

Promising New Addressing System For Rural Areas

Let's see, the Brown Farm is two miles west, a half mile north, three miles east and another quarter mile south of Podunk. Or was it two miles east, a half mile south, three miles west ...?

Anyone who has tried to find a farm in a rural area knows how difficult it can be. One hill looks like the next. The same with shelter belts and mile lanes, especially at night.

Kornard Burkle, of Dickinson, N. Dak., hopes to make things a little easier. He's come up with a rural address system that would give farms easy-to-find street addresses and house numbers, like those in the city.

Burkle, emergency coordinator for North Dakota's Stark County, devised the address system one night after he attended a meeting of county officials in southwestern North Dakota. The officials were trying to figure out a way to identify rural roads. Burkle went home and thought about their problem. Then it came to him.

"Cities have been addressing homes for hundreds of years. Why not use the same

methods in rural areas?

If Burkle's system were applied to North Dakota, one imaginary line would run east and west across the state, roughly along State Highway 200, and another would run north and south on a line about 12 miles east of Bismarck, dividing the state into four equal parts: northeast, southeast, northwest and southwest.

For purposes of assigning addresses, the east-west line would be known as Main Street, while the north-south reference would be called Main Avenue.

Farms would then be assigned "house numbers" along an imaginary "street" or "avenue," according to how far they are from Main Street and Main Avenue.

House numbers would be assigned at 1/50th-mile intervals. Each mile would have house numbers 0 through 99, with odd numbers on one side of a road and even numbers on the other. Streets and avenues would be numbered in miles.

So, a farmer living at 1550 128th Rural Ave. S.W., would live 15.5 miles south of Main Street and 128 miles west of Main Avenue.

If adopted statewide, Burkle's system would be unique. There is no statewide system of addressing roads in any other U.S. state, according to U.S. Postal Service officials. However, some counties or groups of counties in some states have their own rural address systems.

If Burkle's plan is adopted, county officials would have to decide how to mark streets—they could mark every other mile, or every few miles.

Burkle's plan has met with the approval of U.S. Postal Service officials in North Dakota.

"We think it would be a viable plan, and it would be consistent with out addressing systems," says Ray Lauer, a Postal Service

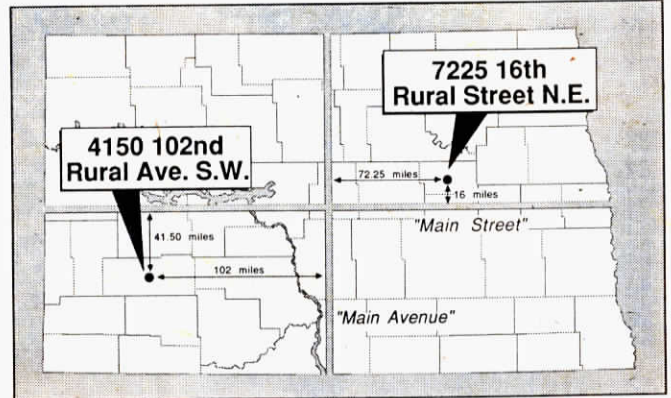


Photo and drawing courtesy Ag Week Burkle's system precisely identifies the location of each road in relation to an imaginary "Main Street" and "Main Avenue" that intersect at the center of the state.

worker in Bismarck.

Burkle has talked about his addressing system with several groups, including the North Dakota Association of Public Officials, the Emergency Management and 911 committees in Bismarck and the executive committee of the North Dakota Association of Counties.

Counties are responsible for their rural roads, so county officials would be the ones who would have to approve such as system, unless the state legislature decided otherwise.

Over the years, about a half of the counties in North Dakota have been interested in developing some type of rural address system, says Mark Johnson, executive director of the North Dakota Association of counties.

Johnson notes that Burkle's plan sounds good and has generated quite a bit of interest. Still, Johnson hopes the system wouldn't be forced on counties through

legislative action, but rather left up to individual counties to approve.

"The system could be costly," Johnson says. "Once the signs were erected, for example, they would have to be maintained. Without some state aid, the system could be a drain on counties."

