

PASSENGERS RIDE IN "ROYAL COACH" LUXURY TO WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND PROMS

Minnesota Farmer Operates Sideline Limousine Service

You may think chauffeur limousine services are only for city folks, but Daniel Elliot disagrees. For the past 1 1/2 years, the Sacred Heart, Minn., farmer has provided chauffeured limousine service for rural folks living within a 60-mile radius of his farm.

Elliot drives his customers in a long, white 1979 Cadillac Deville with dark, tinted windows. When chauffeuring, he wears a plain black suit, white shirt, red tie and black chauffeur's hat.

His customers have included high school prom-goers, a group of elderly women out for an afternoon lunch, a grandmother taking her 9-year-old grandson out for pizza, fathers bringing their newborn babies and spouses home from the hospital and groups avoiding the dangers of drinking and driving. Weddings, anniversaries and proms, however, provide most of his business.

Elliot does more than just transport passengers from one place to another. He also likes "putting on the ritz" for them. "My rule of thumb for pleasing passengers is to think faster than the customer. It's part of the show - the novelty of it."

For example, for anniversaries and weddings, he supplies a chilled bottle of champagne and a long-stemmed escort rose. And when it's raining, he'll escort people into and out of buildings with an umbrella. If his passengers want to stop at a service station

to use restrooms, he'll quickly fetch the bathroom keys.

Elliot charges \$45 per hour with a 3-hour minimum. There's no mileage fee and time begins when Elliot picks up his clients. Elliot collects his fees in advance and a contract between parties is signed.

From April to October, Elliot averages 2 to 3 events weekly. He sometimes has bookings 6 months in advance, obtaining business by placing ads in the wedding sections of local weekly newspapers. He also leaves his name and photo in wedding books found in tuxedo and wedding dress shops. And he appears in parades. "But the best advertising," says Elliot, "is to drive around and hand out your card."

For Elliot, who farms 850 acres of corn, soybeans and sugarbeets with his father, the service provides a steady, off-farm income. Although Sacred Heart has slightly more than 600 people, there are 55 communities within a 60-mile radius. In developing his limousine-service business plan, Elliot found if he averaged one client per town annually, he could keep the business rolling.

In addition to the income, it's an interesting diversion from farming's rigors. "It's a nice break from farming and I get to meet a lot of people. However, it does take up a lot of time on weekends, so my father and a neighbor school teacher occasionally do



When he isn't farming, Elliot chauffeurs customers in his luxurious "stretch" limousine at a rate of \$45 per hour.

some of the driving," says Elliot, who put 15,000 miles on the car last year, and will probably exceed that this year.

Elliot purchased his 1979 Cadillac Deville for \$14,000 from a custom coachbuilder in Gray Eagle, Minn. He located the limousine by scouring automobile advertising magazines. The factory-built Cadillac had been sliced in half and stretched 40 in. Although already nearly 10 years old, the limo looks like new because front-end styles have changed little since 1977.

Elliot has even worked out creative, al-

ternative payment plans with a few customers. In exchange for an hour's limousine service, Elliot obtained a truck to haul his sugar beets out of the field. "Once a hog producer traded a market weight live hog for my service," says Elliot. "When the fellow decided he wanted additional car time, he also threw in the processing."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Daniel Elliot, Rt. 1, Box 4, Sacred Heart, Minn. 56285 (ph 612 765-2376).

HART-PARR, OLIVER, MINNEAPOLIS MOLINE, COCKSHUTT AND WHITE

Here's Where To Go For Old Tractor Manuals

"Some of these old tractor manuals are priceless. They're not available anywhere else," says Wayne Wiltse, of the Floyd County Historical Society in Charles City, Iowa where a huge collection of old tractor manuals has been assembled thanks to "tons and tons" of old manuals donated by farm equipment manufacturers.

The collection includes manuals for Hart-Parr, Oliver, Minneapolis Moline, Cockshutt and White tractors. Manuals are also available for combines, planters and tillage tools, as well as for some industrial equipment.

