

## Editor's Notebook



Mark Newhall  
Editor &  
Publisher

### A New Online Scam

A reader called me the other day for advice on how to get his money back from an internet deal gone bad. Here's what happened:

He saw a used Kubota tractor for sale at a price that seemed too good to be true. He contacted the seller to buy it. The seller suggested they execute the transaction through eBay in order to "protect" them both. He moved the listing over to eBay and then told the buyer exactly when the listing would come up so he could click on the "Buy It Now" price and complete the deal. Once that had been accomplished, the seller required the buyer to send a Western Union money order to an address in Florida, although the tractor was supposedly in North Dakota.

"This was the first time I ever bought anything off the internet. I figured he was a dealer and that was how it worked," the reader told me. Once he had sent the \$2,500, the seller stopped responding to him. And he soon found out there was no tractor in North Dakota. He was out of luck.

"Maybe the worst thing about the whole experience is that I keep seeing this scammer's ad online," he told me. "Every time I see it I contact the website where it's listed and they take it off. I know I was gullible but I'm sure there are other people out there like me. So beware."



Lause is driving a Claas tractor around the world, pulling a travel trailer made out of a shipping container.

### A Slow Trip Around The World

Matthias Lause from Dribung, Germany is driving around the world in a Claas tractor. It will take 300 days for the 25-year-old mechanic to get home to Germany.

His goal is to raise \$60,000 in donations for CARE, an international aid agency that will use the funds to teach African children agricultural skills ([www.tractor-world-tour.com](http://www.tractor-world-tour.com)).

Lause is pulling a trailer made out of a shipping container, complete with a bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. Claas helped him build the wagon in addition to supplying him with the tractor and sponsoring the trip. He has other sponsors, too, whose names are on the side of the trailer.

Since leaving home he has traveled through parts of Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Morocco and Mexico before entering the U.S. in late April. He then traveled across parts of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Montana through most of May. His last two and a half weeks on the continent were spent heading west across Alberta and British Columbia. After leaving Vancouver he headed for Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, South Africa, Lesotho, Russia, Ukraine, Poland and finally Germany again. In all, he'll cover 15,500 miles.

**A 92-year-old man was always fully dressed** each morning by eight o'clock, shaved and with his hair fashionably combed, even though he was legally blind. He had to move to a nursing home because his wife of 70 years had recently passed away. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled kindly when told his room was ready. As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, an employee described what his room would be like.

"I love it!" the old man said with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"But you haven't even been in the room yet," said the worker.

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," the man replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged. It's how I arrange my mind. I've already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. You see, I have a choice. I can spend the day in bed complaining about the difficulty I have with parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away just for this time in my life."

**An arrogant USDA official stopped** at a farm and told the elderly farmer who owned it, "I need to inspect your farm." The old farmer said, "You better not go in that field." The bureaucrat said in an officious tone, "I have the authority of the U.S. Government with me. See this card? I am allowed to go wherever I wish on agricultural land." So the old farmer went about his chores. Later, he heard loud screams and saw the USDA rep running for a fence. Close behind him was an angry bull, madder than a nest of hornets and gaining ground on the man with every step. The old farmer yelled out: "Show him your card!"



Student archaeologists search through the remains of a farm that hadn't been disturbed for nearly 80 years.

### Finding History On Old Farms

Digging up prairie farmsteads that were abandoned in the 1930's and 1940's is a fun and interesting way to learn about how people lived nearly 100 years ago. It's also a good way for students to learn about the science of archaeology.

Associate professor Margaret Kennedy at the University of Saskatchewan spent this past summer researching how drought and economic depression affected people in the "dirty thirties." She and her class are focusing on farmsteads in central Saskatchewan.

"Last summer, we carried out a dig of a homestead that was inhabited from about 1917 to 1930. In various dumps around the farm, we found many clues as to what kind of work was carried on there, as well as to diet, health care and consumption patterns of the family," Kennedy says. "When I begin work on a new homestead, I've already done extensive research into the homestead files, tax assessment records and local histories, as well as talking to anyone who might be knowledgeable about that area's history."

