

He stands for unification, love and compassion. If we don't have that, we don't have anything." Ross County Historical Society, recently inspected the building and found it to be, in his opinion, \$15,000, as well. Though members on each side of the fence claim they have more if some effort is made to cure moisture and some minor structure problems — could be used and cry. But common sense tells me why keep it up for no reason?"

## Farm equipment one of Clark's many loves



Hugh Clark Jr. loves farm equipment.

By JILL ZEGER  
Gazette Staff Writer

HALLSVILLE — Hugh Clark Jr. leads a visitor to the one of the buildings of wonder mushrooming on his property on Ohio 180. A brown cap reading "Farmer's Fall Festival" sits atop his head, a "We support our troops button" pinned to one side. Tan suspenders pull up gray pants over a pin-striped shirt. Two pens and two pencils peak from his shirt pocket lined with a pocket-protector.

The walkie-talkie in his front pants pocket alerts him to the goings-on of his fellow Colerain volunteer firefighters, while the blue bandanna in his back pocket hangs handy to be used on any piece of farm equipment.

"Clarky," as he's known down at the fire station, walks bent forward, his blue eyes intent through silver-framed glasses on his destination. He opens the door of one of the buildings.

"This is my favorite," says Clark, putting his palm down on a 1948 Allis-Chalmers tractor. He has about 25 of the Allis-Chalmers make alone.

### Know your neighbor

"I got married Christmas Day of 1948," he says. "I went in debt for a tractor to farm before New Year's. They delivered it January 5."

The 68-year-old offers his orange card which reads: "Collectors of antique tractors, machinery, tools, corn shellers, garden tractors and license plates."

Mind you, the card reads, "collector," not dealer, says Maxine, his wife of 42 years.

"He don't throw anything out," Maxine says. She is able to keep the house tidy by delegating some of his collections to the buildings outside.

But his card is not big enough to hold all the types of collections he owns. Toy tractors and restored pitcher pumps. Newspaper clippings. Owls. Buggy carriages. And he has the first check he wrote in high school and the cedar wood the check purchased.

Clark takes his farm equipment to different shows and once a year, lectures to students at Pickaway-Ross Vocational School.

"I bring all my 'junk' down, as they call it," he says.

The farmer pulls out a box of his old driver's licenses.

"I've been driving since I was 11," the former DuPont lineman says. "I've had my license since I was 14."

Which brings him back to his favorite collection: the license plates.

"I have plates boxed by the thousands," says Clark, adding that he has had the same license plate number since 1948: 300 KL.

Clark is a member of 23 different organizations and clubs, including 52 years with the Adelphi Community Band. He served in the Philippines in World War II. After retiring from 25 years with DuPont in 1984, he continued working on his 162-acre farm he owns with sister Leota. He has three children and five grandchildren.

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Sat, Mar 23, 2019