

**Editor's
Notebook**



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Lurch Sets World Record

A Watusi steer with giant horns recently earned a spot in the Guinness Book Of World Records when his horns reached a diameter of 37 1/2 in. FARM SHOW first featured Lurch three years ago when his horns were a measly 35 in. dia. and 61 in. long from tip to tip.

Lurch is owned by Janis Wolf of Gassville, Ark. Watusi cattle, which originated in Africa, are known for their big horns but Lurch is in a class by himself. Wolf says Lurch is actually 1/8 Longhorn, which might account for his peculiar genetics. He's now 7 years old but his horns continue to grow. In fact, Wolf recently measured them at 38 in., a new record.

Lurch has his own website at www.rockyridgereffuge.com and Wolf welcomes visitors to meet Lurch. Contact: Janis Wolf, 425 County Rd. 1123, Gassville, Ark. 72635 (ph 870 430-5783).

Biggest Land Owner Ever

Controversial billionaire and environmentalist Ted Turner now owns 1.7 million acres of rangeland in the U.S., making him the largest individual land owner. His 2,600 plus square miles would cover more than half of Connecticut. And the buying, which began in earnest 13 years ago, isn't over. In the past year alone, Turner purchased roughly 320,000 acres in Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Most of his holdings are ranches and farms in New Mexico, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, South Carolina, Florida, and South Dakota. Thousands of acres are devoted to providing pasture for Turner's 24,000 head of bison, easily the largest herd in the world. Much of his land has already been placed in conservation easements to forever prevent their development. (*Progressive Farmer*)

Wiring Monkey Brains

A recent report about researchers who wired up monkey brains to run machinery with only their thoughts caught my eye because it's the first time a brain has been wired to grab and pick up an object just by thinking about it.

Researchers at Duke University removed patches of skull from two monkeys and stuck hundreds of hair-thin wires into the outer layers of their brains. Once the wires were inserted, a substance like dental cement was poured over the area to replace the skull and hold the wires in place. The monkeys now had a tuft of wires sticking out of their skulls which could be hooked up to wires that ran to a computer controlling a large mechanical arm.

The monkeys were trained to move the robot arm with a

joystick. The robot arm was in another room but they could see it. They were rewarded with a treat when they successfully picked up an object with the arm. As the monkeys played with the arm, a computer tracked the bioelectrical activity in their brains. They were able to identify the brain's commands for "reach" and "grab" and then programmed the computer so that when that "brain command" was given, the computer would turn it into action. Eventually, they unhooked the joystick and the monkeys were able to move the robot just by thinking about it.

Other researchers are working on the same type of thing and at least one company, Cyberkinetics, Inc. of Foxboro, Mass., has already been formed to capitalize on the technology. Experiments on humans should begin next year.

Piloting Airplane Easier Than Ever

Imagine if buying an airplane were as easy as getting a new pickup. Thanks to relaxed regulations for a new category of plane, that's exactly what's happening. A new breed of "sport plane" makes it much easier for an average person to own their own plane and you can get a pilot's license by attending



New pilots can be up and flying in this single engine Calypso - or other similar light sport planes - in a fraction of the time it takes to become licensed to fly a conventional airplane.

a brief ground school course and logging just 20 hrs. of flight.

The new planes, available from a variety of manufacturers, are priced from \$39,000 to \$65,000 compared to \$150,000 or more for even a modest conventional plane. In addition to being less expensive - and more safe than kit-built planes or ultra-lights - the licensing procedure is much less stringent. For example, there's no requirement for a medical exam. If you're healthy enough to drive a car, you're healthy enough to fly a plane.

The light sport planes generally carry two people, weigh a maximum of 1,200 lbs., and have a top speed of 130 mph.

You can get more information on the planes, and the just-released new regulations, at these sites:

- <http://www.eaa.org/>
- <http://www.faa.gov/>
- <http://www.airventure.org/>

Live A Full Life . . .

A professor stood before his class and picked up a very large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a jar of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open spaces between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar and of course the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous yes.

The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and then proceeded to pour the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the grains of sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things — your family, your partner, your health, your children, your friends, your favorite passions. Things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

"The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. And the sand is everything else. The small stuff.

"If you put sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out dancing. Play another 18.

"Take care of the golf balls first — the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. That was to demonstrate that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers."

Bad Spellers Rejoice

Aoccdrnig to a rschearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttair in wacth oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the only iprmoentn thng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pelae. The rset can be a total mses and you can stll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tths is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed eyvey lteer by istlefl, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?



C.F. Marley, right, joins Bob Dickey in front of DICKEY-john headquarters, which is just across the road from the cemetery where Jack Littlejohn was recently buried.

Ag Electronics Pioneer Dies

Two hundred-plus DICKEY-john Corp. employees lined both sides of a road leading to the cemetery in Auburn, Ill., recently as a salute to their boss, Jack Littlejohn, who was laid to rest there. One of the founders of DICKEY-john Corp., along with Bob Dickey, Littlejohn was a pioneer in ag electronics.

FARM SHOW contributing editor C.F. Marley, an 83-year-old journalist who has been covering new inventions in agriculture for nearly 60 years, was the first to write about the planter monitor invented by Dickey and Littlejohn back in 1966. That monitor launched an electronic revolution that's still going strong today. After Marley's original article appeared in Farm Journal (before the days of FARM SHOW), the company was launched and it grew into a multi-million dollar company that's still going strong today.

Liberty Quotes

"The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously." *Hubert H. Humphrey*

"Democracy and liberty are not the same. Democracy is little more than mob rule, while liberty refers to the sovereignty of the individual." *Walter Williams*

"No man's life, liberty or fortune is safe while our legislature is in session." *Benjamin Franklin*

"A government that is big enough to give you all you want is big enough to take it all away." *Barry Goldwater*

"If we are ever in doubt about what to do, it is a good rule to ask ourselves what we shall wish on the morrow that we had done." *John Lubbock*

"I am more and more convinced that our happiness or unhappiness depends far more on the way we meet the events of life than on the nature of those events themselves." *Wilhelm Von Humboldt*

A Humble Prayer

Lord, please make me the kind of person my dog thinks I am.
Warren J. Keating

Job Woes

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned — couldn't concentrate. Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe. After that, I tried to be a tailor, but I just wasn't suited for it. Next, I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was exhausting. Then came a job in a shoe factory; I tried, but I just didn't fit. I became a professional fisherman, but discovered that I couldn't live off my net income. I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining. So then I got a job at a fitness center, but they said I wasn't fit for the job. I finally got a job as a historian, but I realized there was no future in it.

I finally retired and found that it's the perfect job for me.