But, Burkle doesn't think money should deter counties from adopting the program. "If money is your object, you'll never do anything," says Johnson. Burkle suggests that counties not try to mark every road in the first year, but rather spread the expense over several years.

If anyone from any state or province would like more details of the proposed new rural addressing system, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kornard Burkle, Box 130, Dickinson, N. Dak. 58601 (ph 701 225-1848).

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Kornard Burkle came up with the new address system while coordinating emergency plans for local county officials.

HE SEES POSSIBILITIES IN SCRAP

Farmer Turns "Junk" Into Rural Sculpture

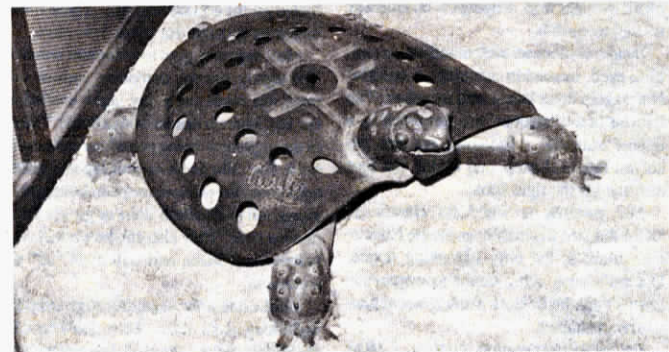
Some craftsmen work with paint and canvas, and others with wood or clay, but farmer curly Leiker works with discarded "junk". He turns scrap metal into mailboxes that get all the neighbors talking and also builds mini tractors and artistic sculpture out of common, everyday items.

Curly has built mailboxes for farmers all over the country. He gets orders strictly by word of mouth. Before he starts each project, he likes to know a little about the owners so he can "customize" each mailbox. One box at an Oklahoma ranch, for example, shows a cowboy sitting on a fence. The cowboy is seated on a pipe fence with one leg up. The head is made out of the compressor unit from a refrigerator. A large flat washer, made of heavy tin, fits over the head to form a hat. Individual chain links make ears, eyes and mouth. Small compressed air tanks were used to form the body. The arms and legs were made from scrap pipe. The body sports a horseshoe tie, nuts for buttons, a light furnace chain for a watch chain, and cultivator shovel feet. Steel cable serves as a lariat. A saddle made out of scrap flat iron mounts on top of the mailbox itself.

Another customer plays the accordion so

Leiker fabricated an accordion player for him. The mailbox is a part of the accordion, which opens to hold mail.

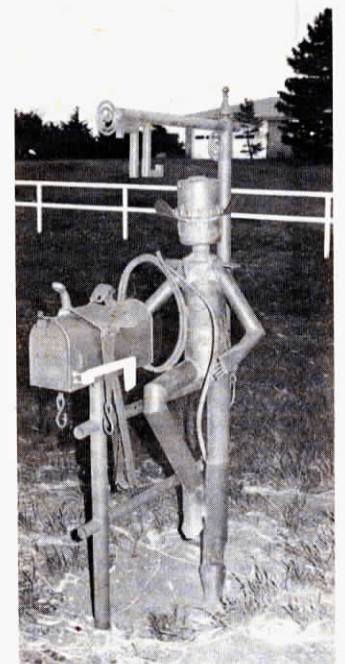
Leiker also makes toy tractors out of scrap parts. A recessed shelf in his home holds 16 tractors. Wheels on the mini tractors were made with valve handles and the bodies were formed from floats, square tubing, and shot gun parts. Nuts, couplings, clock gears, worm gears and assorted bolts are arranged to resemble working parts.



One of Leiker's favorite creations is a foot stool turtle he fashioned out of a tractor seat, pipe nipples, and 90° elbows.

One of Leiker's favorite creations is a foot stool turtle he fashioned out of a tractor seat. Pipe nipples and 90° elbows were arranged to look like turtle feet. Other miscellaneous scrap was used to form the realistic-looking head and neck.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Curly Leiker, Rt. 2, Box 22, Victoria, Kan. 67671 (ph 913 623-8161).



Many salvaged parts, including a refrigerator compressor motor and compressed air tanks, were used to construct the cowboy mailbox.