

**Smörgåsbord**



Harold Johnson  
Editor

**Collmer Bros. vs. Allis Chalmers** — At the end of the 1980 harvest season, Danny and Phil Collmers, of Hobart, Okla., painted one of their big new N-7 Gleaner combines yellow, parked it by a busy highway and covered it with signs declaring it to be a "lemon". Then, they took out an ad in a regional farm magazine, asking farmers to write or call for "the real story on N-Series combines." They also sued Allis Chalmers.

The Collmers, custom harvesters for some 18 years, have always run Allis Chalmers combines. In 1980, they bought four N-7 Gleaners, figuring



most of the bugs had probably been worked out of the new rotary combine, which was first introduced in 1978.

"We had high expectations for the combines. Unfortunately, because of the problems we had with them, we were out of the custom business by the end of harvest," Danny told FARM SHOW. "In 4½ months we never had all four machines running at once. We replaced nearly \$100,000 in parts and estimate that we lost a half million dollars worth of grain that the combines didn't thresh. We had men and trucks sitting idle while we repaired these machines."

Mechanically, Collmer says problems included "sickles that broke like pretzels, auger flighting that wore out in the unloading augers and feederhouse, a rethreshing mechanism that is a mechanical joke, an unlevel header, three out of four rear ends that fell apart, and more. They were terrible machines, front to back, and after working with the rotaries for a year, I'm convinced that there's no rotary design on the market that'll put more money in your pocket or grain in your tank."

Collmer claims more than 40 lawsuits have been filed in some 25 states by operators with problems similar to his. "Under absolutely perfect conditions, this combine may work satisfactorily, but those conditions normally don't exist. High humidity is especially bad. This combine just won't work in high humidity," he told FARM SHOW.

The four machines were repossessed by Allis Chalmers after payments were stopped. This past year, the brothers did not hit the custom combining

trail. Their lawsuit against Allis Chalmers is winding its way through the courts. "If we win and decide to go back into the custom combining business, we'll probably buy from John Deere," says Phil Collmers. (Mark Newhall, Managing Editor).

**Where can I get a directory of major farm shows throughout the U.S. and Canada?** Many readers ask us that question and we've got the answer. Century Communications puts out a directory and it's a dandy. What's more, a limited number of copies are available on a "first come, first serve" basis.

The just-published directory, inserted into the July, 1981 issue of Century's Agri-Marketing magazine, gives a rundown on some 200 different farm and agriculture trade shows, expositions and fairs. For each, it lists the date, location and contact address, and the number of exhibitors and visitors at "last year's" show.

If you'd like a copy, send your check for \$5.00 to: FARM SHOW Followup, c/o Century Communications, Suite G, 5520 Touhy Ave., Skokie, Ill. 60077 (ph 312 676-4060). Make your check payable to Century Communications.

Here, excerpted from the directory, are some of the major farm shows to be held yet this year (from Nov. 1) and in 1982:

**Ag Expo** Jan. 12-14, Spokane, Wa.; **American Pork Congress**, Mar. 10-12, Indianapolis, Ind.; **California Farm Equipment Show**, Feb. 9-11, Tulare; **Canada Western Agribition**, Nov. 28-Dec. 4, Regina; **Canada Farm Show**, Feb. 2-5, Toronto; **Empire Farm Days**, Aug. 10-12, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N.Y.; **Farm Progress Show**, Sept. 28-30, Wolcott, Ind.; **Farm Store Trade Show**, July 28-30, St. Louis, Mo.; **Gateway Farm Expo**, May 21-23, Kearney, Neb.

