

Smörgasbord



Harold Johnson
 Publisher and
 Editorial
 Director

Introducing Bill Gergen

We're pleased to introduce Bill Gergen, FARM SHOW's new Associate Editor.

Bill, a University of Minnesota graduate with a degree in Ag Journalism, is a veteran farm writer whose byline has appeared in most major farm magazines, including Successful Farming, Farm Industry News and The Farmer. He's a farm-reared native of Randolph, Minn., where his parents — Bill and Dolores Gergen — operate the family's farm.



Bill Gergen

As an Associate Editor, Bill will join other FARM SHOW staffers in traveling to farm shows and farmers' workshops throughout the U.S., Canada and foreign countries in search of latest new products and ideas.

Mystery Lady's Joy Comes From Giving

If you're down on your luck and living in Northwest Iowa, you might want to check your mailbox a little more carefully next time. You just may find an envelope filled with money.

For the past 10 years, many Iowans have found such surprises in their mailboxes, tucked inside their front door, or even lying on the front seat of their car. Just who is dropping off these gifts isn't generally known, but the unnamed person has become known in the town of Harwarden as The Mystery Lady.

"I was blessed from early childhood with parents, neighbors, and a community that showed me that giving should be a way of life," says The Mystery Lady. "I was born in the Midwest during the drought days of the 'dirty thirties' when sharing was not an option — it was essential. For instance, I came home from school one day to discover our dining-room furniture was missing. My parents found someone who had no furniture, so they gave them ours! We were happy to share, and I became hooked on it."

Ideally, the man she married shared the same attitude about giving. "He helped me continue and grow in my education about giving, caring, and sharing. Today, he helps me out with my causes when my 'love account' runs dry at our local bank."

Although a majority of her giving is financial, The Mystery Lady also practices other methods of brightening the lives of others. "There are so many ways to give. Physically, emotionally — just sitting down to listen to another's problems, or taking the time to write a short note of praise to a deserving person. You wouldn't believe what a little letter of praise or support can do for a person — and it takes so little time to do. I even write to businesses and large corporations with words of encouragement. That really blows their mind because all they usually get are letters of complaint." (Courtesy Bill Landau).



Russians Coming With New Self-Propelled Combine

You'll be seeing Russia's "newest, biggest and most sophisticated" self-propelled combine at upcoming farm shows this summer and fall. Called the Don 1500 (because it's built in the Russian city of Rustov located on the Don river), it was unveiled last month at the Western Canada Farm Progress Show in Regina.

The new combine, already on the market in Canada where Belarus has been marketing self-propelled combines for 12 years, is slated for sale in the U.S. early next year. "First, we want to make sure we have a full parts supply, and a dealer network, plus a full staff trained in service and maintenance," says Elvis "Smokey" Harrison, national sales manager for Belarus Machinery, Milwaukee, Wis. "Meanwhile, interested U.S. farmers can buy the combine by contacting our Canadian headquarters in Toronto, or our regional branch office in Regina."

The Don 1500 is being offered with a 13 ft., 6 in. wide pickup header, or straight cut headers up to 28 ft. wide. An 8-row corn head will be available in Canada and the U.S. next year, according to Belarus officials.

Price tag on the new Don 1500 is right at \$108,000 (Canadian), including windrow pickup and straw chopper.

Key design features include a 58.5 by 31.5 in. cylinder with 10 rasp bars and a large concave with a full 130° wrap, said to be the largest on the market. Concave area is 2,160 sq. in. There are five straw walkers, 9,596 sq. in. of separating area and 5,911 sq. in. of cleaning area.

In government tests conducted last fall by the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) at Humboldt, Sask., the Don 1500 made an impressive showing. At 3% grain loss in wheat and barely, it had 15 to 35% greater capacity than the reference combine, a Deere 7720. PAMI test operators were particularly impressed by the new Russian combine's ability to handle large wads of straw without plugging. If a large wad of material is coming in and you think it might plug the cylinder, you simply push down on a foot pedal to drop the concave to the lower limit of its adjustment range, allowing the wad to pass through. Pulling a lever brings the concave back to its original setting. Another unique feature is a feeder reverser which you can operate from inside or outside the cab.

