

**Editor's
Notebook**



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Editor &
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Our First 26 Years

This issue wraps up 26 amazing years for FARM SHOW Magazine. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you to everyone who has ever sent in a photo, drawing or idea. Thank you to everyone who has given us the name of a friend or a neighbor with a great idea, or taken the time to tell us about a product that works great -- or one that failed. And, of course, thanks to everyone who has ever subscribed, or bought a subscription for a friend, neighbor or relative.

FARM SHOW exists because of you, and everything we do is aimed at serving you. If we have failed you in any way, please let us know and we'll try to make it right. If you don't tell us when we go wrong, we can't fix the problem.

When FARM SHOW founder, Harold Johnson, left his job as editor of *Farm Industry News* in 1977 to start this new "no advertising" magazine, most industry experts thought he was crazy. "You can't survive without advertising revenue," they said. But he proved the experts wrong. Circulation grew to 50,000 in two years. After 4 years we were at 100,000. Today FARM SHOW has some 160,000 paid subscriptions in the U.S. and Canada, with well over 400,000 readers of every issue.

I started working for Harold in 1978, just after graduating from the University of Minnesota. In 1994, when Harold retired, he gave me the chance to take over. This is the only publication we own and we have no outside investors telling us what we can or cannot do.

Our only mission here is to serve our readers. If we don't do that, we might as well close our doors.

So thanks for your business. If there's something you think we could do better, please let us know. Call anytime toll-free at 800 834-9665 or e-mail me at Mark@farmshow.com.



Kubota, Gehl and New Holland equipment are all displayed outside Olstad Implement, Chatfield, Minn.

**The Changing Face Of
Farm Equipment Dealers**

Farm implement dealerships have declined four times as fast as the number of farms, according to recent census figures. Many survivors are taking on multiple lines of equipment to serve as many customers as possible.

Olstad Implement, Chatfield, Minn., got its start as an Oliver dealer in 1946 and evolved into an Agco dealer. Eight years ago, the dealership signed up with New Holland, confident it would evolve as a full line company. Today it is

their main line but they've also taken on Gehl and Kubota and are considering the addition of Belarus tractors.

Bill Wright, co-owner, predicts more dealerships will divest themselves from major lines and go with multiple short lines, due to the high cost of maintaining relationships with major manufacturers. Company requirements for marketing, specialty tools, and service facilities can be very costly.

Another factor is that more brands are available today, notes Wright, citing the influx of European and Asian tractors. "There are probably more tractor brands on the market today than 30 years ago," he says.



Case-IH



Agco

Kinze Sues Case-IH

Kinze Manufacturing has sued Case-IH, saying its new "lift and turn" planter infringes Kinze's patent on its Twin Line Planter, which was first introduced to the market back in 1984.

Kinze, based in Williamsburg, Iowa, filed papers in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, district court, seeking to stop Case Corporation from producing and marketing its "lift and turn" planter introduced last year.

Kinze's documents say the Case planter infringes on U.S. patent number 4,721,168, which covers the lift and turn mechanism on the Twin-Line planter. Kinze's patent was issued in 1988 and will expire sometime in 2005.

As expected, Case Corporation has denied infringement. Additionally, in the company's answer to Kinze's complaint, Case is questioning the validity of Kinze's patent. Part of the Case defense will be the fact the U.S. Patent Office issued a patent to Case for its planter design.

We noticed that AGCO's new "lift and rotate" planter appears to be even closer to Kinze's design than the Case-IH model. Whether Kinze will eventually level similar complaints against AGCO remains to be seen. When asked, Kinze Manufacturing had no comment.



Kinze

Liberty Quotes

"Prejudice rarely survives experience." *Eve Zibart*

"The soft-minded man always fears change. He feels security in the status quo, and he has an almost morbid fear of the new. For him, the greatest pain is the pain of a new idea." *Martin Luther King*

"The right to be let alone is indeed the beginning of all freedom." *Justice William O. Douglas*

"If you mind your own business, you won't be minding mine." *Hank Williams*

"Governments need armies to protect them against their enslaved and oppressed subjects." *Leo Tolstoy, 1893*

"No free man shall ever be de-barred the use of arms. The strongest reason for the people to retain their right to keep and bear arms is as a last resort to protect themselves against the tyranny in government." *Thomas Jefferson*

"Of all the tyrannies that affect mankind, tyranny in religion is the worst." *Thomas Paine*

"The last of the human freedoms is the freedom to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." *Viktor Frankl, former Nazi concentration camp prisoner and author of "Man's Search For Meaning"*

Neat Wood-Carving Trick

Years ago, an old woodcarver taught Jack Masterson the secret of how to carve a set of working pliers from a single piece of wood. Since then, he's carved more than 5,000 working pairs. It takes about an hour to carve each pair.



"I give them to friends and people I meet. I also sell them for \$10 a pair," says Masterson, Russellville, Alabama.

Masterson starts with a solid block of wood measuring about 3-1/2 in. long, 7/8 in. wide and 9/16 in. thick. From this small block, he uses a scroll saw to rough out the pliers shape. Then, with a case knife and a carving tool he made himself, he cuts the hinge and finishes the handles and nose of the pliers. Once finished, the mini pliers are strong and really work.

Masterson usually carves from basswood. "It's the easiest wood to work with," he says. "But I've made pliers from hickory, oak, cedar and maple, too."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jack Masterson, 11853 Hwy. 48, Russellville, Ala. 35654 (ph 256 332-3285).

I've Learned . . .

.... That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

.... That being kind is more important than being right.

.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

.... That simple walks with my father around the block in summer when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

.... That we should be glad that God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

.... That money doesn't buy class.

.... That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?

.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

.... That I wish I could have told my Dad that I love him one more time before he passed away.

.... That one should keep his words soft and tender because tomorrow you may have to eat them.

.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done. *Andy Rooney*

While driving down the highway recently, I saw this on the T-shirt of a man on a motorcycle that pulled ahead of me: "If you can read this, my wife fell off."

Fred was in the hospital, near death, so the family sent for his pastor. As the pastor stood beside the bed, Fred's frail condition grew worse, and he motioned frantically for something to write on. The pastor lovingly handed him a pen and piece of paper, and Fred used his last ounce of strength to scribble a note. Then he died. The pastor thought it best not to look at the note just then, so he slipped it into his jacket pocket. Several days later, at the funeral, the pastor delivered the eulogy. He realized that he was wearing the same jacket that he'd worn the day Fred died. "You know," he said, "Fred handed me a note just before he died. I haven't read it, but knowing Fred, I'm sure there's a word of inspiration there for us all." He unfolded the note and read aloud, "You're standing on my oxygen tube!"