

Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher

The Business Of Publishing

I just finished my 31st year at FARM SHOW. I started here the month after graduating from the University of Minnesota with a degree in ag journalism and never left. The first 16 years I worked closely with founder Harold Johnson, the best boss a guy could ever have. He handed the keys over to me in 1994 when he retired. With the help of Senior Editor Bill Gergen, our dedicated office staff, and a talented group of contributing editors, we've tried to maintain the high standards that Harold set with the very first issue of FARM SHOW published in January, 1977.

My job has two parts. Finding and publishing the best possible "made it myself" inventions, new products, and ideas in the world of agriculture; and making sure the issues get printed and out to subscribers who have paid for them. We want to make it easy for you to keep track of your subscription so you never miss an issue. Your expiration date is printed on the label of every issue and renewal letter we send you. You can tell at a glance how much time remains on your subscription. If you're not ready to renew, just ignore any renewal letters we send (although occasionally we enclose a special offer that might be of interest). Some subscribers say it seems like we send out a lot of notices but we actually send out fewer notices than most publishing experts advise. In this business, keeping current subscribers is the biggest challenge we face.

If we fall down anywhere on the job of publishing FARM SHOW, please let us know. Everything we do is aimed at serving you. Any suggestions we get from you are taken very seriously. Feel free to contact me at any time. My phone number and email are printed at the bottom of every page. Good reading and thanks for subscribing!

"Great Shop Ideas" Book

Readers are telling us our new "Great Shop Ideas" might be the best book we've ever published. Even if you've saved every issue of FARM SHOW, you'll want to get a copy of this 168-page collection that contains every shop tip and money-saving repair featured in the magazine over the past 6 years. No more paging through piles of issues to find that one shop tip you remember reading about. They're all in here!



New 168-page shop book features every shop tip and money-saving repair from the past 6 years of FARM SHOW.

You can get a free copy of the book by renewing or subscribing for one year or more. Or, if you're not ready to renew, you can buy a single copy for \$9.95 (\$12.95 Can.) plus \$4.95 S&H. (There's just one S&H charge no matter how many books you buy. They make great gifts!) Use the order coupon on page 44 of this issue or mail to: Great Shop Ideas, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

Though the weather one morning was questionable and clouds were forming, a little girl still made her daily trek to school.

As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned

that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school.

So she got into her car and quickly drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along. At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. More lightning followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called, "What are you doing?"

The child answered, "I'm trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."



New Holland's big new forage harvester came to a sudden stop during a demonstration at the Farm Progress Hay Expo.

Impressive Field Demo

Contributing editor Jim Ruen was watching a big New Holland 9000 forage harvester doing a demo run at the recent Farm Progress Hay Expo near Hixton, Wis., when suddenly the giant machine stopped dead in its tracks. "My first thought was that the machine couldn't handle the big windrow and how embarrassing that would be for New Holland," says Jim. "But then the driver jumped down, reached in, and pulled out a small chunk of rusted fence wire and waved it to the crowd."



This small piece of rusted fence wire was found in the machine.

What Jim and the crowd were actually watching was an accidental demonstration of how effective the metal sensors are on the big machine. When the sensor on the machine's pickup "found" the wire, the entire machine quickly shut down. If the wire had gone through, it could easily have ended up in a cow's stomach with a resulting high vet bill, or death of the animal.

Liberty Quotes

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men... That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it." *Declaration of Independence*

"Those who suppress freedom always do so in the name of law and order." *John V. Lindsay*

"He who would be free must strike the first blow." *Frederic Bailly, escaped slave*

"[Freedom] is a thing of the spirit. Men must be free to worship, to think, to hold opinions, to speak without fear. They must be free to challenge wrong and oppression with the surety of justice." *Herbert Hoover*

"Tax reform is taking the taxes off things that have been taxed in the past and putting taxes on things that haven't been taxed before." *Art Buchwald*

"You've got to rattle your cage door. You've got to let them know that you're in there, and that you want out. Make noise. Cause trouble. You may not win right away, but you'll sure have a lot more fun." *Florynce Kennedy*

"The dominant purpose of the First Amendment was to prohibit the widespread practice of government suppression of embarrassing information." *Justice William O. Douglas*

"The essence of Government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse." *James Madison*

"The principle of free speech is no new doctrine born of the Constitution of the United States. It is a heritage of English-speaking peoples, which has been won by incalculable sacrifice, and which they must preserve if they hope to live as free men." *Robert M. LaFollette, Sr.*

Man Drives Missouri Roads - All 32,000 Miles Of Them!

John Robinson is an obsessed man. He's on a quest to drive all 32,000 miles of roads in Missouri. He doesn't just drive a portion of each of the roads. He drives on every mile of every state-maintained road. According to the St. Louis Post Dispatch, the Columbia, Mo., man has already covered more than 90 percent of the roads and plans to finish the rest by the summer of 2010.

Robinson started the project 16 years ago and says he's worn out two maps. He drives a red 1995 Pontiac Sunfire with 239,000 miles on it. Sometimes friends or family travel with him but they quickly become bored. Robinson, who was once state tourism director, plans to write a book about his travels.

Notable Quotes

"Don't carry a grudge. While you're carrying the grudge, the other guy's out dancing." *Buddy Hackett*

"Don't get mad. Don't get even. Just get elected, then get even." *James Carville*

"Never attribute to malice what can adequately be explained by stupidity." *Nick Diamos*

"Never believe in mirrors or newspapers." *Tom Stoppard*

"Never drink black coffee at lunch; it will keep you awake all afternoon." *Jilly Cooper*

"Never purchase beauty products in a hardware store." *Miss Piggy*

Letters From Camp

From a solicitous lad: "Dear Mom and Dad: Don't touch this card. I have poison ivy."

From a proud little man: "Dear Mother: When you visit me next Sunday, please bring candy. *Do not kiss me!*"

A teen-age counselor reported to the parents about one of his young charges: "Dear Mr. & Mrs.: I'm sure you will be proud to know that your son is now an advanced non-swimmer."

This note from a thoughtful youngster: "Dear Mother: Please excuse my handwriting. I'm scribbling this standing up, because last night my bunk burned down. Do not worry."

Brief memo from a forgetful soul: "Dear Ma: Please send me my other sneaker."

Informative letter to relatives: "Dear Uncle and Aunt: We've got lots of weather up here. Love, Johnny."

A rich young yuppie opened the door of his BMW, when suddenly a car came along and hit the door, ripping it off completely. When the police arrived at the scene, the yuppie was complaining bitterly about the damage to his precious BMW.

"Officer, look what they've done to my Beemer!" he whined.

"You yuppies are so materialistic, you make me sick!" retorted the officer. "You're so worried about your stupid BMW that you didn't even notice that your left arm was ripped off!"

"Oh my gosh," replied the yuppie, finally noticing the bloody left shoulder where his arm once was, "Where's my Rolex?!"

Morris and his wife Esther went to the state fair every year, and every year Morris would say, "Esther, I'd like to ride in that helicopter."

Esther always replied, "I know Morris, but that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

One year Esther and Morris went to the fair, and Morris said, "Esther, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance."

To this, Esther replied, "Morris that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and don't say a word I won't charge you a penny. But if you say one word, it's fifty dollars."

Morris and Esther agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word.

When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris and said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!"

Morris replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Esther fell out, but you know, fifty dollars is fifty dollars!"