**Husker Harvest Days**, Sept. 14-16, Grand Island, Neb.; **International Plowing Matches and Farm Machinery Show**, Sept. 28-Oct. 2, Lucan, Ont.; **Midwest Livestock Equipment Show**, Dec. 1-3, St. Paul, Minn.; **Mid-South Show**, Jan. 21-23, Memphis, Tenn.; **National Custom Applicators Expo**, Sept. 15-16, Stockton, Iowa; **National Farm Machinery Show**, Feb. 10-13, Louisville, Ky.; **National Western Machinery and Stock Show**, Jan. 14-23, Denver, Colo.; **Northern Farm Show**, Jan. 21-23, Minneapolis, Minn.; **Northwest Agricultural Show**, Jan. 26-28, Portland, Oreg.; **Ohio State Farm Science Review**, Sept. 21-23, Columbus; **Oklahoma Farm Show**, April 16-18, Oklahoma City; **Pennsylvania Farm Show**, Jan. 10-15, Harrisburg, Pa.; **St. Louis Farm Show**, Dec. 2-3, St. Louis, Mo.; **Southern Farm Show**, Feb. 3-5, Raleigh, N.C.; **Stockton Ag Expo**, Jan. 19-21, Stockton, Cal.; **Southwest Farm Show**, Mar. 5-7, Ft. Worth, Texas; **Soybean Expo**, Aug. 5-8, Minneapolis, Minn.; **Sunbelt Ag Expo**, Oct. 12-14, Moultrie, Ga.; **3-I Show**, April 22-25, Great Bend, Kan.; **Triumph of Agriculture**, Mar. 8-10, Omaha, Neb.; **Western Farm Show**, Feb. 28-Mar. 3, Kansas City, Mo.; **Western Canada Farm Progress Show**, June 16-19, Regina, Sask.; **Western Fair Farm Show**, Mar. 2-5, London, Ont.; **Wisconsin Farm Progress Days**, Oct. 12-14, Portage County, Wis.; **World Dairy Expo**, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, Madison, Wis.

If you're planning a trip abroad in the months ahead, you may want to take in a farm show or two along the way. Here's the schedule of some of the bigger, better shows:

**Australian National Field Days**, Nov. 16-19, Orange, NSW; **International Ag Show**, May 20-26, Munich, Germany; **Elmia Agricultural Show**, June 10-15, Jönköping, Sweden; **International Ag Fair**, March 13-21, Verona, Italy; **International EIMA Exhibition**, Nov. 11-15, Bologna, Italy; **International Ag Machinery Fair**, Mar. 27-April 4, Zaragoza, Spain; **New Zealand Ag Fieldays**, June 17-19, Mystery Creek Hamilton; **Pochvoobratotka, Russia**, Oct. 15-24; **Royal Highland Show**, June 21-24 (tentative), Edinburgh, Scotland; **Royal International Ag Show**, July 5-8, Kenilworth, England; **Royal Smithfield Show**, Dec. 7-11, London; **Salon International**, Mar. 7-14, Paris, France.

A new "predator chaser" of sorts, designed to ward off two-legged predators such as thieves, home burglars and vandals, has been introduced by Hilco Marketing, Box 27, Fayette, Iowa (ph 319 425-4581). It's simply a set of 12 self-adhesive stickers which carry the official looking "warning"



message pictured here. It's the same style warning stickers used by commercial burglar alarm companies. You simply apply the sticker to windows and doors of your home, truck, car, garage, machine shed, or whatever. The kit of 12 stickers, including eight with back adhesive and four with front adhesive (for inside windows), sells for \$3.

**Small towns!** You know you're in a small town when:

- ◆ Third street is on the edge of town.
- ◆ You don't use your turn signal because everyone knows where you're going.
- ◆ You are born June 13 and your family receives gifts from the local merchants because you are the first baby of the year.
- ◆ You can't walk for exercise because every car that passes offers you a ride.
- ◆ You dial a wrong number and talk for fifteen minutes anyway.
- ◆ You drive into the ditch five miles out of town and word gets back before you do.
- ◆ The pickups on main street outnumber the cars three to one.
- ◆ You miss a Sunday at church and receive a get-well card.

**One Solitary Life!** He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. He then became an itinerant preacher. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three when the public turned against Him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth. He was laid in a borrowed grave.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as the **ONE SOLITARY LIFE**.

**Don't Miss A Single Issue**

Many new subscribers have asked if they can obtain back issues of FARM SHOW. The answer is yes. Here's what's available:

- 1977 — Three of the 6 charter-year issues (Vol. 1, No. 3; Vol. 1, No. 4 and Vol. 1, No. 6) are still available.
- 1978 — All 6 issues still available.
- 1979 — All 6 issues still available except one (Vol. 3, No. 5).
- 1980 — All 6 issues still available except one (Vol. 4, No. 6).
- 1981 — All previously published issues still available (Vol. 5, No. 1; Vol. 5, No. 2; Vol. 5, No. 3; Vol. 5, No. 4; Vol. 5, No. 5).

Send your check for \$2.00 per copy to: Back issues, FARM SHOW Magazine, Box 704, Lakeville, Minn. 55044. Make your check payable to "FARM SHOW".