McCormick Deering

15-30

Milwaukee, WI 1928

In 1847, the McCormick brothers, Cyrus and Leander, started the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company and began selling the McCormick reaper. McCormick's father had worked many years designing a horse-drawn reaper, and in 1830, when Cyrus turned 21, his father gave him the ownership rights to the reaper. Cyrus developed a refined version of the reaper, and McCormick patented it in 1834.

In 1902, the company passed on to Cyrus Sr.'s son, Cyrus McCormick, Jr. McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, Deering Harvester Company, Plano and Warder, Bushnell and Glessner, and Milwaukee merged together to create the International Harvester Company.

In the first year of production, only 199 tractors were made. By 1926, production was increased to over 20,000 a year.

The International Harvester Company first introduced the McCormick-Deering 15-30 in 1921. At the time, there was a national depression that significantly reduced the demand for all tractors. The 15-30 was made with a one-piece heavy frame construction, often called a



"bathtub." Individual parts were bolted to the frame and could be removed or installed with relative ease. All parts were enclosed with a hood and side curtains over the engine.

In the first year of production, only 199 tractors were made. By 1926, production increased to over 20,000 a year. By 1928, production was up to 35,525 units, an amazing record for the factory. Production slowed in the early 1930s and ended in 1934. It is estimated that about 160,000 15-30s were manufactured from 1921 to 1934. In 1927, the 15-30 cost about \$1,250. Refinements in 1929 increased the power output to 22-drawbar and 36-brake horsepower.

In early 1923, The McCormick Deering 15-30 was International Harvester's only tractor model as the 2-plow International 8-16, 3-plow Titan 10-20, and 4-plow International 15-30 chain drive was discontinued. This tractor was referred to throughout its production run as a 15-30 by IHC. The name 15-30 had become famous with farmers across the nation. This was a tractor, along with the famous John Deere 'D,' which made the transition from horsepower to horsepower complete. The 15-30 and the D were evenly matched, as the D's rated horsepower was 15-27. The D was a two-cylinder, horizontal-engine machine, but the 15-30 was a fourcylinder vertical.

The late 15-30, or 22-36 style, was one of the workhorses of this country's farm production during World War II.

Production of new farm machines came almost to a standstill while the factories were engaged in war production. Many farmers couldn't afford to trade for newer equipment during the depression, and couldn't get it during the war, so they had to make do with the old tractor.



McCormick Deering Ad. Circa 1929