

Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher



Marley's office is across the road from the farm where he and his wife raised seven children. Check out his "scoop shovel anemometer" at left in photo.

Where C.F. Marley Works

If long-time FARM SHOW writer C.F. Marley has ever pulled into your farmyard with a camera around his neck, you know he's an 89-year-old ball of energy who won't leave your place until you've shown him every made-it-myself idea you've ever come up with. He's been covering agriculture for more than 60 years since mustering out of the Navy, where he served with distinction during World War II.

Often when I call C.F., his wife Ruth Ann tells me "he's over at his office". I recently asked him about "home away from home" which is located on his farm near Nokomis, Ill. He sent me this picture and told me the story.

C.F. and Ruth Ann raised seven children on their "moonlighting" farm. As the kids grew up, it became more difficult for C.F. to work out of the farmhouse. He needed more space for records and a photo darkroom. So in the 1970's, his kids - who are all do-it-yourselfers like C.F. - built him an office across the road. The building, with a half-brick front, has a large office, rec room, bathroom, and fireplace. It was built so that some day it can be easily converted into a country home. Over the years it has helped host many large family gatherings.

Of course, being C.F. Marley, a man who loves talking to inventors and holds numerous patents of his own, there's a unique lawn decoration right out in front of the office. He calls it a "scoop shovel anemometer" and it consists of 4 aluminum scoop shovels mounted on a steel rod and bearing inserted into a 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe buried in the ground. The anemometer was erected 30 years ago and has been turning ever since. It lets everyone know there's a guy inside who marches to a different drummer.



A record 1,632 ATVs assembled in a field near Silver Bay before heading out on the road in a parade that stretched 4 miles.

Group Sets ATV Record

The All Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota set the Guinness World Record for the largest ATV parade on June 13, 2009. The group assembled 1,632 ATVs stretching just over four miles in Silver Bay, Minn. After much paperwork, the group recently received official notice from Guinness.

"We tried it in 2008 in honor of the 25th anniversary of the club," says Leslie Schermerhorn, parade organizer. "We missed it by 56. We were so close, we decided to try it again."

A Kentucky group previously held the record with 1,138 ATVs.

ATV enthusiasts came from as far away as Japan, California and Alaska. They patiently waited as organizers lined them up from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in a field a mile outside of Silver Bay for the hour and 45 minute parade.

"We went right through the town's business section and looped through neighborhoods. People lined up through the whole parade," Schermerhorn says. "They didn't even have to shut traffic down. We don't take up that much room."

Though they didn't count officially, some folks joined in the parade with side-by-side vehicles. Residents of the local nursing home rode in a modified golf cart and were "grinning from ear to ear," Schermerhorn says.

The event was good for Silver Lake, doubling its population for the weekend and bringing in income and supporting nonprofits and other vendors.

"I can't say enough about Silver Bay - how they opened the community up to us," Schermerhorn says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leslie Schermerhorn, 1322 Second Ave. S., Moorhead, Minn. 56560 (ph 701 371-2855; www.atvparade.org or www.atvam.org).

Musings By Steven Wright

- Right now I'm having amnesia and deja vu at the same time. I think I've forgotten this before.
- I like to reminisce with people I don't know.
- I saw a bank that said "24 Hour Banking", but I don't have that much time.
- I went to a restaurant that serves "breakfast at any time." So I ordered french toast during the renaissance.
- There's a pizza place near where I live that sells only slices. In the back you can see a guy tossing a triangle in the air.
- I used to work in a fire hydrant factory. You couldn't park anywhere near the place.
- I like to pick up hitchhikers. When they get in the car I say, "Put on your seat belt. I want to try something. I saw it once in a cartoon, but I think I can do it."
- Yesterday I parked my car in a tow-away zone... When I came back the entire area was missing.
- I hate it when my foot falls asleep during the day because that means it's going to be up all night.
- My friend has a baby. I'm recording all the noises he makes so later I can ask him what he meant.
- How young can you die of old age?
- If you saw a heat wave, would you wave back?

