

Editor's Notebook



Mark Newhall
Editor

Things I Saw Online

I often see ideas online that are clever and pretty much self-explanatory but don't have a name attached. Here are a couple ideas that caught my eye recently:

Pallet Stairway

A simple way to make a stairway is to stack pallets in a staggered pattern. Two pallets make a normal size step. By screwing them all together, you can make a solid block. Each exposed stair step is then covered with a piece of plywood.



Chemical Tote Shower

Some clever fellow stacked two chemical totes on top of each other - cutting the bottom out of one and the top out of the other - to create a shower-sized compartment. A propane-fired instant water heater is attached to an outside wall, feeding a shower head inside. A simple garden hose hooks up to the water heater.

How To Develop A New Apple

The Midwest Apple Improvement Association (MAIA) was started by Mitch Lynd and 3 colleagues and has already developed several new apple varieties, including the commercially successful EverCrisp. According to a recent article in *The New Pioneer*, here's how that tasty new variety came to be.

Lynd collected Honeycrisp apple pollen from his orchard and took it to another grower in the group who had Fuji apple trees that were ready to bloom. They pollinated the Fuji trees with Honeycrisp pollen and then marked the branches they had treated, picking the apples from those branches in the fall and saving the seeds to plant the next year. From those first plantings, one tree was exceptional and it became the mother tree of the now-successful EverCrisp variety.

Royalties from EverCrisp and other trademarked apple varieties go back into the organization which is continuing to work on new varieties (www.midwestapple.com).



Plastic In The Oceans

Plastic bags and straws are being banned across the U.S. and Canada but the truth is that we're already doing a good job of keeping plastic out of oceans. A study published in the journal *Environmental Sciences and Technology* reported that up to 95% of plastic waste in the oceans comes from just 10 rivers worldwide, all of them in third world countries. In another report, *Science* magazine said the U.S. contributes less than 1 percent of the plastic litter in the world's oceans.

So instead of building giant machines to suck plastic out of the ocean, we should go to the mouths of trash-filled rivers in India, Africa, and Southeast Asia and clean those up before the trash even gets into the ocean. Campaigns to outlaw plastic in North America will have little impact on this worsening problem.

What Happens To Old Windmills?

Ever wonder what happens to a giant windmill when it reaches the end of its useful life?

The giant fiberglass turbine blades - which are sometimes as long as a football field - cannot be recycled. About the only option is to bury them in landfills, as local officials in Casper, Wyoming recently found out. The local landfill was recently paid \$675,000 to accept more than



A landfill in Wyoming was recently paid \$675,000 to dispose of obsolete windmill components.

1,000 blades and motor housing units from decommissioned wind turbines that had reached the end of their 25 to 30 year life. Bloomberg News estimates that there are thousands off windmills that will need disposal in the next few years. Wyoming requires companies that put up windmills to post a bond covering disposal when turbines are put up so the state doesn't get stuck with the disposal of giant windmills once they go out of service. *Cowboy State Daily*



Big nets are used to load thousands of pounds of catfish into trucks. Photo above shows boom before Jerry Nobile covered it with livestock trailer mats to insulate it from live power lines.

Catfish Boom Protected By Rubber Livestock Mats

Some FARM SHOW readers have unique occupations.

For example, Jerry Nobile works in the Mississippi Delta loading live catfish onto trucks via a large boom that lifts big cargo nets out of the water. Occasionally, he has to work under or near power lines. If the boom touches the lines, it can lead to blown transformers and serious injuries.