To locate suitable farmstead sites, the researchers sometimes use a combination of remote sensing devices and "shovel testing" to detect buried refuse or building remains. Then they lay a grid over the site and excavate those areas where buried items are likely to be found.

"I often wonder what the early farmers would think of their garbage being so carefully examined!" Kennedy laughs.

Researching early agricultural settlements provides practical experience for her students, and captures information that would otherwise be lost. "There's a rich history I'd like to record, and I also plan to interview people who lived through that time," she says.

Results of Kennedy's research will be compiled in reports and published articles. She'd also be willing to talk to any interested local communities about the work.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Homestead Archaeological Project, Margaret Kennedy, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7N 5B1 (ph 306 966-4182; fax 306 966-5640; [marg.kennedy@usask.ca](mailto:marg.kennedy@usask.ca)).

**Two blondes were walking down the street** and found a makeup compact lying on the sidewalk. One of the blonds picked it up and opened it, looked in the mirror, and said, "Hey! This person looks familiar."

"Let me see," said the other blond. When she looked in the mirror, she said, "You dummy! It's me!"

### Liberty Quotes

"A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government." *Edward Abbey*

"Be not intimidated... nor suffer yourselves to be wheeled out of your liberties by any pretense of politeness, delicacy, or decency. These are but three different names for hypocrisy, chicanery and cowardice." *John Adams*

"The system of private property is the most important guaranty of freedom, not only for those who own property, but scarcely less for those who do not."

*Fredrich August von Hayek*

"When you get into politics, you find that all your worst nightmares about it turn out to be true, and the people who are attracted to large concentrations of power are precisely the ones who should be kept as far away from it as possible." *Ken Livingstone*

"Give to every human being every right that you claim for yourself." *Robert G Ingersoll*

"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" *Patrick Henry*

"It is not the function of the government to keep the citizen from falling into error; It is the function of the citizen to show the government from falling into error."

*Justice Robert H. Jackson*

"Constitutional rights may not be infringed simply because the majority of the people choose that they be."

*Supreme Court of the United States*

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

*Thomas Paine*

### Bargain Caskets

It's not hard nowadays to spend \$5,000 to \$10,000 on a casket. But you don't need to. You can get a beautiful casket at a bargain price at Costco warehouse stores. Prices range from \$924 to \$2,999 for models that don't look any different than the more expensive ones most funeral directors offer for sale. You can order through Costco's website at [www.costco.com](http://www.costco.com) for next day shipping, or go to your local Costco store.



Attractive pewter-colored casket with silver handles sells for just \$924.

### Cowpie Bingo Investigated

Minnesota is a wonderful state to live in. But we have a government that sometimes has too much time on its hands. Recently, the Minnesota Gambling Control Board launched an investigation into Cowpie Bingo. The game, which has caught on in rural areas across the country, consists of a field marked off in white, numbered squares. People buy squares and a cow is let loose. If he does his business on your square, you're the winner.

The Gambling Board is apparently worried that the game might be rigged either by somehow training the cow, or seeding tasty grass in one area. Recently regulators read in the paper about a Cow Bingo event being held in the small town of Kiester, Minn. The fundraiser had been held regularly for 20 years. The bureaucrats did their duty and ordered the organizers to cease and desist. Needless to say, no funds were raised this year for charity.

### A Preacher's Last Request

An old preacher was dying. He asked his banker and his lawyer, both church members, to come to his home.

When they arrived, the preacher held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed. The preacher grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled, and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything.

Both the banker and lawyer were touched and flattered that the preacher would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled; the preacher had never given them any indication that he particularly liked either of them. In fact, they both remembered many long, uncomfortable sermons about greed, covetousness, and avicious behavior that had made them squirm in their seats.

Finally, the banker said, "Preacher, why did you ask us to come?"

The crusty old preacher mustered up his strength and then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go."