

**Editor's
Notebook**



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**Great Gift Idea
For Christmas**

If you've got a hard-to-buy-for farmer or rancher on your Christmas gift list this year, why not do your shopping right here?

Many readers who gave FARM SHOW for Christmas last year wrote to tell us they've never given a gift which generated so much response from appreciative recipients.

Your first gift subscription is \$19.95 (\$29.95 Canadian). Each additional gift is only \$11.95 (\$17.95 Canadian). If you like, you can give the "First Gift" to yourself as a one-year extension of your own FARM SHOW subscription, entitling you to give reduced rate gift subscriptions to friends, relatives, business associates, students, or others.

Use the handy order form inserted elsewhere in this issue to order your Christmas gift subscriptions, or call us toll-free at 800 834-9665.

**Watch Out For This
Internet "Tractor Scam"**

According to a recent story by Sam Moore in the Farm And Dairy newspaper, last April he placed an ad at an internet website called www.YesterdaysTractor.com. He was asking \$3,200 for two Graham-Bradley tractors. Email responses started to come in almost immediately.

One of them said, "Good day. My name is Paul Roundy. I help in the procurement of tractors on behalf of my numerous customers. I have a customer who is interested in purchasing your two Graham-Bradley tractors, for the amount of \$3,200. The payment for the tractors will be remitted by a cashiers check. Pickup will be arranged after you confirm payment. Kindly reply to confirm your interest in selling the tractors to my client."

Moore replied and then received another message: "My client will be sending you a check for \$6,000. You will deduct \$3,200 for the tractors and send the balance to the shipping company that will arrange for shipment of the tractors."

Moore stopped responding at this point because he had received two other similar emails from people who also didn't seem to be too interested in the condition of the tractors. They both suggested the same method of payment. He did some more research and found out that this is a common scam running on the internet.

The idea is that they send you a check for more than the amount of whatever is for sale, and then ask you to send the difference to their shipper. That makes you feel like they trust you. What they actually do is send you a counterfeit cashier's check, which you deposit in your account. Then you send a check to them, via the supposed shipper. By the time your bank discovers the check is counterfeit, your own check has reached the scammer and, in the case above, you would be out \$3,700.

So if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Moore eventually sold his tractor to a bona fide collector and got his money.

Thieves Swipe Siding Off Shed

Crime is getting pretty bad when thieves start stealing the siding off farm sheds. That's exactly what happened last summer to Fred Cook of Tilbury, Ontario. He could barely believe his eyes when he saw his stripped-down shed.

On Aug. 28, Fred and his son Scott discovered that the 14-ft. wide sheets of steel siding had been removed from their 20-year-old shed.

They figure the thieves came in the middle of the night and that it would have taken four men a couple of hours to do the job. "There were 780 screws removed, and not one of them was left on the ground," says Scott.

The steel was worth nearly \$1,400, he says. The family's insurance company has agreed to cover the cost under its "malicious act" criteria, less the deductible.

It wasn't so much the money or the time it will take to replace the siding that bothers the Cooks. "Can't we be left alone? We have enough problems with the weather and the government," says Fred, who adds that the theft of steel siding surprised both their insurance company representative and the local police. *Excerpted from Ontario Farmer*

High-Tech Tombstones

Forget the psychics. You may be able to communicate with the great beyond using modern-day technology instead. The BBC News recently reported that one U.S. inventor is intent on making cemeteries high-tech with video screens that can be affixed to tombstones on which messages from the departed can be played to visitors. The inventor, Robert Barrows, has already applied for a patent on the interactive technology.



Video screen on tombstone lets dead communicate with gravesite visitors.

Pickup Reaches 1.7 Million Miles

I had an interesting call from a reader the other day. Terry Binder from Pittsville, Wis., wanted to tell FARM SHOW about his 1989 Dodge pickup with more than 1,780,000 miles on it. The pickup has a 5.9 liter diesel engine.

Over the years we've featured some pretty amazing cars and trucks, some with over 1 million miles. But this was carrying things to a new level. We asked for more details.

Terry told us he delivers flatbed trailers around the U.S. so he's on the road much of the time. In 15 years of use, he says he's only had to replace two sets of ball joints and two sets of exhaust. He replaces the brakes every 250,000 miles and he puts on new tires every 40,000 miles.

