

**Editor's Notebook**



Mark Newhall  
Editor & Publisher



To honor his father, who was a dairy farmer, sculptor Clint Button chiseled a memorial stone out of granite that features a cow on front and a brief family history on back.

**Sculptor Made His Dad Proud**

Clint Button is a professional sculptor who makes cemetery headstones the old fashioned way, using chisels, pneumatic hammers and drills. "My dad was a dairy farmer and when I was making his headstone, which has a cow on it, he told me it would be nice to see it in FARM SHOW, just in case someone else might be interested in what I do."

Soon after his dad passed away, Clint finished the memorial that his dad helped design for himself. It's made from Barre Gray Vermont granite and features a champion Jersey cow on front. A panel on back has a brief family history written by his dad. Floral work on the memorial includes day lilies representing family members, peaches representing South Carolina where the family last farmed, and a Lady Slipper orchid representing the Button family's ties to Vermont. "The memorial is in a cemetery in Chelsea, Vermont about 200 yards from the old creamery where my grandpa sold his milk years ago," says Button.

There are only a handful of people left in the country who produce true "Shell Rock Pitch", which is what Button's method of sculpturing is called. "Most people in the U.S. believe Shell Rock Pitch is a lost art, but my cousin taught me how to do it. For my dad's tombstone I chiseled off 3,000 lbs. from the stone."

Button says he can sculpt any material that can be carved. "I work in granite, marble, limestone, bronze and many other media. I work directly with major manufacturers and retailers as well as individuals and families."

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**We Get Letters . . .**

I wanted to share this letter from Gene Phillips, Spartanburg, S.C., because it's really a thank you to all FARM SHOW readers who have ever sent in a "made it myself" project, story lead, or "best buy" report:

"Your magazine helped me a great deal during my recent recovery from cancer. The doctors tell me I'm now cancer-free so I wanted you to know how reading the magazine helped me not think about being sick. I carried copies of FARM SHOW with me during chemo and a lot of people read them along with me, saying they intended to subscribe. It helped so many people I think it should be required reading for all cancer patients. Many thanks to all those smart, wonderful FARM SHOW readers for what they do and for sharing their ideas with the rest of us."

**Deere Lost Fight To Control Software In Your Tractor**

The U.S. Copyright Office handed down a decision this summer that says owners of tractors, combines, cars, pickups and other late model equipment *can* "repair or modify" the software and computer code that controls them. Deere, and other big manufacturers, had submitted briefs to the government saying that farmers receive "an implied license for the life of the vehicle to operate the vehicle" but that control over the software remained with the manufacturer. That meant only dealers or company-authorized personnel would be allowed to work on such equipment. Individual owners would not be able to buy diagnostic equipment or hack into the software if, for instance, one wanted to tweak the electronics to boost power.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (www.eff.org; ph 415 436-9333), which filed the request for software access, noted that in light of the recent Volkswagen scandal, where VW was caught manipulating vehicle data, the ruling allows farmers and others to examine the software controlling equipment without facing legal threats from manufacturers. However, the decision only relates to owners – not third party repair shops. And software alterations cannot violate U.S. DOT or EPA guidelines. The decision included a year-long delay in implementation.

**Switching Cars From 12 To 48 Volts**

In the 1950's, carmakers needed more power to start newer high-compression engines so they increased voltage of their electrical systems from 6 to 12 volts. Now – with the increased demand for electrical power on new cars, which might have as many as 150 electric motors – voltage is going up again to 48 volts.

The first production car to use 48 volts is an Audi sports-utility vehicle that is not a hybrid but employs an electrically-driven 48-volt turbine to force extra air into the engine when a burst of power is needed. It provides a faster response than a conventional engine-powered turbocharger. The car also has 48-volt active suspension with electric motors that control how the vehicle handles on curves and rough ground.

