

Editor's Notebook



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Many of the windmill exhibits at the Fair were commercial displays. The 8-ft. water table found at the Exposition's Chicago lakeshore site allowed over 15 companies to sink shallow wells to demonstrate their windmill's ability to pump water. The legs of the windmills were used to house displays and office space for staff members to meet with potential customers. (*Jenn Wetschka*)

A well-known speaker started off his seminar holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up. He said, "I'm going to give this \$20 to one of you, but first, let me do this."

He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 dollar bill. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air. "Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now, who still wants it?" The hands still went up.

"My friends, we've all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We may feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value.

"Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you're still priceless to those who love you. The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by who we are. You are special. Don't ever forget it."



Scrap lumber and pvc pipe were used to make this planter that was modeled after a John Deere "unstyled" GP.

Deere Mini Tractor Fall Planter

Jack Suits of Wabash, Ind., built this John Deere tractor planter that has two flower boxes - one where the seat would normally be and the other in the engine compartment. There are three hanging planter hooks in the cross beam across the top for plants or seasonal decorations. Solar lights in the boxes illuminate them at night.

Jack built the tractor planter with scrap lumber and pvc pipe for the exhaust, intake, and steering shaft. It was designed to resemble an "unstyled" GP.

Liberty Quotes

"The Constitution is not neutral. It was designed to take the government off the backs of people."

Justice William O. Douglas

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

John Philpot Curran

"Whatever the costs may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender."

Winston Churchill

"Did you hear that we're writing Iraq's new Constitution? Why not just give them ours? We're not using it anymore."

Jay Leno

"The power to declare war is fully and exclusively vested in the legislature."

James Madison

"The Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions."

Daniel Webster

"If the American Revolution had produced nothing but the Declaration of Independence, it would have been worthwhile."

Samuel Eliot Morison

"The issue today is the same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite."

Thomas Jefferson

"Freedom is the recognition that no single person, no single authority or government has a monopoly on the truth, but that every individual life is infinitely precious, that every one of us put in this world has been put here for a reason and has something to offer...It's so hard for government planners, no matter how sophisticated, to ever substitute for millions of individuals working night and day to make their dreams come true. The fact is, bureaucracies are a problem around the world."

Ronald Reagan

Points To Ponder

"Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value." *Albert Einstein*

"No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helped you." *Althea Gibson*

"You better live every day like your last because one day you're going to be right." *Ray Charles*

"Talent and potential mean nothing if you can't consistently do the boring things when you don't feel like doing them." *Shane Parrish*

"Your right to swing your fist ends where the other man's nose begins." *Zechariah Chafee, Jr.*

"I always knew that deep down in every human heart there is mercy and generosity. No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than the opposite." *Nelson Mandela*

"Let us not take ourselves too seriously. None of us has a monopoly on wisdom." *Queen Elizabeth II*

"We know what a man thinks, not when he tells us what he thinks, but by his actions." *Isaac Bashevis Singer*

"Always do your very best. Even when no one else is looking, you always are. Don't disappoint yourself." *Colin Powell*

"I consider that a man's brain originally is like a little empty attic, and you have to stock it with such furniture as you choose. A fool takes in all the lumber of every sort that he comes across so that the knowledge that might be useful to him gets crowded out, or at best is jumbled up with a lot of other things so that he has difficulty in laying his hands upon it." *Sherlock Holmes*

Real Student Absence Excuses

- Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.

- Jack did not go to school yesterday because he had two teeth taken out of his face.

- Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.

- Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.

- Mary was absent yesterday because she had a fever and upset stomach. Her sister was also sick, and her brother had a fever. I wasn't feeling too well either. There must be something going around.

- Jennifer missed school yesterday for a good reason. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it on Monday, we thought it was Sunday.

Sven walks into a seedy café in Minnesota and sits at the counter next to Ole, who sits with his arms folded staring down into a large bowl of chili. After a few minutes of watching him, Sven says, "Vell, if yew'r not gonna eat dat, do yew mind if I do?"

Ole looks at Sven and says, "Help yourself."

Sven slides the bowl over and eagerly starts eating. He gets nearly to the bottom when he sees a dead mouse in the chili. The sight was so shocking he threw the chili back up into the bowl.

Ole said quietly, "Ya, dat's as far as I got, tew."

The science teacher called on Ole and asked, "Ole, what's the chemical formula for water?"

Ole quickly said, "H I J K L M N O."

"What are you talking about?" the teacher said.

"Vell," said Ole, "yesterday yew said da formula is H to O."

"Hello Doctor?" Ole yelled excitedly into the phone when he called the hospital.

"Yes?" answered the doctor.

"My wife is pregnant and da contractions are only tew minutes apart now."

"Is this her first child?" asked the doctor.

"Vell no," exclaimed Ole. "Dis is her husband!"

Ole and Lena went shopping together just before Christmas. Lena soon noticed Ole was missing, so she called him on his cellphone.

When Ole answered, she said, "Vere are yew? Yew know ve haf lots tew dew today."

Ole said, "Do yew remember dat jewelry shop ve vent into about 10 years ago and yew fell in love with dat diamond necklace? I couldn't afford it at da time and I said dat one day I would get it for yew?"

Tears started streaming down Lena's cheeks and she got all choked up, then said, "Yes, Ole. I dew remember dat store."

"Vell," said Ole. "I'm at da yoyo shop right next door to dat place."



Photo courtesy Missouri Department of Conservation

Researchers say purslane's rare genetic traits may eventually benefit corn and other common food crops.

More Than Just A Weed

Purslane isn't your ordinary weed. Long appreciated by foragers as a super health food, it's now being explored for drought resistance. It's been used widely as a food crop for people and animals and is recognized as a rich source of heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids, beta-carotene, and antioxidants. It can also soothe skin and treat wounds.

If all that wasn't enough, it's effective at removing salts from contaminated soils and it can endure droughts. In fact, it thrives in the heat of the summer. This is thanks to two types of photosynthetic pathways. Yale University professor Erica Edwards describes it as having a rare combination of traits.

Edwards is researching how the traits, called CAM and C4 photosynthesis, allow purslane to remain productive under high temperatures and survive in deserts and other areas with very little water. The team of Yale researchers has shown the two traits are totally integrated in the same cells. Understanding how they work together offers the potential of adding CAM photosynthesis to a C4 crop like corn, giving it similar drought resistance.



Windmills were vital producers of power back in 1893 when this exhibition was staged at the Chicago World's Fair.

A Magnificent Windmill Display

Windmill fans would be hard-pressed to find an exhibition of windmills as impressive as the one way back in 1893 at the Chicago World's Fair. The fair showcased innovations, cultures, and technological advancements from around the world and attracted millions of visitors.

One must-see attraction gave visitors a glimpse into the evolution of windmills, which played an important role in shaping agriculture and many other industries worldwide. The windmill exhibit featured a variety of machines from various countries and regions, including the Netherlands and the United States.

The display of traditional Dutch windmills featured iconic wooden blades and towers. The Dutch used windmills for centuries to grind grain and saw timber. Visitors witnessing the windmills in action were often fascinated by the rhythmic motion of the rotating blades.

The American windmills on display demonstrated how they could perform various tasks such as pumping water for irrigation and generating electricity.