Terry washes his truck several times a week because he thinks a clean truck "just runs better". In fact, he says he probably could have bought a new truck for all the money he's spent on washing. But he seriously thinks it makes a big difference.

Most surprising of all was that he said he only changes oil every 30,000 miles. "I use Mobile Delvac oil, which is a severe-duty synthetic oil that's more commonly used in over-the-road trucks. I also use it in all my tractors, my wife's Ford Taurus (240,000 miles) and even a push lawn mower that I bought for \$59 and have used for 22 years, changing oil just once. It still starts right up with one pull."

In tractors, Terry says he usually goes around 700 hrs. between changes. He runs an oil analysis at about 350 hrs. and says it always tells him there's no point in changing oil that soon.

Terry's truck has only a tiny bit of rust on the box. Otherwise, it looks like new.

He recently gave the high-mileage truck to a friend and bought a new Dodge, also with a 5.9 diesel. He did it to get the premium seats that are available on newer models.

Blind Leadership

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy.

He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy didn't move. Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing.

Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch.

The motorist was most appreciative but very curious. He asked the farmer why he had called his horse by the wrong name three times.

The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"

Have You Been Checked?

Here's some advice from a guy who's been around: See a doctor.

C.F. Marley is 83 years old and has been writing about farm inventions and ideas for more than 50 years from his farm near Nokomis, Ill. A while back he had some back pain and asked his doctor to investigate. He ordered an X-ray, thinking C.F. had some arthritis, and was surprised instead to find a large abdominal aortic aneurysm.



Marley saved a piece of the Dacron "stent" that was used to repair his aneurysm. Stent was simply spliced into artery "like fixing a leak in a garden hose".

Basically, he had a balloon-like bulge in the main artery that runs along the length of the backbone. It was in danger of bursting at any moment - killing him instantly - but it was still fixable. However, the fix requires a major operation. Some people just decide to live with the problem for as long as they can since patients often die on the operating table anyway.

But C.F. read everything he could on the internet and checked himself into the operating room. "They opened up my chest from top to bottom and laid my insides out on the operating table while they sewed a Dacron stent across the weakened area of the artery. It's like fixing a leak in a garden hose."

Everything went well and, when he came out of surgery, he had a long scar and new lease on life. After three weeks in the hospital and several months of recovery, C.F. was back on the road again, nearly as good as new.

His message to everyone: Don't ignore the warning signs. See a doctor if you don't feel right.

Liberty Quotes

"What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated." *Thomas Paine*

"It is thus necessary that the individual should finally come to realize that his own ego is of no importance in comparison with the existence of the nation, that the position of the individual is conditioned solely by the interests of the nation as a whole." *Adolf Hitler*

"In our country, the lie has become not just a moral category but a pillar of the State." *Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Soviet dissident, imprisoned for eight years for criticizing Stalin in a personal letter*

"A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval." *Mark Twain*

"It is impossible to defeat an ignorant man in an argument." *William Gibbs McAdoo*

"They said it couldn't be done but sometimes it doesn't work out that way." *Casey Stengel*

"A lawyer with a briefcase can steal more than a hundred men with guns." *Mario Puzo*

"The most common characteristic of all police states is intimidation by surveillance. Citizens know they are being watched and overheard. Their mail is being examined. Their homes can be invaded." *Vance Packard*

One-Liners

"Women don't want to hear what you think. Women want to hear what they think, in a deeper voice." *Bill Cosby*

"The quickest way to a man's heart is through his chest." *Roseanne Barr*

"I always wanted to be the last guy on earth, just to see if all those women were lying to me." *Ronnie Shakes*

"A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it." *Bob Hope*

"I don't consider myself bald. I'm simply taller than my hair." *Thom Sharp*

"This is a strange country we live in. When it comes to electing a President, we get two choices. But when we have to select a Miss America, we get 50." *Jay Leno*

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend; inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." *Groucho Marx*

"Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow." *Jeff Valdez*

"Give a man a fish and he has food for a day; teach him how to fish and you can get rid of him for the entire weekend." *Zenna Schaffer*