

## Editor's Notebook



**Mark Newhall**  
Editor

### My Dad And His Magnetic Shirt

My father, Bill Newhall, doesn't have the flexibility in his fingers that he had earlier in his 93-year-old life. That means he sometimes has trouble buttoning shirts. About a year ago (Vol. 43, No. 2) a reader sent in a "best buy" report to FARM SHOW on MagnaReady shirts which have small magnets sewn into the linings. They hold the shirt closed. The buttons on the shirt are just for show.



My dad, Bill Newhall, likes his MagnaReady shirt, especially since he solved the issue he had with his watch.

Dad liked the idea so I got him one to try out.

To "button" the shirt, you just lay one side of the shirt over the other and you'll hear a series of small clicks that means the shirt is secure. Even the cuffs have magnetized closers.

After he tested it out a few times, I asked him for a report. "The shirt is very comfortable. Nice material," he told me. "The magnets have just the right amount of strength to stay fastened and open easily. I really like how the shirt works."

However, he noticed that his Bulova quartz watch would run about 10 min. slow on days when he wore the shirt. At first he thought the watch battery was dying so he put in a new one, but the same thing happened. He began to suspect that the magnets in the cuffs were affecting the watch.

Being a FARM SHOW kind of guy, he decided to remove the magnets on the cuffs and have button holes sewn into them so he could use the buttons that were already on the shirt. He was very pleased that it only cost him \$6 to have a local seamstress "reconfigure" both cuffs. "When I started wearing the shirt again, my watch was just fine," he told me.

I got in touch with Laura Baumgartner at MagnaReady to ask what she thought about my dad's modification of the shirts. "We have actually found out that the magnets can affect some watches. Good idea by your dad to swap them out and use the buttons already on the sleeves," said Baumgartner.

Bottom line, my dad loves the shirts and would recommend them to anyone with "button issues". At around \$65 they're not cheap but he thinks they're worth it and he's not a guy who tosses money around willy nilly. To get more information, go to [www.magnaready.com](http://www.magnaready.com) (ph 866 635-8866) or amazon.com.

### Building A Machine To Bale Snow

I was talking to reader Greg Hemming the other day and he told me he's working on a machine to bale snow.

I figured he was kidding so I pressed him. Why would you want to bale snow? The answer is that Greg lives out on the prairies of Saskatchewan where livestock farmers often set up windbreaks if they have cattle out on fields during winter. The problem is that they have to move the big windbreaks around and then bring them back in again in the spring. Hemming figures that if he could make big bales of snow, he could stack them up as protection from wind and they would simply melt away in the spring.

He told me that he's working to modify a conventional baler, but instead of pickup fingers it'll have paddles to pull

snow into the bale chamber. Moisture will be added to the bales to harden them, and Hemming says you could even color them if you wanted to use them for other purposes - like making a wintertime maze or even an igloo.

The baler isn't finished yet. Greg said he'd get us pictures once it's up and running.



FARM SHOW contributing editor Dee Goerge helps her husband, Scott, create chainsaw art when she's not writing stories for us.

### Our Writer's Talented Spouse

Dee Goerge has been writing for FARM SHOW for many years. But she has another job that keeps her just about as busy. Her husband, Scott, is a world class chainsaw artist who can carve just about anything you can imagine. And Dee paints his sculptures as needed. They have customers all over the country. I spotted one of their latest creations, a "nest of eagles", up near Park Rapids, Minn., which is not far from where Dee and Scott live. It's a tree stripped of its bark that's graced by a group of bald eagles, an American flag, and the name of the customer who placed the unique display at the end of their driveway.

### Will New Safety Laws Work?

A FARM SHOW reader in Quebec, Canada told us recently about latest new safety regulations there for silo entry. All new silos will be required to have a lifeline cable installed in the covered chute. Anyone entering the chute will be required to have a safety harness on and attached to the cable when climbing the ladder. If the farm has 2 or more employees, workers will be required to check for silo gas with an approved monitor.

These new government regulations really hit home for me since there was a recent incident in Minnesota where a father, brother, and an 11-year-old boy all died from silo gas while trying to fix machinery at the top of a silo. Obviously, if they had checked gas levels inside the silo with a monitor, they might all still be alive.

But passing laws to enforce safety raises questions. Who's going to enforce these new regulations? Does it make sense to make rules that cannot be enforced or will that just encourage ridicule for all regulations? Is it possible that the true purpose for passing such regulations - rather than educating farmers about new ways to stay safe - is to establish liability for the farm owner if a problem develops?

