

Editor's Notebook



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Hot New Idea From Paris

We recently sent British machinery writer Mick Roberts to Paris, France, to cover the SIMA farm show for us. Held every other year at the end of February, it's one of the biggest ag expos in the world.

Right before this issue went to press, Mick e-mailed us



Galileo Mobility system switches from wheel, left, to tracks when idler wheels fold down out of wheel.

what he said was the most exciting new product on display at the big event. It's a revolutionary new wheel that converts into tracks on-the-go. Called the Galileo Dual Mobility system, it was shown for the first time ever at Paris. In place of a standard tire or track, Galileo uses a flexible "endless" ribbed belt that can expand its size as needed.

In wheel mode, the belt links fold tightly in against the solid rim. To switch to tracks, idler wheels fold down from inside the wheel, one in front and the other in back. As the small wheels drop down, the ribbed track expands.

You can switch to wheels for road travel and back to tracks in the field for a 30 percent increase in drawbar power. In addition, by alternately raising and lowering the idler wheels, you can walk over obstacles or even climb stairs, according to the company.

Developed by an Israeli company, you can read more about the innovative new wheel-track assembly at: www.galileo-mobility.com or contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Galileo Mobility, P.O. Box 128, KFAR Truman, 73150 Israel (ph 972 3 9733-853; fax 972 3 9733-854).

It's Worse Than We Thought!

The tidbit in our last column on the number "one billion" had some faulty calculations. Reader Hume Lilley of Windsor, N.C., called to set us straight.

"I think those numbers were a bit dated. A billion seconds ago it was actually 1972 (not 1952). A billion minutes ago, it was the year 101 A.D. so Jesus had been dead for nearly 70 years."

Most startling of all are the figures on how long it takes the U.S. government to spend one billion dollars. "You said it takes 10 hours and 20 min. to go through that much money. Actually, the government goes through one billion dollars every 3 hrs. and 8 min. for a total of 2.3 trillion dollars each year."

Selling Your Old FARM SHOW Magazines

We frequently get calls from readers who want to sell their collections of old FARM SHOW magazines. Usually they're moving or quitting farming but sometimes they just want to know if there's a way to turn them into cash.

So here's a new way to get rid of your old FARM SHOWS

without tossing them. Just go to www.farmshow.com and click on "Free Classifieds". It'll take you to our "sister" site, BestFarmBuys.com which is one of the biggest and busiest classified sites on the internet, with 50,000 to 100,000 visitors every month.

Shane Dennis, who owns the site, has set up a special category just for readers of FARM SHOW. Just open the category "FARM SHOW" and you can submit a free listing for your issues, or read ads from people who have old copies for sale.

And if you can't find what you need, remember that we do have about 120 back issues available direct from our offices for \$3 apiece, or \$250 for the complete set. Just call us at 800 834-9665 or go to www.farmshow.com.

Cheap Tractor Power

Larry Klein, Alhambra, Ill., called us recently to see if we had ever done a story about converting semi tractors into farm tractors. He had just bought a used Mack truck with a newly rebuilt engine for \$2,500 and he wanted to convert it for field work.

"There has probably never been a better time to buy a used semi because many older trucks are failing the newer, tougher federal regulations. If there's the slightest thing wrong with



Gerald Oetken spent a total of just \$12,000 to buy and then convert a 1978 IH semi tractor to farm use.

a truck, they won't license it for road use," says Klein. "The semi I bought has a 300 hp engine with enough power to pull an 80,000-lb. trailer. It would cost you \$150,000 to get that much power in a farm tractor."

FARM SHOW has had a few stories on farmers who converted semis to farm tractors. In 2000 we wrote about Gerald Oetken, Larned, Kan. (Vol. 24, No. 5) who turned a 325 hp 1978 International into a farm tractor that he rated at about 234 drawbar hp. It had an 855 Cummins engine and a 10-speed Fuller transmission. He cut off the frame and attached a new rear end fitted with tractor tires. Then he installed a hydraulic system off a Versatile tractor.

