

FEATURED ENGINE AND VEHICLE MAKERS AT POP 2014

TWIN CITY TRACTORS

The featured tractors at this year's Power of the Past were named after the twin cities of Minneapolis and St Paul in the US State of Minnesota where they were developed and manufactured (see below).

We have had Twin City tractors at previous runnings of Power of the Past mainly from our friends from Fleurieu Antique Rural Machinery Society. No doubt they will be back and we hope with other examples of the breed.

Brief Company and Tractor History

The Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Company (MS&MC) was founded in 1902 to manufacture steel components for buildings, bridges, water towers, flour mills and other structures. MS&MC was also an engine supplier and built a range of heavyweight Twin City tractors on contract. The largest (model 60-90) weighed 14 ton and was powered by a massive six cylinder engine of 36 litre capacity (see Figure 1).

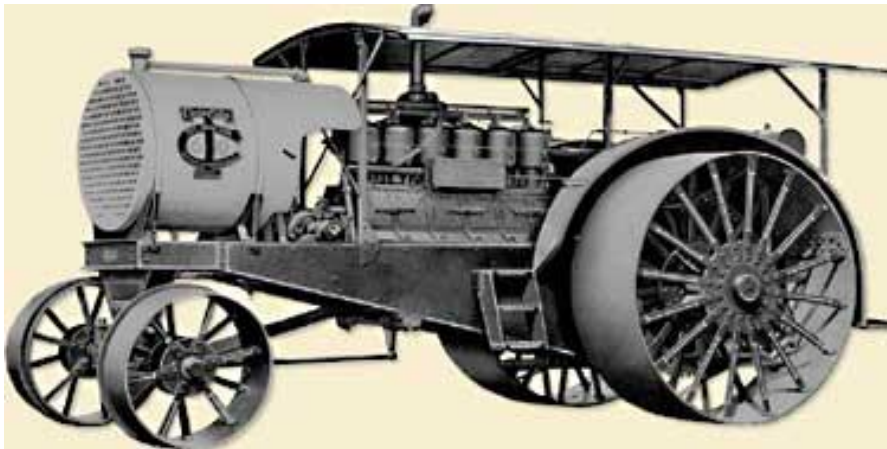


Figure 1 Model 60-90 Twin City Tractor (each cylinder had a capacity of 6 litres!)

World War I put an end to outside contracts and the company concentrated on military munitions and continued development of a smaller tractor program. The tractor that was designed later evolved into the famous Twin City "40" tractor, and began the company's successful venture into the tractor business (see Figure 2). A new line of lightweight "Twin City" tractors were very well engineered, and as a testament to their quality they later served as the basis for the entire Minneapolis-Moline tractor line.



Figure 2 Lightweight Twin City Tractors of the 1920's.

MS&MC survived the Depression following the war, however, with all this hard-earned success; there was still one glaring omission. The company did not offer a line of tillage implements. In an effort to ensure their survival, and become a full line supplier, MS&MC organized a merger in the spring of 1929, blending inventory and tooling with Moline Plow Company and Minneapolis Threshing Machine Company to become Minneapolis Moline Power Implement Company. Minneapolis Moline assembled Twin City tractors from 1929 through 1938, labeling many of them as MM-Twin City.

Minneapolis Moline was acquired by the White Motor Company in 1963 and the brand name was dropped in 1974.