

It's a Neighborly Work Shop on the Vyborny Farm at Tabor

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George Vyborny, a Czech farmer north of Tabor, South Dakota, has turned his hobby into a full - time business. As an operator of a half-section grain and livestock farm in Bon Homme county George had always loved to tinker around in his farm workshop. His father was a full - fledged blacksmith and George picked up the tricks of that trade. He bought his first power tool, a turning lathe and soon found he was spending more and more hours in the shop.

Neighbors began to drop in with work they wanted George to help with. The war years becomed his hobby into a full - time business and 10 years ago George turned over the cropping of his farm to a nephew.

Today the Vyborny farmstead is a village of activity. Machinery of all kinds, being repaired or being remodeled, fills the yard edges. An enlarged machine shop is filled with tools and parts of all

kinds, enough to tackle any modern-day farm job.

"Take a rainy day and the place is filled with neighbors," George said. "And Saturdays — they're another big day. It's the one day of the week the farmer decides to catch up on his repair work."

Neighborly Business

Vyborny runs a neighborly sort of establishment, far different than a commercial enterprise in town. His business expanded so much he now employs a full - time man during the year, plus an extra man during the winter months when building of equipment is done. But neighboring farmers come in and do a lot of the work themselves, or work with Vyborny and his men, to get some problem licked.

"We had 20 men here one day," George said, "all working on different projects."

Vyborny views his clients as neighbors and friends rather than business custom-

ers. "How do we charge for jobs like that? Oh, we just make it a lump sum charge," he said.

Conversion of Machinery

Vyborny finds himself busy the year around, working from 6 or 7 in the morning to 8 or 9 at night. "During harvest, there aren't any hours," he added.

He remarked that during poor economic times there is much more repair and maintenance work. Farmers

tend to make things last, and to remodel them, rather than invest in new, costly equipment.

Conversion of equipment to more efficient four - row is one of the big jobs now being undertaken by Vyborny and his neighbors. Two - row planters and cultivators are remodeled to make four-row machines. Other jobs tackled include construction of carriers for discs and

other machinery, remodeling of grinders and the building of automatic cattle feeding units.

His biggest job was the building of a dredge outfit for a gravel pit he used to operate on his farm.

3,500 Plowshares

Vyborny also practices the blacksmith trade, sharpening and tempering plowshares. This is his personal work and he turns out a phenomenal number of them each winter. Rack after rack of neighbors' plowshares line a storage room. "We worked on 3,500 of them one year," George said.

George is well known in a wide area and business comes to him from Yankton, Meckling, Menno, Scotland, Tyndall, Avon and Wagner. He also uses a pickup to go out to field repairs.

His unpretentious shop is well stocked with the tools of his trade, including a lathe, a milling machine, a bolt thread cutter, hydraulic press, trip hammer, bottle gas forge, two acetylene and arc welders, a power hacksaw and a drill press.

In addition to his shop work George still personally takes care of 25 head of stock cows, feeding out young stock and raises 10 litters of hogs per year.

He has other hobbies, too — hunting and fishing. Two or three times a week he knocks off work about 5 and concentrates on some serious sauger and catfish fishing below the Gavins Point dam at Yankton. He and three other friends own a houseboat on the Missouri tailwaters and do fishing there the year around.

"Fishing was excellent in the tailwaters last year," George said. "The biggest fish taken in our party included a sauger of around 9 pounds and an 18½ pound catfish."

In the fall George likes to hunt ducks and geese in the corn fields near the Missouri and enjoys some excellent hunting.

At 54, George Vyborny is doing the type of work he enjoys.