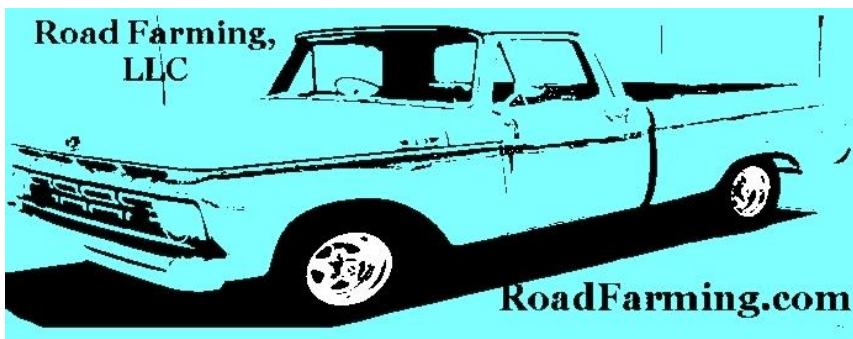


There are a few questions I get when I visit with people about this column. The first one is how long have you been writing the column for the WC Messenger? Since March, 2017 I answer. The column is called 'That's the Latest' so in the very first column, I described how that name came into being. To summarize, the name came from former WCCO radio newsman Dick Chapman who would always close his newscast with 'That's the Latest'. I've used that phrase myself a lot over the years on the radio.

Another popular question is how much do you get paid to write it? Nothing! In fact I have to pay \$21 for the opportunity. I do get a copy of the paper each month though.

Another question that comes up is how can I read some of the columns I've missed? The answer to this has now changed from any of my previous answers I may have given anyone. I am in the process of posting all of my back columns on my website Roadfarming.com. As of this writing I have the first 10 columns from 2017 posted. You can go back and read them or re-read them if you caught them the first time. I have updated or added some information on some of them and I've added many more pictures that were not in the paper.

In that first year, along with how the column got its name, you can read about the old Oliver 40 combine that was on the Kleven farm back in the late 50's and early 60's. You can read about the record pitching performance of Claremont's Craig Busch from 1969. There's the story of the classic West Concord softball game between the Sudsers and the Longhairs. And there are others about remembering Memorial Days past and Christmas's past plus taking a tour of the old WC high school complete with many pictures. Even though I wrote them, it was fun to re-read them and reminisce all over again. Again you can go to the website Roadfarming.com and click on the box that says newspaper columns.



I get asked once in a while about the name Roadfarming and how I arrived at using that name. First, road farming is a Midwest colloquialism to describe how many view agriculture. We drive down the road looking through the windshield trying to gauge how good the crops are going

to be this year. You can determine who has been planting or who hasn't even started yet. Road farming is very entertaining to say the least and somewhat inaccurate to say the most.

I can tell you I've heard the term road farming for as long as I can remember. Our rural mail carrier for our Dodge County farm near West Concord for many years was my friend Corky Buckingham. Corky is a good farmer himself and one of the best road farmers I've ever known. When I'd catch him by the mailbox, I'd get all the latest on farming across our

township. He was better than USDA at knowing what percentage of the crops have been planted and how much was in good to excellent condition. He'd also tell me who got their tractor stuck and how they got it out. I'd also get the latest pheasant count and deer population.



I use the term road farming for the website and our LLC because it was brought to life to me again in 2006 when I was in Indiana. I was a member of the media covering the 2006 Indianapolis 500. It was the first year of the Indy circuit using ethanol in the cars. The Rahal-Letterman racing team sent me an invitation to cover the event since technically it was related to agriculture through the use of corn ethanol. Yes, I know what you're asking and yes it was THAT Rahal, longtime driver Bobby Rahal. The other guy had a TV show I guess. His first name was David I think. And I got to meet Danica Patrick too as she was driving the number

16 Rahal-Letterman owned car that year.

On my way to Indy, I stayed near Crawfordsville. The day before the race, I played golf at the Rocky Ridge golf course, which is actually closer to Darlington, Indiana. One of the owners, Garry Hole, became a fast friend. After the round of golf, I was enjoying a cold beverage when Garry came over and struck up a conversation. Well soon after, he suggested we go road farming around the area. So Garry, his friend JK and I got in the old pickup and drove down many of the local roads. We stopped and chatted with a few neighbors to see how things were going.



We then headed to an old covered bridge which was the last remaining of its kind in the county. Well, we got the pickup stuck in the ditch turning around. You see, we weren't allowed to drive across the bridge as no one was sure just how much weight it could take anymore. So JK, being the smallest of us three, got behind the steering wheel and spun the wheels while Garry and I pushed the truck from behind. We were successful and once again we were road farming.

After a nighttime run through the golf course in the dark on the fastest golf carts I've ever seen, we had a midnight barbeque at Garry's house. Garry and I were talking like we had been

friends since grade school. But when his wife Peggy asked how long we'd been friends, I had to literally look at my watch to determine just how long it had been. We'd been best friends for about 7½ hours by then.

I left the next day for Indianapolis for the race. I headed back home afterwards hoping to get back to Crawfordsville someday to do more road farming with Garry. It was not to be though as just a few months later, Garry was diagnosed with cancer and he died in February of 2007. So to honor my friend Garry Hole and all others who have done some road farming in one fashion or another, that's how the name of the website came to be.



Garry Hole along with his wife Peggy, son Kyle and good friend JK