

The Pony that would not idle.

~ Paul Moroni

I stopped in at Bob's place over the summer to see what he and Brad were up to. Sure enough, Brad's MH Pony was parked front and center with the hood up. The complaint this time? The throttle. It either sat there idling like it was half asleep, or it jumped to wide-open and acted like it was ready for the races. Nothing in between.

Bob had already been tinkering. First, he checked the linkage from the throttle lever to the governor arm—nope, not the issue. Then he moved on to the linkage between the governor arm and the carburetor. That's where things started to look suspicious.

Out came the repair manual. According to the book, you're supposed to pull the governor spring and linkage off, hold the governor arm wide open, and then the carburetor linkage should line up and drop neatly into the eyelet on the throttle plate. Sounds simple enough—except on Brad's tractor the linkage was about 3/8" too long. Close, but not close enough.

So Bob rolled up his sleeves and reshaped the linkage to fit just right. Once everything was lined back up, Brad climbed on, fired the Pony up, and took it for a test run. This time, smooth throttle control all the way.

Our original suspicion was the governor itself might be sticking. Just to be sure, we tested it the old-fashioned way. We removed the spring and disconnected the linkage, held the carb at idle while starting the engine. A finger on the governor arm told the story: you could feel the weights moving just like they were supposed to as the engine sped up and slowed down. Governor checked out fine.

Another small victory for Brad's Pony, thanks to Bob's patience (and that trusty repair manual).