



Fall, 2020

**Welcome to  
Northern Indiana  
International Harvester  
Collectors' Club  
Chapter #33**



Greetings from all of us here at IHCC33!

1714 Belmont Ave  
South Bend, IN 46615

A word from our President, Carl Overmyer.....

“Carl’s Comments”

As I am writing this, our harvest is coming to a close. We had good weather and few equipment failures which enabled us to be fairly timely in getting the crops out. Moving on we are rolling into fall tillage, tile projects, putting a new culvert in a ditch for a new crossing, and various excavator work. There is always something to do and never enough time to get it all accomplished.

Our Christmas party at Christo’s is still on for December 6<sup>th</sup> in Plymouth. We will be doing the IH auction again, so be sure to bring an item to donate and you will receive credit towards your meal cost. There will also be our election for 3 directors that will each serve a 3 year term. If any of you members are interested in being on the ballot, please contact myself or any other current director to have your name added.

With winter coming, I hope you all have enough time to complete your projects for the upcoming 2021 show year. Our summer show next year will be held at the Fulton county museum on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. I am already making plans to display several of my items there!

I am optimistic that everyone will be reading my comments in good health. This has been quite a year with many trying times. I plan on seeing you all at our Christmas party!

Runnin’ Red

Carl Overmyer

**ACTIVE #33 MEMBERS**

*As of October 1, 2020*

*182 Active Members!!!*

## Club Officers:

Carl Overmyer, President (2020)  
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Year in parentheses after director's names indicate term expiration date.

Directors meet six times annually or when needed.

\*\*\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\*\*\*

Sunday, December 6, 2020, 1P. **Chapter #33 Annual Christmas Party.** Christo's Banquet Center, Plymouth, IN.

Saturday, January 2, 2021, 8A. **Tractors and Toast.** Das Dutchman Essenhaus, Middlebury, IN.

Saturday, February 6, 2021. **Tractors and Toast.** Location and time to be announced.

Saturday, March 6, 2021. **Tractors and Toast.** Location and time to be announced.

Saturday, April 3, 2021. **Tractors and Toast.** Location and time to be announced.

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*New 2020 Members:*

Randy Marklevitz, Hopkins, MI      Michael Henderson, Middlebury, IN  
Paul Langfeldt, Plymouth, IN

## Vehicles, farm machinery ...and firearms?

By Curt Nettinga  
of the Huron Plainsman  
(reprinted with permission)

When the Big Red Power Round Up takes place Aug. 8-10 on the S.D. State Fairgrounds, you can expect to see rows of farm machinery and tractors of all sizes, acres of trucks and other vehicles, and, in the Beef Complex something that is not immediately associated with the International Harvester Company.

Firearms. Yes, that's right.

Military grade weapons that have in the International Harvester name stamped on the barrel.

Leo Semmler is a 62-year-old Air Force veteran who grew up near Tripp. Several years ago, he decided to acquire a couple of M1 rifles. Semmler lives near Watertown.

"I have always liked firearms," Semmler said via telephone, "but I never really collected them. But some friends of mine were going to purchase some rifles, so I decided to join in." He noticed that the rifles were very similar, but that there some differences too. "I did a little reading and some research and then I caught the fever."

More research brought him to the doorstep of the International Harvester company's involvement in the firearms industry.

"The IHC is the rarest of all the M1 Garand (GAR-*wind*) rifles," Semmler said. "John Garand designed the M1 many years earlier and the easy to use firearm was used extensively during World War 2."

When the war ended, large numbers were put into storage, with the idea that the numbers would be enough to see the country through the foreseeable future. But shortly after, hostilities began in Korea and the Department of Defense opted to put the M1 back into production.

But why would International Harvester, one of the leading manufacturers of farm implements and machinery be the chosen contractor for 100,000 rifles in June of 1951?

"Oh," Semmler said, "that's easy. It was because of the atomic bomb."

Come again?

"Sure," he said. "When the United States ended World War 2 with the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we were the only country that had the bomb. But by 1949, through spying or whatever means, the Soviet Union had the atomic bomb as well."

