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Encyclopedia of American Farm Implements & Antiques

By C H Wendel

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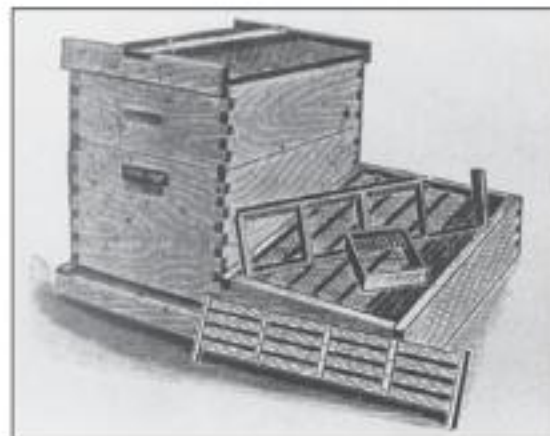
Wiard Plow Co., Batavia, N.Y., offered its Universal Bean Harvester as late as 1916. It could be purchased with an all-steel frame or a wooden frame, as desired, and could also be supplied with cast-iron or steel wheels, again at the whim of the purchaser. Eventually, the combine took over the job of harvesting edible beans, as well as soybeans, and the bean harvester became obsolete.

Bee Hives & Supplies

Although bee-keeping is ordinarily considered to be a very specialized industry, farmers often kept a few hives of bees to help pollinate their crops, as well as providing an in-

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expensive source of delicious honey. Rather than depend on the chances of finding a "honey tree," commercially made bee hives were a method of harvesting a valuable product. In addition to hives, a few companies manufactured the other necessities, such as supers, smokers, honey extractors and other supplies.



**Kretchmer Manufacturing** Co., Council Bluffs, Iowa, was established in 1864. This firm pioneered many different farm-related items, including its Iowa seed-corn sorters. However, a 1910 advertisement indicates that the company was ready to supply virtually any need for bee culture.

Trade Names			
Aspinwall	Aspinwall Mfg. Co.	Jackson, MI	1909
Back Lot	Standard Churn Co.	Wapakoneta, OH	1945
Beeware	G. B. Lewis Co.	Watertown, WI	1945
Coolsmoke	G. B. Lewis Co.	Watertown, WI	1945
Dadant's	Dadant & Sons	Hamilton, IL	1905
Edson	Wyman L. Edson	Union Center, NY	1892
Everybody's	D. Stutzman	Ligonier, IN	1892
Falcon	W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.	Jamestown, NY	1905
<b>Kretchmer</b>	<b>Kretchmer Mfg. Co.</b>	Council Bluffs, IA	1909
Leahy	Leahy Mfg. Co.	Higginsville, MO	1909
McCune	Wm. McCune & Co.	Sterling, IL	1892
New American	A. G. Hill	Kendallville, IN	1905
Root	A. I. Root Co.	Medina, OH	1945
Simplicity	W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co.	Jamestown, NY	1892

Bob Sleds & Sleighs 15



From my collection comes an 1877 circular for James Goold & Co., Albany, N.Y. Established in 1813, this company illustrated its 1816 model on the front of its brochure. The 1816 model looks little different than those built some 60 years later! A sleigh of this vintage would certainly be a valuable piece today, since only a handful of sleighs of its age still exists.



This Portland Cutter from the 1877 catalog of James Goold & Co., illustrates the state-of-the-art in sleighs. Sleighs were generally of the same basic design, with subtle cosmetic changes that could dramatically alter the appearance of the finished product. Relatively few Midwestern farmers of the 1870s were wealthy enough to own a cutter such as this. Most of those who could afford one didn't buy one. It was either a buggy, if the roads were permissible, or a bob