



OPPOSITE PAGE: Fred LaPerriere, wearing a hat from the era, looks through the government manual for the 1942 U.S. Army Mobile Meteorological Weather Station. He has completely restored the station and has been told it is the only one still in existence. | A 1942 Army truck with the van mounted in the bed is a Mobile Meteorological Weather Station. Sedalia resident Fred LaPerriere has spent about 20 years gathering the more than 800 items needed to complete the restoration of what is said to be the only remaining World War II mobile weather station.

LEFT: This 1960-era tracked vehicle is just one of the Army vehicles Fred LaPerriere has collected. The Sedalia resident collects them, restores them so they run and can be driven then takes them to special events and shows.

BELOW: Fred LaPerriere bought this World War II era amphibious Jeep and restored it so it is fully on land and in the water. The Sedalia resident bought almost a dozen Army vehicles and restored to operating condition. Photos by Tom Munds.

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the hat a member of the mobile weather van might have worn. "The only thing I haven't been able to find is a World War II rain gauge. Otherwise, this mobile weather station is just like one would have been when this was put in service in 1942"

He said he has been told it is the only fully restored example of the mobile weather station in existence and he plans to take it to Omaha, Neb. next August for the 75th anniversary celebration of establishment of the Air Weather Service.

"I take some of my vehicles to special events and to shows. Of course, I drive the '42 Jeep regularly," he said. "I don't really plan any more major restoration projects. Actually, I have eight or nine vehicles now and just keeping them running and in good shape takes up just about all my time. It has been great restoring these items that are part of our history and I really enjoy having them and sharing the stories about them with the people I meet when we go to special events and shows." ■




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