

# Aultman-Taylor

## 30-60

Mansfield, OH 1910-24



Cornelius Aultman owned and started many companies during his life time, including the Aultman, Taylor & Company with Henry Taylor in 1867. They built their factory in Mansfield, Ohio, where it remained throughout the life of their enterprise, despite burning down once. In 1891, the company was reorganized as the Aultman & Taylor Machinery Company.

Early on, the company primarily produced the vibrator thresher. It was very popular and established the company as a producer of reliable, efficient equipment. The company also produced a variety of other equipment including saw mills, steam engines, steam traction engines and, later, gas-powered tractors. By 1878, Aultman & Taylor was the largest manufacturer of threshing machinery in the United States.

As the power requirements of the threshing equipment grew, demand for mechanical alternatives to horse power also grew. The early solution was the adaptation of stationary steam engines, which later evolved into steam-traction

engines. Aultman & Taylor were very well-known for their steam-traction engines and produced them well into the 20th century.

By 1918 steam tractions engines were on the way out and gas and kerosene tractors appeared to be the wave of the future. A heavyweight in the steam-traction engine business, Aultman & Taylor saw the writing on the wall earlier than many manufacturers and released its first gas powered tractor "Old Trusty," in 1910. Later that same year, regular production of the 30-60 began.

The 30-60 was produced from 1910 until the company was sold in 1924. The 30-60 quickly became the most popular Aultman & Taylor tractor, with a well-deserved reputation for reliability and performance.

The 30-60 was literally built around a pre-existing engine, which was also sold separately by Aultman & Taylor as a power source for grain elevators, sawmills, and other enterprises in need of industrial power. Early versions of the 30-60 had a square radiator, but this was soon replaced by the more familiar tubular radiator with dual fan that pulled air through 196 two-inch tubes in the 120-gallon radiator. It was a real state-of-the-art cooling system for its time.

The range of gas tractors was expanded over the next few years to include a 15-30 and a 22-45. However, neither of these tractors were as successful, or as popular, as the 30-60.

The demise of the Aultman & Taylor Machinery Company ultimately had to do with management. The company had outlived its founders and was being run by what could charitably be described as a management group that was less than inspired. Standard management-school techniques are no substitute for inspired leadership and entrepreneurial genius, and Aultman & Taylor had become woefully lacking in those qualities.

Unfortunately, the company experienced financial problems in the Depression slump, and in 1924 it was sold to Advance-Rumely Thresher Co. of La Porte, Indiana. Advance-Rumely subsequently sold off the remaining stock of Aultman & Taylor tractors alongside their own products and that was the end of Aultman & Taylor.



*The Aultman & Taylor trademark was the Starved Rooster with the caption "Fattened on an Aultman & Taylor straw stack." The small amount of grain left behind by an Aultman & Taylor thresher wasn't even enough to feed a rooster.*

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