Liberty Quotes

"Some regard private enterprise as if it were a predatory tiger to be shot. Others look upon it as a cow that they can milk. Only a handful see it for what it really is—the strong horse that pulls the cart." *Winston Churchill*

"While the media may treat the elections as being about Democrats and Republicans...elections were not set up by the Constitution of the United States in order to enable party politicians to get jobs. Nor were elections set up in order to enable voters to vent their emotions or indulge their fantasies. Voting is a right but it is also a duty - not just to show up on election day, but a duty to give serious thought to the alternatives on the table and what those alternatives mean for the future of the nation." *Thomas Sowell*

"Americans, indeed all freemen, remember that in the final choice, a soldier's pack is not so heavy a burden as a prisoner's chains." *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"Public servants say, always with the best of intentions, 'What greater service we could render if only we had a little more money and a little more power.' But the truth is that outside of its legitimate function, government does nothing as well or as economically as the private sector." *Ronald Reagan*

"I hope we have once again reminded people that man is not free unless government is limited. There's a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics: as government expands, liberty contracts." *Ronald Reagan*

"It is precisely for the protection of the minority that constitutional limitations exist. Majorities need no such protection. They can take care of themselves." *Illinois Supreme Court*

"A society that puts equality ahead of freedom will end up with neither equality nor freedom." *Milton Friedman*



This new pedal-powered lawn mower has been making a big splash since being introduced at a recent bicycle show.

Pedal-Powered Lawn Mower

As this issue went to press, we came across an idea that reminded us of a FARM SHOW story we did 15 years ago. Ted Wojcik of Windham, New Hampshire wowed the crowd at a recent show for bicycle manufacturers with his custom-built pedal-powered lawn mower. Since the unveiling, he told us he's had many inquiries from investors and manufacturers interested in helping him develop the idea as well as many media outlets who intend to write about it. So you'll probably be seeing it around soon.

Wojcik's human-powered mower consists of a recumbent bike with a reel-type mower beneath the seat. It rides on three main bicycle wheels. Two smaller wheels ground-drive the reel mower itself.

It's geared to turn sharp and has fixed gears so when you stop pedaling, it stops. No need for brakes. Wojcik says no retail price has been set but that it'll probably be in the range of a low-end riding mower (www.tedwojickcustombicycles.com).

Wojcik's bike mower brought to mind a story we ran in 1995 about a built-from-scratch pedal-powered mower built by Richard Ehrlich, Caledon East, Ontario (Vol. 19, No. 4). At the time he said he could cut a half acre of lawn per hour on level ground, about the same as with a push mower. But it cost nothing to operate, generated no noxious fumes, and he liked the workout. The mower turned on a dime and cutting height could be easily adjusted from 1 to 5 in. It was ideal on flat ground but still had some problems getting up hills.



This home-built pedal mower, built by Richard Ehrlich, appeared in FARM SHOW in 1995.

More Sven & Ole

Ole sent an order to a distributor for a large amount of goods totaling a great deal of money.

The distributor noticed that the previous bill hadn't been paid. The collections manager left a voice mail for Ole saying, "We can't ship your new order until you pay for the last one."

The next day the collections manager received a collect phone call from Ole, who said, "Please cancel da order. Ve can't vait dat long."

Ole was driving down the freeway and saw the Highway Patrol behind with the flashing lights on. Ole pulled over and the Trooper came up to his car.

Anxiously, Ole asked, "Officer, vat did I do wrong? I don't tink I vas speeding or anything..."

"No, no, sir," said the Trooper. "You were driving just fine. I just pulled you over to tell you that you forgot your wife back at the wayside rest."

"Oh, tank goodness!" exclaimed Ole. "I tought I had gone deaf."

At the local Lutheran Church they have a weekly husband's marriage seminar. At the session last week, the Pastor asked Ole, who was approaching his 50th wedding anniversary, to take a few minutes and share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years.

"Vel," Ole replied to the assembled husbands. "I've tried to treat her nice, spend da money on her, but best of all I took her to Norway for da 20th anniversary!"

The Pastor responded, "Ole, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here! Please tell us what you are planning for your wife on your 50th anniversary."

Ole proudly replied, "I'm a-gonna go get her."