

**Editor's Notebook**



**Mark Newhall**  
Editor & Publisher



John Reep poses with his "new" 1950 John Deere MT. His name was selected from more than 100,000 entries in the tractor Sweepstakes we ran earlier this year.

**Deere MT Arrives At New Home**

"You made an 87-year-old man very happy," said Amy Reep, Lincolnton, N.C., whose father, John Reep, was the winner of the 1950 Deere MT that FARM SHOW gave away in our Sweepstakes giveaway for new and renewal subscribers. His name was drawn from more than 100,000 entries.

What made the giveaway so fun was that the Deere MT he won was restored by FARM SHOW reader Ed Landis in Abilene, Kan. Thanks, Ed! You did a beautiful job!

**Farmer Buries Truck Of 48 Years**

If you've ever had a car or truck that just won't quit, you'll be able to relate to this story from South America about a farmer in Uruguay who buried his Ford F-350 when it finally quit running after 48 years of faithful service.



Instead of ending up on a scrap heap, this 1969 F-350 was laid to rest on the farm it served faithfully for decades.

Alcides Ravel bought the pickup in 1969 when he was 35 years old. Now 83, he says the truck was a big part of running his farm and raising his family. He just couldn't bear to send it to the scrap yard after his mechanic told him it could no longer be fixed. So the family had a little ceremony as they buried the truck 6 ft. deep on their farm.

**"Tractorless" Power Unit Unveiled**

Saskatchewan inventor and manufacturer Norbert Beaujot is a big thinker. Several years ago he started asking himself why everyone is trying to make tractors "driverless". Instead, he thought, let's get rid of the tractor altogether.



Powered "platform" has 4 hydrostatically-driven wheels.

According to a report in the *Manitoba Cooperator*, that's exactly what he's done. For the past 3 years Beaujot, who is the president of grain drill manufacturer SeedMaster, has been



Grain drill (right) was designed to fit platform, which drives under and lifts it into place before heading to the field.



Once docking is complete, the computerized platform can be controlled by a remote operator or it can run itself, controlled by GPS.

working on an autonomous "field implement platform" that eliminates the need for a big 4-WD tractor by essentially turning drills and other equipment into self-propelled units.

Beaujot says a big 500-hp. tractor uses about a third of its power just to move itself through the field and it needs to be weighted down to pull whatever is hitched behind. With his power unit, the weight of seed and fertilizer - or whatever you're carrying - provides the traction needed.

The U-shaped machine has 4 hydrostatically-driven wheels. It's designed to slide right under and around big grain drills, sprayers, grain carts, and more, lifting them hydraulically into place on the frame. The computerized platform can be controlled by a remote operator or programmed with GPS to automatically work a field. It shuts off automatically if it deviates from its planned path or runs into an obstacle.

Beaujot says the new system reduces the capital cost of equipment and saves both fuel and labor. He plans to conduct field tests throughout 2017 and release it to a select number of farmers in 2018. For more information, go to [www.seedmaster.ca](http://www.seedmaster.ca).

**Liberty Quotes**

"The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty." *James Madison*

"Wherever the real power in a government lies, there is the danger of oppression." *James Madison*

"Liberty must at all hazards be supported. We have a right to it, derived from our Maker. But if we had not, our fathers have earned and bought it for us, at the expense of their ease, their estates, their pleasure, and their blood." *John Adams*

"But a Constitution of government once changed from freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever." *John Adams*

"I believe that we learn best when we, not others, are deciding what we are going to learn, and when we are choosing the people, materials, and experiences from which we will be learning." *John Holt*

"I don't know if I can live on my income or not - the government won't let me try it." *Bob Thaves*

"The philosophy of the classroom today will be the philosophy of government tomorrow." *Abraham Lincoln*

"Government cannot make man richer, but it can make him poorer." *Ludwig von Mises*

"The single most exciting thing you encounter in government is competence, because it's so rare." *Daniel Patrick Moynihan*

"Only the educated are free." *Epictetus*

"To educate a man is to unfit him to be a slave." *Frederick Douglass*

**Farmers Fight For "Right To Repair"**

Farmers and mechanics are leading the fight for the "Right to Repair" equipment. Manufacturers, including leading farm equipment companies, are fighting to control access to diagnostic equipment and codes. Without diagnostics, today's computer-controlled equipment can't be repaired, and manufacturers can charge what they want with no competition. Even the U.S. Copyright Office stated in a June, 2017 report that it believes something has to be done.

