

Editor's Notebook



Mark Newhall
Editor

Hot Off The Press!

I've been writing and editing FARM SHOW stories for 41 years. Even after all that time, the creativity that shows up at our door never ceases to amaze me. When you subscribed to FARM SHOW, you became a member of an impressive group of people who look at the world differently than everyone else.

It's my firm belief that the world gets a little better every day and one big reason for that belief is what I've seen for all these years - people coming up with amazing new inventions or ideas and then sharing them with the world, whether by putting a product on the market or simply letting us publish their ideas for the satisfaction of having a positive effect on the lives of others.

Our job here is to get those ideas out to "the market" in a way that makes them easy to digest. That's why we published our first "Encyclopedia of Made It Myself Ideas" 20 years ago and have just finished production of Volume IV of these 482-page books.

Each Encyclopedia features the best "made it myself" ideas from the previous 5 years, complete with contact info and updates as needed. Each book is indexed and cross-referenced so it's easy to find individual stories. These bound books are easy to handle and browse through at your leisure. Even though all the stories we've ever published are available free to our subscribers at our website, there's really nothing like holding one of these books in your hand, whether you're watching TV or sitting in a grain truck waiting to unload. This 4-book "library" of 1,928 pages contains the heart of everything you like about FARM SHOW.

Volume IV sells for \$14.95 (\$18.95 Can.) plus S&H. Volume I, II, and III are all still available individually for the same price. Or you can buy all 4 books together for \$49.95 (\$59.95 Can.) and pay the same S&H that you'd pay for one book.

Look for the order form in this issue or go to www.farmshow.com 24/7. Thanks!

The History Of Briggs & Stratton

Briggs & Stratton is the world's largest manufacturer of air-cooled engines, building more than 9 million of them in the U.S. each year. But few people know that the company got its start as a school project.

Stephen Foster Briggs built a 2-cycle engine as an engineering student in 1907 at a college in Brookings, S.Dak. He was eager to bring the engine to market but did not have the resources. So he teamed up with Harold Stratton, a successful grain merchant, and the two men formed a partnership.

Unfortunately, Briggs' original engine proved too costly to manufacture but the company found success making auto parts and even produced a small car named the Briggs & Stratton Flyer. Eventually the company focused on small gas engines for outdoor power equipment and the rest is history.

Do Your Friends A Favor!

FARM SHOW is a great way to say "Merry Christmas" to the people in your lives who mean the most to you!

You can give bargain rate Christmas gift subscriptions to friends, relatives, and business associates. Each recipient will receive a year of FARM SHOW, a copy of our new book "Gardens To Greenhouses", and a personalized gift card announcing your thoughtful gift.

What's more, all gift recipients - as well as all active subscribers - receive free access to all 43 years of FARM SHOW at our website. Check out the order form enclosed with this issue, go to www.farmshow.com, or give us a call at 800-834-9665. Thanks!



Modern snowmobiles were inspired by Carl Eliason's Motor Toboggan, invented in Wisconsin in 1924.

"World's First" Snowmobile

With winter on the way, our Contributing Editor Dee Goerge got the idea of tracking down the world's first snowmobile. Although there is some debate on the matter, there's little doubt that the Eliason Motor Toboggan, invented in 1924 by Carl Eliason in Wisconsin, was one of the first snow-going machines built to carry one or two people on trails.

"When people look at that first machine they are floored by the fact that it's so similar to what they ride today. It was liquid-cooled and the length of the machine is almost identical to modern machines," says Jona Eliason, granddaughter of Carl Eliason.

The original machine is on display at Eliason Lumber & Hardware Company in Sayner, Wis. It had a conveyor belt webbed track driven by bicycle sprockets and chains. It was powered by a 2.5 hp. Johnson outboard motor and could travel at speeds up to 25 mph.

In 1940 Eliason assigned his patents to the Four Wheel Drive Auto Company in Clintonville, Wis., in exchange for a 2 percent royalty on machines sold. The company later sold rights to the machine to a Canadian company and one of the first Polaris machines was modeled after it.

Motor Toboggans can be found all over the world and are so popular with collectors that they're often on display at antique snowmobile shows.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eliason Lumber & Hardware, 2954 State Hwy. 155, Sayner, Wis. 54560 (ph 715 542-3233; www.Eliason-snowmobile.com).

