

“Custom Boulder” Business Catching On Fast

Putting a business or farm name on the side of a boulder is a neat way to promote a business or just mark your farm. An Illinois company called Boulder Designs® has come up with a way to make its own boulders from scratch and is also offering potential franchise owners the opportunity to start a profitable business.

“We have developed specialized equipment and a system using enhanced concrete that allows 1 to 2 people to build a 3 to 4,000-lb. boulder in 5 to 6 man hours. One person can easily load, deliver and set the custom boulder in place for the customer using our specialized trailer,” says company president, Eldean Bergman, who notes that Boulder Designs is also a unique franchise business opportunity for anyone looking for sideline income, or a new career.

“We build custom boulders for restaurant chains, schools, parks, farmsteads, and homeowners. Recently we made a 10,000 lb. boulder sign for a local Monsanto plant. The market is endless; often zoning requirements will allow a boulder where conventional signage would not be allowed. People can’t believe these boulders are not real.

“The demand for our boulders has been so tremendous, we’re now offering Boulder Designs® as a franchise. Right now, we’re offering franchises at a very attractive price. It’s a great opportunity for farm families looking for a new source of income to get in on the ground floor at an introductory price.”

A small boulder with an address starts at \$150.00, and up to several thousand for a large commercial boulder. The company now has a computer program that lets you see exactly how the boulder will look and try different color rocks and printing to get the sign exactly the way you want it.



“We love it, and nearly everyone who sees it compliments us on it,” says FARM SHOW publisher Mark Newhall about the Boulder Design sign that graces the lawn in front of the magazine’s headquarters. “It was a cost-effective way to put up a very professional sign that should last virtually forever.”

They make great gifts for the person who has everything, Bergman notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Boul-

der Designs, 1503 Co. Rd. 2700N, Rantoul, Ill. 61866 (ph 877 892-2954; www.boulderdesigns.net). **Reader Inquiry No. 177**

Amy and Ray Sibra, who farmed for 30 years near Big Sandy, Montana, recently became owners of a Boulder Design franchise. They’re excited about the potential for business in the state. “We’ve had interest from commercial businesses and from farmers and ranchers looking for a unique and eye-catching way to promote their operations. The quality of this product really attracts attention.”



The Sibras first heard about Boulder Designs at the Half Century of Progress Show last summer in Rantoul, Ill. What caught their attention was this Boulder Design-built boulder made to commemorate the visit to Illinois by Big Bud, the world’s largest tractor. The giant boulder weighed 5,600 lbs. and stood 6 ft. tall and 9 ft. wide.

You can reach the Sibras by phone at 406-378-2490 or 406-390-1054.

Metal Working Tools, Information

There is a lot of interest in new mini-lathes and mills, but making precision replacement parts out of metal is not an easy task. It takes good equipment, a willingness to experiment and good information.

Sherline Products is owned by Joe Martin, who is a skilled metalworker himself, so he understands the needs of the home shop machinist. Martin and Sherline provide the detailed information needed by beginners and experts alike in addition to selling a complete line of American-made benchtop metalworking tools. Even inexpensive CNC systems are now offered for the home shop.

The company hosts a huge and highly informative web site at www.sherline.com, offering not only information on their product line but also practical machining information that can be applied to tools of any size or brand. Also available is a book by Joe Martin called *Tabletop Machining*, which is a practical guide to the “real world” of metalworking in the home shop. For more information contact: Sherline Products, 3235 Executive Ridge, Vista, CA 92081 or phone (800) 541-0735. A free 48-page color catalog is available upon request or order on-line at www.sherlinedirect.com.

Reader Inquiry No. 178

(800) 541-0735

Miniature Machine Tools and Accessories Catalog

For more information, contact Sherline Products, 3235 Executive Ridge, Vista, CA 92081 or phone (800) 541-0735. A free 48-page color catalog is available upon request or order on-line at www.sherlinedirect.com.

SHERLINE PRODUCTS

www.sherline.com

Lathes—Page 1

Milling Machines—Page 21

CNC Systems—Page 31

Machine Packages—Page 21

Accessories

Grinding Wheels and Wheels—Page 41

See the Book and Information page 41 for more DVD video on how to set up and use a Sherline lathe.