

Best And Worst Buys

(Continued from preceding page)

William G. Carruthers, Englehart, Ont.: He nominates his **Bruns** farm wagon with an extendable tongue as "best buy". "We use it with a bale thrower. Hitching it to the baler or hooking wagons in tandem is a breeze. You just get within a few inches and there is no need for pulling or tugging."

Donald H. Meierhoffer, Minonk, Ill.: "It has the horsepower and handling for all my smaller jobs. There were a few oil leaks on pumps, but dealer service was good," says Donald about his "best buy" **Deere 2940** tractor.

Tom Sealscott, Decatur, Ind.: "We have three of these 3-wheeled lemons to mow two farmsteads," says Tom, about his "worst buy" **Swisher** Ride King lawn mowers. "When we mow it takes two kids to mow and me to fix the third machine. Last week we had all the machines broken down at the same time. I couldn't even get parts. The dealer had sold the parts book!"

Ken Rempel, Gretna, Man.: He's had good luck with his **Alloway 9-row** beet cultivator. "This unit has cut our time out in the field by 50% or more. It does an excellent job, is easy to adjust and is strong and durable. I would recommend it to anyone."

Robert Terrill, Mineral Point, Wis.: "This machine works fine if it isn't broken down. The workmanship on it is terrible. I think every welded joint has broken loose," reports Robert, disappointed with his **Yetter 4-row** rotary hoe.

On the positive side, he's pleased with his **Shaver** heavy-duty post driver. "We bought one of these this

"Also on the 'best buy' side is our **Deere 7000** corn planter, which has never missed a row or had an uneven stand, and our **Deere 716** unloading wagons. There is no noise or jerking when these wagons are in use and they haven't broken down in the five years we have owned them."

On the minus side, "Our 'worst buys' are the **BF Goodrich** tires on the rear of our **4240** tractor. The sidewall on one blew right out with only 107 hours on the tractor. The blow-out was about 8-in. long. The amount of rubber and cord on the sidewall of these tires isn't enough to hold up on a garden tractor, much less a farm tractor."

James D. Schrock, Shelbyville, Ill.: "I'm very satisfied with the **White 5100** soybean special planter we purchased this spring. We used the six row 30-in. planter for corn and then added on to make an eleven row 15-in., skip-row planter for beans. We had a perfect stand and never had any trouble at all with the planter. Very well constructed."

Gerald Hagensen, Mapleton, N. Dak.: "It's the smoothest running lawn tractor I've ever owned. Beautiful handling and it does a beautiful job of cutting. It's sheer joy to cut the lawn with it," says Gerald, about his **Deere 317** lawn tractor.

Phil Thoma, Jesup, Iowa: "My 'worst buy' is a **1980 Chevrolet 1/2-ton, 4-wheel** drive pickup. In 15,000 miles, the transmission has been out twice and it has stopped running in the middle of nowhere three times and had to be towed in. I also had to buy a new heater core. The 4-wheel drive won't go in and out of gear and I only get 8 mpg. The shocks all leak and need replacement. I can hardly pull anything because of the lack of power, and the automatic transmission's slipping. The engine, a 350 cu. in., uses alot of oil. The interior is poorly made and the seats are already ripping and have lots of worn spots. The dash has cracked and the air conditioner line leaked all the freon out. For \$10,000, it has been the poorest and worst buy I have ever made."

Alan West, Darwin, Minn.: "Alan's disappointed with his "D-Track, manufactured by **Fabridyne, Litchfield, Minn.** "D-Track is supposed to attach to your grain drill to erase tractor tracks. First of all, it hardly makes a mark in the tractor tracks and, secondly, it doesn't raise off the ground far enough on the end when you're turning. We contacted a company representative and he said he would help. That was a year ago and we haven't seen him yet!"

On the "best buy" side, Alan likes his **Case 2590** tractor. "The tractor is smooth running and very easy to drive. I've driven both International and Deere, and have found Case to be the easiest driving, best running tractor."

Danny Koch, Euynice, La.: "My 'worst buy' is a cordless telephone

antenna system from **Hustler Inc., Kissimmee, Fla.**," reports Danny. "I installed this antenna on my cordless telephone as per instructions. It was advertised to increase the range of my telephone up to 5 to 7 times the normal range but, after completion, I couldn't get 10 ft. more range, much less the 1,000 ft. advertised. It was all a waste of time and money."

Ed Reeb, Essex, Ont.: "Our **Turnco 3 pt. rotary** hoe is our top candidate for 'best buy'," says Ed. "Each individual gang, with two wheels each, is adjustable. You can apply varying pressures whether on the fow of beans or corn, or between the rows. We believe it's the most perfect rotary hoe the market has to offer."

Roger Kuntz, Grainfield, Kan.: "My 'worst buy' is my **Dixon** lawn mower made in Coffeyville, Kans. The 8-hp. motor was too small for the cut of the mower. This engineering problem led to premature engine failure which was under warranty. Dixon said it wasn't their fault and Briggs and Stratton said the same thing.