Silo gas is a very real danger, as are toxic gasses in manure pits and other agricultural areas. Encouraging the use of lifelines and monitoring instruments is just common sense. Making laws to require their use might just backfire. (Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor)

### Liberty Quotes

"There can be no freedom without the freedom to fail."  
Eric Hoffer

"The object and practice of liberty lies in the limitation of government power."  
General Douglas MacArthur

"Whatever crushes individuality is despotism, whether it professes to be enforcing the will of God or the injunctions of men."  
John Stuart Mill

"It is proof of a base and low mind for one to wish to think with the masses or majority merely because the majority is the majority. Truth does not change because it is, or is not, believed by a majority of the people."  
Girdano Bruno

"A people are free in proportion as they form their own opinions."  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt."  
Samuel Adams

"I do esteem individual liberty above everything else. What is a nation for but to secure maximum liberty for every individual?"  
D.H. Lawrence

"There are two kinds of freedoms - the false, where a man is free to do what he likes; and the true, where a man is free to do what he ought."  
Charles Kingsley



Pass-through gate swings back and forth inside a U-shaped set of fence panels, leaving just enough room to pass.

### A Couple Of British Ideas

I had the good fortune of traveling to England last fall with my family. While hiking around Cornwall with my son-in-law Daniel, we came across an access gate in a cattle fence with a design I'd never seen before. It consisted of a swinging gate that extends into a U-shaped set of panels, leaving just enough room for a person to walk through by swinging the gate back and forth as they passed. In the pictures, Daniel illustrates how it works.

On another day during the trip, I read a letter to the editor in the local newspaper about a method for combating gophers, moles, and other burrowing pest animals. Here's what the writer said. "When we find a new gopher mound, we simply remove the soil over the tunnel to find the hole and then use a leaf blower to blast and deafen the gopher into retreat. They hate it and will leave the area. So far we've had great success. It's simple and eliminates the need for traps or poisons."

### Points To Ponder

- "Don't gamble. Take all your savings and buy some good stock, hold it till it goes up, then sell it. If it don't go up, don't buy it." Will Rogers
- "Time is the coin of life. Only you can determine how it will be spent." Carl Sandburg
- "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." Robert Louis Stevenson
- "Never ascribe to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity." Napoleon Bonaparte
- "We suffer a lot the few things we lack and we enjoy too little the many things we have." William Shakespeare
- "People seldom do what they believe in. They do what is convenient, then repent." Bob Dylan
- "Rebels and non-conformists are often the pioneers and designers of change." Indira Gandhi
- "You've got to rattle your cage door. You've got to let them know that you're in there and that you want out. Make noise. Cause trouble. You may not win right away, but you'll sure have a lot more fun." Florynce Kennedy
- "If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things." Rene Descartes

Lena went to a lawyer and demanded he help her divorce her husband Ole.

"Do you have grounds?" the lawyer asked. "Vell, yes," said Lena. "Ve haf 10 acres."

The lawyer was silent for a moment and then tried again. "What I mean is, do you have a grudge with Ole?"

"No," said Lena. "But ve haf a carport."

The lawyer decided to try it from another angle. "Does your husband beat you up?"

Lena replied, "Vell, no. I'm usually up vey before him. But I'm not sure vhy yur asking all dese dumb questions."

The lawyer finally admitted defeat. "Lady, why exactly do you want a divorce from Ole?"

Without batting an eye, Lena said, "Vhy, it's yust impossible to have an intelligent conversation vith dat man!"

Lena went to the post office to mail her Christmas cards.

She says to the clerk, "May I haf 50 Christmas stamps?" The clerk says, "What denomination?"

Lena says, "Uffda. Can't ve all yust get along? OK, vell gif me 6 Catolics, 12 Prodestants, and 32 Luterans."

Sven told Ole, "My wife is like George Washington. I don't tink she could tell a lie to save her soul."

Ole replied, "Yew're lucky. Mine can tell a lie da minute I get it out ov my mouth."

Ole and Lena were checking into a swanky New York hotel.

Ole said to the bellboy, "I ain't gonna take no tiny little room like dis wit no bed or windows. Yew can't treat me like a fool yust because I'm from a small town and don't travel much."

The bellboy replied, "Sir, I'm sorry, but this isn't your room. It's just the elevator."