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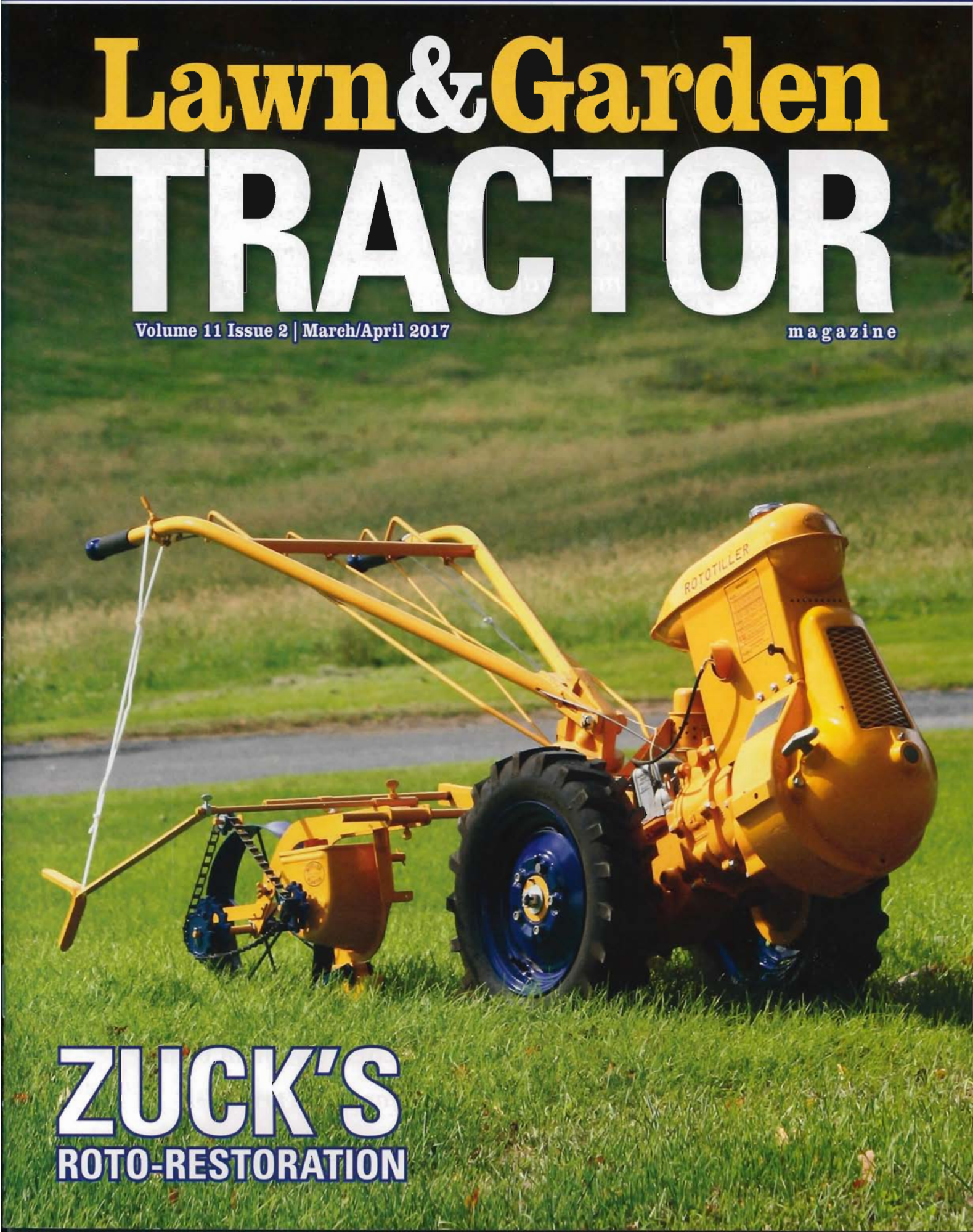

ZUCK'S ROTO-RESTORATION

A SECOND CHANCE FOR NO. 3035

By Charlie H. Zuck

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Restorations usually have a unique story, and this one is no different. I often get offers of complete machines or parts for these tillers. In the spring of 2010, I had purchased some parts from the owner of this Rototiller B1-6. He had several of these tillers and was "cleaning house." He said he had items left that were too heavy to ship and wondered if I was interested in what he had left. He could not bring himself to send the stuff to a scrap yard and offered to drop the parts off at my house on his way to Virginia for a vacation. Of course I said "yes." One day when I came home from work, this pile of parts was there beside my garage next to some other tillers I already had.

2 What he brought looked like a complete machine. I looked through all the parts and stored it away inside. It would be a future project for retirement. In the meantime I gave a fellow collector who rebuilt these tillers the cylinder to rebore and fit for a .030-inch oversize piston.

Towards the end of 2014, work started on No. 3035. All parts were cleaned, bead blasted, and painted. The photo "3" shows some of the castings cleaned and primed along with the crankshaft, connecting rod, and piston. 3

I was fortunate to get a new old stock connecting rod from a fellow collector. Other parts that I did not already have, I purchased from Michael Blaugher at http://www.frazerrototillerparts.com/. I have seen three different versions of the crankshaft in the way that it is assembled. This one uses a bolt in each half to clamp the crankpin in place, as you can see in the photo. 4

Note the alignment pin used to make sure the two halves are aligned properly. The connecting rod uses needle bearings on each end. The bottom end of the engine was assembled using new high-capacity ball bearings on the crankshaft; NOS leather seals and wear rings are shown in the photo. 5

6 So many of these tillers have dented gas tanks. Many have large dents in the front, but this one had one in the side. I am not a body and fender person, but I did not want to use a lot of body filler. I fabricated a tool to fit inside the tank and mount on my bench vise to put pressure on the dent while I gently tapped the outside with a mallet until most of the dent was raised. Very little filler was used and the result was very satisfactory, as you can see in the final product.