So Jerry came up with a way to "insulate" the metal boom. He purchased 1-in. thick rubber mats from Tractor Supply Company that would normally be used in cattle trailers or horse stalls. He covered the boom with them, drilling holes along the edges of the mats and then wrapping them around the conveyor. He fastened them in place with 1/2-in. dia. bolts that run under the boom. There's no longer any risk of metal coming into contact with live power lines.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Nobile, 58 Jerry Nobile Rd., Moorhead, MS 38761. (*Klaire Howerton*)

Liberty Quotes

"Self-reliance is the only road to true freedom, and being one's own person is its ultimate reward." *Patricia Sampson*

"No man shall rule over me without my consent. I will rule over no man." *William Lloyd Garrison*

"The free-thinking of one age is the common sense of the next." *Matthew Arnold*

"Governments have ever been known to hold a high hand over the education of the people. They know, better than anyone else, that their power is based almost entirely on the school. Hence they monopolize it more and more." *Francisco Ferrer*

"The real guarantee of freedom is an equilibrium of social forces in conflict, not the triumph of any one force." *Max Eastman*

"The First Amendment says nothing about a right not to be offended. The risk of finding someone else's speech offensive is the price each of us pays for our own free speech. Free people don't run to court - or to the principal - when they encounter a message they don't like. They answer it with one of their own." *Jeff Jacoby*

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." *Nathan Hale, just before being hanged by the British in 1776*

Great Christmas Gift Idea!

Many readers who gave FARM SHOW for Christmas last year wrote to tell us they've never given a gift which generated so much response from appreciative recipients. You can give bargain rate gift subscriptions to friends, relatives, and business associates. Each recipient will receive a year of FARM SHOW plus a copy of our new book "Gardens To Greenhouses". 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!



New Encyclopedia Coming Soon!

In the next few weeks we'll be wrapping up production of our new "Encyclopedia Of Made It Myself Ideas - Volume IV". Like our first 3 Encyclopedias, it's 482 pages of exciting "made it myself" ideas. It's a "must have" book if you're a dedicated FARM SHOW reader. The book will be announced in our next issue and ready to ship in plenty of time for Christmas. So keep your eyes peeled for an announcement in our next issue!



Our 4th Encyclopedia will be released in November.

Points To Ponder

- "As long as you live, keep learning how to live." *Lucius Annaeus Seneca*
- "He that complies against his will, is of his own opinion still." *Samuel Butler*
- "This report, by its very length, defends itself against the risk of being read." *Winston Churchill*
- "The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself." *Henry Miller*
- "Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out." *James Bryant Conant*
- "A book lying idle on a shelf is wasted ammunition." *Henry Miller*
- "A jury consists of 12 persons chosen to decide who has the better lawyer." *Robert Frost*

Ole graduated from law school and started his career as a young lawyer at a big city law firm. One day he returned to college to visit his old professors and saw a dog attacking a small child on campus. He quickly jumped on the dog and strangled it. The next day, the local newspaper wrote a story with the headline, "Valiant Student Saves Boy From Fear-some Dog".

Indignantly, Ole called the editor of the paper and asked that a correction be issued, pointing out that he was no longer just a student, but a very successful lawyer.

The next day, the paper issued a correction with a headline that read, "Pompous Lawyer Kills School Mascot."

When her son reached 10 years of age, Lena started to realize he didn't look like anyone else in the family. So she and her son took a DNA test and she found out the child was not hers. She told her husband, Ole, what she had found. He replied, "Vell, Lena. What's da matter vit yew? Don't yew remember when ve vere leaving da hospital da baby pooped his diaper and yew tolt me to go and change him. So I vent inside and got a clean von and left da dirty von dere."

After the christening of his baby brother in church, little Ole sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.

His father, Ole, asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, little Ole replied, "Dat preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home . . . but I vant tew stay vit yew guys."

Ole goes to answer a knock at the door one evening to find two sheriff's deputies standing there.

"Sir, are you married?" one deputy asked. "Vhy, yes," Ole replied, "Lena and I have been married for 48 years."

"Do you have a photograph of your wife, sir?" the second deputy questioned.

Ole pulled a picture out of his wallet and handed it to the officers. They looked it over and handed it back to him.

"Sir, I'm sorry, but it looks like your wife, Lena, has been hit by a truck."

Ole says, "I know, but she's got a wonderful personality and she's a great cook."