

THE PLOW

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AAM HERITAGE EXHIBIT FINDS HOME AT MUSEUM

Thirteen different states were represented at the grand opening of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM) Heritage Exhibit, which opened at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture on January 6. The new exhibit tracks over 40 years of AAM history with hundreds of pictures and hours of video footage.

The center piece of the Exhibit is a 1486 International Tractor, identical to the one driven by Gerald McCathern.

From Hereford Texas, McCathern served as National Wagonmaster leading AAM farmers into Washington in 1979. A hologram of McCathern can be seen in the tractor seat telling the history of AAM and what the tractorcade was like.

AAM was a grassroots movement started on farms and ranches across America. In addition to the tractorcade, the group lobbied for imports to be labeled with their country of origin.

AAM sued the Chicago Board of Trade for unfair market manipulation, held protests to stop foreclosure auctions during the mid 80's and helped pass the 1987 Credit Act, which helped farmers restructure debts and stay

on their farms. AAM also led the way in efforts to move the country toward renewable energy sources.

In the words of AAM President David Senter, "This is a proud day for

AAM to have a place where our children and grandchildren can come to see what their parents and grandparents did to help protect independent family farms. All we ever wanted to do was farm, but if producers had not taken a stand

together, many that are on the farms today would have been lost."

The exhibit was funded by AAM members and their families. A very special thank you goes to those AAM members that volunteered many hours, building, fabricating, and researching material for the exhibit - Jim Rice, Larry Matlack, Gary Warden, and E.G. Reed.

Portions of this article were taken from an AAM Press Release by Jim Rice dated 1/18/17.

Top: Dan Taylor and Lacee Hoelting take a picture with Gerald McCathern, National AAM Wagonmaster. Other: AAM members and families take a closer look at the timeline, video and hologram of Gerald.