7 **8** The bottom end of the engine was assembled and taped off for painting, along with the transmission and reverse gearbox housing. The remainder of the engine was assembled, and all the gearing was installed in the main drive and reverse gearboxes. This tiller did not come with a reverse gearbox, but I decided to install one to make the machine easier to maneuver—reverse was an item made available for those without it.

9 **10** **11** At this point the magneto is installed, and the timing has been set. Here is where one can get anxious and try to hurry the process, which is not a good thing because when one hurries, mistakes and accidents happen.

I scrapped the tiller hood that came with it, and I wish I had not. It never pays to make hasty decisions. It would have been a challenge to repair it, and maybe it was beyond my ability to repair. So, I repainted a tiller hood I had made for my very first B1-6 some 35 years ago.

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DOUBLE ROW PLANTER

12 Rototiller calls it a B-54 double row planter, and it was made by Danville Mfg. in Danville, Illinois. Danville made these planters for Bolens, David Bradley, Simplicity, and possibly Cub Cadet. Danville also made the planter manually powered by adding two handles and another wheel. This was an NOS unit that came from a long-closed dealer and probably sat in the building for more than 50 years. It was rusted badly from all the dampness in the building and was disassembled and bead blasted before painting. 13

14 Pictured is one of the plates the planter uses, courtesy of Christopher Grallert, on the Danville Seeders Facebook page. There is a set of seven with twelve pockets as shown, varying in pocket size from 1/8" to 9/16" and another with two 3/8" pockets. Unfortunately I do not have the seed plates. They are hard to find and expensive. A set of eight can sell for $200 and up—when you can find them. I am content to have the planter, something I never dreamed of finding for my Rototiller. It helps to have friends in the right place at the right time. It would be nice to borrow two plates for sunflower seeds, as that is what I plant in my garden plot/Rototiller play area.

The seed box lids were missing so I had a local sheetmetal shop make a pair. The planter will plant rows up to 33 inches apart and comes equipped with markers to guide the operator in keeping all the rows equally spaced. Seed spacing is controlled by varying combinations of the sprocket positions, resulting in different speeds of the seed plates. That information, along with the proper plate needed, is on a chart on the underside of the lid. 15

For more information visit my website at www.zucksrototillers.com.

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DRILL SOWING CHART

SPROCKET ARRANGEMENT		18 Tooth on Wheel 12 Tooth on Hopper	12 Tooth on Wheel 12 Tooth on Hopper	12 Tooth on Wheel 18 Tooth on Hopper
Pocket Disc	SEED			
A12	LETTUCE	400 ft. per oz.	600 ft. per oz.	900 ft. per oz.
	CARROTS	400 ft. per oz.	600 ft. per oz.	900 ft. per oz.
	ONIONS	300 ft. per oz.	450 ft. per oz.	600 ft. per oz.
B12	SPINACH	230 ft. per oz.	350 ft. per oz.	470 ft. per oz.
	RADISH	165 ft. per oz.	250 ft. per oz.	335 ft. per oz.
C12	PARSNIP	120 ft. per oz.	350 ft. per oz.	470 ft. per oz.
D12	BEETS	185 ft. per oz.	275 ft. per oz.	370 ft. per oz.
	SWISS CHARD	185 ft. per oz.	275 ft. per oz.	370 ft. per oz.
E12	PEA BEANS	400 ft. per lb.	600 ft. per lb.	900 ft. per lb.
F12	SWEET CORN	400 ft. per lb.	600 ft. per lb.	900 ft. per lb.
G12	PEAS	415 ft. per lb.	625 ft. per lb.	835 ft. per lb.
	KIDNEY BEANS	200 ft. per lb.	300 ft. per lb.	400 ft. per lb.
E2	For muskmelon and cucumber.			
F2 G2 J2	For field corn, sweet corn, peas, kidney beans, when spacings from 16 inches to 72 inches are desired. These seed discs also can be used where more than one seed at a time is desired to be planted.			

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HILL SOWING CHART

SPACING	SPROCKET ARRANGEMENTS	POCKET DISC
1 INCH	18 Tooth on Wheel 6 Tooth on Hopper	12
2 INCHES	12 Tooth on Wheel 6 Tooth on Hopper	12
3 INCHES	18 Tooth on Wheel 12 Tooth on Hopper	12
4 INCHES	12 Tooth on Wheel 12 Tooth on Hopper	12
6 INCHES	12 Tooth on Wheel 18 Tooth on Hopper	12
8 INCHES	6 Tooth on Wheel 12 Tooth on Hopper	12
12 INCHES	6 Tooth on Wheel 18 Tooth on Hopper	12
16 INCHES	18 Tooth on Wheel 12 Tooth on Hopper	2
24 INCHES	12 Tooth on Wheel 12 Tooth on Hopper	2
36 INCHES	12 Tooth on Wheel 18 Tooth on Hopper	2
48 INCHES	6 Tooth on Wheel 12 Tooth on Hopper	2
72 INCHES	6 Tooth on Wheel 18 Tooth on Hopper	2