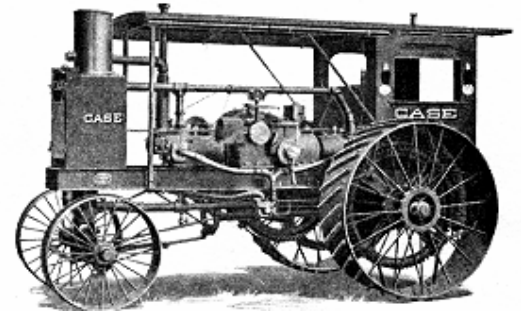


# THE ANTIQUE MECHANICS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Spring 2003, Vol. 18

Visit us on the web at: [www.tractors.ucdavis.edu](http://www.tractors.ucdavis.edu)

## ANTIQUÉ MECHANICS SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

**June 7, 2003 at the shop**

Meeting at 2:00pm    BBQ at 4:00pm

*Come show your support and have a great time!*

### *Special Attractions:*

**The Caterpillar Twenty** – This tractor has touched so many club members through the years. Come share your memories and drive this tractor again.

**The Russell 30-60** – It's about time we started it up! There are lots of people out there who have never heard this machine run, and those who did hear it, have surely forgotten what it sounds like by now. Don't miss this chance! The wheels have some broken and loose spokes, so we won't be able to drive the tractor, but we are really looking forward to hearing it run again.

**Arts & Crafts and Games for the Kids** – Your kids aren't interested in tractors? Don't worry! There are lots of things for kids to do, and we've never heard any child ask, "When are we going home?"

**G**reetings Antique Mechanics Alumni and Friends!

Welcome to the 2003 Spring Newsletter. We've made a few changes to the newsletter, chiefly to save on the increasing costs of postage. There's a short note from Victor (at least we asked him to keep it short!), and we'll hear from everyone else (the Society president, Club President, and Department Chair) in the Fall newsletter.

Thanks for your generous support, and we look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting on June 7!



*Sue Esdaile, Nathan Fleischer, Jim Keller, Victor Duraj and Mikko Solomon on the day we ran the Caterpillar Twenty.*

## From the Club Advisor

Where has this year gone? It has moved so quickly. After the work on the Agricat at the beginning of the year, some of us out at the shop, including me, started catching up in school, and just as fast as gas flowing through a two-inch Schebler carburetor, the holidays were upon us. Since then, it seems that we have had our hands in a wide assortment of projects that we hope you can come see for yourself at the Annual Meeting. As you read through parts of this newsletter you'll learn of the grand effort on the CAT 20 and a beautiful collage poster/flyer, but to some of us at the shop the last few months have also been much about trailers. The "white" trailer, the "red" trailer, and the John Deere trailer all received significant attention. Not only did they all end up playing roles in Picnic Day, hauling our smaller machines and carrying the winning Vet Med entry and supporting an entry by the Cal Aggie Student Alumni Network, they are expected to be very useful throughout the year for a multitude of purposes. Also useful continue to be your generous donations to the Society, for which all of us out at the shop are mighty thankful for. Your generosity is allowing us more flexibility in acquiring parts, supplies, and tools to make things easier than it ever had been in the past. Many of us are also coming through with donations of time, an asset that is just as or even more valuable. As always, Brian and Sue must be thanked for their continued weekly contributions that go beyond just Saturday afternoons. Ron Allen volunteered to take on the major effort related to the John Deere trailer. Also, frequent visits from Paul and Nathan as well as growing support from Jacob have made things even better.

With Sue's growing engagement with direct restoration work and the student element, Brian's broad range of specialized mechanical expertise (e.g., fuel tanks, engine diagnostics, electrical, general troubleshooting, tire mounting, etcetera), and additional alumni support, we should be in good shape for helping out the students and maintaining the Collection. Picnic Day was pretty awesome on several levels, but to me the best was the teamwork and skill demonstrated by Pippin, Nathan, and Jim on the 20-40 magneto literally minutes before the Parade entries moved out from the staging area. Read about it perhaps in this newsletter or come by to hear the 20-40's fuller story. So, with this, I'll sign off with the hope that you all will come by and visit sometime, perhaps at the Annual Meeting.

Take Care,  
Victor

## Picnic Day, 2003

Rain! Rain! Rain!