"I think it is ridiculous that John Deere, Case IH, and the rest think their shops are the only game in town," says farmer Danny Kluthe, Cambridge, Neb. "They won't download software so that anyone else can repair their equipment. In the spring and fall when time is so valuable, we have to wait for their service person to come out. They not only have the exclusive right to charge what they want, but we'll have downtime. If we could do diagnostics and discover that the problem is a solenoid or plugged filter, we could fix it ourselves."

Kevin Kenney of Grassroots Energy, who is an engineer and mechanic in rural Nebraska, has been active in the battle to secure the right to repair. Legislation introduced there was backed by the Nebraska Farm Bureau, but by the time it was introduced, the opposition was well entrenched.

"The equipment dealers and manufacturers outweighed us

in lobbying power," says Kenney. "Deere threw \$3 million into lobbying against Right to Repair here and elsewhere. It was dead before we started."

While the Nebraska legislation went nowhere this year, Kenney, Kluthe and others in the state vow to keep fighting, and they are not alone. Legislation has also been introduced in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, Tennessee, Massachusetts, Kansas, North Carolina, Missouri and Wyoming.

"This entire platform of selling digital services is nothing other than monopoly construction," says Kenney.

He points out that even students in ag engineering classes are unable to work on diagnostics software. "I find it sad that each year we graduate ag engineers unable to work on engine control units (ECU) for modern combines, tractors or implements," says Kenney.

Recent reports of "Ukrainian" software disks that could be used to hack Deere tractors for diagnostics are temporary fixes at best, warns Kenney.

"All Deere has to do is update its software, and the illegal software is worthless," he says. "The newest tractors are 100 percent online so disks won't work."

Kenney says the only answer is a legislative one that ensures farmers and independent repair shops have the right to access diagnostics.

If you want to find out more, contact The Repair Association at [www.repair.org](http://www.repair.org). There you'll find information on all legislation that has been introduced, authors and status.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Grassroots Energy Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb. (ph 402 646-0167; Facebook page: Grassroots Energy Nebraska) or Danny Kluthe, 2464 Cty. Rd. 17, Dodge, Neb. 68633 (ph 402 693-2833; [dannyk558@hotmail.com](mailto:dannyk558@hotmail.com)). *Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor*

**Points To Ponder**

"Don't handicap your children by making their lives easy." *Robert Heinlein*

"I am a man of fixed and unbending principles, the first of which is to be flexible at all times." *Everett Dirksen*

"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves but wiser people are full of doubts." *Bertrand Russell*

"Ninety percent of politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation." *Henry Kissinger*

"I don't deserve this award, but I have arthritis and I don't deserve that either." *Jack Benny*

"We are continually faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems." *John W. Gardner*

"Of course, there is no formula for success except perhaps an unconditional acceptance of life and what it brings." *Arthur Rubenstein*

**Ole does not like weddings so he rarely attends them.** Lena finally got him to go to one. As they entered the church, an usher asked, "Are you on the groom's side or the bride's?"

Before Lena could reply, Ole exclaimed, "Uff-da! Are dey fighting already!"

**"Ole, I tink yew love baseball more den yew love me,"** said Lena, as they watched yet another game on TV.

Ole replied, "Vell, maybe so, Lena. But I vant yew to know dat I love yew more den I love basketball."

**Sven's cousin Ole showed up one night,** just as supper was being served.

"But Ole," said Sven. "I taut yew said yew would be coming after dinner."

"Dat's right, Sven," said Ole. "Dat's vhat I came after!"

**The doctor said to Ole,** "Your leg is swollen, but I wouldn't worry about it."

Ole replied, "Yeah, vell, Doc. If yew're leg was svollen I wouldn't worry about it either."

*The story below was in our last issue. Unfortunately, we left off the punchline. Let's try again:*

**In church one Sunday the preacher said,** "Anyone with special needs who wants to be prayed over, please come forward to the altar."

Ole hopped right up and the preacher asked, "Well, Ole, what do you want us to pray for?"

Ole replied, "Vell, I need you to pray for help with my hearing."

The preacher put one finger of one hand on Ole's ear, placed his other hand on top of his head, and then prayed fervently for Ole while the congregation joined in.

After a few minutes, the preacher removed his hands, stood back, and asked, "Ole, how is your hearing now?"

"I don't know," said Ole. "Da hearing is not 'till Tuesday!"