The new combine is equipped with power steering, hydraulic wheel brakes and a hydrostatic transmission with

three speed ranges. In the air conditioned cab, there's an 18 function monitor system, plus a stereo cassette deck with AM/FM radio and a deluxe, fully-adjustable Captain's seat.

New "Stueckle" Combine Book

"Dear Ray, This Is My Problem," is the title of a new combine book compiled by Arline Stueckle, wife of the late Ray Stueckle.

Ray was a mechanical genius who could build and fix most anything — particularly combines. Thousands of farmers throughout the U.S. and Canada operate machines that have been "Stuecklized" according to Ray's recommendations. For example:

"...On Allis Chalmers combines, it's important that you don't reverse the cylinder bars, in spite of what the owner's manual tells you."



Ray Stueckle

"...Every one of the feeder chains I've seen on New Holland rotary combines has been factory installed backwards."

"...Possibly the greatest help you can give a Gleaner rotary is to double the number of helical transfer fins on the inside of the cage."

That's Ray "telling it like it is" in the two best selling combine books (*Combine Settings for Better Harvesting* and *Setting Your Rotary Combines for Better Harvesting*) he wrote before passing away three years ago of a sudden, massive heart attack.

The new "Dear Ray" book compiled by Arline contains over 300 letters from farmers in 33 states and 5 provinces describing their combine problems, and Ray's recommendations on how to solve them.

"Ray's answers provide valuable, practical advice which can be used to increase efficiency and capacity of any rotary or conventional combine, says Arline. "The new book won't replace Ray's other books but serves as a supplement to them."

Cost of the new "Dear Ray" combine book is \$27.50, plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stueckle Publications, P.O. Box 1323, Caldwell, Idaho 83605 (ph 208 459-1508.)

Pay Enough

It's unwise to pay too much, but it's also unwise to pay too little. When you pay too much, all you lose is a little money. But, when you pay too little, you stand a chance of losing everything because the thing you bought is incapable of doing what you bought it to do.

The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot -- it just can't be done. So, when you deal with the low bidder, it's wise to put a little something aside to take care of the risk you run. And, if you do that, you can afford something better. (John Ruskin)

Prayer For Rain

For farm and ranch families throughout the United States and Canada hard hit by severe drought, FARM SHOW again offers the following prayer, which we published during a similar severe dry spell eight years ago. Originally, it was written as an editorial in the dust-bowl days of the 30's by the late William Allen White, the well known newspaper editor from Emporia, Kan.

O Lord, in thy mercy grant us rain and by that we don't mean a shower. We want to go out and watch the lightning rip across the southwestern sky in hot blue forks as the fat clouds roll in on us. We want to hurry home to close the house with the first fat drops the size of marbles, on a suddenly rising wind, chasing us and plunking on the car hood. We want to scramble all over the house, just as the first sheets descend, frantically slamming down the windows.

O Lord of Hosts, we want to look out of the windows and watch the regiments of close-packed raindrops march diagonally down. We want to hear the gurgle of the gutters under the eaves, and then the spatter of the downpour.

God of Israel, Isaac and Jacob, let it come down so hard, let the drops dance so high that the streets and sidewalks seem covered with a 6 inch fog of spatter-drops. Then let it just keep up for a while, and then begin to taper off, and then turn right around and get a lot worse, swishing, pounding, splattering, pouring, drenching, the thunder coming Crackity-BAM! — and the lightning flashing so fast and furious you can't tell which flash goes with which peal of thunder. So that all the women will get scared and climb on top of the beds and scream at you not to get too close to that window.

And then, O jealous God, repeat the whole act about three times and in the middle of the

second time we will climb the attic stairs and put a wash pan under that tiny leak in the roof which usually you can't even notice in an ordinary rain. And after a couple of hours, kind of taper it down O Lord to a good steady rain — not a drizzle, but a businesslike one that keeps on until just about dawn and then spits a few drops occasionally during the morning from a gray sky.

Kansas is indeed the Promised Land. O Lord, and if it gets a break, it will flow with milk and honey. But we can't live much longer on promises.

So in Thine own way and in Thine own time, make up Thy mind, O Lord, and we will bow before Thy judgment and praise Thine everlasting name. Amen.