

**Publisher's  
Notebook**



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Publisher and  
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Director

**FARM SHOW's  
15 Years Old!**

This issue marks an important milestone for FARM SHOW—the celebration of the magazine's 15th birthday!

For us, it's a celebration of Thanksgiving—a time to give thanks to each and every one of you in our growing family of 160,000 subscribers throughout the U.S., Canada and foreign countries. Our sincere thanks for inviting us into your home and for your part in making our 15th birthday anniversary such a memorable and meaningful celebration.

It all began 15 years ago this month when the first issue of FARM SHOW rolled off the press. Three key features set it apart from all other farm magazines:

1. It carried no advertising!
2. It focused exclusively on latest new products and ideas, most of them born in farm and ranch workshops.
3. It introduced "Best" and "Worst" Buys—a first-of-its-kind buyer's guide in which about 100 randomly-selected readers "tell it like it is" in nominating the best and worst buys they've made in the past year or two.

Today, 15 years and 160,000 subscribers later, those same features continue to distinguish FARM SHOW from all other farm magazines.

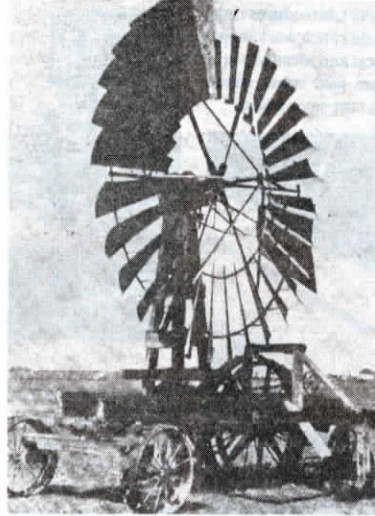
Let's stroll down memory lane and recap "Publisher's Notebook" tidbits reprinted from past issues.



**Wind-Powered Tractor:** We've discovered, thanks to FARM SHOW reader Verne Kindachi, Prairie du Sac, Wis., that a real wind-powered tractor was introduced almost 90 years ago. Here, reprinted from Verne's copy of the April, 1913 issue of Gas Review magazine, is the story: "H.M. Fletcher, of Plainview, Texas, has invented a novel traction plow that is run by wind power. He began experimenting with this remarkable method of operating plows, both for plowing the soil and cultivating crops, a few years ago and claims that he has finally perfected the mechanism so that it may now be put to practical use. Not long ago he made a trip of seventy miles on this plow along one of the public highways leading out of Plainview, the sole motor power being that of the wind. By means of ingeniously adjusted fans that resemble the wheel of the ordinary windmill, Mr. Fletcher is able to guide the plow in any direction he may see fit, irrespective of the quarter from which the wind is blowing. He devised special gearing by which the outfit is moved rapidly and with sufficient power to cut a ten-inch furrow even when wind pressure is comparatively small.

It is claimed by Mr. Fletcher that his novel outfit is not

only destined to greatly lessen the cost of farming operations but that it may be used economically in boring wells, pumping water and in various other ways where steam and more expensive power is now necessary.



"During the period that he was perfecting this invention, Mr. Fletcher was the subject of no little badinage on the part of his neighbors. He plodded along with it, however, until he now has the machine in what he claims is splendid working order. He expects to do a large amount of plowing with it during the coming spring and summer."



Left side view of Deere's rotary XCC-5 taken in 1958.

**John Deere's Rotary Combine:** Before Deere introduced its new Maximizer combines, there was much speculation as to whether the new machines might be the long awaited Deere rotaries. Deere, the only major U.S. manufacturer not making a rotary, has been adamant in stating that in a variety of crops and conditions, the conventional combine is still superior.

Senior engineers should know what they're talking about since they began their own rotary experiments in 1957 with the XCC-1. At this point, Deere called these combines centrifugals. Thus XCC stood for "Experimental Centrifugal Combine." This combine, based on a pull-type model 65 chassis, was field tested in 1958.

Encouraged by these early tests, a new model, the XCC-5, was built, based on the 95 chassis. A series of four different sizes of this combine was considered in the winter of 1960. The name "Axial Flow" was often used for these machines. This name wouldn't be heard again until 1977 when IH introduced their first rotary, calling it the Axial Flow.

In 1962, an industry rumor that IH was about to introduce a revolutionary rotary combine caused Deere engineers to worry that these would be the first commercially-available rotaries. Their fears were unfounded, however, as IH introduced the conventional 303, 403 and 503 models. These were little more than updates of the previous 101, 151 and 181 models which they had built since 1957.

