

Editor's Notebook



Mark Newhall
Editor

A letter from a reader:

"Did you know that there's an American industry desperately seeking a workforce? An industry that hires regardless of age, race, gender, or religion? One that has openings for folks looking for part time seasonal work as well as those seeking fulltime employment, even a lifetime career?"

"I own an Outdoor Power Equipment dealership, which is a fancy way of saying a lawn mower shop. Right now I'm looking for full-time, year-round employees. Almost every community in America has a shop, rental yard, or hardware store doing the same thing. Our industry has a chronic labor shortage and the reason is simple: fixing small engines just doesn't have the same flair as repairing hot rods or helicopters."

"Honestly, when I started out I didn't picture myself staying in this industry very long. Nearly 3 decades later, I'm still here. Small engines have kept a roof over my head, fed my family, and allowed me to put away a little for later. This past year, while tens of millions of Americans were left without an income or food on their tables, my company was able to retain its employees, add an extra position, and even have a little left over to help our local food bank. We did so while laboring under severe coronavirus restrictions here in rural California, a state that many claim is over regulated and impossible to do business in. I'm not bragging. I'm just trying to point out how stable this industry is."

"Don't have a small engine shop in your town? Start one. The initial cost is next to nothing, especially if you can use your dad's tools. I grew up a dirt poor hillbilly, but in this business clients won't care what you look like, whether or not you use a wheelchair, or who you like to cuddle up with at night. They'll just be happy you're there for them." *Rex Gogerty, 33475 K Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 (ph 641 487-7617; rexgogerty@gmail.com)*

The Silver Bullet made its first big jump in 1985, speeding down a 1,000-ft. runway and hitting the ramp at 50 mph.



Whatever Happened To The Famous Jumping Combine

Ernie Brookins first appeared in FARM SHOW in 1985 with the Jumping Combine (Vol. 9, No. 4). The 7,000-lb., 21-ft. long machine with its 1,200 hp. dragster engine was loosely modeled after a Gleaner combine driven backwards. It was equipped with combine wheels, a 14-ft. header, and a Deere combine steering system. It was called the Silver Bullet.

Its first jump was in front of 6,000 spectators in Fargo, N. Dak. Rolling down a 1,000-ft. runway and up a 42-ft. ramp at close to 50 mph, it cleared a \$30,000 reproduction classic car.

"We ran the Silver Bullet for 5 years as a special attraction. We even did a Coors Light commercial with Chuck Yeager, the test pilot, and were in the movie American Harvest."

The Silver Bullet bit the bullet in Kenosha, Wis. "It broke a front wheel off as I jumped it," recalls Brookins. "I did a wheelie as we came down, but when I dropped the front end down, the broken front axle dug into the ground."

Anyone wanting to hear more about the Silver Bullet can go to www.machinerypete.com/podcasts. "He did an hour-long interview with my wife Gail on the Jumping Combine and our other special attraction vehicles," says Brookins.



Rex Gogerty's great grandfather planted this giant oak in 1863. The "derecho" wind that flattened parts of Iowa last year knocked it down.

Fallen Oak Provided Lifetime Of Memories

When a large bur oak planted by my great grandfather was taken down last year by derecho winds, it was an emotional event for my family. A derecho is a fast moving, straight-line wind storm, and it was the worst wind I've ever experienced.

We totaled up the value the tree generated for several generations of Gogertys. My great grandfather planted the tree in 1863. Later settlers stopped to admire it, as it was the only tree standing tall amid the prairie grass. Later, its 90-ft. crown of limbs and leaves sheltered wildlife and provided shade.

During years when the tree's acorn production was good, two generations of Gogerty kids gathered and sold the acorns to a neighbor, who fed them to his hogs. Seasonal fallen branches were sold to make canes and cattle prods, and used as fuel for cook stoves.

Fortunately, when the ancient landmark fell it didn't cause any damage to our farm buildings. The wood provided fireplace fuel, and my son Tom even converted some of the wood into plate-size medallions for local farmers market collectors. To make the medallions, he placed 3 to 5-in. dia. branches in a vise and carefully sawed them into 3/4-in. thick sections. The bark-rimmed, epoxy-sealed medallions have back-to-back photos of the ancient oak on one side and "greetings of the season" on the other side. Tom has made a few medallions for family and friends, and says he's willing to make more for anyone who's interested. *Rex Gogerty, 33475 K Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 (ph 641 487-7617; rexgogerty@gmail.com)*



Tim Gogerty made up plate-size commemorative medallions for family, neighbors, and friends.