The forecast called for rain, but we had some reason for hope! Solomon Teklu provided us with an "hour-by-hour" forecast from the internet, and a miracle "break" was scheduled between 8:00am and 1:00pm. Perfect timing for Picnic Day Parade, and time enough to haul everything back to the shop early before the rains were "scheduled" to be upon us. But alas! We were sorely disappointed, and

continuous rain rendered us grievously wet and cold for the duration of the parade and return to the shop. After the parade, we quickly returned to the shop, too worn out to pose for our traditional group picture.

We're getting ahead of ourselves here...

The weekends leading up to Picnic Day were spent getting tractors ready for the parade. Picnic Day was early this year, right after spring break, but many of the tractors were already in "parade-ready" condition, so relatively little work was required. Work on the Caterpillar Twenty continued unexpectedly up until midnight before the parade, unfortunately, but see the end of the newsletter for that exciting story!

We tried to keep it simple this year, so driving the Case 20-40 in the parade,



*The Caterpillar Twenty looking sharp and turning heads with a new paint job. Sue Esdaile is looking for anyone willing to buy her a cup of coffee.*



*Nathan Fleischer driving the International Cotton Harvester. Nathan wins the "most prepared" award for bringing an umbrella.*



*Travis Barham drives the John Deere 2010, aka the "Grasshopper," through Picnic Day Parade.*

with its leaky radiator, wasn't in the picture until exactly one week before Picnic Day. The UC Davis Magazine delivered that Saturday had an article written by Antique Mechanics Club alumna, Kathy L'Ecluse '79. In the full-page article, Kathy described her 1975 Picnic Day experience driving the Case 20-40 through the parade with a leaky radiator full of cow dung. (Didn't you know that cow dung could be used to seal radiators?) Due to that article, our plans for the Case 20-40 changed, and we were determined to see it through the parade. Well, we were determined to get it past the dignitaries and the first viewing stands, anyway.

Devoted followers of Club activities must surely be wondering – what about the cow? We had high hopes for the cow this year. The cow was to meet this year's theme, "Rock the Picnic," decked out in sunglasses and "leather" jacket with the drum set mounted under its wobbly front legs (with drum sticks, of course). "Rock the Pasture" would be our theme. On Friday night, however, with the last-minute tribulations of the Caterpillar Twenty and the threat of rain, it looked like the cow would not make the parade. To our amazement, the cow was able to put in an appearance after all, thanks solely to the efforts made by Christina Woosley

and her mom, Bonnie. They did a wonderful job sewing sheets together to make a new skin for the cow. It never looked better. The rain nixed the drum set idea, though, but Victor rigged some high-hat cymbals, milk cans (for drums), and a giant "microphone" lamp to help the cow "Rock the Picnic." In a burst of near-poetic inspiration, the type that tends to occur at 3:00 am Picnic Day morning, he fitted the cow with a nose ring made of copper tubing. Go Victor!

Picnic Day morning dawned cold, gray and pouring with rain. Ducks were seen flying south. Delicious cold lasagne was eaten for breakfast to the sound of rain beating on the shop's metal roof. Some of us realized that we were not wearing the right clothing.

On campus later that morning, all the tractors started up just fine, but then the Case 20-40 died shortly before line-up. The rain was the culprit. Just a drop caused the mag to short out. Not an auspicious beginning! With speed and dexterity that would impress a NASCAR pit crew, Antiquers opened up the mag and dried it out for a successful second starting.

We lined up as follows: Sue Esdaile on the freshly painted Caterpillar Twenty, Travis Barham on the John Deere

“Grasshopper,” Pippin Mader and Jim Keller on the Case 20-40, Paul Sousa on the Allis WC pulling the water wagon, Mikko Solomon on the Case CO, Nathan Fleischer on the International Cotton harvester, and Phil, Elizabeth and James Esdaile in the Suburban pulling the cow. Victor Duraj walked the parade route, keeping us all out of trouble.

Jim and Pippin thought they had it made. After all, it may be raining but they were driving a tractor with a roof! However, the Case 20-40 continued to have trouble. It always started up fine by hand after suffering magneto problems and never required a pull start, but the leaky radiator required such frequent “topping-off” with the water wagon, that we started to hold up the parade. The 20-40 made it past the Chancellor’s reviewing stands, but we were forced to abandon the tractor immediately after, on the west side of the Quad.

