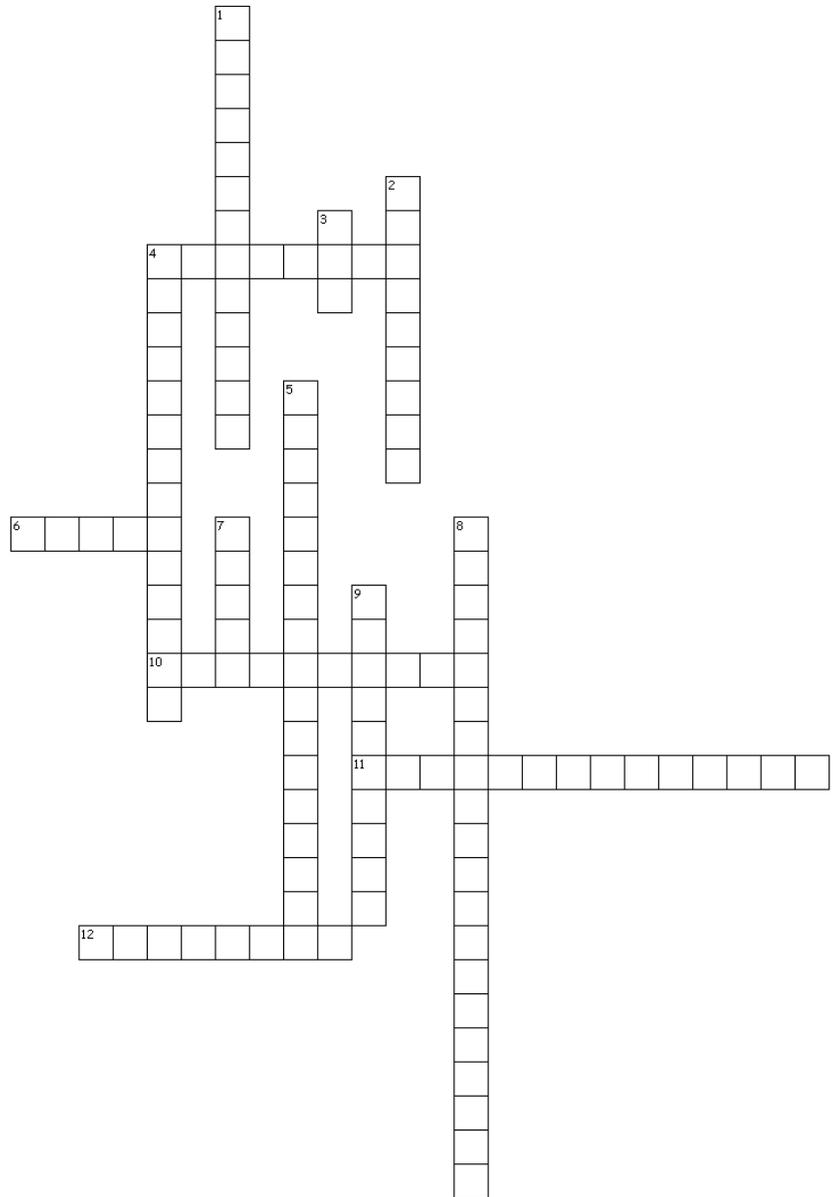
competition forced Kelsey and his Rototiller, INC engineers to design a better, less expensive machine- the MODEL T Rototiller. After three months into production, they were building a new tiller every nine minutes and selling them just as fast!

Kelsey turned next to a marketing plan that would include gardening booklets, advertising, and field days to put Troy based firm in the garden tiller spotlight. In 1957, C.W.Kelsey retired and turned the company over to the people who had worked with him through the years.

In 1959, the Porter Cable Co. purchased a controlling interest in Rototiller, INC. and moved most of the manufacturing facilities to Syracuse, NY. In 1960, Porter Cable sold Rototiller, INC. to Rockwell MFG. of Pittsburgh. Rockwell soon wanted out of the tiller business and offered it to some of the original employees at the Troy plant. Knowing the product's potential and having much of the manufacturing equipment in place, these employees brought the business back to Troy in October 1961, under the name Watco Machine Products, INC. Their newer model, the Trojan Horse, was marketed through a national mail order business. A trademark challenge in 1968 by a manufacturer of huge earth-moving equipment necessitated changing the name Trojan Horse to Troy-Bilt® in honor of its hometown, and the company name WATCO was renamed Garden Way MFG. Co. Troy-Bilt® commanded a share of the tiller market until they declared bankruptcy and were bought by MTD in 2001.

Much has changed since C.W. Kelsey started importing the "Earth Grinders" in 1930, but the basic principles of rotary tilling remain the same. Whether you have a Troy-Bilt®, a Graham-Paige, or some other type of tilling machine, chances are that you call it a 'rototiller' and that would make Mr. Kelsey and the pioneer inventors before him quite happy! Look for more articles featuring **Bruce's Garage** within the upcoming newsletters!

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE- *How Well Do You Know the NJAE&MC's Newsletter?*



Look for Clues to this issue's crossword within the other newsletters! Enjoy!

### ACROSS

4. This event took place on Saturday October 15th, 2011
6. The last name of one of the founders of the NJAEMC
10. Where plow days usually take place
11. The event that will take place on December 16th, 2011
12. The new event that will hopefully take place in the spring of 2012

### DOWN

1. An American Botanist in charge of peanut research
2. The name of the club newsletter
3. He won the November raffle
4. The two main people in charge of plow days
5. The name of Bruce's tractor that finally got some dirt on it
7. His birthday is October 13th
8. The line shaft was implemented during this time period
9. The club's URL address

## Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year to you and yours from your editors!

