

Simes Grain Dryer Back And “Better Than Ever”

By Bill Gergen, Senior Editor

More than 25 years ago Harold Johnson, founder of FARM SHOW, published a story on a revolutionary crop dryer designed and manufactured by Sylvan “Sib” Sime, owner of Simes, Inc. in Walters, Minn. (Vol. 12, No. 5). At the time this tower dryer was described as “the dryer of the future” because of its fuel efficiency, quiet operation, very few moving parts and low maintenance.

Unlike conventional dryers, which are portable and completely assembled at the factory, Simes dryers are designed to be “non-portable” and erected “on site” on a poured concrete foundation. On-site erection allows the company to ship component parts much more efficiently – flat and knocked down – to anywhere in the world.

Another unique feature of the dryer is an external jacket, which protects the dryer from the wind and also retains and recycles hot air, instead of letting it escape out the sides.

Allan Anderson worked with Simes in the early 1990’s and wants farmers to know that Simes Systems has started manufacturing the dryers again, with many unique features. He displayed an exhibit at the recent Big Iron Farm Show in West Fargo, N. Dak.

“Simes passed away in 1994 and the manufacturing rights were purchased by another company, which made the dryers until 2000 when the dryer was discontinued,” says Anderson. “I thought this dryer was too good to be shut down, so about 4 years ago I started redesigning the dryer to meet current standards and to greatly improve its quality. I also designed completely new systems for the dryer.”

About 2 1/2 years ago, he sold the manufacturing rights to Simes Systems, LLC, in Claremont, S. Dak., which has now geared up for production. They’ve also started manufacturing replacement parts for older Simes dryers.

According to Anderson, the Simes dryer uses up to half as much electricity as most competitors’ tower dryers. It also uses 3 to 5 percent less fuel, due to the tower’s jacket design. “When compared to conventional box-style dryers, up to a 20 percent reduction in fuel usage has been documented. The jacket recycles heat from the dryer and also provides full protection from the weather. It also keeps perforated screens clean by keeping condensation off the dryer.”

He says the fit and finish of the dryer is in a class by itself. “This dryer has more than twice as many vertical supports compared to most of the competition, which holds the sheeting crisp and neat and uniform.”

Anderson has designed a new gun-style burner system for the dryer. “It’s a modified ring burner with no holes pointing up so it keeps foreign material out during the off season,” he says. “There’s a longer plane of travel within the burner to provide longer mixing time with the air. The burner pipe is also located in the flame area to provide secondary preheating of the fuel coming out of the burner ring, which makes the dryer burn fuel more efficiently. It’s especially useful in liquid propane applications, where it introduces extra heat into the fuel so that it burns more evenly and completely.”

After successfully testing a new moisture control program for the dryer, Anderson convinced Simes Systems to market an add-on moisture control system that can be installed on any continuous flow grain dryer. He calls it the “Intela-Dry”.

“The Intela-Dry is a full touch screen, PLC-controlled moisture controller with updated features usually available only on new dryers, such as remote operation, data logging, and advanced moisture controls,” says Anderson. “It maintains a high level of accuracy of the dried grain, saving you money and time by



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not over or under drying your grain. It’s an extremely competitively priced unit,” he says.

“Many farmers tell us they’ve been looking for a moisture control system like this. A lot of them want to keep their existing dryers, but want better controls and updated features,”

he notes.

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“Collar” Collects Heat From Stationary Engines

The Heat Collar from Bunker Hill Engine captures otherwise wasted heat from stationary engine exhausts.

“The first one we built was for a guy with a natural gas engine,” says Atlee Weaver, Bunker Hill Engine. “He uses the water heated by the exhaust for an in-floor heating system.”

The Heat Collar channels exhaust through a pipe filled with small tubes. Water enters at one end and runs through the pipes the length of the heat exchanger to exit into a standard hot water system. Internal baffles keep the water moving to reduce scale buildup. An exhaust bypass valve, triggered by the internal water thermostat, ensures water won’t overheat. The Heat Collar is equipped with a combination pressure/temperature gauge for visual monitoring as well. The heat exchanger and exhaust valve are made with 304-grade stainless steel. Mounting brackets and hardware are also stainless steel.

“We also have a radiator heat exchanger option that can tie into the Heat Collar,” explains Weaver. “It lets you also recover heat from the engine coolant.”

The 80-in. long Heat Collars are available in two to 3 1/2-in. exhaust pipes and is priced at \$6,500. The 11-in. model is sized for exhaust pipes up to 5-in. diameter and is priced at \$7,750. The Radiator Heat Exchange option adds \$1,000 to the cost of a system.

“Every 1,000 cu. ft. of natural gas your



Heat Collar channels exhaust through a pipe filled with small tubes, capturing otherwise wasted heat from stationary engine exhausts.

engine burns produces 225,000 btu’s in exhaust and the same in radiator heat,” says Weaver. “Every gallon of diesel fuel produces 31,000 btu’s in exhaust heat and the same in radiator heat. Why not capture as much of that energy as you can?”

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Damon Carson restores and customizes vintage soda machines. “Just send me the image that you want on a machine, and we’ll do it,” he says.



Customized Vintage Soda Machines

Dress up your shop, office or den with a soda machine decked out in your favorite team or equipment colors and logo. Damon Carson will paint virtually any color or design on a vintage machine.

“Just send me an image that you want on a machine, and we’ll do it,” says Carson. “We’ve done John Deere designs, sports teams and even Angus cattle. We’ll do anything you dream up, such as a favorite movie, animals or pets, music or corporate logos.”

The machines are known in the trade as the Classic Vendo 63 and made to dispense 6 to 12-oz. bottles or 12-oz. cans. The window shows up to 7 different selections or flavors. The restored machines can be set to “vend” for free or in 5¢ increments from 5¢ to 75¢. Overall dimensions are 53 in. high by 27 1/2 in. wide by 21 1/2 in. deep. The empty machine weighs 345 lbs.

Carson got the idea of redoing the soda machines after he bought a company that restored kiddie rides. The coin-operated amusement rides required painting and mechanical repairs. With the facilities and expertise available, restoring another type of equipment made sense.

Restoration is extensive. When a machine arrives, most pieces are stripped from it. The refrigeration unit is taken out, as are most removable components.

Carson charges a flat rate of \$2,995 for the restored, customized machines, regardless of the design. He also sells vintage pop machines restored to their classic appearance – round top, square top and slider boxes.

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