



Harold Barley was determined enough to stay in his chosen profession despite a fall which involved a broken neck and substantial paralyzation. He uses a hoist to get into his tractor. Helping him is employee Randy Hunt.

Harold Barley

[Continued from Page 56]

Christine, 17; Pattie, 19; and Debbie, who has since married.

Meanwhile, family and friends kept the farm going. Support came from Barley's parents, Harold and Ada Barley, Sr.

The community rallied, too. While all who helped are too numerous to mention, according to the Barleys, it is perhaps fitting to list a representative few.

A neighbor provided a farm rent-free for a year. Local churches contributed at least \$1,500. Friends even provided manpower and equipment.

Barley especially remembers the help of Don and Joyce Hershey. "Don arranged for an operator to run my combine for two months. This netted \$20,000. He never would accept a penny."

During the first year, Barley spent most of his time at home in his wheel chair. Or, he was driven around the farm by a member of the family or a friend.

One day, Nancy suggested that he drive the car himself. The transmission was automatic. Gears could be changed by hand. To control the foot pedals, June could use a long stick.

With a little practice, Barley found he could drive. Eventually, he bought a truck with an automatic transmission. He used this to oversee work.

But, Barley wanted more. "I couldn't stand the thought of my children never seeing me work again."

So, he wrote to International Harvester about types of tractors that an individual with his handicap could use. He owned several I.H. tractors and thought the company might be able to help.

"They told me about the 1066 Hydrostatic tractor that can be shifted by hand and has power steering and brakes."

Barley purchased the 125-horsepower tractor in 1973. But he didn't make any major modifications for about six months.

He used his time to determine if he could stand the stress of operating the tractor. He got in and out of the cab by being virtually lifted by employee Steve Frey, who was to become his son-in-law. To control braking and accelerating, he installed hand levers.

He also thought a lot about an easier way of gaining access to the cab.

Finally, when he knew he could cope successfully, he asked Glenn Hess, a local mechanic, to mount a hoist inside the cab. The hoist is bolted to a track on the roof. It consists of a wench powered by a 12-volt electric motor.

Total cost of modifications, including installation, was about \$2,000.

Using this, Barley literally wenchens himself in and out of his cab.

To get in the tractor, a member of the family or employee will first help him into his harness. He attaches this to the hoist. While he wenchens himself up, someone will hold his feet.

To get out, the steps are reversed.

Generally, he will get in and out twice daily.

The tractor also is equipped with a heater and air conditioner. Both are used to maintain proper temperature and thus keep Barley's blood pressure stable.

Another key feature of the tractor is a two-way radio. While such a radio may be common in many tractors, it's essential for Barley.

He had this installed in his equipment after he became stranded once in his tractor. Now, he can talk to Nancy in the house or get assistance, when needed.

Before the accident, Barley farmed with his father. He had about 250 acres, did some customer combining and kept a few steers.

Now he farms for himself. He has twice as many acres involving 16 different properties. He rents most of it. All are within 7½ miles of the home farm where he and Nancy have lived since 1956.

Last year, Barley baled all the hay — 8000 conventional bales — and another 4000 bales of straw and corn fodder. He also planted 320 acres of corn.

With Don Hershey as his partner, he also manages the sow and feeder pig operation, with 160 sows. He feeds out an equal number of steers yearly.

As for help, Randy Hunt and Clarence Osborne hold full-time jobs. During the Summer months, he hires up to three part-time helpers.

Barley is not a mechanic. So he depends on friends Jay Sherk and Phares Breneman to maintain his equipment.

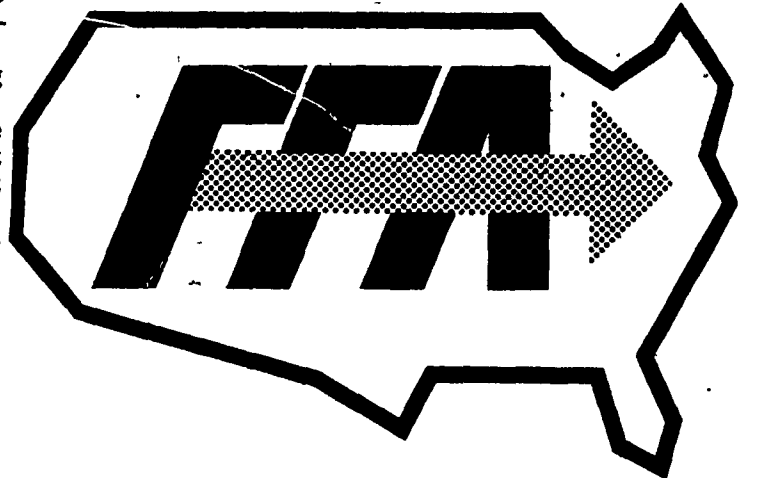
Jay is a garage mechanic and Phares, a service rep at C.B. Hooper & Son, Intercourse.

Says Don Beidler, salesman at the International Harvester Hooper dealership, from which Barley buys his equipment:

"The highest compliment I can give Barley is that he does not ask for anything extra. He simply does not want to be treated different than anyone else."

As to Barley's outlook on life, it's simply this:

"God has given me a purpose in life. This is what I have to work with and I am grateful. I have the finest wife, the finest family, the finest neighbors and the finest neighborhood in the world. Who could want more?"



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