

Smörgasbord



Harold Johnson
Editor

First "Alcohol Cars" for Sale — The first factory built alcohol cars ever sold in the U.S. or Canada went on the market several weeks ago.

Business partners Michael Pete and James Floyd have contracted with General Motors of Brazil to import the cars from Brazil, the nation's No. 1 alcohol producing nation. The first imported all-alcohol car was delivered to the governor of Alabama last month.

General Motors of Brazil has agreed to ship Pete



and Floyd 1,000 alcohol-powered cars in 1981, with more to be available next year. The cars burn straight 180 or higher proof ethanol and get 25 to 30 mpg, according to James Floyd. They're equipped with a cold-starting mechanism for use in colder climates. Foreign models being offered range in price from \$8,000 to \$12,000.

Floyd, who has made alcohol himself and also started a business of selling alcohol stills, feels that availability of alcohol-powered cars represents "A breakthrough in creating a market for low-proof alcohol, one of the real problems up to now for small scale alcohol producers." He says the Opala model, which sells for \$9,950, is most readily available. Its delivery is about 30 days. The Chevy, which sells for \$8,080, takes about 90 days for delivery. Delivery is slightly longer on the other 2 models being offered.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alcohol Cars For America, James Floyd, President, Route 1, Box 208, Cullman, Ala. 35055 (ph 205 734-7297). (Photo courtesy Farm Energy Magazine, West Des Moines, Iowa).

Seedcorn companies in court — Virtually every corn grower has a stake in a lawsuit filed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Des Moines, Iowa, charging three related companies with wrongfully acquiring the parent line used in 3780, the top selling hybrid on the market and the industry's all-time best seller, and other more recently introduced Pioneer hybrids.

Defendants in the suit are Holden Foundation Seeds, of Williamsburg, Iowa, a producer and developer of inbred seed corn lines serving many smaller and medium size hybrid seed corn companies, and some of the larger ones. Also named as

defendants are Hawaiian Research, Williamsburg, a related company of Holden; and Corn States Hybrid Services, Des Moines, a marketer for Holden Foundation Seeds.

At issue in the suit is H3H, a Pioneer-developed inbred which serves as the male parent for Pioneer's 3780 and several other popular Pioneer hybrids. In filing the suit, Pioneer says it is the developer and owner of the H3H line, and that it has the exclusive right to utilize that line in the development of other lines. Pioneer's suit charges the defendants with "wrongful acquisition, appropriation and distribution of H3H," according to Gordon McCleary, communications director.

He notes that Pioneer seeks an injunction prohibiting Holden and its sister companies from selling or dispensing inbred lines LH38 and LH39, alleging that these Holden inbreds were developed from H3H. Pioneer seeks to recover seed allegedly wrongfully developed from H3H, maintaining that its competitive position has been damaged by the defendants.

Ronald Holden, executive vice president of Holden Foundation Seeds, says "the suit by Pioneer is groundless and will be vigorously defended. Our Holden-developed inbreds LB38 and LB39 produce hybrids which are proving to be 5 to 20 bu. superior in yield to Pioneer's 3780, 3541 and other top-selling hybrids. We feel the suit is simply Pioneer's attempt to drive our superior inbreds from the marketplace. We see it as an endeavor by Pioneer to use groundless claims to deprive our customers from selling our superior performance seeds to the farmer. Holden's foundation seed will remain available to customers through Corn States Hybrid Service," Holden told FARM SHOW.

The suit has broad implications for most corn growers because of the widespread use of Pioneer hybrids using the contested H3H inbred, and the fact that Holden is a major supplier of foundation seed to most small and medium seed corn companies, and several of the larger companies. Because of what he calls "a confidential agreement" Holden declined to name the many seed corn companies which use Holden's foundations seed, except to point out that "we don't supply Pioneer, Dekalb or Funks".

Hybrid companies selling varieties developed from Holden's contested LB38 and LB39 inbreds could have a substantial amount of 1981 crop seed, slated for sale to farmers for planting in 1982, in marketing trouble if the court acts in Pioneer's favor.

"We debated about instituting the suit but felt we had no other choice," explains Pioneer's McCleary. "We feel strongly that protection of our proprietary inbreds is a key factor in Pioneer's competitive position. We spend \$10 million a year on research and feel compelled to protect that investment. Holden was named in the suit because we believe they have made wrongful acquisition and distribution of H3H. The line is exclusively Pioneer's. Anyone who grows or uses it, without proper authorization, is making unauthorized use of it."

