



John Patrick Noonan was born in Waterloo, Iowa when his father worked at the John Deere Waterloo Works plant in the Experimental Engineering Department. As Bill mentioned at the 2010 NEITCC Banquet, Pat has more John Deere heritage by far than our average member.

A bit more background on Pat's father tells us that he was hired away from the International Harvester South Pullman Works plant in 1933 to work for John Deere which was in full swing to expand their tractor model line during that time. Being born in Waterloo and having your father work in the Experimental Engineering Department I don't know how you get much more "green" in your DNA than that! Another side note about his parent's history is that his mother also worked for John Deere as a secretary in the typing pool for the Engineering department. Pat and I didn't discuss the details but obviously he and his siblings are a result of that relationship continuing from that point.

Pat left Waterloo at the age of nineteen to attend Notre Dame University to obtain a Mechanical Engineering degree. During his childhood in Waterloo his family would visit the farm his father grew up on in South Dakota. His unmarried aunt and uncle farmed this land to continue the family heritage. At around 7 years of age Pat's father and uncle decided that he looked like a healthy young man and was capable of helping them farm during his annual visit to South Dakota. He was quickly introduced to driving John Deere and International Harvester tractors. He remembers driving a JD 'D' along with model 'M' and 'H' International tractors. He has the original 'M' from the South Dakota farm in his possession today.

Pat has been a member of the NEITCC for many years and served actively on the Board of Directors as Vice-President. He stepped down from that position this year as his schedule prevents him from travelling to the various meetings that are required as a Director. He still plans to continue as a member of our club and participate in various activities. He enjoys our club for the friendliness of people and knowledge of tractors from other members. He is also President of the Will County Threshermen's

Association. Additionally, he belongs to the Sycamore Steam Club, IHC Chapter II and Central States Threshermen just to name a few. Sounds like a busy man to me!

Pat shared a couple of favorite memories from his childhood in Waterloo. During World War II, John Deere manufactured final drives and transmissions for tanks. Pat's father took him and his brother Mike out to the John Deere experimental farm for a ride in the tank. What a rush that must have been for these young kids. During the ride the tank got stuck in a mud pit! Dad ended up wading through the mud carrying both of his boys at the same time.

Another favorite memory of Pat's was putting two combines together (John Deere Model 65 & 55) after they were delivered. Platforms, augers, stairs and intake screens were the types of components they had to put together once the combines arrived.

Pat wrote an article including pictures on the John Deere experimental farms for the November/December 2007 issue of Two Cylinder Magazine. If you're interested in reading that article someone in the club will have a copy or you can contact the Two Cylinder Magazine directly for a copy.

It was a fascinating interview with Pat but much too short. The next time you see Pat at one of our events please let him know we appreciate him being a fellow member and his willingness to share a small portion of his background with other club members.