

"Best" and "Worst" Buys

(Continued from page 9)

the factory," says Ervin who had trouble with his 76 Chevrolet ¾ ton 4-wheel-drive pickup. "At about 10,000 miles we had to pull the head. The valve guides were worn out because they had been fit too loose at the factory, and we had to replace the lifters. Also, the transfer case was not bolted in."

On the plus side Ervin reports that, "Our White 271 Flex wing 22-ft. disc will disc as deep as you set it. Works great on terraces and has spring-mounted gangs for rocks."

Nelson Eberly, Pigeon, Mich.: "It's a wonderful piece of machinery," Nelson says about his John Deere 5460 self-propelled chopper purchased in the fall of 1977. "We'd had all kinds of trouble because of wet weather but this chopper, with optional 4-wheel-drive, had no trouble whatsoever. Did far more than we ever hoped for."

Walter D. Butler, Waterproof, La.: "Neighbors asked how we got our fields looking so good," states Walter who last year purchased a Kewanee 20-ft. Culti-Mulcher, model 89. "The teeth actually went deeper than we were told they would, doing a great job of mixing the soil. It pulverized clods, leaving the ground smooth and level after we were through."

He's not so pleased, however, with a Sears 7¼-in., 2-hp. circle saw. "The bearings went out in two weeks on the first one I bought. Sears replaced it with a new saw that lasted about 6 months before it also wore out."

Don Hegi, Pertersburg, Tex.: "I'd like to nominate the IH 915 combine I bought used last year as my best buy," says Don. "It's been a dependable, smooth-running machine for us. The shredder on it works particularly well."

Don adds that he'd like to hear from farmers who have used flexible, floating cutterbars in harvesting soybeans. "Only a few are being used in our area and I'd like to hear from farmers who have used them as to their usefulness, and the most popular manufacturers of them."

Stanley W. Isch, Bluffton, Ind.: He's pleased with his Aquamatic high pressure pump and Central Cleaning System. "Has tremendous pressure, great for spraying down our farrowing house, and is handy to use with a pipeline system because you don't have to move the pump from building to building. Good for washing equipment and trucks as it has soap and wax attachments."

Cap Proffitt, Alden, Kan.: He's well pleased with a half-circle alley made by Valley Sales, of Lexington, Neb., which leads to a Powder River squeeze chute. "The adjustable width curved alley is much cheaper than feedlot type alleyways and the strength is adequate for farm use. Cattle move to the squeeze chute on their own with no hassle or pushing. The Powder River squeeze chute's front opening makes cattle think they can run right through, making them easier to catch. Also, the chute is very

sturdy and easy to operate."

Cap also lists a 1978 Chevrolet K-20 4 by 4 pickup as a best buy, and an A & L 425 grain cart as best buys. "The grain cart is a life saver in muddy fields and for corn harvest. It's completely trouble free, and allows us to unload on the go in corn, which saves valuable unloading time."

Cap is disappointed with the IH 400 cycle air planter. "Bearing troubles throughout the entire planter have cost valuable downtime. We have a 6 row narrow and an 8 row narrow that are both stored in the shed after planting so weather can't be a factor. Just very cheap construction. The planters are only one and two seasons old. We had the same situation on an earlier model which we traded in. The dealer won't stock an adequate supply of parts and personnel know very little about the product."

Terry Treadway, Hernando, Miss.: "Does an excellent job of threshing beans. It's smooth running, quiet and has the best cab of any combine I ever rode in," reports Terry about his IH 1440 axial flow combine. "The only complaints I have are that the rear steering tires are of poor quality —

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I've had too many flats — and the brakes are too small to be of any use. Good dealer service has solved all other problems."

On the negative side, Terry is disappointed with Prowl herbicide: "It just didn't perform up to company claims in controlling weeds."

Jim Greenmyer, Strium, N. Dak.: His "best buy" is his 2670 Case 4-wheel-drive tractor. "It's got all the power and more than my dealer said it would. Like the 4-way steering and the good service on the few things that have gone wrong."

"My worst buy was a 655 Massey Ferguson Hydro swather. Nothing but trouble from day one and poor dealer service."

John Crabtree, Boise City, Okl.: He likes the rise in his 1979 Chevy C-30 crew cab pickup. "Once you get used to the wider turning radius, because of the longer wheelbase, it's a pleasure to drive. Unusually comfortable for a 1-ton pickup — quiet and roomy. No complaints so far."

Earl Thompson, Sylvia, Kan.: "I highly recommend this machine," says Earl of his "best buy" Sperry New Holland 320 twine pto baler. "Makes tight, well-formed bales and has large capacity. We get prompt, efficient service when needed."

James B. West, Foxton, Tex.: "I got

poor performance from pre-packaged atrazine and Ramrod herbicides," reports James. "Just didn't get the weed control with them that I'd been getting with Milo-Gard."