While that little diversion was going on, Sue, in the Caterpillar Twenty, found herself all alone on the south side of the Quad at the second announcing stands. The Cal Aggie Band-Uh! was a full block ahead, and Picnic Day staff were urging her to hurry forward. To fill up time and



*Paul Sousa driving the Allis WC pulling the spray rig. He’s smiling, despite being cold, wet and possibly worn out from refilling the Case 20-40 radiator every ten minutes.*

space, she pulled five consecutive “doughnuts” to entertain the crowd and distract them from the two-block empty space in the parade, all the while hoping that Victor wouldn’t be too disturbed by the many tell-tale “doughnut tracks” on the road.

Paul Sousa finally had the chance to drive the Allis WC in the parade, after spending so much time working on that tractor as a student. He managed to rig the throttle before Picnic Day, so it ran through the parade without a hitch. Travis Barham did a fine job driving the Grasshopper and working the crowds. Nathan Fleischer finally had the chance

to sit up high on the cotton harvester, and had the foresight to bring an umbrella with him. Phil Esdaile was amazed by the reaction of the crowd to the cow. “It was like they were anxious to see what we did with the cow this year,” he said. Victor heard one woman in the crowd remark, “It’s all about the cow.”

Mikko Solomon returned from a trip to check out MIT at 11:00pm the night before Picnic Day. He returned early from his trip in order to make the parade. He braved the rain on the Case CO, and managed to hold it together after one of the fuel tank straps fell off (so that’s why they were held on with two nuts!) Thanks to Brian Barnett, for welding up the holes in the tank. Thanks to Mikko’s mom, Lorraine, for



*Mikko Solomon driving the Case CO. The steel bands around the rear wheels have flattened out between the wheel “cogs,” giving poor Mikko a bumpy ride and causing the nuts to rattle off the fuel tank strap.*

providing the hungry crew with lasagne, salad and delicious garlic bread. We have always looked forward to that, Lorraine!

Picnic Day Parade crowds were pretty thin. There was plenty of room for people to see the parade, and only a few small groups of damp children stood surrounded by semicircles of silly string. The day had its bright spots; the tractors (and the cow) were able to bring bright smiles to their faces.

## Blast From the Past...

*From the 1978 Picnic Day archives, twenty-five years ago. This was probably written by the club to be read during Picnic Day Parade.*

Antique Mechanics Club  
35 members

1. 1922 Cletrac model F. This machine has taken almost 3 years to restore. This is a real mean machine with a total output of 9 horsepower. It is pulling a Bronson-Pitts thresher built in 1887. It was restored for the 1972 Picnic Day with over 5,000 man hours of work put into it. It is exactly the same as it originally came out of the factory, right down to the pin stripes.

2. A 1910 McCormick Reaper pulled by 2 horses. Later today this machine will be used to cut about half an acre of barley in the field behind Bainer Hall. Following this is a 1923 Republic dump truck. This as restored for last year's Picnic Day, but a last minute leaking head gasket kept it out. Everything on this is operational, including the lift mechanism.

3. This is a Caterpillar Twenty. It was repainted for last year's Picnic Day. Behind this is a 1912 Case portable steam engine, number 8 of 12 built that year. This has been called

the unofficial football team mascot and was seen nation-wide during the playoffs. Behind this is our water wagon.

4. This is a Yuba 20 horsepower tractor built in Marysville, California in 1922. This ran for the first time in last year's Picnic Day. Since then, it has been torn down to the last nut and bolt and reassembled. This is what it looked like when it came out of the factory. Behind this is a 1921 Case all steel thresher. This has been torn apart for three years and has been completely painted and put together in the last three months.

5. A 1874 Clapp & Jones steam fire engine, being driven by Harold Gabriel and pulled by a team of his horses. It is probably the only one of its kind in the Western US which dates back to the 1870's. It was restored for last year's Picnic Day in a cooperative project between the Woodland Volunteer Fire Department and the Antique Mechanics Club.

*Do you have memories of this day in 1978 that you would like to share in our next newsletter? Please e-mail Sue at [esdaile@pacbell.net](mailto:esdaile@pacbell.net).*



*In January, the collection acquired this John Deere A. The tractor is painted red, and has been parked in the UC Davis on-campus daycare for many years. The tractor's name is "Clifford," after Clifford the Big Red Dog. Pictures of this haul were on the front pages of the Davis Enterprise and the Daily Democrat. Film of the event was shown on Channel 13 news, and will be shown at the annual meeting.*



*Shedding some light on the situation: Jim Keller installs and times the magneto on the Caterpillar Twenty, while Sue Esdaile, Mikko Solomon and Jacob Chapin look on.*

from the Caterpillar Thirty, but that had problems as well. In a last ditch effort close to midnight, we installed the entire carburetor from the Caterpillar Twenty-Five. Success! We had some minor leaks, but it was running.

