

## Editor's Notebook



**Scott Geyer**  
Editor & Publisher

## 50 Years Of FARM SHOW Really Flew By!

By **Lorn Manthey, Contributing Editor**

I was working at a Minneapolis ad agency when Harold Johnson launched FARM SHOW Magazine 50 years ago.

I'd met Harold, a 30-year veteran ag writer, and knew he had "the right stuff" for success, so I wasn't among the naysayers who expected it to fold after a few issues.

Even though the first issue of FARM SHOW didn't have any subscribers or accept advertising, it had Harold's eye for what farmers and backyard builders wanted to read about. And it still does.

Over the past half-decade, well over 100 ag magazines have withered away or slimmed down, as if on a weight-watching diet. Not FARM SHOW. It never has and never will.

Of the hundreds of people I've interviewed for stories over the past 36 years, most confess to reading each issue, six times a year, cover to cover. Amazingly, others have saved nearly every issue for "future reference." Their porches and basements might be full of back issues, but their minds are full of ideas.

FARM SHOW is successful because it's unlike any other publication. Clever and unusual inventions, "best and worst buys," "money-making ideas," and Ag World features captivate readers. Many of those stories have been compiled into special-topic books. Every story since issue number one is available to subscribers on the FARM SHOW website.

In the early 1990s, I visited Mark Newhall and asked about three large boxes in his office.

"They're VHS, Hi-8 and Super 8 tapes, still pictures, and audio tapes that readers send in," Mark said.

I asked if I could look through them and see if I could make a "Best of FARM SHOW" video.

"Great," he said. "We'll give it a 'plug' in our fall mailing and see what happens."

In less than a year, FARM SHOW readers had ordered nearly 40,000 copies of the first-ever 90-minute "Best of FARM SHOW" on VHS.

"My kids played it so often that the tape broke," one viewer wrote.

Versions two, three and four came next, followed by a DVD over the next eight years. The dawn of YouTube and phone cameras ended that run, but it was sure fun while it lasted.

FARM SHOW is proof there's no such thing as a bird-brained idea that can't be turned into an interesting story. Guys have put loaders on old combines, installed 12-cyl. engines in Ford 9Ns, converted metal grain bins into gorgeous houses, and built locomotives from scratch. And that's just a sniff of what's appeared in FARM SHOW issues.

These days, advancing technology makes it much easier for us writers to dig up unusual story leads and locate people off the grid.

One old-timer told me, "I don't like those fancy phones; send me what you write by mail, and I'll call you on my landline. You know what that is, sonny?"



**Manthey has been working with FARM SHOW for over 34 years.**

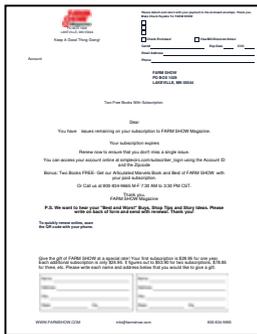
"Of course," I said, "our office still answers every call on one of those."

That friendly service, an amazing group of writers, and tremendously loyal readers have helped make the publication successful.

Thanks, FARM SHOW, for 50 years of quirky stories, corny Sven and Ole jokes, Liberty Quotes, "Best Buys," and great stories you've published. Keep the presses rolling. Like thousands of others, I'll be reading every issue cover to cover!

## New Renewal Letters

You may have noticed we updated our renewal letters over the past few months. This change was due to a new renewal printer and our new subscriber software. The new forms are designed to be a bit easier to use. Everything we mail (both issues and renewals) includes your account number and your expiration date near your name. You can renew at any time before your current subscription expires, and we'll add the issues to what's left on your account. No need to wait until your subscription expires to renew. We still have a 100% satisfaction guarantee, and we always add any renewal to the number of issues you have remaining. The new letters do a better job of showing how many issues you have left.



**New renewal forms are designed to be a bit easier to use.**

FARM SHOW makes a great gift. All gift subscriptions include 2 free books. Please consider giving a gift subscription to someone you know. We can also send a gift in your name to your local FFA (we can even look it up for you).

