

# 'Bought the 'M'— 1946'

On the wall in my kitchen hangs a calendar—one of those ones with a big square for each day.

And on many of those squares is a collection of notes, some of them recognizing dates of events long gone—birthdays, anniversaries, and special events in the Brown family from years ago.

The calendar is a continuation of the collection of dates that my dad kept on his calendar, which hung in his kitchen. After he died, I took his calendar home, and at the end of that year, transferred all the dates to my new calendar—a practice I've continued for the past four years now.

Some of the dates remember people long-gone, like my grandparents' anniversary, or aunts and uncles who passed away years ago. But it's always nice to look at the calendar and remember.

August 19, there is a notation which always makes me smile. It reads "Bought the M— 1946."

Now anyone who reads it might think it was a code of some sort, but to me, it's quite clear.

My dad and grandfather bought their very first brand-new farm tractor, an International Farmall M, on that date in August, 1946.

Fondly referred to as simply 'The M' that tractor was the only one my grandfather ever bought brand new. Purchased from dealer Ken MacMillan, (who had his shop in the building where the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 is now located in Georgetown.) Dad often told the story how they drove to town to pick up 'The M'.

He and my grandfather stood there looking at the tractor, as they prepared to drive it home. No one transported a tractor on a trailer in those days—it was a short six-mile drive to the farm.

"You get on and drive it home," Dad said to his father, "It's your first new tractor— enjoy it."

So my grandfather drove it home, the red paint shining in the sun, him feeling proud as a peacock, the proud owner of a brand-new Farmall M.

In 1958, I was seven years old. That same year, I learned to drive The M, which was 12 years old.

The M was also our number-one 'big' tractor.

Dad souped it up a bit, adding domed pistons to raise the compression ratio, (more horsepower,

## Ted Brown



ya know) as well as an 'M&W' clutch kit, giving it live power PTO. The M did it all— baled the hay, ploughed the fields, seeded them, and filled the silo. But it was most renowned for plowing snow.

Equipped with an eight-foot wide snowplow that would push as much snow as the township grader, the old M was simply awesome.

Sadly, as time wore on, the M became obsolete. We eventually traded it for a modern tractor.

Occasionally, I'd see a restored M at antique tractor shows, and look it over, taking a jaunt down memory lane. But this week, I did more.

While at a farm hardware store shopping for other items, I came across the farm toy aisle.

Having a grandson in dire need of practical farm equipment education, I always check the newest models (my story and I'm stickin' to it.)

For the most part, the toys are John Deere, with that trademark green standing out on the shelf.

But this time, I spotted a red one.

I perused the 1/16 scale size model of a Farmall M, complete with unbelievable detail, right down to the oil and temperature gauges on the hood.

I was smitten— I'm now the proud owner of my very own Farmall M, albeit a bit tinier than the original I cut my teeth on nearly 50 years ago.

But now, when I flip the months of the calendar, I can now add another entry to September 24.

"Bought the M— 2007."

(Ted Brown can be reached at [tbrown@independentfreepress.com](mailto:tbrown@independentfreepress.com))

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# 157<sup>TH</sup> ERIN FALL FAIR THANKSGIVING WEEKEND OCTOBER 5, 6, 7 & 8

Gates Open At 8:00 am

Saturday, Sunday and Monday

ADMISSION (GST Included)

Daily (13 & over) - \$8.00 (5-12 years) - \$3.00

Weekend Pass (4 days) - \$25.00

4 years of age and under admitted free

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007

7:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies  
Ambassador Competition  
(Exhibits Hall)  
Truck Pull (Track)

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2007

**Special Entertainment**  
(Exhibits Hall)  
7:00 p.m. "Ballagh Bunch"  
Fiddle & Step Dance

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007

**Special Entertainment**  
6:30 p.m. Demolition Derby (Track)  
7:00 p.m. Talent Competition  
(Exhibits Hall)

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2007

**Entertainment Showcase  
(on the Track)**  
11:00 a.m. The Murray Williams Band  
12:00 p.m. Aerial Angels  
12:45 p.m. Cathy Korpi  
1:45 p.m. Aerial Angels  
2:30 p.m. Settlers Creek

### ALL WEEKEND LONG OUTDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS:

Horse Shoeing Demonstrations  
Agricultural Awareness Display  
Machinery Display  
Birds of Prey (Sunday & Monday)  
Pawzie Traction, Flyball Demo Daily  
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Wood Carver  
Horse Whisperer (Monday)

Sheaf Making Demonstrations by Local 4-H Members in Exhibit Hall

Advance Midway Ride Tickets - \$40 for 40 Coupons! SAVE \$20

Tickets available at Hillsburgh Foodland, Budson Farm & Feed Company, (until closing Thursday, October 4, 2007)

Also at the Fair Board Office (Wed., Oct. 3 until Fri., Oct. 5, 3:00 p.m.)

Bring a smile to our community.  
Smile Cookies are coming.



**\$1.00**  
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Get ready to do something good for our community, with Tim Hortons Smile Cookies. With every special chocolate chip Smile Cookie you buy for just \$1.00 each, entire proceeds will be donated to St. John Ambulance.



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