



Photo courtesy Agri News, Rochester, Minn.

Airplanes Doubles As Landmark, School Bus Shelter

An airplane isn't what you ordinarily expect to see in the front yard of an Iowa cattle and hog farm. But for "flying farmers" Glenn and Sally Kinneberg, of Spring Grove in southern Minnesota, it's appropriate.

The single engine, two-passenger plane is not a model or replica, but a real, full-sized Air Coupe, a commercial aircraft once popular but no longer made. It's a reminder to the community that the Kinnebergs are flying farmers (they also own their own operating airplane). The old, "retired" airplane also served as a shelter for young Russell Kinneberg when he waited at the driveway entrance for the school bus.

"It makes an ideal bus shel-

ter," says Sally. "I've seen other unusual shelters, including a few made from old telephone booths, but ours is the only airplane I've ever seen double as a bus shelter and farm landmark."

The aircraft was recovered after a crash, at no cost to Kinneberg who reassembled it. It's complete and fully equipped except for an engine and propeller. The aircraft is mounted on a trailer which makes it mobile for use in parades or other displays.

Both the Kinnebergs fly. Glenn has had his pilot's license for about 30 years and is currently president of the Minnesota Chapter of International Flying Farmers.

He Turns Weeds Into Money

Selling weeds is "big business" for John Link, Galena, Kan., who makes his living collecting and processing them for sale as decorations. His best sellers include some of your worst enemies — jimson weed, red dock, wild flax, acorns, bitternsweet and mistletoe, to name a few.

For most of us, weeds are plants out of place. To John, they're plants in place — a cash crop! He relies primarily on a crew of about 100 persons who collect weeds for him at various times of the year throughout the U.S.

One of John's best-selling "weeds" is the miniature cattail. He sells up to 10 million of them per year to florists and other firms. Cattails are gathered from swamps, then dried in his solar-heated drying building and packaged for shipping.

A number of decorative "weeds" he sells to customers aren't found growing in the wild. One of these is Italian wheat, which Link has had to plant, or have grown on contract. Another is broom corn, which is planted and harvested commercially.

Some of the weeds he sells are

getting scarce as swamps are drained, or land is used for highway and industrial development. To get enough of them, he sometimes has to plant certain scarce weeds.

What are weeds worth as a cash crop?

The going rate for cattails is 3c ea. Giant acorns retail for 12c, pine cones for 10c and mistletoe for right at \$3.00 a lb. While these prices may give the impression of a fortune just ready to be harvested from the wild, Link notes that there are a lot of expenses connected with selling weeds. He operates two greenhouses, several trucks and even has two air boats for traveling in shallow swamps to collect certain types of weeds.

There are hazards to the business, too. Weeds left to dry in the sun, for example, can be blown away by a strong wind.

Link notes that he is often suspected of gathering marijuana or other illegal plants and has to prove the legitimacy of his unique weed-selling business.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Link, Ozark Quality Products, 400 Clark Street, Galena, Kan. 66739 (ph. 316 783-5540).

Round Bale Silage: "Works Great With Right Equipment"

Reports he read in FARM SHOW prompted L. P. McDanel, owner of the Rocking L Ranch, St. Cloud, Fla., to experiment with round bale silage.

Last July, he baled alfalfa at about 50% moisture. He then fed the silage bales from January through April of this year.

"Animal acceptance of the silage was excellent. Our cattle ate it with little waste," he told FARM SHOW. "We weighed hay bales and silage bales which were fed side by side out in the pasture. Three days later, we gathered up and weighed what was left. We had a waste loss of 39% on the hay bales, and only 4% on the silage.

"We baled our silage with a belt-type baler and had considerable trouble with green grass wrapping on the rolls. We are presently awaiting delivery of a new Owatonna 'beltless' baler and we think it will handle the green material without problems. lems."

"In order to make good silage it's necessary to remove trapped air after wrapping the bales in plastic. We used the vacuum pump on our liquid manure spreader to draw off trapped air," McDanel told FARM SHOW.

His experiment with round bale silage has attracted a lot of attention, some of it from as far away as Illinois. "When Elmo Meiners, president of M & W Gear Company, Gibson City, Ill., heard about our experiment, he had his engineers work on a special device for pulling out trapped air. They came up with a bale mover which consists of a hollow spike connected to a pto vacuum pump. This should save a lot of time in removing trapped air. The plastic we used was only 3/2 mil. thick and would puncture very easily. This summer, we're experimenting with 8 and 10 mil. plastic which should be thick enough to resist punctures and bird damage. With the new

Owatonna baler and the heavier plastic, I think we can do a better job this year.

"The articles in FARM SHOW which tipped us off to this low cost way of putting up silage were real helpful in making the project a success," reports McDanel. Canadian researchers at the Manitoba Dept. of Agriculture, headquartered in Winnipeg, think round bale silage has exciting possibilities. "Works great with the right equipment. Cattle love it and will walk away from regular corn silage to get it," says Orley Friesen, Chief Agricultural Engineer, Technical Service Branch, of the Manitoba Dept. of Agriculture. He and his co-workers have experienced considerable difficulty in trying to put up big bale silage with belt-type round balers. Best results have been obtained with New Holland's beltless chain and slat type round baler, they point out.

Canadian researchers re-

commend wilting alfalfa to about 50% moisture, and covering the high-moisture bales immediately after piling with 6 mil. or heavier black plastic. A 40 x 40 ft. sheet will cover 36 big round bales piled in three rows end to end with 5 bales in each bottom row, 4 in the next, and 3 on the top. They recommend placing a layer of sand around the bottom of the pile and on top of the bottom layer of plastic to hold it firmly against the ground. They use twine and sand bags over the pile in both directions so that wind can't work the plastic loose.

Other observers have warned that high moisture big bales are extremely heavy and pose safety hazards in handling them with a tractor loader. Be sure the equipment you use for handling and stacking bales is adequate to handle the extra weight.

If you do experiment with round bale silage, FARM SHOW would be interested in knowing how you make out.