We would like to thank all those who took the time out of their busy schedules so we could interview them in their projects in order to keep these past few newsletters interesting! We look forward to interviewing and hearing more about your projects in the upcoming year, so please contact us via email [Franciscoc@centenarycollege.edu](mailto:Franciscoc@centenarycollege.edu) or [tredding55@yahoo.com](mailto:tredding55@yahoo.com) or via phone- (see front page of newsletter). If you are working on anything-we want to know about it, and I am sure the other members of the club would too! We send our dearest apologies to Nick Feenstra for spelling his name incorrect in last month's newsletter! (It's spelled correctly now Nick!) We would also like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Dave, Bob, Jeff, and the printing crew who helped and guided us in the constructing of these past newsletters! Another tremendous THANK YOU goes to Dave Betts and all of the club members who voted us in last meeting as Honorary Club Members! We appreciate it and look forward to seeing you all at this year's Christmas Party on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December!

Your Editors,  
Christina Francisco  
& Tiffany Redding



## President's Message . . .

The Editors decided it would be beneficial to the club to hear what their President has to say on certain matters regarding the NJAE&MC. Let us know what your thoughts are regarding this experimental piece.

The Engine Club belongs to the members who make all the events possible and enjoyable. We are very proud of our eye-catching and interesting newsletter. It gets the news of our events out to the public and brings in new members. Thanks to Christina, Tiffany, and Dave. Unfortunately, this year's Plow Day was cancelled due to a very wet ground, but next year we will be up and running with a great day! Anne Marie and Jeff do a fantastic job running Plow Day each year-and for this among other things -we thank them for! Our meetings are well attended with members offering ideas and plans for the future. The socialization after the meetings brings all the members together in a less formal manner, by allowing them time to discuss their projects and getting and receiving help from other members of the club. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our Christmas Party on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds.

-BLACE



## MARKETPLACE

**WANTED:** 14.9 x 24 used tire **CONTACT:** Ken Reuter, 973-670-1646

**FOR SALE:** International Cub Cadet 102; repainted, just needs wire harness. \$400 **CONTACT:** Paul Curcio, 33 Central School Rd., Wantage NJ 07461, 201-835-5924, PaulF350@yahoo.com

**WANTED:** Backhoes-Compact Tractors-Mini Excavators-Skid Steer Loaders-Cletrac & Oliver Crawlers-Farm Tractors-Small Dozers... in any condition. "Top \$ Paid" **CONTACT:** Robert Norman, 845-858-8242

**WANTED:** 3-Point hitch conversion for Farmall "H"  
**CONTACT:** Rich Magera, 973-948-6625

**FOR SALE:** Steam bent ash hardwood walking plow handles;  
high quality straight grain. \$30 per pair.  
**CONTACT:** Bruce Mitchell, 973-702-1012

**FOR SALE:** Premier Designs jewelry or host jewelry trunk show. Donations to NJAE&MC from sales.  
**CONTACT:** AnnMarie Adams, 973-946-1726, [AnnMarieBAdams@aol.com](mailto:AnnMarieBAdams@aol.com)

**WANTED:** Old, odd or unusual spark plugs wanted by collector. Will buy or trade.  
**CONTACT:** Joe Cook, 66 Central School Road, Wantage, NJ 07461 Phone: 973-973-875-9733  
E-Mail: [joe.ignitor@gmail.com](mailto:joe.ignitor@gmail.com)

**WANTED:** Good hood & good fenders for Ford 8N (I have bent ones)  
**CONTACT:** Jim Dunlap, 973-219-9694

**FOR SALE:** 2 ea. 154 International Harvester Low Boys; one ran 3 yrs ago when shut down, under tarp, has Woods 59 inch belly mower. 2<sup>nd</sup> tractor running, needs brake work, has rear mount 3 point hitch with hammer type mower attachment. Both with long personal ownership. For sale or trade for older Cub Low Boy with plow and/or attachments, or 8/9N Ford.

**CONTACT:** Charles Germershausen at [cgermershausen@hotmail.com](mailto:cgermershausen@hotmail.com) or call cell 1-973-214-5968. Tractors located in Florham Park, NJ.

**WANTED:** Spare parts for 1917 Fairbank/Morse hit & miss engine. Ford Golden Jubilee steering wheel **CONTACT:** Charles Germershausen at [cgermershausen@hotmail.com](mailto:cgermershausen@hotmail.com) or call cell 1-973-214-5968.

**FOR SALE:** 2 Goodyear 16.9 x 24 6 ply Industrial Sure Grip Tractor/Backhoe tires. Approx 40% tread. Good condition, great for spares. (These tires are \$800 each when new) Asking \$125 each or willing to trade for decent 11.2 x 28 tractor tires for Ford 2N. **CONTACT:** John at 973-919-0369

**WANTED:** Parts for International M Hit or Miss Engine. Piston, sleeve, etc. needed, all parts considered. **CONTACT:** John at 973-919-0369

**FOR SALE:** Air Powered Press and Brake - \$300.00, Air Powered Transfer Pump - \$200.00  
**CONTACT:** Don DoNofrio - 973-627-3706

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NEXT MEETING

**DECEMBER 8th, 2011 @ 7PM**  
**at the Administration Building**  
**at the Fairgrounds**

### CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

**DECEMBER 16th, 2011 @ 6PM**  
**in the Conservatory at the**  
**Fairgrounds**

### SWAP MEET

Spring 2012