"My 'best buy' is my **Case 2290** tractor. The comfort of the cab, easy to understand controls and its sheer dependability make it the best tractor for my father and me."

David Dean, Westminster, S.C.: He's happy with his **1982 6-ft. Hardee** brush cutting mower. "It floats well over the ground, is smooth running and cuts good. The dealers are good people and service is good."

Allan Thomas, Turon, Kan.: "We have had a severe infestation of sparrows so, about a year ago, we bought two traps, both of which I nominate for 'worst buy'," says Allan. "Neither the **Last Perch** nor the **Vail** live sparrow traps have trapped a single sparrow."

Marion C. Nicholls, Carlisle, Iowa: "The planter has done everything for us that the dealer said it would. We have used it for two seasons now with no problems or breakage. The fluted no-till coulters work fine even in extremely hard ground," says Marion, pleased with his **Deere 7000** planter, equipped with a no-till package.

Terry Kastens, Herndon, Kan.: "With a price under \$100 and a name like **Radio Shack**, I thought I couldn't go wrong but the thing hasn't worked since we bought it," says Terry, unhappy with his **TAD-110** Duofone telephone answering service. "It has been back to **Radio Shack** twice and each time they charged \$20 to \$30. They had only a 90-day warranty and I didn't get it installed till more than 90 days after purchase. It still doesn't work now."

On the plus side, he's had good luck with his **Wegele** Scooter mower built by **Midwest Manufacturing, Macksville, Kan.** "It's a very heavy industrial built 36-in. mower. Parts are standard and easy to obtain. The large 14-hp. American-made Kohler engine has the power to mow through sunflowers 6-ft. tall and the hydrostatic drive makes mowing fast and easy with infinite forward and reverse speeds."

Stuart Henzel, Holdenville, Okla.: "My 'worst buys' are two **Honda** ATC 200's and a **Stihl** chain saw. The

ATC's are hard to start and parts for them come at exorbitant prices. The **Stihl** saw was new last year but has been to the dealership several times and still won't run. Last week we traded it off."

Paul C. Graf, Arapahoe, Neb.: Paul nominates **Deere's 4-row** rotary lister as "worst buy". "The lister was a joke from the word go. I never got a stand, in part because the covering discs are so weak they bend if dropped. I believe that they had been in a fire and lost their temper."

G.J. Gamache, Buick, B.C.: "My 'best buy' of all time is a 1949 **Farmall M** which I bought seven years ago for \$800. I do all the seeding and baling with it and, until last year, it did all the swathing too. We have used it in the winter to haul water and it started even at 40° below zero. I've never had to add oil and, in the time I've had it, the only repairs have been a set of points and plugs and a new drawbar. It's been a fantastic old machine.

"Also a 'best buy' is my **Homelite XL 12** chainsaw. In nine years, I've replaced the chain two times and the bar once, which was my fault for not oiling it enough. It doesn't have an automatic oiler. I've never had to change the plugs and only adjusted the carb. once.

"My 'worst buy' is a **Wisconsin** air-cooled engine. They may be a good engine but, if you ever have to repair it, their prices are just out of this world. A complete gasket set, two pistons and a set of rings for four holes came to just under \$350. I think that was a little high. I can't see how one piston should cost \$86. Also, why should a 20-hp. motor cost \$5,000 when I can buy a 390 cu. in. V8 for my pickup for around \$2,000? This is the last piece of equipment I buy with the Wisconsin name on it."

Charles, Wylie, Proctorville, Ohio: He nominates his **New Holland 489** Haybine as "best buy". "Very well constructed and engineered and has the best paint job of any farm equip-

"This machine works fine if it isn't broken down."

"The best paint job of any farm equipment I've ever had."

spring and are really pleased with it. We have driven 4 in. posts into awful hard ground, and even rock that's not solid."

Orvel Hetleved, Tuttle, N. Dak.: "No trouble whatsoever. Runs like a charm," says Orvel, pleased with his **456 New Holland 9-ft.** mower.

Gehring Farms, Inc., Hartford, Wis.: "The 4240 is a great piece of machinery both for power and traction, plus great operator comfort with the hydraulic seat," says Gehring, pleased with his "best buy" **Deere** tractor. "The **3960 Deere** forage harvester is probably the greatest advance in forage harvesting machinery with its section-type knives for easy replacement and its low power requirements. I think it is without a doubt the best forage harvester on the market today. We have had it four years and have harvested more than 2,500 acres with it.

ment I've ever had. Performance is excellent. The turns at the corners are amazing."

Richard L. Boeder, Buffalo Lake, Minn.: He nominates his **Menard** farm building, purchased in 1974, as "worst buy". "It had the worst possible workmanship. There was no response after part of the roof blew off even though it was under warranty. Just a piece of junk. Money thrown away."

On the plus side, Richard's happy with his **Deere 4640** tractor. "No problems with it. Lots of power and fairly reasonable on fuel. A dream to drive."

Wayne Jilek, Dickinson, N. Dak.: He's disappointed with "S-12 24-in. radiant heat strip manufactured in West Germany and distributed by