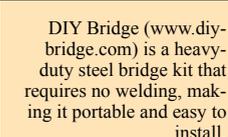
## As Seen At The Shows

**We found a few items that caught our eye at recent shows, such as the Nebraska Ag Expo, World Ag Expo and National Farm Machinery Show.**

The Rocks Gone H4 Refinitor ([www.rocksgone.com.au](http://www.rocksgone.com.au)) can travel at up to 6 mph when pulled by a 500-hp tractor. It has a leveling blade, four front-row tines, and five back-row hydraulic tines that can dig to a depth of 24 in.



Boost-A-Slide from Parsell Trucking Equipment Co. ([www.parselltruckequipmentco.com](http://www.parselltruckequipmentco.com)) makes opening slide rod setups on round grain bins easy.



DIY Bridge ([www.diy-bridge.com](http://www.diy-bridge.com)) is a heavy-duty steel bridge kit that requires no welding, making it portable and easy to install.



Redekop KAS pre-cleaner ([www.redekopmfg.com](http://www.redekopmfg.com)) prevents debris from entering engine intakes, prolonging filter life and reducing maintenance costs.



Flip Switches ([www.flip-switches.com](http://www.flip-switches.com)) produces custom switches for nearly any cab. They offer six different switch types along with many color and graphic options.



## FARM SHOW Community

FARM SHOW is a community, and much of the content in our issues comes from you, the readers. Best and Worst Buys, Shop and Maintenance Tips, along with Made-It-Myself ideas and stories from you, are what make FARM SHOW great. Please take a moment to send us any of these items, however it works for you. Email to [editor@farmshow.com](mailto:editor@farmshow.com), call us at 800-834-9665, text to 952-465-5019, or mail to PO Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044. You can also use the back of your renewal to send us ideas. Be part of the FARM SHOW community of the most creative and resourceful farmers and ranchers around. We're all better when we share ideas that help each other.

## Liberty Quotes

"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants." *Thomas Jefferson*

"Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth." *George Washington*

"Free people, remember this maxim: we may acquire liberty, but it is never recovered if it is once lost." *Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

"Order without liberty and liberty without order are equally destructive." *Theodore Roosevelt*

"If people in the media cannot decide whether they are in the business of reporting news or manufacturing propaganda, it is all the more important that the public understand that difference, and choose their news sources accordingly." *Thomas Sowell*

"I will not follow where the path may lead, but I will go where there is no path, and I will leave a trail." *Muriel Strode*

"The goal of intellectual life should be to see and understand what is true, not merely to adhere to a prevailing orthodoxy." *Jeffrey Tucker*

**Ole gets a job installing telephone poles.** His boss asks him how many poles he installed after the first day.

"I've done tree," said Ole. "Well, that's not nearly enough," his boss said. After the second day, his boss asked him how many poles he had installed. "Today I got six done," said Ole proudly. "Six? That's not nearly enough. If you can't get 10 poles per day done by the end of the week, you're fired."

At the end of the week, Ole could only do six poles per day. The boss fired him and asked Ole if he had anything to say. "Well, I got to tell you dat other guy hasn't even putting dem poles haf vay in da ground."

**Sven was nominated by his county** to attend the National Farmers Convention in the big city. The evening before the meeting started, there was an open house with all the delegates milling around and meeting each other. Sven was standing there, taking it all in, when a big man wearing a 10-gallon hat and a leather vest came up to him and introduced himself.

He said he was from Texas and asked where Sven was from. Sven said, "Minnesota," and of course, as farmers usually do, asked the Texan how big his farm was. The Texan replied, "Let me just say that I can get on my tractor and drive all day and never get to the other side of my farm." Sven is standing there, listening intently, nodding his head slowly. "I know what you mean," he says. "I once had a tractor like that, too!"

**Ole was lying on his deathbed.** He asked his wife, Lena, to come to his side. Ole said to Lena, "Ven I'm gone, I want yew to get remarried to Lars."

"But Ole," Lena exclaimed, "Yew used to hate Lars!"  
"I still do," said Ole.