We had another story in 1986 about Brian Simonson of Plentywood, Mont. (Vol. 10, No. 2) who converted a 1970 International with a "sleeper cab" into a farm tractor. He got the idea from a nearby farmer who had converted three semi tractors for farm use.

"My Best Buy"

We recently received this note from Gordon Stueck, who farms near Leader, Saskatchewan.

"My best buy of all time is a diamond wedding ring I bought to install on a 1953 model girl, who was given the name "Michele" by her original manufacturers. The ring was too big so I machined it down and used JB Weld to make sure it would never break. Once installed, it was a perfect fit.

"Over the years, my '53 Michele has made my meals, done laundry, ran for parts, coped with in-laws, painted the house, mowed the lawn, worked part and full-time at various jobs, managed the finances, planted gardens, laughed at my jokes for the 100th time, laughed at my father's jokes for the 100th time, sat by my sick bed, and mourned at the loss of my relatives. My '53 Michele has stood by me during good times and bad, supported me in all my endeavors, borne and raised our beautiful daughter, and given me a reason to get up in the morning. As we close in on our 25th year together, I can truthfully say that diamond wedding ring was my best buy of all time."

Liberty Quotes

"Constitutions are checks upon the hasty action of the majority. They are the self-imposed restraints of a whole people upon a majority of them to secure sober action and a respect for the rights of the minority." *William Howard Taft*

"Government is like fire. If it is kept within bounds and under the control of the people, it contributes to the welfare of all. But if it gets out of place, if it gets too big and out of control, it destroys the happiness and even the lives of the people." *Harold E. Stassen*

"If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom; and the irony of it is that if it is comfort or money that it values more, it will lose that, too." *W. Somerset Maugham*

"If by the mere force of numbers a majority should deprive a minority of any clearly written constitutional right, it might, in a moral point of view, justify revolution." *Abraham Lincoln*

A Plague Of "Wrong Numbers"

We've been getting a lot of calls lately that some of the phone numbers published in FARM SHOW are "wrong". Of course, sometimes we do make mistakes. But lately the most common culprit is a changed area code.

Codes are changing frequently all over North America. And after a year or so, the phone companies no longer forward the numbers and they don't tell you the area code has changed. They just say the number is no longer in service.

So if you think you've got a wrong number, first check with the operator to see if there's been a change.

Belt Pulley Changes Hands

One of the most unusual - and fun to read - farm magazines that comes into our offices is the Belt Pulley. It was started by Kurt Aumann, Nokomis, Ill., when he was in high school.

(See FARM SHOW's original story in Vol., 11, No. 4). At the time, Kurt was also the youngest working farm auctioneer in the country, having gotten his start with his father at the age of 11.

Kurt has continued to publish the magazine as his auction business has grown. When he got married, his wife Jane took over as editor. The Belt Pulley continues to cover all brands of tractors, searching through farmyards and back pastures for stories.

In recent years, Kurt's auction business has grown to the point where he has decided he could no longer continue the magazine. Aumann Auctions has become one of the biggest specialty auction services in the country.

New owners of the Belt Pulley are husband and wife Chad and Katie Elmore, Jefferson, Wis. Chad has written for the Belt Pulley and other farm tractor magazines since 1989. Both Chad and Katie grew up on farms and both are active in tractor restoration.

Belt Pulley is published 6 times a year for \$20 a year. For a free sample copy, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Belt Pulley, P.O. Box 58, Jefferson, Wis. 53549 (ph 920 674-9732; e-mail: elmor@jefnet.com).

More Church Bulletin Bloopers

- Evening message - 6 p.m.
- Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.
- Ushers will eat latecomers.
- The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
- During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs took over the pulpit.
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.
- Pastor is on vacation. Messages can be given to church secretary...
- The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The child was a typical four-year-old girl. Cute, inquisitive, and bright as a new penny. When she expressed difficulty in grasping the concept of marriage, her father decided to pull out his wedding photo album, thinking visual images would help. On one page after another, he pointed out the bride arriving at the church, the entrance, the wedding ceremony, the recessional, the reception, etc. "Now do you understand?" he asked. "I think so," she said. "Is that when mommy came to work for us?"