Liberty Quotes

"They say power corrupts, but actually it's more true that power attracts the corruptible. The sane are usually attracted by things other than power." *David Brin*

"I love the agitation and investigation and glory of defending unpopular truth against popular error." *James A. Garfield*

"The peak of tolerance is most readily achieved by those who are not burdened by convictions." *Alexander Chase*

"No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself and another to the multitude without finally getting bewildered as to which one is true." *Nathaniel Hawthorne*

"The Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions." *Daniel Webster*

"It is disturbing to think how many people are shocked by honesty and how few by deceit." *Noel Coward*

"He who does not bellow out the truth when he knows the truth makes himself the accomplice of liars and forgers." *Charles Peguy*

"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our responsibility for the future." *John F. Kennedy*

"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*

Do you remember who gave you your first break?

Someone saw something in you once. That's partly why you are where you are today. It could have been a thoughtful parent, a perceptive teacher, a demanding drill sergeant, an appreciative employer, or just a friend who helped you out along the way.

Whoever it was, they had the kindness and foresight to bet on your future. Why not take 10 min. to sit down and write a grateful note to the person who believed enough in you to help you out.

And while you're at it, why not take the time to give somebody else a break. Who knows? Someday you might get a nice letter yourself!

Preacher Doubles As Fixit Man

Wisconsin inventor and repairman Jerry Hubert is just as comfortable under a welding helmet as he is speaking in front of a congregation with an open Bible in his hand. "I'm probably the only person in the world who has 32 years of experience as a welder and as an evangelist," says Hubert. "One occupation doesn't get in the way of the other, unless somebody needs an emergency repair on a Sunday morning."



Hubert travels up to 100 miles from home making on-farm repairs, returning to his church on Sunday to preach.

In 2014 Hubert started a traveling repair business after hearing that a couple of guys in his area who had been in the business were retiring. "I jumped in where they left off because farmers always have something to fix," he says.

With Wisconsin being the dairy capital of the Midwest, Hubert is often called on to repair stanchions, stalls and bunks, or to build gates for big dairies. He also invented an innovative calf feeder.

Hubert is expert at welding steel, brass, copper and even poly. In his shop he re-faces worn out loader buckets, builds new ones, and makes huge metal feed scoops. His mobile trailer has 8 different welders and he travels 100 miles in any direction when customers call.

"If stall dividers or stanchions break, I usually can weld them or make new brackets to support the good pieces," Hubert says. He makes cattle gates out of schedule 40 steel that he says should last 20 years or more. He's good at repairing stainless piping.

"Most times it's easier and more economical to repair things than it is to buy new," Hubert says, and his pricing reflects that attitude. "I understand when times are tough because I'm out here among my customers every day."

Farmers and industrial customers also bring broken equipment to his shop, where he and his wife teach their 14, 12 and 10 year-old children welding as part of their home-school curriculum. His 14-year-old son hopes to be a certified welder by age 16 and build his own business.

In addition to his inventing and metalworking, Hubert is pastor of a local Pentecostal church. "Being a person of faith helps me relate well to farmers. They have to have faith every year that the Lord will provide enough moisture and heat to produce their crops," Hubert says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Hubert, Weldtech Welding & Fabrication, N1570 County Rd J, Kaukauna, Wis. 54130 (ph 920 428-3241; weldtech4u@gmail.com).

Ole and Lena went out to eat at their favorite restaurant. Ole told the waitress, "Vee would like vun hamburger, cut in two, and two glasses of vater."

The waitress soon brought their order. Ole started eating his half of the hamburger right away but Lena just sat there.

Finally, the curious waitress came back and asked, "How is your food, sir?"

"Vunderfull!" replied Ole. "Dis hamburger is delicious."

"And you Ma'am," said the waitress to Lena. "I notice that you are not eating. Is there something wrong?"

"Vell, no," said Lena. "I'm yust waiting fer da teeth."

Lars couldn't believe how well Ole got along with his wife, Lena. "What's yer secret, Ole?" he asked.

"Vell," said Ole, suddenly very proud to be considered an expert on marital relations. "I haf a strict policy. I always tell her da truth . . . even if I haf to lie a little."

Lars met Lena on the street and asked her, "Hey Lena, I hafn't seen Ole fer a while. What's he been up to?"

"Oh, vell, didn't yew hear? Ole is at Harvard now," she said proudly.

"Is dat right? Harvard?" said Lars, very surprised. "Vhat's he studying?"

"Studying?" said Lena. "Oh, no. He's not studying. Dey say Ole's so unusual dat dey're studying him!"