

Biographical Data for Ronald K Leonard-9/29/05

Name: Ronald K. Leonard

Title: Director John Deere PEC (retired)

Worldwide Agricultural Tractor and Component Engineering

Office Address/Telephone: 29 Cedar Rim Trail, Galena, IL, 61036,

Phone (815) 777-2491, Fax (815) 777-2703

Birth Date: July 10, 1934

Birth Place: Logan, Iowa, USA

Education: BSAE Agricultural Engineering, Iowa State University, 1956

MSAE Agricultural Engineering, Michigan State University, 1958

Employment: DEERE AND COMPANY 1956-1997

**1. John Deere Product Engineering Center 1987-1997**

Director, Worldwide Agricultural Tractor and Component Engineering

Responsible for world wide engineering of agricultural tractors and components. Developed complete new lines of tractors from 40-400+hp.

Repositioned Deere manufacturing and supplier base.

Designed new 40-60 hp tractors and factory at Augusta, Georgia that became market leader and product platform for Deere manufacture In India, Brazil & Mexico

**2. John Deere Horicon Works 1973-1986**

Manager, Product Engineering 1973-1983

Manager, Product and Process Engineering 1983-1986

From 1973-1986 the business grew from \$100M to \$1B and achieved market share leadership while improving product quality

**3. John Deere Des Moines Works 1956-1972:**

Design and Test Engineer

Senior Cotton Harvesting Division Engineer

Achieved no. 1 market share position by applying new technology that improved the quality of harvested cotton and machine productivity

**4. WORKSPAN, INC, 1997-2002**

Chairman of the Board

The company provided consulting expertise in holistic approaches to the challenge of change. Services include technical and strategic assessment and implementation of interventions.

Clients included Kellogg Foundation, Mahindra & Manindra, Several US Agricultural University Departments, Apple Computer, Eaton Corporation and Yanmar Diesel Company

Professional Association/Society Memberships:

SAE, Society of Automotive Engineers, Honorary Member Grade

1999 SAE Past President and member of Board of Directors

1998 SAE President

1997 Chairman of Off Highway International Meeting

ASAE, American Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers,

Fellow Member Grade 1986

Industrial Research Institute (IRI) Deere delegate 1987-1997

American Management Association (AMA) 1987-1997

Registered Professional Engineer, Iowa

**Awards and Honors:**

1999 Elected member of National Academy of Engineers (NAE)  
1989 Professional Achievement Award from Iowa State University

**Patents and Publications:**

Seven (7) US patents on cotton harvesting machines, mowers and cucumber harvester.  
Publications: Technical papers published in ASAE Journal  
Article in IRI Research and Technology Journal  
Recent Keynote/Plenary Lectures:

March 1999, SAE President's Report at SAE Congress in Detroit  
December 1998, SAE Total Life Cycle Conference in Graz, Austria  
May 1998, Guest Lecture at IMECHE meeting in London:  
"Electronics-The New "Engine" for Agriculture"  
March 1998, Thailand Automotive Technology Conference at Bangkok:  
"International Standards Development"

**Expertise:**

NAE Statement of Technical Interest - Ronald K. Leonard

My primary interest is in mechanization of off road vehicles for use in agriculture and secondary interest is in grounds care machines like garden tractors and mowers. These mobile machines include all sizes of agricultural tractors, cotton harvesters, riding mowers, garden tractors and commercial mowers. My business and application experience with these vehicles includes markets in North America, South America, Asia, and Europe.

The scope of my experiences in technical management included design and development of vehicles, vehicular systems, and innovations in power train components. Innovations were driven by customer requirements for increased productivity, improved ergonomics, lower sound and vibrations levels, environmental considerations, improved reliability and lower cost.

I developed expertise in management of large programs that required linking the technical resources with the business and economic requirements in most of the major industrial countries in the world. International business experience covered a period of 25 years. The last five years my primary focus was development of the Deere tractor business beyond North America and Western Europe. These included India, Brazil and Mexico and involved structuring Joint Ventures. Rather than transferring old technology for production or marketing products created for other markets, the new tractor platform drive train components were used along with specific vehicle specifications to create the products for each market.

**Personal information**

Married to Elizabeth J. Leonard for 51 years. During that time we became parents of three children and have two grandchildren. We alternate seasons living in Illinois and Florida. Hobbies are reading, woodworking, and writing poetry.

## Biographical Data for Ronald K Leonard-9/29/05

Civic experiences includes service on two community school boards, as a Director of the Beaver Dam, WI Hospital Board, as a Trustee of Hawkeye Technical and Community College and numerous boards and committees of the Methodist Church.

Currently am serving on the Finance Committee of SAE and the Budget & Audit committee of the Galena Territory Property Owners Association.