

**Editor's  
Notebook**



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**New Kind Of Dealership**

A new kind of auto dealership opened up this year just down the road from FARM SHOW so we wandered over to check it out. Carl Gulbranson's "Electric Vehicle Store" sells electric trucks, cars, motorcycles and scooters. No internal combustion engines allowed.



One of the most promising electric vehicles is this Zap Truck XL, which hauls a 1,600-lb. payload.

"I've been aggressively signing up manufacturers to offer their products," he told us. "It can be difficult because there are probably 50 vehicles being promoted that don't exist and may never exist."

The most promising vehicles he handles are from Zap, including the Zap Truck XL. It carries a 1,600-lb. payload in a dump box and has a roomy cab with room for two. Range is up to 35 miles with a top speed of 25 mph. It has rack and pinion steering with 4-wheel brakes, leaf spring suspension, and a 12-hour charging time. Retail for \$14,950.

"Zap electric vehicles use gel acid batteries because they are zero maintenance, but they sacrifice some in range and speed," he notes. "There is a conversion kit available for Chevy S10 pickups that uses lead acid batteries, but that adds 2,000 lbs. to the weight of the truck. Lithium ion batteries have better speed and distance and weigh half as much, but are five times more expensive."

Gulbranson is a member of the Minnesota chapter of the Electric Automobile Association. Members have converted a Geo Metro, a Corvette and a Ford Ranger. One has a patent pending on a four wheel, electric bike. Others vehicles are in the planning stages.

"Since there are no full size, full speed electric cars on the market right now, people are building their own. That's when they find out what headaches are involved," he says.

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**The History of "Aprons"**

Do your kids know what an apron is? I'm not sure mine do because my wife never uses one. But her grandma did.

The principal use, of course, was to protect the dress underneath but, along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was also wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. And when dinner was ready, it served as a flag to call the men in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

**Do Cattle Have Magnetic Sense?**

Have you noticed that cattle tend to line up in the same direction?

A German-Czech research team at the University of Duisburg-Essen has discovered that cows apparently have a magnetic sense that causes them to line up with the earth's magnetic field when grazing or lying down. Of course, other creatures - such as navigating birds - have long been known to detect magnetic fields. But cows have no apparent real need for their surprising ability.

Using Google Earth's web-based satellite imaging, the researchers did a detailed study of thousands of cattle in pastures and plains around the world. They found that grazing cattle will tend to move in the line with magnetic fields and lie down that way as well. The scientists ruled out the direction of wind and sunlight as reasons for the north-south orientation because conditions varied so much from place to place.

**Liberty Quotes**

"Democracy is a process by which the people are free to choose the man who will get the blame." *Laurence J. Peter*

"Democracy is the worst form of government except for all those others that have been tried." *Winston Churchill*

"In 1950, the average family of four paid 2 percent of its earnings to federal taxes. Today it pays 24 percent." *William R. Mattox, Jr.*

"The contest, for ages, has been to rescue liberty from the grasp of executive power." *Daniel Webster*

"For a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle." *Winston Churchill*

"There is a place for government in the affairs of men, and our Declaration of Independence tells us precisely what that place is. The role of government is to protect individuals in their god-given individual rights. Freedom is the natural birthright of man, but all that government can do in behalf of freedom is to let the individual alone, and it should secure him in his rights by making others let him alone." *Rev. Edmund A. Opitz*

"The most unresolved problem of the day is precisely the problem that concerned the founders of this nation: how to limit the scope and power of government. Tyranny, restrictions on human freedom, come primarily from governmental restrictions that we ourselves have set up." *Milton Friedman*

"The love of liberty is the love of others; the love of power is the love of ourselves." *William Hazlitt*

"Man is not free unless government is limited. As government expands, liberty contracts." *Ronald Reagan*

"Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open." *Sir James Dewar*

"Not by age but by capacity is wisdom acquired." *Titus Maccius Plautus*

"We know what a person thinks, not when he tells us what he thinks, but by his actions." *Isaac Bashevis Singer*

**Driving to the office this morning** on the interstate, I looked over to my left and there was a woman in a brand new Mustang doing 65 mph with her face up next to her rearview mirror putting on her eyeliner! I looked away for a couple seconds and when I looked back, she was halfway over in my lane, still working on her makeup!

It scared me so badly, I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the donut out of my hand. In all the confusion of trying to straighten out the car using my knees against the steering wheel, my cell phone got knocked away from my ear and fell in the coffee between my legs, which splashed and burned my thigh, put out my cigarette, ruined my phone, and disconnected an important call!

Darned women drivers!

**Fatherly Advice**

I read a great little book recently by the late Tim Russert called "Wisdom Of Our Fathers". In the book he simply printed stories from readers about things they learned from their dads, such as the value of hard work, honesty, doing your duty, and just getting up in the morning when it's sometimes not so easy to do.

At the end of the book he runs several pages of what he calls "Father Knows Best" - a collection of favorite fatherly expressions submitted by readers. Here are a few of the best:

- Do what you have to do first, and what you want to do second.
- Save your employer enough money to cover your salary each year.
- What you are to be, you are now becoming.

- Choose good friends. If you walk past garbage, you will smell like garbage.
- Don't brag. It's not the whistle that pulls the train.
- Never replace just one spark plug.
- The fruit you reach for is better than the fruit that falls at your feet.
- A clear conscience is a soft pillow.
- We can't all be lighthouses. Some of us have to be candles.
- We are often broke, but we have never been poor.
- You can never be perfect. But the harder you try, the closer you'll come.
- Don't be so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good.
- If things get tight and you can't pay both your car loan and your mortgage, be sure to pay the car loan first. You can live in your car, but you can't drive your house.



**Punny Quotes**

- The roundest knight at King Arthur's Round Table was Sir Cumberfence. He acquired his size from too much pi.
- I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it was just an optical Aleutian.
- She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it is still stationery.
- Two silk worms had a race, but it ended in a tie.
- Time flies like an arrow, but fruit flies like a banana.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

**I was in the grocery store the other day**, filling up my cart, when I noticed an elderly lady looking at me. While progressing through the aisles I caught her several times looking my way. As I headed to the checkout registers she pulled up alongside me and said, "Excuse me. I'm sorry I've been staring at you. I just couldn't help it. You remind me so much of my son, who died in military service. We used to go grocery shopping together. It was one of our favorite things. I miss him so much."

I replied, "I'm very sorry for your loss, Ma'am. Go ahead and look at me all you want."

As we got close to the registers, she said, "I have a request which might seem a little strange."

"What is it?" I said.

"As I'm walking out of the store today, could you wave at me and say, 'Goodbye, Mother'. It would remind me so much of my son," she asked.

"I'd be happy to," I said. She got in line ahead of me to check her groceries through, bagged them up, and headed for the door. I smiled and waved, calling, "Goodbye, Mother!" She smiled and waved back, heading out the door.

The cashier rang up my groceries and gave me the total, which was about twice as much as I expected. When I complained, she said, "Well, remember, it also includes your mother's groceries. She told me to just put them on your bill."

**Ole and Sven were working for the city public works department.** One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind and fill the hole in.

They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest. Ole digging the hole and Sven filling it in again. An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing.

So he asked Ole, "I'm impressed by the effort you two put into your work but I don't get it. Why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

Ole wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a tree-person team. But today Lars, who plants da trees, called in sick."