

It was a couple of months ago I shared the story how when the tornadic outbreak across southern Minnesota hit on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, I rode the storm out in a school bus with the Cannon Falls Junior High volleyball team as we returned from Byron. I noted in the column that the city of Cannon Falls, among several towns including Faribault, Waterville and others were hit hard by the tornados. Within the city limits of Cannon Falls, over 1000 trees were downed. So that begged the question, what happens when you collect the wood from a thousand trees.

The local newspaper, the Cannon Falls Beacon, did a follow up story answering that very question. In their December 6<sup>th</sup> edition they explained how the city had Dakota Wood Grinding come in and dispose of the huge piles of trees. The company brought in a trailer mounted grinder and grappler along with two front-end loaders. Now this isn't your everyday grinder. This grinder is a 12 cylinder, 1050 horsepower engine that can grind up to 40 tons of woodchips per hour. For me, this conjures up the image of Tim 'The Toolman' Taylor grunting Ooh Ooh Ooh!!



The photo is courtesy of the Cannon Falls Beacon

The grinder can take two to three foot diameter trees and literally grind them into a pulp. With the four big semis they used to haul away the kindling, they took it all to the District Energy heat and power plant that burns them and supplies steam for downtown St. Paul. In Cannon Falls it took them about 4 weeks to 'chip away' at the woodpile. They hauled out 226 loads of wood chips with each load weighing about 20 tons or 40,000 pounds. All total that's over 9,000,000 pounds of woodchips. I must have lifted about a half million pounds myself cleaning up after the storm. At least my back felt like it was that much. They do plan to come back in the spring as there is probably about another 80 loads or a little over 3 million pounds yet to be chipped. Dakota Wood Grinding has 3 of these big chippers and they were kept very busy this past fall and will be busy in the spring.

I was reading through the list of winners of the National Corn Growers Association yield contest for this past year. I saw the highest yield was an irrigated field in Charlotte, Mississippi

run by Don Stall. The corn put out an amazing or is that a 'maize'ing 477.6877 bushels per acre. 477 bushel per acre. This made me think back to my earliest recollections of corn harvest. I've mentioned before about the old Oliver model 40 combine that my dad bought from Roberts Brothers Oliver. It was my dad's first self-propelled combine. A lot of this was written about in my November, 2017 column but let me repeat myself which I do often when I tell stories. I preface it by saying 'Don't stop me if you've heard this before because I tell it so well.'

I couldn't remember how big the grain tank was on that combine so I looked up an old newspaper advertisement from the 1950's that touted what this new self-propelled Oliver 40 could do. I was guessing that the grain tank was 60-70 bushels big. Well it turns out that it had a 57 bushel capacity. So first off, it's hard for me to imagine what 477 bushels of corn looks like on one acre. Then I'm trying to imagine doing that with the Oliver 40 combine. You'd have to empty the tank about 9 times just to get through one acre.

So I go back and look at the ad again. They made it sound like this green monster could handle 477 bushel per acre corn. The ad from 1959 described the Oliver 40 as a self-propelled marvel. It takes all crops in stride and it's a combine that's famed for its capacity. Plus a picker that far outperforms the best we've known until now. It's geared for high output all the way. I'm not sure the people who put this ad together could imagine 477 bushels per acre either. The Oliver 40 touted headers up to 16 feet, a nine inch unloading auger, which by the way you have to fold up before you drive that combine into the quonset machined. That's personal experience talking there. The Oliver 40 came in a smooth running 6 cylinder engine in either gas or diesel power. Ours was a gas model.

And wait, there's more. The ad goes on to say it's a sheller too! It doesn't do just one job, it does three, cuts, shells and shreds...all three at once. And here's the kicker. The ad says it actually brings in an extra bushel for every 8 bushels you pick. So what they're saying is if Don Shell of Charlotte, Mississippi had used an Oliver 40 combine on his NCGA corn yield contest field this year, he would have harvested 537.3986625 bushels per acre and really blown out the competition. That old Oliver 40 really was a marvel. Or you can say you marvel at how ad writers exaggerate.

Scroll farther down and you'll see the old Oliver ad from the 1950's



Now a combine, now a corn sheller...*both* tops!

## **THAT'S OLIVER** **TEAMED-POWER**

Here is the dream of years become a reality: *the all-purpose harvester*. Here is a self-propelled marvel that takes all crops in stride—a combine famed for its capacity, *plus* a picker that far outperforms the best we've known till now.

**THE COMBINE** is the Oliver 40, geared for high output all the way. Headers up to 16 feet...a record cleaning capacity...57-bushel grain tank...9-inch unloading auger. Smooth, 6-cylinder gasoline or diesel power. Heavy-duty, 6-speed transmission. *There's* a combine! And what's more...

**IT'S A SHELLER, TOO!** Just take off the grain header, put on the row-crop header—then watch this corn sheller go to town. It doesn't do *one* job; it does *three*; cuts, shells, shreds—all three at once! Not only that, but this amazing machine gets *all* your corn—leaves not a bit shelled out in the field...actually brings in an extra bushel with every eight you pick! Where else would you find a combination like this? Nowhere but at your Oliver Dealer's—this is Oliver's **TEAMED-POWER!**



THE OLIVER CORPORATION  
400 W. Madison St., Chicago 6, Ill.

See Your **OLIVER DEALER** and See