

**HE DIDN'T CUT IT THE LAST
61 YEARS OF HIS LIFE**

8½-Ft. Long Beard Kept This Iowa Farmer Warm

Iowa farmer John Wesley Maine, who farmed in Page County, suffered from persistent chest colds as a young man trying to survive frigid Midwestern winters. A doctor told Maine that if he could keep his throat and chest warm, the problem might go away. At that point — age 22 — Maine started growing a beard and never shaved again. His family figures the beard must have been a good insulator because he lived to the ripe old age of 83.

When he died in 1921, Maine's beard measured 8 ft., 6 in. To keep it from getting in the way, he wrapped it around a small piece of cardboard and tucked it into his shirt. Mary Tucker, Bloomfield, Mo., who is Maine's great granddaughter, says the long beard was once featured in Ripley's Believe It Or Not and Maine occasionally went on exhibit at county fairs. "Great Granddad never enjoyed show business, however, because customers continually pulled on his beard to see if it was real," says Mary.



Maïne started his beard as a way to prevent chest colds.



Two story, 6 hole outhouse built along left side of the house has plaster walls and a stone foundation.

Two-Story Outhouse

A luxurious 2-story, 6-hole outhouse built in the 1800's and used right up into the mid 1970's has become a popular tourist attraction in Belle Plaine, Minn.

The outhouse is attached to a large house that was originally built without the outhouse in 1871. In 1886, a family with 11 kids — mostly daughters — bought the house and added the 2-story privy. The outhouse is constructed from the same materials as the house: stone foundation, lath plaster walls, and glass windows which can be opened. It has 3 seats up, 3 down and a ventilator shaft running from the pit below up to the roof. The upstairs seats are offset so that upstairs "plumbing" can run behind the downstairs seats. "Six people could use the outhouse at once if they were all real friendly,"

Henrietta Stiles of the Belle Plaine Historical Society told FARM SHOW, noting that the outhouse can be reached from the house through a covered walkway, a nice feature during cold Minnesota winters. Unlike most outhouses, it had a deep enough pit so that it never had to be moved during the more than 80 years in which it was used.

The house itself was lived in until the mid 1970's and never had an indoor toilet. It has been refurbished to represent three periods of early rural midwestern life. Guided tours through both the house and outhouse cost \$1.00.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, H. Stiles, Belle Plaine Historical Society, 330 S. Willow, Belle Plaine, Minn. 56011 (ph 612 873-4433).



David Owen, left and Ed Ilnicki say their new wheat stands 20 in. taller than other wheat strains and tests right at 16.7% protein.

THEY'VE RAISED IT FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS

Two Farmers Discover 125 Bu./Acre Wheat

Phenomenal wheat yields of 125 bu. per acre are being realized south of Battleford, Sask. by farmers David Owen and Ed Ilnicki. The test plots were a sight to behold last summer with thousands of golden heads bulging with the result of several months of growth.

The new wheat stands at least 20 inches higher than Canadian strains now being used. An average single planted kernel stools out twelve to twenty stems, dramatically thickening the crop.

The enlarged heads hold four times the normal number of kernels, threshing out over two hundred in many cases. The stem is of a solid type, creating a water reserve, which adds to drought resistancy in comparison to other hollow stemmed wheats. The leaf is a broad ample protrusion that would be unlikely to disintegrate when baled.

One of the amazing features of the wheat is its high protein content. Owen and Ilnicki tested it last year at 15.3% protein and this year topped that at 16.7%.

The test plot on the Ilnicki farm was sown into canola (rape seed) stubble, and not fertilized or irrigated but it was sprayed with 2-4D.

The apparent drawbacks are few at this point, says Ilnicki. A swath could not be more than ten to twelve feet wide or combines may have difficulty handling the bulk and the wheat takes approximately ten days longer to maturity than varieties commonly used in the area. Owen and Ilnicki



Photos courtesy Battleford Telegraph

Enlarged heads hold four times the normal number of kernels.

both say any possible disadvantages of the wheat are minimal when compared to the positive aspects of growing the wheat.

There are many questions to be answered about this wheat however. That can only be done through the correct government channels if the variety is to be registered and nationwide recognition would be doubtful if the wheat were not licensed.

The two growers at this time do not want to reveal the source of the original kernels that were planted three years ago, and do not feel they want to part with enough seed to run government tests until they have completed one more season and multiplied their quantities.

Photos and story reprinted with permission from Battleford Telegraph, Battleford, Sask.