Liberty Quotes

- "Secrecy is the beginning of tyranny." *Robert Heinlein*
- "Get all the fools on your side and you can be elected to anything." *Frank Dane*
- "Where there is no law there is no freedom." *John Locke*
- "You can't get rich in politics unless you're a crook." *Harry Truman*
- "Government will not fail to employ education to strengthen its hands and perpetuate its institutions." *William Godwin*
- "Today, in a country that fought a revolution to rid itself of a repressive government and excessive taxes, government takes 40 percent of everything we earn in the form of taxes." *Byron C. Radaker*
- "You can't run a society or cope with its problems if people are not held accountable for what they do." *John Leo*
- "No free government or the blessings of liberty can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality and virtue, and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles." *George Mason*
- "A nation which can prefer appeasement over danger is prepared for a master, and deserves one." *Alexander Hamilton*
- "The history of liberty has largely been the history of the observance of procedural safeguards." *Felix Frankfurter*
- "Never blame a legislative body for not doing something. When they do nothing that don't hurt anybody. When they do something is when they become dangerous." *Will Rogers*
- "Freedom of speech means that you shall not do something to people either for the views they have, or the views they express, or the words they speak or write." *Justice Hugo L. Black*

Will Human Composting Replace Burial, Cremation?

Don't want to be buried in the ground and cremation doesn't sound that great either? How about getting composted?

Recompose Inc. in Kent, Wash., recently started offering human composting as an environmentally friendly alternative. Bodies are placed in steel cylinders full of soil for 30 days, covered in wood chips and straw. After 30 days, they're moved to a "curing bin" to finish releasing carbon dioxide and then the remains can be returned to the family. According to Recompose, the finished soil is very similar to topsoil you might buy at a local nursery. Company CEO Katrina Spade says the process is tightly-controlled and driven by microbes. The cost is \$5,500. (www.recompose.life)

Process Turns Manure Into Odorless Powder

An invention developed to turn dog droppings into odorless powder is now being tested as a way to process the output of large dairy farms. Paulee CleanTec's CEO Ilan Levy says the BioLizer can turn a half ton of fresh animal manure into an odorless organic fertilizer in one hour (www.pauleecleantec.com). The low-cost chemical process neutralizes odors and eliminates pathogens. One of the first systems is currently in operation on a dairy farm in Israel.

The idea got its start when Israeli Oded Halperin got fined for failing to clean up after his dog. He approached his friend Oded Shoseyov, a nano technology inventor who has nearly 100 patents, and challenged him to find a better solution for disposal of dog poop. Shoseyov came up with a chemical method for converting waste and the two men formed Paulee Cleantec, which is affiliated with California-based Epic CleanTec (www.epiccleantec.com). In addition to Israel, there are currently projects underway in California and Brazil converting both human waste and animal manure into organic fertilizer.

Points To Ponder

- "Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing." *Abraham Lincoln*
- "Character is much easier kept than recovered." *Thomas Paine*
- "Goodness without wisdom always accomplishes evil." *Robert Heinlein*
- "Common sense is something that everyone needs, few have, and none think they lack." *Benjamin Franklin*
- "It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand battles. Then the victory is yours. It cannot be taken from you, not by angels or by demons, heaven or hell." *Gautama Siddharta*
- "He who angers you, controls you." *Confucius*
- "A man cannot build a reputation on what he is going to do." *Henry Ford*
- "Holding hate in your heart is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die." *Nelson Mandela*
- "Since when do you have to agree with people to defend them from injustice." *Lillian Hellman*
- "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality." *Bishop Desmond Tutu*
- "In all affairs it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted." *Bertrand Russell*

Ole received a summons for jury duty. The judge asked the prospective jurors if there was any reason they could not serve as a juror on the case.

Ole raised his hand. "I dont tink I can serve your Honor. I dont want to be away from vork for dat long."

The judge responded, "Can't they do without you for a few days?"

Ole said, "Yes, Judge, dey can do widdout me but I yust dont vant dem to know dat."

The phone rang at the State Police office one day. The desk sergeant answered and heard an obviously intoxicated Ole saying, "Somebody broke into my car an' stole everyting! Dey took da dashboard, da steering vheel, da brake pedal, and even da accelerator. Plez, send somebody quick."

Before the sergeant had a chance to dispatch a State Trooper, the phone rang again. "Dis is Ole. Never mind dat call, Sir. I yust realized I got into da back seat by mistake."