Semmler noted that up to that time, all of the small arms manufacturers had taken place on the each coast, in New England. "So since Russia had the bomb, it would have taken only one bomb to basically wipe out the entire arms manufacturing capability of the U.S."

But International Harvester was located in Evansville, Ind., a far reach from the east coast.

"It was pretty rough for them at the start," Semmler said. "I get the idea that the management got the contract and never really talked to the workers. They realized that they had a great deal to figure out to make rifles for the Korean War."

Semmler said that IHC got help from Springfield Manufacturing, as well as Harrington/Richardson, who built receivers for them. Some of the rifles were converted for other uses, for snipers and later for target shooting.

"I really started collecting Korean War items," Semmler said. "It was only later that I made the choice to start focusing on IHC firearms. I believe now that I have one of the most complete collections in the state. I am no expert by any means, but I can safely say that most of the time I know more about the firearm than anyone else in the building."

He said that the IHC M1 is unique and, due to it being among the last of the line that was build, in the early 1950s, are newer and in better condition. "Many of the 300,000 IHC M1s were sent overseas to our allies," Semmler said. "They are coming back more and more and are getting easier to find. I grew up on a farm. I learned to drive on an old H Farmall tractor. Also have about a dozen red tractors here."

He will be bringing a nine-rifle collection to the Big Red Power Round Up, along with a large collection of Korean War memorabilia.

“One model I will have will be a cutout, which has part of the forestock removed so that the inner workings can be seen. I will have several bayonets and many photos, including two albums that were the personal property of General Matthew Ridgeway, who replaced MacArthur when Truman fired him.”

Semmler said that he has amassed his collection and is at a point where he is asking himself how much further he wants to go. “I mean it gets to be how far do you want to go; which is really, how much more money do you want to invest in things?”

He will have his extensive display set up for the Round Up, and encourages anyone with an interest or questions to stop by and see the unique collection. “Or just swing past and visit for a bit. I really enjoy that too.”



Leo's display at the 2020 Red Power Round Up ----->

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### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

All Chapter #33 members are entitled to one free classified ad per issue. Ads will not automatically repeat, if you want them in a second time you must resubmit them.

WANTED: Front grill for an IH 284 tractor. Don Villwock, 812-881-8034 or e-mail [farmerdon72@live.com](mailto:farmerdon72@live.com)

WANTED: A copy of parts, sales or installation manuals for Elwood FWA for M-560. Jim Rust, [rustyfarmallguy@gmail.com](mailto:rustyfarmallguy@gmail.com)

FOR SALE: Parting an H, complete tractor less rear wheels & tires. Engine is loose, and an M, complete tractor less rear wheels, tires, distributor, manifold, carb, radiator. Engine runs. E-mail with needs. Jim Rust, [rustyfarmallguy@gmail.com](mailto:rustyfarmallguy@gmail.com)

FOR SALE: 1954 Super H ready for show or use; IH number 531 3x16 3pt plow; cub cadet 1450 with deck; cub cadet 3240 40th Anniversary edition with deck. John Rader, 574-250-2251 or [raderequip@gmail.com](mailto:raderequip@gmail.com)



**Summer Membership Meeting -- August 2, 2020**  
**Tim Overmyer's Shop – Monterey, IN**





## Nappanee Power From the Past Show – September 18, 2020 Hot Dog and Chili Supper



This issue's recipe – Snicker Cookies by Marlene Peterson

½ c. sugar    ½ c. brown sugar    ½ c. butter    1/4c. peanut butter    1 egg  
1 tsp. vanilla extract    1 1/2c. flour    1 ½ tsp. baking powder    ½ tsp. baking soda  
6 fun size Snickers candy bars

Cream sugars, butter, and peanut butter together. Add egg and vanilla. Mix dry ingredients together and add to creamed mixture. Chill dough. Cut candy bars into thirds. Roll chilled dough around candy pieces. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet for 10 minutes at 375 degrees. Flatten cookies slightly with spatula when first removed from oven, then cool. Makes 18 cookies.