An experimental Ford Focus built in Britain uses 48 volts to power components ranging from the water pump to an electric turbine. One of the test vehicle's most important features is its water-cooled starter which is needed to power the stop-start technology that saves fuel by switching the engine off whenever the vehicle is stationary. A faster-acting, more powerful starter is needed, especially when paired with a heavier diesel engine. The improved starter is also used as a generator, capturing kinetic energy when the vehicle brakes. In addition, the experimental Focus draws on some of the 48-volt battery's power for "torque-assist", using the starter to act as a supplementary motor to help the car accelerate. (Excerpted from *The Economist*)

**Liberty Quotes**

"Whenever you find you are on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect." *Mark Twain*

"When all think alike, no one is thinking very much." *Walter Lippmann*

"Truth does not become more true by virtue of the fact that the entire world agrees with it, nor less so even if the whole world disagrees with it." *Maimonides*

"School is the advertising agency which makes you believe that you need the society as it is." *Ivan Illich*

"Historically, much of the motivation for public schooling has been to stifle variety and institute social control." *Jack Hugh*

"History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon." *Napoleon Bonaparte*

"Of all the tyrannies on human kind, the worst is that which persecutes the mind." *John Dryden*

"Censorship is telling a man he can't have steak because a baby can't chew it." *Mark Twain*

"Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve." *George Bernard Shaw*

"Purveyors of political correctness will, in the final analysis, not even allow others their judgements. They celebrate 'differences' but they will not allow people truly to be different – to think differently and to say what they think." *Mark Berley*

"The attempt to silence a man is the greatest honor you can bestow on him. It means that you recognize his superiority to yourself." *Joseph Sobran*

"Persecution is the first law of society because it is always easier to suppress criticism than to meet it." *Howard Mumford Jones*



"Big Bird", a Cornish cross rooster in New Hampshire, weighed 26.2 lbs. when he turned 5 mos. old on September 1st, 2016.

**Is This Giant Rooster The Biggest In The World?**

"I have a 5-mo. old chicken that might be the biggest rooster in the world," says Michele Velleman, New Hampshire, who recently sent us photos of "Big Bird" – a bruiser of a rooster that weighs in at 26.2 lbs. "He's a Cornish cross that hatched on April 1st of this year and started out like all the rest. But within 2 weeks, we knew we had something special because of his rapid rate of growth. He shares a coop with 17 other chickens and two turkeys. Unfortunately, he can't make it up the ramp into the coop on his own so I set up a dog kennel on the ground for him to give him some protection from the weather. He is out and about all day long and comes when you call, although he can't run. He loves meal worm treats and watermelon but we haven't done anything special to fatten him up. His crow is pretty impressive as well."

FARM SHOW had a story back in 2012 about "Big Boy", a Cornish/Plymouth Rock rooster that was believed to be the world's largest chicken at 24.18 lbs. The last time the Guinness Book of World Records listed a "world's largest chicken" was in 1992 when it listed an Australian chicken that weighed in at just over 23 lbs.

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**Deep Thoughts About Aging**

- The older I get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.
- You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.
- If you get dissatisfied and start wishing you were young again, remember 8th grade algebra class.
- Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me! I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.
- I hope that after I die, people will say of me, "That guy owed me a lot of money."

**Ole was attacked by two muggers.** He fought back violently but, after a furious battle, they rifled his pockets and came up with just 57 cents.

At that point, one mugger asked Ole, "Why did you fight so hard for this small amount of change?"

"Vell, is dat all yew wanted?" Ole asked. "I was afraid yew vere after da \$500 dat I've got in my shoe."

**Just the other day** Lena was overheard telling the bank teller, "I would like tew make a withdrawal from my husband Ole's half of our joint account."

**Ole was on guard duty one day when a general** was chauffeured to the gate. He wanted to pass through Ole's station. Ole insisted that the general tell him the password or Ole wouldn't let him through.

Finally the general, who didn't know it, got impatient and told his driver to just drive through.

Ole leaned in close to the general and whispered, "I'm kinda new at dis, General. Dew I shoot yew or da driver?"

**Sven was fishing on the river** when he sees Ole fishing on the opposite river bank.

"How do I get to da other side," yelled Sven.

"Why?" asked Ole. "Yew're already on da other side!"

**Ole has two tickets for the 2017 Super Bowl.** They are box seats and include airfare and hotel accommodations. He didn't realize when the tickets were given to him that the Super Bowl game is on the same day as his wedding. So he can't go.

If you are interested, and want to go instead of him, it's at St. Michael's Church. Her name is Lena and she will be the one in the white dress.