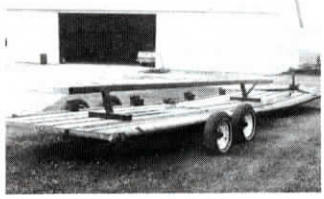
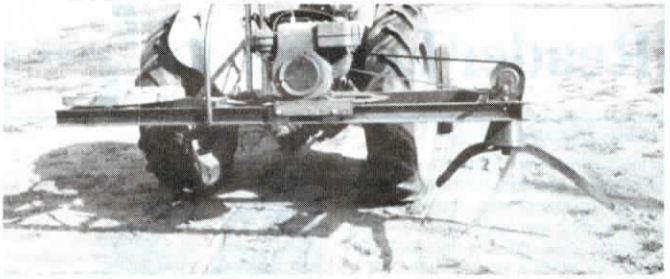
Our great nephew Cameron Eden entered kindergarten last fall and we think he's got a promising engineering career ahead of him. He drew up a blueprint of a blade he wanted for his John Deere toy tractor and then "contracted" the work out to his Grandpa, who "manufactured" the finished product for Cameron's fall work in his mother's garden. Photo shows blade and hand lever which is used to raise and lower it. Cameron's blade works so well we applied for a patent. ***(Mrs. Loren Eden, S. 10602 Madison Rd., Valleyford, Wash. 99036 ph 509 926-3135)***



We have a few narrow bridges to cross when traveling between fields with our combine and we can't get across with the header in place. I already had this low implement tailer that was not used during harvest so I decided to adapt it to carry a header using a few pieces of square tubing. Works very well and is easy to remove when harvest is over. ***(Curt Meiner, Colfax, Ill. 61728 ph 309 723-6225)***

I wanted a way to move small grain from field to storage without using another tractor so I cut down a salvaged truck chassis, keeping the rear duals and springs. I used heavy-walled 2 by 6-in. steel tubing with steel plate reinforcing gussets to make a gooseneck that hooks up to a pickup. A hand-cranked jack holds the tongue up when the trailer's not in use. Lengths of 3-in. I-beam, clamped to the frame rails down each side of the truck help distribute the weight of the loaded gravity dump box. ***(Roger J. DeJong, Rt. 1, Box 144, Springfield, S.Dak. 57062 ph 605 369-2452)***

FARM SHOW readers may be interested in our Hydra-Spread manure spreader that uses hydraulic power to push manure back into the beaters, eliminating troublesome apron chains, shafts, sprockets and gearboxes, replacing them with a simple, dependable, hydraulic cylinder assembly. A push gate unloads smoothly, controlled by a precision metering valve. Sides and floor of the Hydra-Spread are made from super-slippery, corrosion-proof polyethylene and our rugged beater design provides a uniform spread pattern. Every shaft connection from the tractor back to the top beater is splined.The all-welded heavy structural frame, made out of heavy-wall 6 by 2-in. tubing, is built for long life.



I built this "weed whopper" to keep several miles of electric fence free of weeds. I mounted a straw spreader from a Deere 95 combine on the end of a heavy steel frame that runs across the back of the tractor, mounted on the 3-pt. Three thick strips of rubber hang from the bottom of the straw spreader, which is belt-driven by a 10-hp. Wisconsin gas engine. A tractor weight lays on the left end of the bar to counterbalance the weight of the motor and spreader.

The rubber strips chop weeds off and wrap right around steel or wood fence posts, doing a near-perfect clean up job. The drive belt slips a little when the rubber "weed whopper" strips wrap around posts. ***(Bill Crain RR, Box 126, Helena, Okla 73741 ph 405 626-4766)***

Three sizes are available - 468 bu. ($14,745), 368 bu. ($8,995), and 295 ($7,543). Prices in Canadian dollars. ***(Jim Harkness, Jim Harkness Equipment Ltd., Hwy 9, Harriston, Ontario N0G 1Z0 Canada ph 519 338-3946; fax 519 338-2756)***

Enclosed are photos of a dirt guard I added to my IH 490 disk to protect the wing wheels. In the past I had problems greasing the lift bearings because the front gang would throw dirt onto them. The lack of grease would result in expensive bearing failure. All it took to solve the problem was to make a guard out of a 1 by 6 board, some rubber elevator belting, and long band clamps. The belting is screwed or nailed to the board and hangs down like a mud flap. The board is then clamped to the underside of the disk frame. The dirt guard doesn't interfere with operation of the disk and keeps bearings clean. Might work on other models, too. ***(Larry G. Woods, Rt. 2, Box 141, Mitchellville, Iowa 50169 ph 515 994-2043)***

I read in Vol. 16, No. 4 about Harry Lee's "Side by Side Farmall" and wanted to let you know that it was not the first of its kind. Some

32 years ago Oliver came out with a commercial "Siamese Twin" tractor that used two industrial 880 tractors with single front and rear axles but with dual transmissions. I saw this tractor in Lincoln, Neb., at a field day in 1960.

