

**Editor's
Notebook**



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Editor &
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“Walking Billboard”

While looking for new ideas at the World Ag Expo near Tulare, Calif., in February, I spotted a bearded fellow walking around with a sign hanging around his neck. Made from cardboard, it read, “Wanted - 37 Studebaker Coupe Parts”.

He had the same sign hanging down his front and back.

I stopped him to get more info. His name is Dennis Gregory and he's been using his unusual method of advertising for a number of years. “I wear signs to shows all the time. Usually I'm at auto shows or flea markets but it's working well here at the farm show, too. People just come up to me and tell me about whatever parts they might have for sale.”



Dennis Gregory walked around the World Ag Expo with a “wanted” sign hanging from his neck.

Gregory works on old cars and motorcycles so he makes up a sign for whatever he happens to be restoring or looking for at the time. He showed me the reverse side of the sign he was wearing that day and it was an “ad” for an antique Harley Davidson motorcycle. “It works great and I get to meet a lot of great people with interests similar to mine. Best of all, it doesn't cost me a cent,” he told me.

If you've got some '37 Studebaker parts, contact: Dennis Gregory, 6327 Miami Mountain Road, Fish Camp, Calif. 93623 (ph 559 683-6294).

Boom Times For Deere

Deere & Co. Chief Executive officer Robert Lane earned about a million dollars a week in 2007. His total compensation of \$52.4 million reflects booming business at Deere as global demand soars for grain, meat and biofuels. Farm machinery makers sold more large tractors in North America in 2007 than at any time since 1991, according to the Association of Equipment Manufacturers. Deere has boosted its profitability more than threefold since 2000 when Lane took over the top post. The company's forecast for the fiscal year is \$2.1 billion in net income, its highest ever. As a result, Deere's stock has soared from \$20 in 2003 to \$90 recently. Other farm machinery stocks have been booming as well, such as AGCO. Its stock has quadrupled in the past 5 years. *Wall Street Journal*

Department of Green Bananas

Years ago I got a letter from a subscriber who was sending in a one-year renewal. He said, “I'm only renewing for one year because I'm 86 years old. At my age, I don't even buy green bananas anymore.”

That's not an uncommon sentiment among older subscribers so I was surprised by a recent note from a much older reader who's obviously very optimistic about the future. Here's how it read:

Dear FARM SHOW, I am 96 years old. I enjoy your magazine very much and look forward to every issue. Enclosed is a check for two more years. Keep up the good work. Walter Sanford, Barbeau, Mich.

Another Reader Writes

“Like everyone else, I sit back with my newly arrived FARM SHOW and I don't do anything else until I've finished reading it. I've followed up on a lot of stories in the magazine and now I'd like to tell your readers about a new endeavor of my own. I recently started a website, www.elderlyiron.com. It's an auction site similar to eBay but is dedicated solely to old tractors, trucks and cars. It doesn't cost a thing to browse through our listings of rare antique machines. And our 'wanted' listings are free to all. If you have an old vehicle or parts for sale, listings are just \$20 for a year or until sold.”

Contact: Jeff Bradshaw, Selma Oregon ph 541 597-4812; www.elderlyiron.com.

A Note To Our Contributors

To put each issue of FARM SHOW together, our writers travel across the U.S., Canada and even to foreign countries in search of latest new products and amazing farm inventions.

But there's another way we get ideas. You send them to us! And for that, we want to thank you. Maybe you've sent us a story idea or picture of an invention. Maybe you told us about an innovative neighbor. Or maybe you just sent us a copy of a story that appeared in a local paper.

We also appreciate all the inventors who patiently answer the many questions we ask when we call about an invention or idea.

Whatever it was, we probably don't say thank you enough. Without your help, it would be impossible to put this publication together.

One note: We try to make use of every idea that's submitted to us. But sometimes we don't have room for everything, or we have two very similar ideas submitted at the same time, or we don't have a picture that works. Whatever it is, just know that if you don't see your idea in FARM SHOW right away, we still appreciate very much the time it took to send it in. Every idea that's sent to us is useful whether we run it or not because it helps us keep on top of what's new and what's not.

