

## **Reinke Shakes founder is inducted into the Nebraska Chamber Hall of Fame**

On Feb. 5, 2015, Nebraska's own Richard Reinke, founder of Reinke Shakes, Reinke Manufacturing Co. and other ventures, joined the ranks of other great business leaders at the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame.

Reinke, now deceased, learned a strong work ethic at a young age. Never finishing his education beyond eighth grade, Reinke grew into a self-taught, talented engineer and draftsman, and introduced many inventions. Among them, the Reinke Shake shingle in 1976. Little was he to know that they would be installed in all 50 states and several foreign countries, or that his copper shingles would grace the tallest building in Alabama.

Other notable inventions credited to him, mostly center around pivot irrigation.

His early manufacturing included laminated arches in the late 50's, then on to houses, churches, four furniture stores, a bowling alley numerous farm buildings and other projects. The Olsen brothers of Atkinson Nebraska contracted with him to make pivot irrigation systems in 1966, and he designed his own version in 1968. In 1967 Reinke Manufacturing Company was incorporated. The first shingle he designed was for hay stacks. Long metal spikes pushed into the hay to secure the shingles and the shingles, in turn, kept the stack dry without the need for a building.

Eventually, Reinke Manufacturing sold off the Shingle division, but years later Richard Reinke bought it back. Son Robert Reinke operated it for about ten years, till Richard's death in 2003. Now Robert and Becky Reinke own and operate the business with offices in Deshler and Hebron and the manufacturing facility in Hebron Nebraska. Reinke Shakes have proven to be one of the toughest shingles ever produced. They have stood tornadic winds and hurricane weather with out coming off and often with little or no damage.

The induction into the Hall of Fame took place at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln at 7 p.m. as part of the Nebraska Chamber's annual meeting and evening program.