In your next issue (Vol. 16, No. 5) you had a story about a remote-controlled tractor that's being built today in Finland. That same tractor, the Oliver 880 built 32 years ago, could also be wired for remote control when used for road construction. ***(Rowe Garrett, Rt. 2, Box 100, Herington, Kan. 67449)***

My "worst buy" is any piece of equipment that uses specially-designed bearings, bushings and sprockets that you can only buy from a company dealer at an inflated price - if they have it in stock. I frequently drive by a NAPA store that's 3 miles from my house on my way to a dealership 30 miles away to buy parts that I could just as well get at NAPA. Makes you think bad thoughts about the way we do business in this country. ***(Marge Newhart, Maple Crest Farm, 6051 Dewey Rd., Madison, Ohio 44057)***

My "Hydra Stinger" rear-mounted bale loader sells for about half the price of a front-end loader and makes bales easier to handle since more of the weight is on the rear of the tractor. The loader is automatically self-leveling and mounts and dismounts quickly, as needed. Can handle round and square bales, stacking bales 3-high in the barn or 2-high on a truck or trailer. ***(Byron Coats, Hydra Stinger, P.O. Box 531, Tuttle, Okla. 73089 ph 405 381-4144)***

I built this 8-wheel wagon with 4 steerable wheels up front back in the early 1970's. When I first built it, the wagon had 2 axles in back and a single axle up front. To even out the load, I decided to add a second axle up front that would oscillate in both directions. To do that, I needed to design a new steering linkage.

In converting to an 8-wheel wagon, I was curious about two things: 1. With walking beams front and rear and with a king pin on each steering spindle, my question was: if one front wheel was in a low spot and the other on a hump, could the steering linkage be made so the toe-in on the wheels would remain the same? 2. Could the steering linkage be made so when turning a corner, all four wheels turn at a slightly different angle so they wouldn't slide sideways?

I found out that I could accomplish both objectives but I didn't quite get it perfect due

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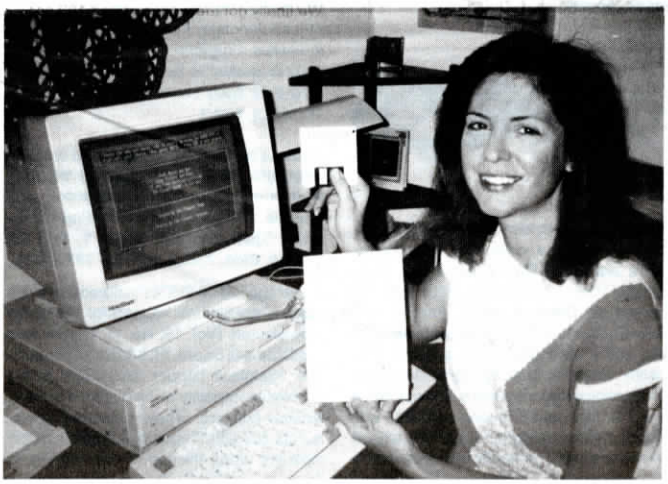

I've always been impressed with your magazine and the common sense ideas you feature. I'd like to tell other readers about a new computer program I've developed called "The Flower Guide".It helps gardeners put together beautiful flower gardens. The idea grew out of a personal need. The perennial gardens around my new farm home were badly overgrown and I didn't know how to restore them. I browsed through countless books, looking at pictures and descriptions and all types of annuals, perennials and bulbs. I started visualizing how I wanted one of the gardens to look. I wanted all white, pink and red flowers that would bloom all summer in the shade. I didn't think I would have a problem finding the flowers I wanted, but the search seemed endless. There had to be an easier way. What I needed was a simple computer program that would tell me the perfect flowers to plant in my gardens. Since I couldn't find one on the market, I decided to create one myself. Everyone I talked to about my idea thought it sounded great.

My program is extremely easy to use. No special computer or typing skills are needed. You simply select the features of the flowers you want. For example, it will tell you the names of the most common flowers for zone 4, that grow in the full shade, are about 2 ft. tall, and have red, white and pink blossoms shaped like bells.

I spent about a year putting the program together and writing the booklet that comes with it. The booklet gives information about types of flowers, garden designs, even starting plants from seed. The program is compatible with IBM computers, has over 500 variations of flowers, and is available by mail for only $19.95 (plus $2 shipping). ***(Michele Meis, The Flower Guide, P.O. Box 486, Hutchinson, Minn. 55350 ph 612 587-9820)***