



Bloopers 'n boo-boos

1988

We all enjoy bloopers (other people's, that is). Here are two that originally ran in Rural Builder in 1988.

"When I was a crew foreman, I built a building on the wrong piece of land. It was right next door to where it should have been built.

"The owner of the wrong property sat on his porch and watched us build. After we were done, we learned it was on the wrong site. He got a building and he never paid us for the structure.

"When I asked him why he didn't tell us we were building on his property by mistake, he replied, 'It looked like you knew what you were doing.'"

— by a builder named Vince

"We had a 40-by-60 foot building with 12-foot sidewalls that was 8 feet on centers with 6-x-6 inch posts. We had the framing all done and were ready to put steel on the roof and sidewalls.

"My brother had laid out the building to run parallel with the structure next to it. But come to find out, we had made it 3 feet out of square with the other building.

"While the owner said it was fine, we decided, even though our agreement was only verbal, to tear it all down and start over from scratch."

— by a builder named Gary

Have a blooper to share? Call the editor, Sharon Thatcher, at 800-726-9966, extension 13644 or e-mail sharon.thatcher@fwmedia.com. Read more bloopers at www.constructionmagnet.com

Each issue looks at archives from Rural Builder or Farm Building News to see how much the industry has changed — or how much it's stayed the same.

When ice isn't nice

• **HotEdge Roof Ice Melt System.** An Illinois startup company has an efficient solution to commercial and residential roof edge ice problems, with a system that equals the performance of the most effective systems on the market, yet costs far less to purchase, install and operate.

Introduced this year at the International Builders Show, the new, patent-pending HotEdge Roof Ice Melt System takes a new approach by incorporating standard UL-approved 12W self-regulating ice melt cable with a specially-engineered, low-profile metal raceway.

Designed to firmly press the cable against the existing roof edge, the system creates a warm surface to prevent snowmelt from refreezing before it drains to ground level. Because HotEdge requires just a fraction of the electrical cable used in competing systems, homeowners and businesses benefit from premium performance in a less expensive option that conserves energy, year after year.

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He said it

"I've come to believe that my life is pretty much an open book. Google yourself some time; you'll be amazed at how transparent your life is — and that's with no particular effort or expertise."

Oliver Witte, Tech Talk columnist. See Page 14

Attitude forms future

"If you keep on saying things are going to be bad, you have a good chance of being a prophet."

Isaac Bashevis Singer, 1904-1991, Journalist and Writer