

# HELZAROCK'N GEM SHOW

BUCKEYE, AZ. 8-9 OCT 2021

The host for our display this weekend was the Arizona Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association. Having said that, and for future articles written by this author, most, if not all (including this author) here today are members of other clubs as well here in Arizona. The Arizona Flywheelers, The Southwest Forgotten Iron, (Branch 206 EDGE&TA) members are here as well. Yes, we were all there.



The Gem show in Buckeye for this reporter started a few days prior, as the tractor is stored under a metal roofed shed cover, and under a car cover, but not at my house so a quick drive to where it's stored then wash and wax at my house. The wind and rain during the Monsoon season really takes a toll on the finish even under the cover. The drive through the neighborhoods are very easy.



I was afraid of the sun on Friday, so I brought her in after washing in the street to begin waxing.



Saturday morning, I struck out for the little town of Buckeye, Arizona for the show. This event was actually a rock & Gem show (HelzaRock'n Gem Show to be exact), but our club, the Arizona Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association ([www.aedgeta.org](http://www.aedgeta.org)) were invited to

participate. There was a car Show- N -Shine just down the road as well. My drive to the event on my tractor was my first, in the dark. Sunrise was 6:30am and I left the house at 5:00 am to be at the site by 6. Bill Lanier said, "Get there early," so.....I did. The guys began setting up at daybreak. We see Tom Trainor unloading his engines. The sun is just breaking over the hills.  
(Above)



An event coordinator for the Gem Show, (Left in the blue shirt) invited us as vendors to a free breakfast catered by Dunkin' Doughnuts. He only needed to ask Walter once. Sausage or Ham, egg & cheese breakfast sandwiches, blueberry muffins, coffee, and orange juice. Good grief. Breakfast always tastes better when someone else makes it. Here Walter Rawls (in the red cap) is joining us at our table.



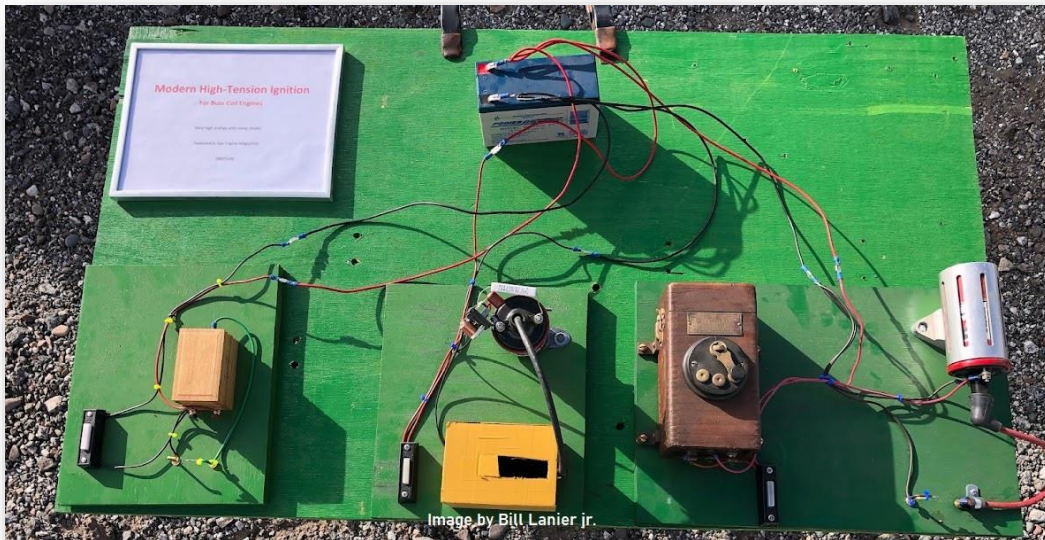
Image by Bill Lamar Jr.

Bill Trainor's very cool Witte engine. I've seen a few larger Witte's but never a 2 hp like this one. Bill tells me that it even though it runs on RUG (Regular Unleaded Gas) it really likes propane, so that's what he runs it on. This reporter can attest that it never missed a beat all day, and even fired 3 times after he unhooked the fuel line.



Image by the author

Dave Cave brought his neat magneto exhibit. Fairgoers can make electricity as Dave explains the theory in a simplified manner so youngsters can understand.



A closeup of Dave's clean electrical set up.



Who doesn't like a 2-stroke Maytag washing machine engine running all day? Well, nobody, but that's not the point. If you lived on a farm at the turn of the Century with no electricity you washed your clothes by hand or had a Maytag washing machine to do the work for you. A modern marvel for the time. Just make sure you take it outside first.



Image by Bill Lahier Jr.

Brennan Peters stunning oil engine. It ran almost silently all day. It was amazing.



