



He rolls combine 5 times

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After what must have seemed an eternity, the rolling stopped. The combine was upright, having landed on all four wheels. Smith recalls his back pressed firmly against the floor and his feet somewhere near the operating console.

His hands were still clinging to the steering wheel, now bent partly down the steering column toward the seat. The top of the bent cab nearly touched the steering wheel.

Forgetting how high above the ground he was in the cab, Smith flung himself through the win-

dowless cab frame and fell to the field below.

For the first time, he realized that the diesel engine was still running. He clamored back up the machine, with its ladder mashed against the side, and shut the motor down.

With smoke rolling from the motor, its odor hanging in the air, Smith ran "like a deer" to a neighbor of the farm he was working in partnership with his brother, Perry Smith, Red Lion R5.

Not another person was close by. No one else had seen the accident. With the possibility of a field fire

his first concern, Smith gave no thought to the blood oozing from miscellaneous cuts and the sting of assorted brushburns.

Gone were his glasses, his pipe, his tape, and the variety of tools that combine operators keep handy for regular maintenance and adjustment work.

Atypical of the close-knit farming community, friends and neighbors were quickly on the site, combing the downhill roll path that the combine had taken, and searching for his personal belongings.

His glasses could not be found.

With the wrinkled, "balled up" machine left to the care of others, Smith headed for the hospital.

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Fully recovered from his wild ride with the combine, Stan Smith says "a co-pilot" was riding in the cab with him, and that he's a lucky man. His initial fear of returning to the combine now conquered, Smith climbs into his pickup to head back out to the fields, to operate the big replacement machine.

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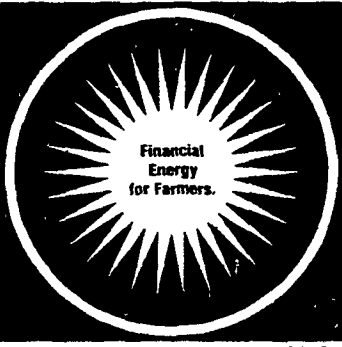
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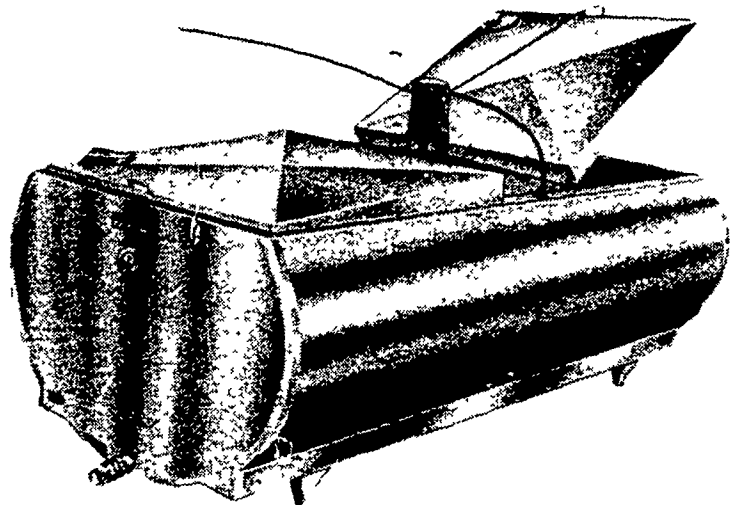
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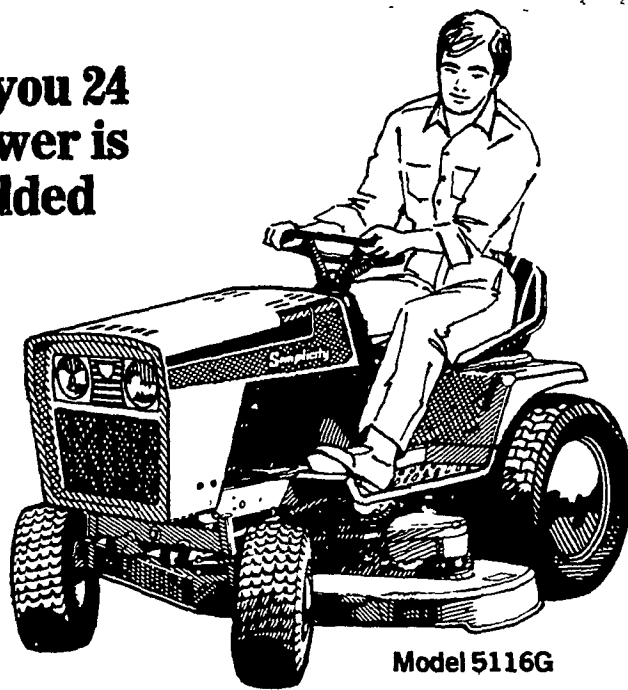
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