

Twin City

40-65

Minneapolis, MN 1911-24



The Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Company (MS&MC) was formed in 1902 to provide structural steel for building bridges, water towers, and flour mills for Minnesota's largest city at the time, Minneapolis-St. Paul (also known as the Twin Cities). MS&MC also operated as a contract manufacturer and engine supplier for several other companies.

The Twin City 40-65 was the first in an impressive line of heavyweight gas tractors known as Twin City. Other models in the Twin City line included the 15-30, 25-45, 40-65, and a 14-ton, 6cylinder 60-90. The engine wasn't the only big feature of the 40-65. It weighed in at 12 tons and the rear wheels stood 84 inches high with 24" faces.

MMPIC continued to build the Twin City line for several more years and introduced a new range of models that carried the "MM-Twin City" designation. In the late 1930s, the Twin City line saw a change in color from gray to yellow, and then the Twin City name vanished altogether.



If the Twin City Tractor logo looks familiar that is because it is similar to the Minnesota Twins Baseball Club.

From 1909 to the mid-teens, MS&MC supplied tractor engines for Reeves & Co. that manufactured the 30-60 Case and the full line of Bull Tractors. In 1910, encouraged by the ready market for the tractors it had been building for other companies, MS&MC developed its own tractor, the Twin City 40, and brought it to market. Just a year later, the tractor was redesigned and become the Twin City 40-65.

By 1913, the Twin City 40-65 was improved again with heavier sets of flat spoke wheels and a full canopy. However, the tractor was underrated as during the Nebraska Test No. 48 this tractor delivered nearly 66 belt horsepower and almost 50 horsepower on the drawbar. Production of the 40-65 ceased in 1924 with around 825 tractors being built since its introduction in 1910.

World War I put an end to MS&MC's outside contracts, but the company contracted on military munitions and continued development of a smaller tractor program. MS&MC survived the Depression following the war, but 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 with Moline Plow Company and Minneapolis Threshing Machine Company to become Minneapolis Moline Power Implement Company (MMPIC). This merger allowed MS&MC to offer a full line of tractors as well as implements.

MS&MC did not mass produce cheaply engineered tractors affordable to the small farmer.

MS&MC did not mass-produce cheaply engineered tractors that were affordable to the small farmer. These machines were subject to severe duty, turning over vast sections of virgin prairie, and building and maintaining thousands of miles of new roads in the 20th century. Twin City earned a solid, global reputation through worldwide distribution and strategic dealer networks. Full-service branch houses claimed their products were "Built to do the work – not to meet a price".