If you have a new idea or invention that you'd like to tell us about, just email to editor@farmshow.com or mail to: FARM SHOW, P. O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

Beware Pigeon Farming

Pigeon farming might just be too good to be true, according to recent reports from the Iowa Attorney General's office and reports in Canadian farm publications.

FARM SHOW ran a story on Pigeon King International last year (Vol. 31, No. 4). CEO Arlan Gailbraith has been inviting people to invest as much as \$50,000 to \$100,000 in breeding stock to launch operations, often in old, unused farm buildings. A recent statement issued by the Iowa Attorney General's office said, “We believe that potential investors/buyers should be very cautious and examine the situation carefully. Especially the question of whether there is a realistic and independent market for pigeons now and in the future.”

The Canadian magazine *Better Farming* published an extensive report on Pigeon King International in its December issue, talking to many growers working under contract to the company. Although growers interviewed by the magazine often seemed happy with the company and the market they're finding for their birds, the magazine could not find any evidence that a market exists beyond other prospective breeders. In other words, it looks like a classic Ponzi scheme. So beware.

Liberty Quotes

“I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.”

Thomas Jefferson

“Tolerance is a better guarantee of freedom than brotherly love; for a man may love his brother so much that he feels himself thereby appointed his brother's keeper.”

Everett Dean Martin

“Only the educated are free.” *Epictetus*

“Whenever 'A' attempts by law to impose his moral standards upon 'B', 'A' is most likely a scoundrel.”

H.L. Mencken

“It is indeed probable that more harm and misery have been caused by men determined to use coercion to stamp out a moral evil than by men intent on doing evil.”

Fredrich August von Hayek

“Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.” *George Washington*

Quotable Quotes

“I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.” *Helen Keller*

“The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green.” *Thomas Carlyle*

“The shortest and surest way to live with honor in the world is to be in reality what we would appear to be.” *Socrates*

“It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not.” *Andre Gide*

“The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.” *Albert Einstein*

“They said it couldn't be done but sometimes it doesn't work out that way.” *Casey Stengel*

“Any married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use for two people remembering the same things.” *Anonymous*

Deer Goes Through Combine

Combine header dust being what it is in soybeans, visibility can be a real problem. Just ask FARM SHOW reader Charles Herpstreith of Morrisonville, Ill., who ran a dead deer through his combine and never saw a thing until it was all over.

Herpstreith says the combine made a fuss, but he didn't know what was happening. When he turned around to have a look he saw that the legs and hooves of a deer had come out the back. Judging from the size of the leg bones and hooves, Herpstreith says the deer was a pretty good sized animal. But it didn't hurt the combine at all. *C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor*

More Church Bulletin Bloopers

- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Pastor Johnson will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: Break Forth Into Joy.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

A farmer runs into his vet's office carrying his dog and yelling for help. The vet rushes him back to an examination room and has him set the dog down on the table. The vet examines the limp body and tells the man that regrettably, the dog is dead.

The farmer is clearly agitated and unwilling to accept this – he demands a second opinion. So the vet goes into the back room and comes out with a cat and sets it down next to the dog's body. The cat looks at the dead dog and walks from head to tail sniffing at the dog's body – and finally looks at the vet and meows. The vet looks at the man and says, “I'm sorry, but the cat thinks that your dog is dead, too.”

The man is still unwilling to accept the obvious, so the vet brings in a Black Labrador. The lab sniffs at the body, walks around it, and finally looks at the vet and barks. The vet looks at the farmer and says, “I'm sorry, but the lab thinks your dog is dead, too.”

The farmer, resigned to the diagnosis, thanks the vet and asks how much he owes. The vet answers, “\$550.”

“Wow! \$550 to tell me my dog is dead?” shouts the farmer. “Well,” the vet replies, “I would only have charged you \$50 for my initial diagnosis. The additional \$500 was for the cat scan and the lab tests.”

A man placed some flowers on the grave of his dearly departed mother and started back toward his car when he spotted another man kneeling at a grave.

The man seemed to be praying with profound intensity and kept repeating, “Why did you have to die? Why did you have to die? Why did you have to die?”

The first man approached him and said, “Sir, I don't wish to interfere with your private grief, but this demonstration of pain is more than I've ever seen before. For whom do you mourn so deeply? A child? A parent?”

The mourner took a moment to collect himself, then replied, “My wife's first husband.”