



Photo by Alan Krob, Farmland News

Rev. John Davidson, right, visits with a parishioner after "Overall Sunday" at the United Methodist church in Denton, Kan.

AN "OVERALL" FAVORITE

Their "Sunday Best" is Overalls Once Each Year

One Sunday each year, the congregations of two churches located in Lancaster and Denton, Kansas, get "dressed up" for church in their overalls, blue jeans, and house dresses.

The Rev. John R. Davidson started "Overall Sunday" in 1949 and has kept the annual tradition going for 31 years at the two churches he serves.

Davidson started preaching in Kansas as a seminary student. To boost attendance, he went into the country and attempted to get rural people interested in coming to church.

One farmer determinedly refused to come. He said he had nothing suitable to wear to church, so he wouldn't come. "I finally asked him, 'If I wear overalls to preach in, will you come to church in yours?' He agreed and that was the start of our traditional Overall Sunday."

Now, each year during the spring planting season, Davidson dons his

overalls and preaches to his similarly clothed congregations. "Attendance at Overall Sunday is often larger than at Christmas or Easter," he notes.

Davidson says Overall Sunday is probably a big success because people feel more comfortable in the relaxed, informal atmosphere.

He says some people have suggested having Overall Sunday all year-around, but he's against it. "There still needs to be a time for dressing up in our Sunday best to worship," he explains. He is considering having a second Overall Sunday in the fall, though.

Davidson may have further insights as to why Overall Sunday is so successful: "Before, people may have had a barrier or felt they didn't belong in church. People enjoy this because they know we're all the same on Overall Sunday," he notes. "The Lord looks on the heart, not on the outward."



This two-spindle wood carving machine can duplicate-carve most any object up to 10 in. in dia. and up to 2 ft. long.

MOST ANYONE CAN OPERATE NEW MACHINES NOW AVAILABLE

Welcome To World Of Wood Carving

Farm folks with extra time on their hands during winter, or retired farmers, might be interested in wood-carving by machine — either as a hobby or as a business.

A pattern and stylus guide cutters that shape wood as you work. The principle is related to machines that duplicate keys. Any shape carvings can be made, explains John Lenz, Minneapolis, Minn., inventor-manufacturer of Kurt Woodcarver machines.

A variety of sizes of carvers are available, and both men or women can learn to carve successfully on their own, or by taking a one-week course at the Kurt Manufacturing Co. plant in Minneapolis. "You can learn on your own in less than a month," says Lenz. "And you don't have to be an artist or have any previous carving skill. What you do is trace a pattern. The main thing to learn is setting the stylus and cutter."

Lenz says that wood carving at home is a fast-growing hobby, and that attractive carvings make excellent gifts. Or, carvings can be sold to

gift shops, thus providing profitable part-time or full-time work. Kurt makes available a 190-page book, "Woodcarving By Machine For Profit And Fun," which contains a chapter on developing a market for carvings.

The smallest carving machine, called the Hobbi-Carver, makes one carving at a time and produces flat work only, such as wall hangings, plaques, trays, plates and ash trays. Maximum size of carvings is 10 by 12 by 12 in.

The Kurt Star carver does flat or round carvings up to 10 in. dia. by 2 ft. long. Starting price for the two-spindle machine is \$1,195. It can be expanded later in increments of two spindles up to a total of six. Larger carving machines also are available. The company also sells patterns and matching wood blanks to help carvers get started. A 20-page brochure is available for 50¢.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kurt Mfg. Co., 1720 Marshall St. Northeast, Minneapolis, Minn. 55413 (ph 612 566-5500).

DEAD FLEAS AND TICKS ALSO IMPORTANT "CASH CROP"

Flea Farm Sells Real Live Fleas

How about this — A farm that raises and sells fleas. And ticks.

This unique 62-acre flea and tick farm is operated by Environmental Consultants, headquartered in Norfolk, Va. Donald VanHoose, executive vice president, explains how his company got involved in flea and tick farming: "We are a testing laboratory and some of the products we test are flea remedies for pets. We originally

got into the business to raise fleas for testing," he says. "A sideline market grew out of this and we now sell live fleas and ticks to other laboratories, universities and medical schools. We also sell dead fleas to pharmaceutical houses which produce a substance for people who are allergic to flea bites. For this market, dead fleas are worth more than their weight in gold. We supply about 100 grams of dead

fleas per month to regular and new customers."

In addition to flea and tick farming, the farm's work crew — made up of scientists with degrees in such fields as entomology, parasitology, botany and marine biology — tests many kinds of chemicals for their effectiveness against pests. The 62-acre farm includes 17 acres of crop land, a miniature swine facility, 3,000 sq. ft.

of animal holding areas, and 4,000 sq. ft. of laboratory space. The farm is conducting fly control experiments with farm animals and, in the future, may get into biological insect control using ladybugs, parasitic wasps and praying mantises, according to VanHoose.