When Allied Products Corp., parent company of White-New Idea, closed one of its facilities last year in a cost-cutting move, it offered a warehouse full of old manuals to the Floyd County Museum with the understanding that the museum would make the manuals available to anyone who wanted them. The huge collection - more than 26 tons of material - also included more than 30,000 slides, photos and promotional films, as well as more than 7,000 blueprints. Material dates back to 1901.

Wiltse, an antique farm machinery enthusiast, headed up a crew of volunteers to organize the more than 50,000 publications, building shelves and computerizing the entire collection so orders can be easily taken by phone.

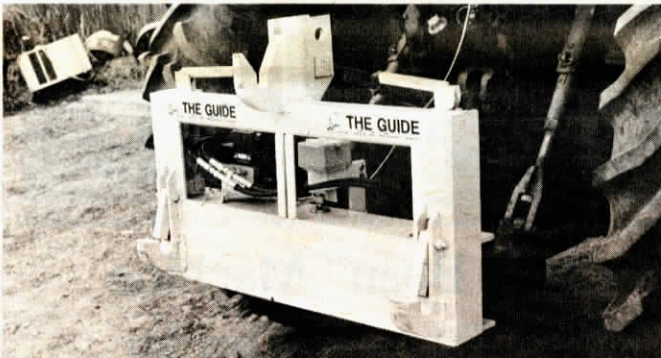
Charles City is a logical location for the collection since it was the original home of Hart-Parr tractors. In 1929, Hart-Parr merged with Oliver. In the 1960's, White

Motor Corp. bought the Oliver, Minneapolis Moline, and Cockshutt tractor lines and produced all three in Charles City, maintaining the independent model designations. In the 1970's, all three lines were finally merged under the White name. In the 1980's, Allied Products Corp. took over White and decided not to keep filling orders for out-of-date technical publications for the old machinery lines. Wiltse says the museum hopes to obtain more old manuals from collectors in order to complete gaps that still remain in the collection. "We're looking for more manuals and other technical information on tractors and other farm equipment made by Hart-Parr, Oliver, Minneapolis Moline, Cockshutt, and White. We plan to specialize in those lines even though we do have a few old John Deere manuals."

Publications range in price from \$3 to \$15 for the original manuals. If only a few copies remain of a manual, the museum makes xerox copies which may cost more. Wiltse is looking into reprinting some of the most rare manuals, especially for the oldest Hart-Parr models.

Hundreds of orders have already come in from around the country. What's the most popular request so far? "The 1655 Oliver tractor and Oliver planters," Wiltse told FARM SHOW.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Floyd County Historical Society, 500 Gilbert Street, Charles City, Iowa 50616 (ph 515 228-1099).



Equipment mounts directly on "The Guide" which attaches to your 3-pt. Two short cylinders at either end of the unit tilt it back and forth.

TILTS IMPLEMENT FORWARD AND BACK RATHER THAN FROM SIDE TO SIDE

New Guidance System Pivots On Tractor 3-Pt.

"It's the best way to guide planters, cultivators and even sprayers," says Greg Schuster, Lincoln Creek Mfg., about the company's new 3-pt. guidance system that tilts the implement back and forth rather than shifting it from side to side.

"The Guide", as it's called, mounts on the tractor 3-pt. and is fitted with its own quick hitch attachments so it hooks up to 3-pt. equipment like any other quick hitch. It can be left in place on the tractor even when not used for guiding.

The frame of The Guide is tilted back and forth by two 2 1/2-in. stroke, 3-in. dia. hydraulic cylinders that mount on either side. The cylinders tilt forward and back a total of 10°.

The new-style method of guidance, which

has also been used by two other manufacturers recently (See FARM SHOW's Vol. 11, No. 6 and Vol. 12, No. 1), was developed because of problems "side-to-side" guidance systems had shifting coulter-equipped implements back and forth in ridge till. By tilting the implement, the coulters are "led" from one side to the other, according to Schuster.

The Guide can be equipped with wands that follow the crop, a "sled" that follows the ridges, or with weighted guide rods that follow in a marker furrow. Sells for \$3,500.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lincoln Creek Manufacturing Co., Inc., Rt. 1, Box 41, Phillips, Neb. 68865 (ph 402 886-2483).