



Our Old Bookcase, August 3, 2017 Antique Farm Equipment Exhibit at Coldwater Picnic August 5-6, 2017

Photo caption: New Idea Farm Equipment and Antique Tractors will be on exhibit at the Coldwater Community Park Picnic, Saturday and Sunday, August 5-6, 2017.

OUR OLD BOOK CASE

By Joyce L. Alig, President, Mercer County Historical Society

Saturday and Sunday, August 5 and 6, 2017 the Antique Tractors and New Idea Farm Equipment Exhibit will be hosted by the Members of the New Idea Historic Preservation Committee of the Mercer County Historical Society, at the north side of the Park, at the Coldwater Community Picnic at the Park.

The New Idea Farm Equipment Exhibit will include New Idea products; for example: Manure Spreaders, Wagons, Hand Corn Shellers, Elevators, Balers, Lime Spreaders, Hay Harvesting Equipment, Mounted Corn Pickers and Uni-System Corn Pickers, and other Uni-System Equipment.. The white tents will hold smaller collections, for example, New Idea Equipment Manuals, photographs, original wood patters by Orville Ranly and collections of New Idea Memorabilia by the Members of the New Idea Committee.

The Antique Tractors will include early tractors, hosted by the area tractor collectors. Rare Tractors, as well as Gasoline Engines will be there.

The New Idea History Book Series #2 about New Idea Company's Corn Pickers and #3 about New Idea Company's Uni-System will be on Exhibit. For those of you who have not yet picked up your copy of these books, the books will be waiting for you at this Picnic.

The New Idea Farm Equipment and Antique Tractors Exhibit has been held by the New Idea Historic Preservation Committee Members and local farmers, since they held their First Exhibit beginning in 2005 at the Coldwater Community Picnic. The New Idea Historic Committee was established by the Mercer County Historical Society in January 2000, following the December 1999 closing of the AGCO New Idea Company at Coldwater. The NIHP Members have been meeting monthly, January through October since 2000, with a goal to preserve New Idea's history by holding New Idea Manual Sales, and by hosting New Idea Farm Equipment and Antique Tractor Exhibits at Coldwater Community Picnic, Van Wert Old Fashioned Farmers Days, Greenville's Farm Power of the Past, and Sandwich Farm Equipment at Sandwich, Illinois. They have published a Series of three New Idea History Books.

The 2017 Members of the New Idea Historic Preservation Committee include Alvin Alig, Richard Bashore, Ken Coffman, Vance Engle, Ron Fischer, Tom Fischer, Lavern Heuing, Jim Jutte, Joe Karafit, Joe Kuhn, Orville Kunk, Leo Lefeld, Linus Lefeld, Frank Mohlman, Don Muhlenkamp, Phil Naumann, Leroy Peters, Gary Rismiller, Bernard "Pete" Schaefer, Bob Stelzer, Jim Weiler, and Ollie Wendel. Stop by this Exhibit at the Coldwater Community Picnic, and thank the Members for preserving your rural heritage in Coldwater as a part of Mercer County. If this Committee had not preserved New Idea's history, too much of that New Idea History would have been filed in history's dustbin.

Thank the Mercer County Commissioners for creating plans for the Mercer County Historical Society in 1957 by including funds in their County Budget for 1958 to plan and implement the Mercer County Historical Society and Mercer County Historical Museum. The Mercer County Historical Society has several dedicated committees, each with a separate project designed to preserve the many facets of Mercer County's history and to educate the public about that history.

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