

Markham Heating
 & AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS
 191 Wellington St. E., Unit 7
 Markham
 471-1748
 Craftsmanship
A Fine Tradition

Tribune Community FOCUS

(416) 640-5339 
Stouffville Aluminum Siding & Windows
 Specializing in Replacement doors and windows

Serving Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge and area

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, November 18, 1987

'The Farmers' Friend' a 65-year-old veteran of farm life, sales, service

By BRUCE STAPLEY
 MARKHAM — He's a down-to-earth, matter-of-fact kind of guy. His unassuming manner and his tendency to deflect the conversation away from himself says so much about the farm equipment repair maestro who's become known to many as 'The Farmers' Friend.'

Cecil Reesor is a 65-year-old veteran of farm life and farm equipment sales and service. And like most farmers, his days are full, especially during harvest.

When approached by The Tribune concerning the possibility of an interview, it was lunch time and his combine was in the middle of a field awaiting its operator.

"Call me some rainy day," he responded.

"What about this evening," I pressed.

"I'll probably be working til midnight," he replied, "it's a pretty busy time right now."

Cecil's business, 'Reesor's Farm Service' is located on the 5th Conc. of Markham at 19th Ave-

nue. This is where he was born and raised. He no longer owns the property, choosing to sell out several years ago. He's now renting it back and continues to offer a much valued service to local farmers while growing corn and soybeans for himself.

"I farm instead of playing golf," he jokes in reference to the extra-curricular nature of his operation.

Cecil has nothing but praise for agriculture in general and farmers in particular, claiming he's

always enjoyed being able to contribute by keeping their machinery in working order.

Some of the equipment he repairs is a little 'dated'. This necessitates becoming somewhat of a master at improvisation.

"A genuine part isn't always necessary," he explains, "sometimes one must improvise repairs."

Cecil admits he's always been fascinated with machinery and what makes it tick. His shop is small by contemporary stan-

dards, measuring 50 feet by 40 feet. Regardless, he and his staff of two are still able to look after the needs of about 40 area farmers.

Although he no longer sells a lot of farm equipment himself, Cecil has great respect for those dealers who do.

"There's so much to learn if you're going to provide a farmer with what he needs," he claims. "I doubt there's another field where a salesman must be so conversant with those to whom he's dealing."

For the most part, Cecil feels farm equipment is well-engineered.

"If a farmer does his homework, carefully considers his needs and avoids the 'snob appeal' of some models, equipment will serve him well for ten, twenty and sometimes thirty years," he states.

He cites the John Deere Model 4020 as an example of a tractor, introduced in the 1960's that's worth as much today as it was then. "Technically, it hasn't changed that much," he claims.

Cecil is the father of five. One son has his own farm in Quebec. A member in the congregation of Hagerman Mennonite Church, Cecil has always attempted to operate his business on established Christian principles. So much so, he's given serious thought to possibly becoming involved in a Third World mission project should the opportunity arise.

Explaining how the Mennonite Central Committee recently planted one million trees in Haiti, Cecil feels he'd like an opportunity to apply what he's learned to benefit those less fortunate than himself.

"If we're going to solve Third World problems, we have to become involved," he says. "We must help bring these people into the 21st century."

In the meantime, Cecil Reesor will continue tuning up and repairing combines, tractors, planters, grain-dryers and everything else he's requested to 'restore back to health and strength'.

"It's a matter of economics," he concludes. "If I can fix it, I will. If it must be replaced, that's what I'll suggest be done."

One thing, sure, anyone doing business with 'The Farmers' Friend' will be treated fair and square.



Master of Improvisation

Cecil's business, Reesor's Farm Service, is located on the 5th Conc. of Markham at 19th Avenue. This is where he was born and raised. He no longer owns the property, choosing to sell out several years ago. He's

now renting it back and continues to offer a much valued service to local farmers while growing corn and soybeans for himself.

—Jim Thomas

Personality Focus
 .../C2

Snowbird of Stouffville
 .../C6

Gala Event
 .../C8

Racing Glory
 .../C33

Disabled Games
 .../C33