The Gem Show started at 9am and the guys really stepped up to ready everything before anyone showed up. Normally we set up the day before the event, and we had a lot to do in the small amount of time we had. The author's tractor is in the background.



What a cool thing this is! This is Bill Lanier's rock crusher. It ran all day. Hook up a flat belt from an engine and around the flywheel. The flywheels go round and round. If you look down in the hopper you can see the jaw crushing rocks. Assayers used this to crush miners samples to evaluate them according to Bill. For some reason, this reporter was fascinated by this machine.





All the engines save one were on carts. This makes for quick set up. This reporter is used to wood skids instead of wheels. Wheels make a huge difference in setup time. The tube at the bottom of the image is the exhaust pipe for the Maytag engine. It is obviously not running because you can clearly see the two nicely displayed engines near it. If the Maytag was running, you wouldn't.



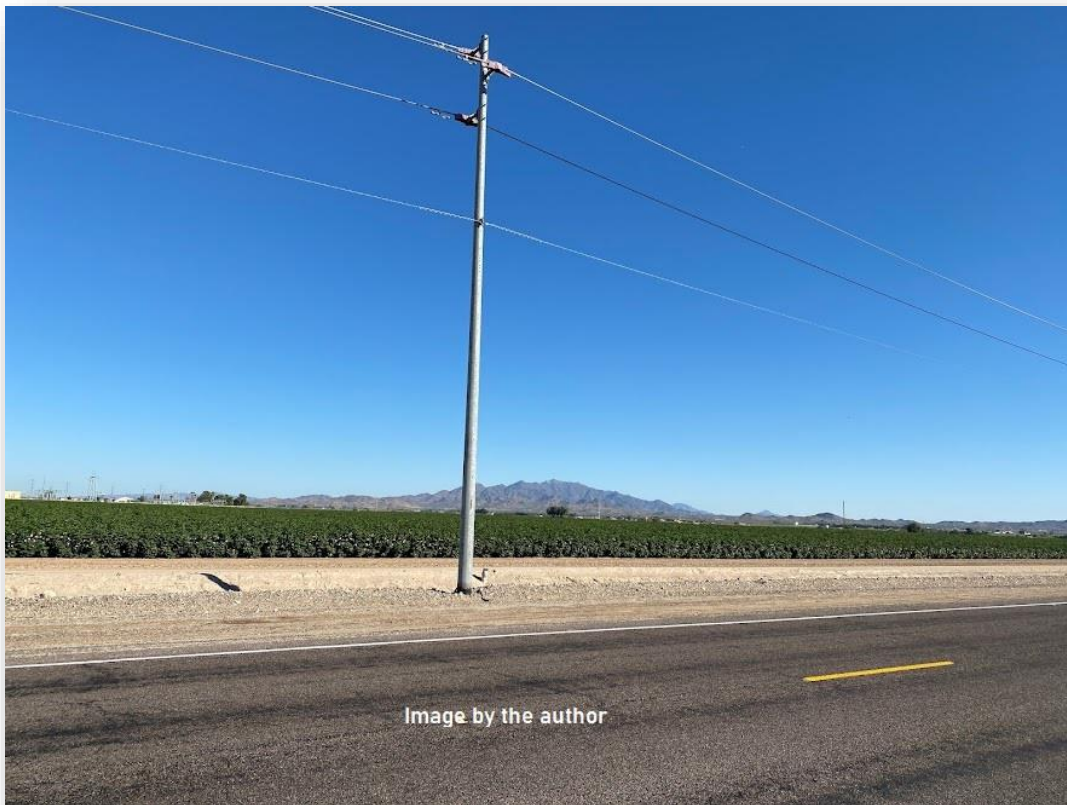
Walter Rawls' John Deere engine is running Bills cotton gin. (Above). You can pass acres and acres of cotton here in Buckeye and this machine may not be rare, but this writer has never seen one. Again you learn something new every day. This thing is neat.



Some engines don't need restoration to look good. I really like the hand cart. What a great idea for a roll-around cart.



Saturday afternoon's drive was smooth as the traffic was very light. You can see the cotton fields on the right.



I passed hundreds of acres of cotton on the way home. The 10-mile ride took me an hour to drive. Somehow, I knew it was going to take this long. Tractor Data.com rates my tractor at 9.5 mph in high gear, so you don't need Algebra for this one.

Thanks to all who came out for the show. A special thanks to Bill Lanier Jr for spearheading this event for us and submitting his images to the article. Bill's comments about being a dying hobby might be true if it weren't for the likes of the guys who showed up for the Gem Show. We had youngsters who were definitely interested in the equipment and had many questions. We hope to be invited back again next year and are looking forward to it.

Stay safe, and busy.

*The Webguy*