On the plus side, Forrest City's 12-ft. 3-pt. mounted Do-All ranks high on his list of "best buys". "It's a heavy-duty machine made with heavy iron and rugged, large bearings. Has done an excellent job in all field conditions with no down time."

Willard Moulton, Salmon, Idaho: He says his worst buy was "The Mark 35 EZ Rain traveling sprinkler, but not because of the machine. Actually, I think the machine is good," says Willard. "But the service was terrible."

Gaylord Northrop, Corry, Pa.: "It does a good job of loading manure from our high-rise poultry house, and loading gravel in the gravel pit. Its hydrostatic forward and reverse pedals make it fast and easy to operate," says Gaylord of his "IH 2400 tractor loader with hydrostatic."

Earl Kuntz, Abilene, Kan.: "A Sears portable sander-grinder, Model 315, was among my worst buys. It always made a grinding noise inside like it had a bearing going out. The directions said it was greased and sealed at the factory. It quit after a year — the armature was ruined. I took it back to Sears and they said they would fix it, but it's been three months and they've heard nothing and don't have any papers on it."

Gilbert Livingood, Postville, Iowa. Does a good job of spreading, says Gilbert of his Deere 680 spreader. "We pile on big loads. It really holds a lot of stuff. And, with the top beater, does a good job of spreading."

Rene Rozanak, Exeter, Neb.: Heading his best buy list is a Walterscheid claw hitch mounted on his Deere 4430 tractor ("You just back up, hook up and go. Saves a lot of time.") and a new Deere 7100 6-row planter ("Very pleased with it. Seed depth and placement is very good").

Cecil and Jimmy Stanley, Tabor City, N.C.: They're well pleased with their 1977 model 4-wheel drive Steiger tractor and Cole 8-row planter. "With only a 35 day-planting period, this large equipment allowed us to shorten our land preparation and planting time by almost one-half. We also learned that 4 wheel drive tractors would stand up and travel on wet land that a 2 wheel drive couldn't handle," says Cecil. He adds that "we changed over and bought all 8 row equipment — a 27 ft. disk harrow, a 27 ft. Do-All land preparer ahead of seeding, the 8-row Cole planter, and a 750 Massey Ferguson combine. We love them all."

Verlyn Naimon, Geneva, Neb.: "It has good trash clearance and does a good job of turning under stubble," says Verlyn of his "best buy" Massey Ferguson semi-mounted plow, a Model 880 with 7 16-in. bottoms. "It's the easiest pulling plow I have ever owned. Also, my 4430 Deere tractor is the best I've ever had. The controls are all very easy to reach. The cab is quiet, visibility is good. It is a pleasure to drive."

Thomas Irrer, St. Johns, Mich.: Heading his "best buy" list is an International 1586 tractor and a 6 bottom IH 735 variable-width plow. "This easy handling tractor has been a joy to drive. We have had zero repairs in the first 400 hours of operation. Our only complaint is that when the gear shift lever is placed in the park position, it appears as though it was deliberately designed to trip up the operator as he exits from the left side of the cab. In 1967 we purchased

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an IH 5 bottom automatic reset plow with TF bottoms. It has plowed about 6500 acres at speeds between 5.5 to 6.5 mph and has had no repairs or damage to the automatic reset system. Because of this service, we purchased a 6 bottom 735 variable-width plow with automatic reset and TF bottoms. Plowing at 5.5 to 6.5 mph, this plow seems well matched to the 1586 tractor over a wide variety of soils."

John Ziegler, Newton, Wis.: He's happy with his New Holland 1400 combine ("Does a good job of gathering and cleaning, and has good capacity") but notes that he has had trouble getting grain to go up the feeder into the cylinder. "Also, the engine — a Ford diesel — loses its prime and is very hard to start."

Oliver Hagg, Salina, Kan.: He says one of his best buys has been the new steel epoxy glue. "The steering arm on my 1466 tractor would work loose on the splines. Instead of buying \$200 worth of new replacement parts, he bought two small tubes of the epoxy glue for \$3 and solved the problem, adding that he has used the all-purpose glue for dozens of other jobs around the farm and in his farm shop." He buys it at a local Auto Supply store.

Alan Benedict, Monmouth, Or.: He's pleased with his "best buy" John Deere 8350 grain drill. "You can plant 100 lbs. of seed per acre and apply 150 lbs. of fertilizer and still only have to stop every 10 acres to fill. Also, the fertilizer feed works well under conditions without plugging up."

Lit H. Moore Jr., Wilson, Tex.: He says his IH Axial Flow 1440 combine is "the best buy I've made in the last year. It's the smallest axial flow for six rows in the IH line but it has the capacity of the largest IH combine in the old line. And, it runs better and is easier to set," says Lit, who uses the combine primarily in sunflowers.

Richard Arnsman, Payson, Ill.: "The hogs would have died before they walked through that crate to be sorted if I'd shut the hogs away from feed and water like the company recommended," says Richard about his Osteel Weigh-Krate. "The crate was supposed to sort out market-ready