Alcohol explosion — One farmer lost his life and six other people were injured in a little-publicized accident last fall involving alcohol fuels at the Ohio Farm Science Review in Columbus.

Richard Williamson and his wife Martha, 60 of Cedarville, Ohio, were gathered with some 60 spectators around an exhibit promoting the "Freedom Still", manufactured by Tri-Star Corp., of Vandalia, Ill., when a 55-gal. drum containing about 30 gal. of alcohol exploded. Although reports conflict, the barrel apparently shot into the air, blowing off its bottom and severely burning the Williamsons, four other bystanders, and one Tri-Star employee.

The victims, who said that because alcohol burns so clean the flames were virtually invisible on their clothes and skin, suffered first, second and third degree burns. Most have since had skin grafts over burned areas. Williamson died after several weeks, reportedly of a blood clot caused by his

burn injuries.

Accounts vary on how the explosion was triggered, but one report suggests that Tri-Star employee, Elmo Sergeant of Ramsey, Ill., lit a small quantity of alcohol in an ashtray atop the lid of the alcohol storage drum to demonstrate its clean burn. The 2-in. dia. air hole in the lid was open, however, and fumes rising from it apparently ignited. Gasoline, which had been added as a denaturant, may have been a factor, say investigators, as it vaporizes much more readily than alcohol.

Lawsuits are pending in the case. Several of the victims, including three neighboring farmers Charles Bouillon, David Reinhart and Norbert Kim, all of New Regal, Ohio, are still unable to work because of their injuries. (Mark Newhall, Associate Editor).

DMSO Controversy — We answered a small classified newspaper ad the other day offering an 8 oz. bottle of DMSO for \$15, including postage and handling. We were surprised at how easy it is to obtain this solvent, which is fast becoming a national health fad. We ordered from: Solvent, Box 12510, Kansas City, Kan. 66112.

In most states, it's illegal to promote DMSO as a non-prescription medicine. But it can be sold as a solvent. Many users claim that dabbing it on, like liniment, helps relieve aches, pains and a wide variety of other ailments.

FDA officials are concerned about DMSO's indiscriminate use, warning that it can cause skin rashes and other side effects. The Arthritis Foundation says that, while DMSO has been shown to have pain relieving possibilities, it has shown no demonstrable effect on rheumatoid arthritis.

Landmark Enterprises, 61 Country, Signal Hill, Kansas City, Mo. 64108, has published a 4 page newsletter on DMSO. It's available free of charge if you send them a stamped, self-addressed envelope (25¢ coin from Canada). The newsletter points out that, in 1971, DMSO was approved by the FDA for veterinary use on horses and dogs for bruises, sore muscles and inflammation. In 1978, DMSO was approved by the FDA for human use, but only in a weak solution and only for treatment of a bladder infection.

More recently, a TV producer, looking for a story on why so many other countries were using drugs that were not yet approved in the U.S., stumbled onto DMSO. The result was a full scale report on the "60 Minutes" TV program. It triggered a stampede for DMSO, with people willing to pay most any price for any quantity they could get. Naturally, a black market was born and prices skyrocketed.

The Landmark newsletter notes that "The states of Oregon and Florida have both approved the use of DMSO, but only on an experimental basis. Because of rumor, many people have traveled to one of these states, looking for treatment, only to be disappointed. It is not generally available. It may be obtained only if you are first accepted into an experimental program such as the one at the University of Oregon in Portland under Dr. Stanley Jacobs.

"Dr. Jacobs will accept patients in Portland. Patients must provide a medical history, including a complete physical during the past 5 years, and must show a letter from the patient's doctor giving permission to a DMSO treatment. Patients also must be available for no less than 3 days (usually 8 days) at the outpatient clinic. The only charges involved are approximately \$150 for office visits over the 3 days. You are not charged for the DMSO. You must provide for your lodging and you must travel to Portland, Oregon. Reportedly, this is the only clinic for medical-grade DMSO available in the United States. Once you are a patient, you may then obtain DMSO through the mail. For details, contact: University of Oregon, Dr. Stanley Jacobs, 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Parkway Road, Portland, Oregon 97403."

A book entitled, "The Persecuted Drug — The Story of DMSO," sells for \$2.50. It's available from: Solvent, P.O. Box 12510, Kansas City, Kan. 66112.