



Last week's page one picture was an enlargement of what's seen in the center of this picture. Some disks at the Farm Progress Show - held this year at Malta, Illinois, were close to 40 feet wide.

Mechanized Farming Advances Were Not Overnight Successes

Very often milestones in the development of mechanized farming equipment, which caused revolutionary changes throughout the history of U.S. agriculture, were far from overnight successes.

Among the many major developments introduced to the American farming scene in the early 1800's was the reaper.

While many attempts were made earlier at building mechanical grain cutters, it wasn't until the early 19th century that progress was noted in the U.S.

Then, on a hot July day in 1831, Cyrus McCormick successfully field tested his crude, cumbersome reaper. He had continued developmental work started by his father some two decades before.

The McCormick reaper was first tried on the family farm in Rockbridge County, Va. The horse-drawn reaper with cutters powered by its own wheels cut six acres of oats.

McCormick advertised his reaper for sale at \$50 but found no takers. The first unit wasn't sold until nine years later in 1840.

Two years later, business improved somewhat and he sold seven at \$100 each.

Slow acceptance of the new machine along the East Coast prompted him to move to Chicago in 1847. Grain farm-



ers of the Middle West were more receptive to the reaper and production increased into the thousands annually. By the Civil War, some 40,000 were being marketed to meet the great demands for food.

From this slow beginning, developments progressed until grain harvesting evolved into the modern mechanized marvel of today. Two ensuing improvements that were major factors in reaching this highly mechanized plateau were the development of the combine incorporating the threshing of grain with its cutting and self-propulsion brought about by the internal combustion engine.

From a small field of oats in 1831 to the capacity to harvest enough wheat in an hour to make 20,000 loaves of


bread is a capsule history of the combine concept, according to Sperry New Holland, worldwide marketer of combines.

At its birth, the world of the reaper was just six acres in Virginia. Today, it moves through fields of a score of different crops around the world, including the annual harvests that cover nearly a continent, from Mexico through the U.S. grain belts into Canada.

From a rudimentary basic position in farming's past, the combine — whose continuing development is moving into the era of space-age research at Sperry New Holland — will hold down an even more important place in the future of agriculture to feed a hungry world.

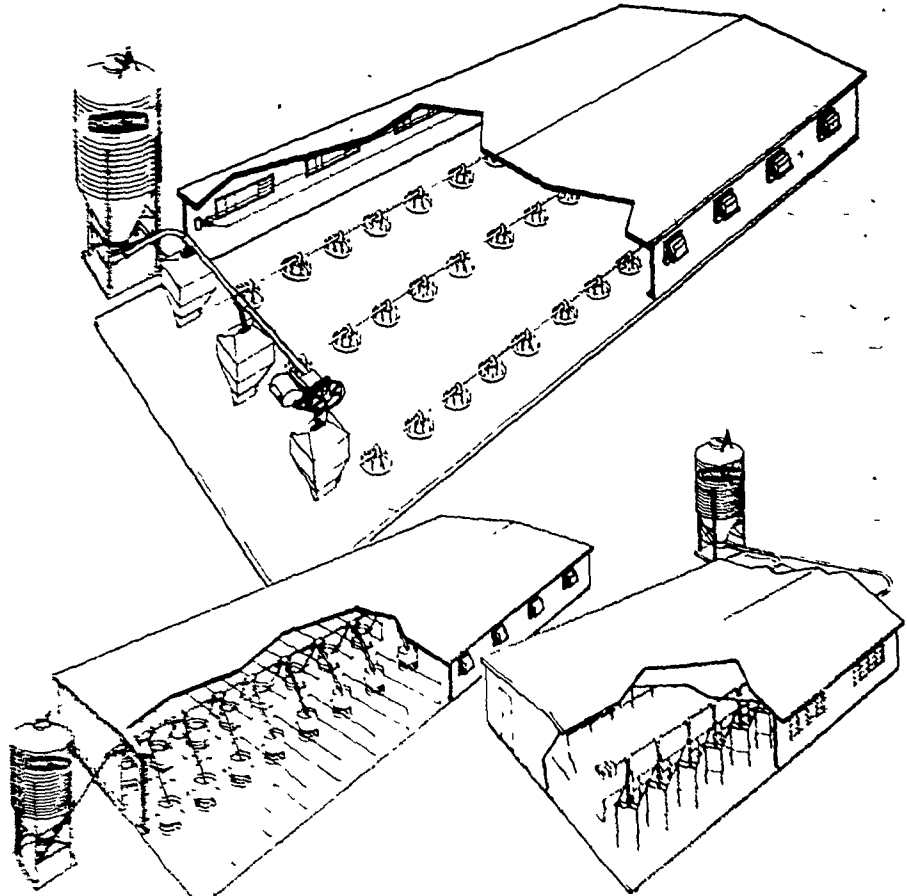


Here's another shot of that 14-bottom plow which attracted so much attention at the 23rd annual Farm Progress Show last week. Each bottom took a cut of 18 inches.



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