Subsequent work to the carburetor, at press time, will include coating the float with a fuel-resistant coating and reseating the needle valve (at the intake to the fuel bowl.) In addition, the upholstery needs to be recovered. The seat bottom on the tractor was not the correct one; it covered the steering clutch oil cups. After a prolonged search, the original seat bottom was found on the Model A in the third hangar. The armrests are still missing. One of the original front engine skirts (a sheet metal piece on the lower right side of the engine) is also missing. If you can shed some light on the missing skirt and armrests, please contact us at

[antiquemechanics@ucdavis.edu](mailto:antiquemechanics@ucdavis.edu).

## Caterpillar Twenty

The Caterpillar Twenty received a new paint job this year. We used a dark shade of gray and sharp red trim that matches the die-cut decals on the side of the seat.

Putting the Twenty back together again went pretty well with few surprises. Two weeks before Picnic Day, a large group of people assembled to put parts back on the Twenty. Jim handled the magneto and its sticky impulse. Nathan mounted the manifolds. Jacob and Erin worked on mounting the fenders and tracking down hardware. Sue and Mikko finished up miscellaneous items. The tractor fired that day, but a leaky carburetor prevented any continuous operation. Sue took the carburetor home that week for a complete reseal. The carburetor was installed the following Saturday, and the tractor was driven around the yard. Perfect timing for Picnic Day!

The night before Picnic Day was to prove us wrong. The carburetor began leaking a great deal of fuel, and troubleshooting revealed that the cork float was saturated with fuel and unable to "float." We installed the float bowl



*Pippin Mader taking the Caterpillar Twenty for a spin around the yard. Sue Esdaile passes on some final words of advice. The Caterpillar Sixty is at the left, and the John Deere B is in the background. The red trim on the Twenty hasn't been applied yet.*

## Shop Notes

Mikko Solomon will be graduating from high school in June, and will be attending MIT in the fall to study Mechanical Engineering. Way to go, Mikko!

Replacement of the leaky shop roofs are on the Physical Plant calendar for this summer.

Solomon Teklu designed the recruitment poster for the club that is on the outside cover of this newsletter.



University Airport held an open house on April 26. We displayed the Case 20-40, Caterpillar 20 and John Deere D in the parking lot. Sue and Mikko gave tours to visitors.

Congratulations to Victor for being accepted into graduate school at UC Davis! We are all wondering, will he run for club president again? He denies it, of course.



*Ariel in his fatigues after graduating from Advanced Individual Training as a diesel mechanic for light armored vehicles. Ariel Graman's success in Army boot camp placed him into a 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division maintenance unit in Kansas, which then quickly headed to the front of action in Operation Iraqi Freedom. No news is good news for now. We look forward to hearing about his experience when he returns home.*

---

## Antique Mechanics Society Executive Committee 2002-2003

President	Brian Barnett
Vice President	Victoria Smith
Secretary/Treasurer	Sue Esdaile
Chancellor's Rep	Bruce Hartsough
Department. of Bio and Ag Eng. Rep	Victor Duraj

Members:

Ron Allen	Jacob Chapin
Nathan Fleischer	Rick Mansker
Paul Sousa	Solomon Teklu

## Student Club Members 2002-2003

President	Pippin Mader
Secretary/Treasurer	Dan Peirano
Board:	Travis Barham
	Neil Miller

Members:

Laura Denenberg	Eddie Mayda
Mikko Solomon	

### I want to be a part of the Antique Mechanics Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one:

Friend \$25	Active \$50	Sustaining \$100
Family \$250	Sponsor \$500	Corporate \$2500

Please send check and this completed form to:

Antique Mechanics Society  
Bio & Ag Engineering  
1 Shields Ave.  
Davis, CA 95616-5294

