

DISCOVERY
ESSAY



Discovery Essay

During the restoration of our tractor Nick and I found that the best part would have to be starting it up and driving it. All the long evenings and hard work finally pays off when you can drive the tractor around and look at it in a completed state. Towards the end of the project you can look back and see that it goes by very fast. The last few weeks the tractor turns from a jumble of parts into something resembling a tractor.

The least fun part of restoring this tractor was ordering parts. We needed so many different parts that were not available and spread out across the country that we found ourselves dreading the famous "discontinued" response on the phone. Parts availability for this tractor was a continuous issue, along with the price of those few parts that were still around. Caterpillar is very proud of their parts. We learned that if you are going to take on a project you have to work together and cooperate in order to accomplish your goals.

I learned that if you set small goals and accomplish them one at a time the larger goal is easily achieved. The most important new skill we learned would have to be multitasking. When you are able to have 2 engines and half a tractor torn apart and still know what you are working on, you know you can multitask. This tractor was a huge project for Nick I. Regardless, we always found ourselves working on it, no matter if it was boiling hot or freezing cold in the garage. Financially and physically drained we would somehow continue to make progress and work toward the end of the project. Looking back on this project it will always be a positive experience where we were able to set a goal, reach it and be happy with the final result.



Nick & Joey taking a moment next to the finished RD-4



Nick & Joey on day of restoration completion