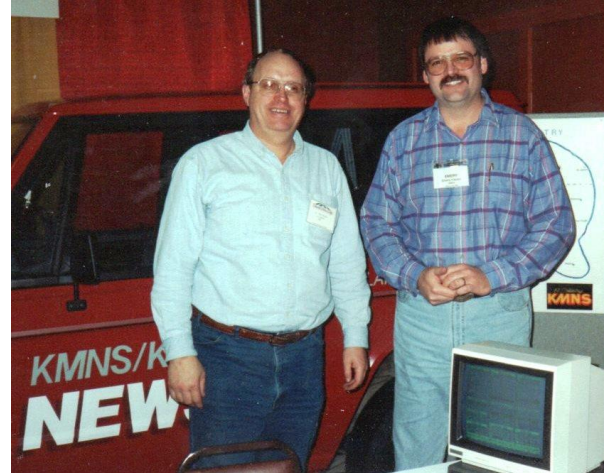


I am now in my third week of retirement and it's really going well. I should have retired 20 years ago. I told my wife several years ago that I'm really suited for retirement but she wouldn't let me. But times have changed and my horseshoe pitching needed a lot of practice. It's always fun to play a game where you only have to be close.

I wanted to continue my look back over the years of reporting on agriculture. I mentioned that my broadcast partner and good friend Col Jon Phillips and I would do what we called the 'Farm Show on the Road' for KMNS radio in Sioux City. One day we were doing a live broadcast from a grain elevator in Sloan, Iowa, which is about 10 miles south of Sioux City. As we did quite often, between broadcasts we would be talking with people, telling stories and laughing and generally having a great time. One of the company reps that serviced the local elevator asked a poignant question, do you guys actually get paid to do this? I answered that we find it hard to believe too!



The picture with former Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich was a case in point of having fun.



We would get our interview complete and then we'd talk about various things. I first met the former dentist at one of the Governor's fishing openers. He was always very cordial and an interesting person to talk to. At this particular opener at Grand Rapids, he signed a bill to help the state ban Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive plant species that was spreading across several Minnesota lakes. I'm pretty sure that they took some milfoil out of the lake that year and put it in the salad that was served to the media. Like many salads, if you put enough salad dressing on it, you can hardly taste the other ingredients.

The above picture was taken at the Minnesota State Fair in 1990 while reporting for KDHL.

After I left Sioux City, I lived and worked in Nebraska from 1995 to 2009. I first met former Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns when he was mayor of Lincoln and was running for the state's top job. From mayor, he moved up the ranks to Governor, Secretary of Agriculture and U.S. Senator. He was another person, who at every level of government was always cordial and accommodating to do an interview and just talk off the air about various subjects.

It just so happened that during my year as president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB) in 2005, Johanns was ag secretary and since I had known him for about 8 years by that time, I had a real inside connection at USDA. Johanns also had a Minnesota connection as he is a graduate of St Mary's University in Winona.



In this picture, I was emceeding a roundtable discussion with Ag Secretary Mike Johanns and Deputy Secretary Chuck Conners. There were about 30 farm broadcasters in the room. I had some NAFB pens that were bright red. I gave one to Secretary Johanns and told him the pen was Husker Red to make him feel at home. As this picture was taken I tossed one to Secretary Conners and told him coincidentally they are Hoosier Red as Conners is from Indiana. I'm so glad there was a picture like this as it was completely unrehearsed and I didn't know what I was going to say until I said it. Sometime that can get a person in trouble but in this case it made for a very memorable moment.

Col Jon and I would broadcast from the big outdoor farm shows including Farmfest, Dakotafest in Mitchell and Husker Harvest Days near Grand Island. One year, we arrived in Grand Island about 10pm in the evening prior to Husker Harvest and got to the motel room where it was extremely hot. We cranked up the air conditioning and went to sleep. We woke up the next morning and we could practically see our breath. I told Col it's like a meat locker in here. We found a happy median for the next night. Husker Harvest Days is always in September so usually not that hot. Unlike Farmfest out by Redwood Falls where in early August it can get beastly hot. I've been to that one where in the shade it was over 100 degrees.



One of the funniest stories that Col Jon shared with me was about an old cattle feeder in Cuming County, Nebraska. Cuming County is the largest livestock county in Nebraska and where I lived for 4 years in West Point. This gentleman was getting up in years and he wanted a gas efficient vehicle so he purchased a VW Rabbit. He would come into the weekly cattle sale in Wisner and brag about his 35 miles per gallon he was getting.

Well some of the workers at the sale barn started adding gas to his tank and he would then come in and brag about his 90 to 100 miles per gallon he was getting. Then the workers turned the tables and started siphoning gas out of his tank. It was a couple weeks later, he showed up in a pickup. They asked him where his Rabbit was and he said it was only getting 4 miles per gallon so he traded it in.

Below are some additional pictures from my days in radio with Col Jon Phillips.

This one to the right is in Ponca, Nebraska. Wayne Lamprecht worked at the Sioux City Stockyards but he also owned a family run bowling alley and restaurant in Ponca. His mom, pictured with Col Jon and I was thee best pie maker in the world (Sorry mom). She made a pie for us to take home so we wanted to show our appreciation. She looks thrilled to be getting kissed by both of us doesn't she?



This picture to the right shows one of the many broadcasts that Col Jon and Emery did. This one was at a farmer's market in the heart of Sioux City in 1994.



More below, keep scrolling!

This picture includes Doug and Sue Holton from Sioux Country near Orange City. We did a farm show on the road from their farm and got to know them. Sue, it turned out, was a baker with both pies and cakes her specialty. If you saw the cakes pictured in the May column, Sue was the one who made 6 of those cakes. This picture was taken at the Sioux Falls Farmshow.



She brought us a pie to take home although I'm not sure it ever made it home.


Below is a picture from the 1996 Iowa State Fair and the Governor's Charity Steer Show. Col Jon and I were a part of the big event as was Governor Terry Branstad.






As you scroll down, you see that Col Jon and I made the cover of the Iowa Cattleman magazine featuring us with the Governor at the Charity Steer show.

The Governor's Charity Steer Show is held annually to benefit the Ronald McDonald Houses of Iowa. This steer was raised by Jessi Paulsrud of Danbury, Iowa. Her entry and our participation was sponsored by the county cattlemen's associations from Cherokee, Ida, Lyon, Monona, Plymouth, Sioux and Woodbury.

Iowa Cattleman



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	<p>1996 ICA Young Cattlemen's Tour Highlights PAGE 7</p>		<p>Beef Masters Open Golf Tournament Results PAGE 11</p>		<p>Second Annual Brand Day PAGE 28</p>
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