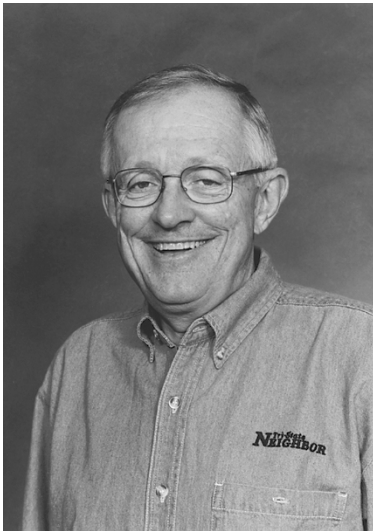


Remember the little things, like hometown and clean cobs



Excerpt reprinted with permission from Tri-State Neighbor newspaper, Nov. 29 edition:

Let's talk a bit about the Christmas season and more particularly the shopping aspect of this time of year. For the next six weeks yours truly will be grumping about the traffic and the shoppers and the miniscule delays in travel in our city.

I mention my impatience with the traffic and the thousands of guests who impede the normal flow of traffic as they spend time in our city purchasing everything from Kleenex to clothes. This year I intend to at least try to slow it down, enjoy the season and be glad that I live in a city with so much to offer.

Now for the admonishment, and you may take it in the spirit in which it is given. A basic rule for any rural resident, town or farm, is this: If you can buy it at home, that is the place to shop and it should be the easiest thing in the world to do.

For the life of me, and I hope my many Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce friends don't read this paper, I will never understand the person or family who heads for another city to spend hundreds of dollars and then complains when their town is rapidly drying up. Whether it is the local hospital, hardware store or livestock auction, if you can do your business, or at least most of it where you live, you have an obligation to do so. That is the only way that those folks have a chance of surviving.

Certainly, I realize that if a particular product or service is unavailable in your region, you then must head for another town, and as a 40-year resident of Sioux Falls, I hope you choose ours. Again, however, your community depends upon the unconditional support of the folks who live in that region and that main street should always be your first choice.

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