Please make your check payable to

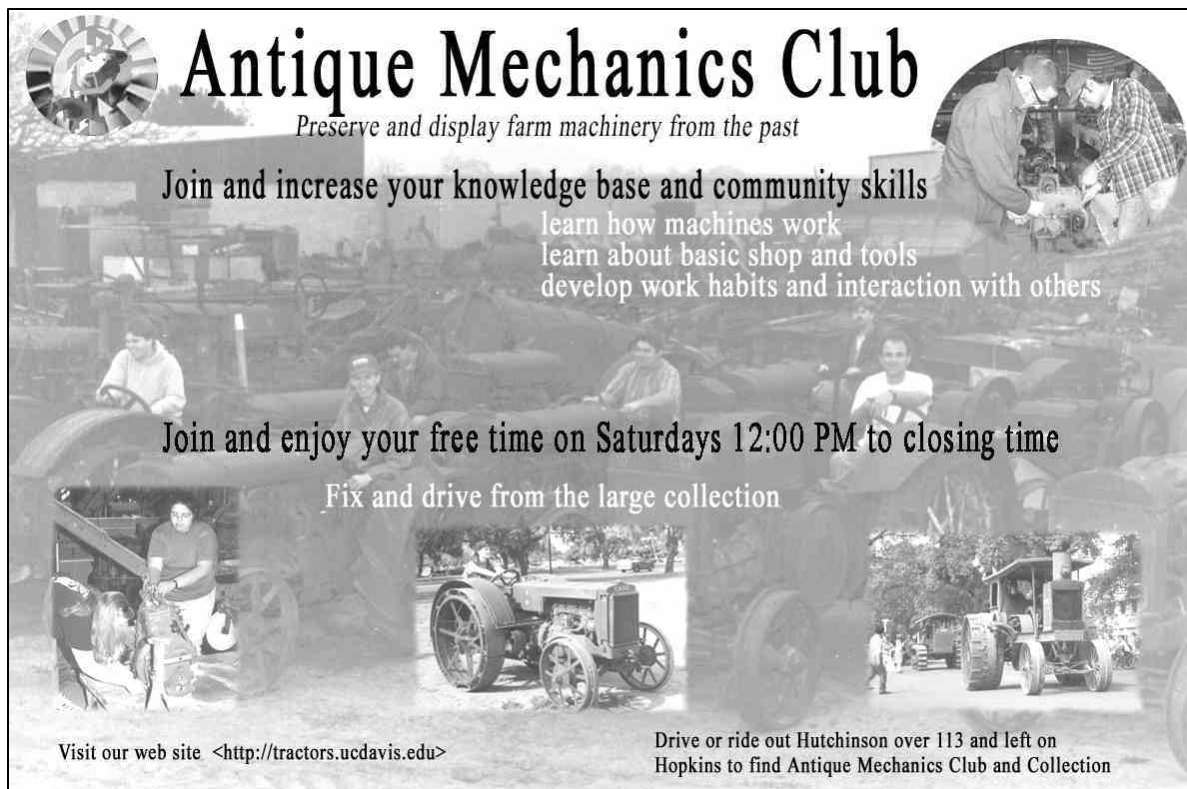
**UC Regents**

To contact Antique Mechanics, please call (530) 752-6177  
or antiquemechanics@ucdavis.edu

**Antique Mechanics Society**  
University of California, Davis  
Bio & Ag Engineering  
One Shields Avenue  
Davis, CA 95616-5294

**255A**

FIRST CLASS MAIL



**Antique Mechanics Club**  
*Preserve and display farm machinery from the past*

Join and increase your knowledge base and community skills  
learn how machines work  
learn about basic shop and tools  
develop work habits and interaction with others

Join and enjoy your free time on Saturdays 12:00 PM to closing time  
Fix and drive from the large collection

Visit our web site <<http://tractors.ucdavis.edu>>

Drive or ride out Hutchinson over 113 and left on Hopkins to find Antique Mechanics Club and Collection

## Newsletter Contributors:

Victor Duraj  
Sue Esdaile  
*Photos submitted by:*  
Jacob and Erin Chapin  
Mark Jackson  
Lorraine Lunden  
DeeDee Plaisted

The University is grateful for the support it receives from alumni and friends. One of the ways our thanks is expressed is through listing the names of donors in various publications. Should you wish that your name not appear as a donor, please notify us if you have not already done so.

It is the policy of the University of California, Davis to utilize a portion of the short-term investment income on current gifts and grants to support the cost of raising and administering funds.

The University of California does not discriminate in any of its policies, procedures or practices. The University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.