

Gus Pruser Agriculture Exhibit *Dedicated to Preservation of Our Area Agriculture Heritage.*

*We have agricultural items from
hand plows to the almost modern
tractors.*



The history of the Winters area started with the native Indians roaming the grassy plains as hunters. Then came the Spanish explorers who were closely followed by settlers in order to expand the Spanish territories. Next were the American adventurers who wanted land, freedom and riches. Initially these were adventurers who entered the area and were very careful to avoid the Indians. They would round up a small herd of the free-range cattle and rush them to market, always being aware that there could be a band of Indians just over the hill. It didn't take long before these adventurers begin to establish places where they could assemble larger herds, defend against Indian attacks and have a proper bed. As time passed these places were called ranches. On these ranches garden patches were started, but, with the richness of the soil, farming began to be more profitable.

Winters was organized and named in 1890. Like any other it started small and grew. Over its lifetime Winters has accomplished many feats. Between 1910 and 1914, Winters, as a cotton shipping point, shipped more cotton than any other shipping point in the United States.

There is still a lot of agriculture being done in the Winters area, but, it is more diversified. There are still fields of cotton, and you will also see fields of wheat, sunflowers, several varieties of hay, canola, and cattle operations.

Gus Pruser

10-23-17 Filed; web, Museum Gus

a part of the Z. I. Hale Museum Complex

Gus was chosen as the museum's name sake due to his many achievements. At different times in his life, he was a farmer, architect, construction superintendent, family man, inventor, and musician. At the old age of 17, Gus came to Winters to invest the family fortune in farm land. Their decision to relocate was to allow his father to move from Iowa to a dryer climate. At the age of 15, in and around Keystone, Iowa, he was doing contract thrashing. Gus was always looking for ways to improve things. His first major improvement was to mount an engine onto a thrashing machine. He later improved on a horse drawn cotton picker enough that his improvement was patented in 1915. In 1953 he received another patent for a tractor mounted cotton stripper.



Cotton Picker Patented 1915

Friends of Gus Agriculture Exhibit

A group interested in the history and future of our local agriculture meets on the second Monday of each month. They assemble at 6 PM to keep the in-house tractors and other equipment in operating order. If you are interested in the history or future of farming, you are welcome to stop by.

We are on Facebook at [Friends of Gus Pruser Agriculture Exhibit](#) and can be contacted at halemuseum@yahoo.com or at 325-754-5389 or 754-2036



38 YEARS of FARMALL TRACTORS
1929 to 1967