

More than 70 years ago my Nebraska aunts sent me the figurines for a Nativity Scene. All but 1 year (Jim and I were in the process of moving into this house in Dec. 2002) those figurines have been proudly displayed.

They look pretty bedraggled now because many years ago ten little hands (my beloved five) spent a good bit of time examining Mr. Joe (Joseph), the 3 wise guys (also known as 3 wise men) and the flying guys (angels) but I would never dream of repainting them; they have the patina of love. The manger fell apart so Baby Jesus rests on a pile of glitter on the stable floor. Some of the angels are missing a wing and the donkey only has one ear. One of the 3 camels totally disintegrated some years ago but this year my beloved 5 gave me a suitable stand-in for the long-legged critter. Enter modern technology and state-of-the-art travel: a miniature John Deere. It is kind of small but more than makes up for camel-power with horse power.

It is time for the scene to be packed away again but the John Deere will stay on the window sill, waiting for its next trip with the Oriental Kings.