Somewhere in the sixties, Deere dropped their all out efforts to produce a rotary combine, even though some experimentation continued right up until the time the 4400, 6600, and 7700 were introduced in 1969. In 1975 New Holland introduced their TR70, the first rotary by a major manufacturer. We still haven't seen a Deere rotary and maybe never will. (Reprinted from Green Magazine, Richard Hain, Publisher, Box 11, Bee, Neb. 68314.)

**The Aging Process:** The older you get, the stronger you get. If you don't believe it, just consider how much easier it is to carry \$25 worth of groceries than it was five years ago.

**Great Gift Idea:** Iowa farm wife Mary Runkle, of Bloomfield, suggests giving yourself and your time as a special gift for birthdays, Christmas and other occasions. Mary and her husband have been giving each other, and their children, personal gifts of "time" for many years. One year, for example, their gift was a promise to their children to spend one hour of time each week, giving individual attention to each child, rather than playing with them as a group.

"After all the kids were in bed at 8:30 p.m., Mom and Dad spent about one hour with one of the children who stayed up an extra hour," says Mary. "With five kids, this worked out well for evenings Monday through Friday. For that child's hour we did whatever they wanted to do, such as read, talk, listen to records, etc."

Another gift of "self" that Mary gave to her husband one year was a promise to lose 10 lbs. of weight in a certain length of time. "Once I had promised it, I did it."

She has other suggestions for giving of yourself. "Why not give an outing once a month to someone in a nursing home, a promise of a letter a week to someone in military service, or inviting a lonely cousin, aunt, uncle, friend or neighbor to share a Christmas dinner or other holiday or family event? Giving of yourself and your time doesn't have to be a Christmas gift. When our children were young, we often gave each other a special birthday gift of an outing. We went alone with that child to the place of his choice. These are the kind of gifts that make the giver feel as good as the person who receives the gift."

**The First Time:** I remember the first time I tied it. I was only a kid of sixteen. Even though she was much younger than I, she was far more composed and serene. I was eager but awkward and uncertain of how to proceed; she seemed not to notice the shyness with which I prepared for the deed.

I remember it was in the barn at the close of a hot summer day, and the evening was scented with clover, and the fragrance of freshly cut hay. I remember I spoke to her softly, and the touch of her body was warm. As my fingers moved awkwardly over her throat, she nestled her head on my arm. Looking back on it now, I remember how I stood while my head seemed to spin with the thought of the one thing I was about to do, and with hardly the nerves to begin. Uncertain whether to stay or run, a tingle of silent pride grew as I knew at last it was done, and my heart hammered under my shirt at the joy of a boy growing into a man. Forty years have gone by since that evening and I'll never forget the thrill I felt on the day that...I milked my first cow! (Author Unknown.)

**Pay Enough:** It's unwise to pay too much, but it's also unwise to pay too little. When you pay too much, all you lose is a little money. But, when you pay too little, you stand a chance of losing everything because the thing you bought is incapable of doing what you bought it to do. The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot—it just can't be done. So, when you deal with the low bidder, it's wise to put a little something aside to take care of the risk you run. And, if you do that, you can afford something better. (John Ruskin)

**Don't Miss A Single Issue!**

Many new subscribers have asked if they can obtain back issues of FARM SHOW. The answer is yes!

We have a limited supply and are offering them on a first come, first serve basis. Here's what's available:

- 1977 - One of 6 charter year issues (Vol. 1, No. 3) available.
  - 1978 - 4 issues (Vol. 2, No. 1,3,4,5) available.
  - 1979 - All 6 issues except Vol. 3, No. 5 available.
  - 1980 - 3 issues (Vol. 4, No. 1,3,6) available.
  - 1981 - 3 issues (Vol. 5, No. 2,4,6) available.
  - 1982 - 3 issues (Vol. 6, No. 1,4,6) available.
  - 1983 - All 6 issues except Vol. 7, No. 6 available.
  - 1984 - All 6 issues available.
  - 1985 - All 6 issues except Vol. 9, No. 4 available.
  - 1986 - All 6 issues except Vol. 10, No. 4 available.
  - 1987, 1988 - All 6 issues for each year available.
  - 1989 - All 6 issues except Vol. 13, No. 3 available.
  - 1990, 1991 - All 6 issues for each year available.
- The first 25 copies are \$3 each, the next 25 \$2.50 each, and \$2 each thereafter. Of the 90 issues of FARM SHOW published the past 15 years, 69 are available. Total cost of an "all available back issues packet" pencils out to \$175.50. Mail your check, payable to FARM SHOW, to: Back Issues, FARM SHOW Magazine, Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044. (ph 612 469-5572).