

Clipper Lawn Mower



Sickle bar mowers were used on farms to cut crops but they were also used for lawn care. The Clipper, invented in 1895 and patented in 1898 is a classic example. It was manufactured by Clipper Mower Company in Norristown, Pennsylvania until 1904 when the company's manufacturing operation was moved to Dixon, Illinois. Clipper introduced a reel mower in 1914; the company went out of business in the 1940's. The Clipper was offered in 12, 15, 18 and 21 inch widths. All were hand pushed. A 24 inch model was designed to be pulled by a pony.

The Clipper mower on display in the Brunn Barn is on loan from Mr. Doug Stark. It originally belonged to his grandfather but his father had this to say about it:

Dear Doug:

*I cannot recall what I was supposed to recall something about! Oh!
Yeah! The old mower!*

When I was a kid, which was now a l - o - n - g time ago, I couldn't wait to be old enough (not knowing when that might be) to help my father mow the lawn! We had a regular push type reel mower at that time, and I do not recall how old I was when we got a powered reel mower (which was

VERY durable and RELIABLE !) All of the push type mowers were very hard to push - especially when I was very young. I remember frequently attempting to do so, with both mowers, which, of course, includes the one represented in the picture.

As you can tell, this was intended for use on tall grass or weeds. Cutting tall grass with it was VERY hard, but cutting an area of tall, thin weeds was easy! My dad always kept everything well oiled, greased, and sharpened - but that old mower as pictured was NEVER easy to push. I have no recollection of what age I might have been when I succeeded in actually using it, but I did have fun doing it! I wouldn't doubt that this originated with my grandfather's use at his place before he moved in with us. If you could establish when he moved in with us, that would be a help in this case. I would guess that might have been between 9 and 13 somewhere!

As soon as we got the terrific power mower (which we walked behind and which could move at a very high speed), I took over the mowing of the complete lawn and really enjoyed it!

Love,

Dad