

Tale of Two Tractors

Check out the lights of Bristol appropriately located in a field near the corner of Count Rd. 32 and Rossier Road. The perfectly illuminated tractor is a reminder of the agrarian background of our beautiful town and the ingenuity of its residents. Dave Parsons has played the part of Santa Claus for all of us by lighting up his "sleigh" in full view of his "reindeer" which are scrounging for leftover oats in his field.

The tractor is a reminder too, of a very cool story of two brothers and two tractors. Spence and Dave have quite a collection of tractors on the hill above Bristol and it is certainly a testament to their ancestors who have been farming on our hills since just after the Revolutionary War that Parsons are still farming here. Their love of the land is contagious as is the tale of twin John Deere tractors. Spence purchased an antique John Deere and while researching parts on the internet he found the same tractor for sale in Indiana with a serial number just one number higher. These two tractors were made on the same day in the same plant and had miraculously survived the ravages of time and toil. Well of course Spence just had to ask Santa for another tractor (I hear buying tractors is exactly like eating potato chips). Actually "Mrs. Claus" ...alias Donna Parsons, not only consented to the purchase; she actually accompanied Spence on his buying trip with a flatbed trailer in tow. The two tractors will be reunited in Santa's Bristol workshop to be repaired, refurbished and lovingly restored. Dickens himself would have enjoyed the symmetry of two brothers, two tractors, and two numbers. Enjoy the lights and stay tuned for an appearance of a Parsons tractor in the next parade or ask for a private tour. I have two little boys who thought their tour was cooler than the zoo. Happy New Year and God Bless Us Everyone!

