



Horse or mule is installed in a big U-shaped stall at rear-end of car. Pulling harness is anchored to side frame. Car is fitted with working brakes.

IT DRIVES LIKE NORMAL WITH STEERING AND BRAKES

Home-Built Car Has A “One-Horsepower Engine”

“People can’t believe their eyes when they see it,” says retired rancher Don Godard, Cornville, Arizona, who built a first-of-its-kind “horse-powered” car that’s equipped with conventional steering and brakes. The horse walks in back and propels the car, harnessed into a rear “corral”.

The horse walks straight ahead and simply follows the car wherever Godard steers it. He starts and stops the car with voice commands to the animal, applying the brakes, if needed. There’s also a rear-mounted whip that’s tied to a rope that runs up to the driver.

Godard started with a junked Alfa Romeo sports car. “I wanted a small car. Just about any make would do. I cut away everything except the front end. We use the original steering column. I bolted 1/4-in. steel plate to the sides of the front end and ran 8-in. channel iron from there to hubs from a Plymouth at the rear of the car,” says Godard.

He encloses the big U-shaped “stall” on the rear end of the car with 1 1/4-in. steel pipe that’s mounted on the 39-in. wide channel iron frame. The pipe frame slants in

about a foot from the channel iron frame in order to hold the horse away from the frame of the car to avoid leg injuries.

Godard fits the collar with a workhorse harness collar and runs two chains from it to the car frame. “I tried many different methods and this was the simplest and most effective way to propel the car. We can’t go backwards, however, because the horse will come up against the rear bar.”

It wasn’t difficult to teach horses and mules to power the car. “I work them into it gradually, petting and rewarding them when they do it right. I have a very smart mule that learned how to run the car in about an hour. He’ll even push the car at a trot. We don’t try to go any faster because they can bruise their shins on the framework,” says Godard.

The car is fitted with red lights and horns powered by a battery under the hood which he recharges after each ride.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Godard, P.O. Box 105, Cornville, Arizona 86325 (ph 602 634-4046).

They Put Old Farmhouse Inside A New Quonset

When John and Linda Burns started planning where to build a new quonset building on their farm near Wynyard, Sask., they had trouble deciding where to put it because space is limited due to the shelterbelt surrounding their farmyard. They either had to tear down one of the buildings in the farmyard, cut down trees in the shelterbelt, or build outside the farmyard. They finally decided to build right over the old farmhouse that stands in the yard.

“It has water and electricity and can be heated. We had been using it as a farm shop, for storage, and also to butcher poultry, extract honey, and do other similar chores. About the same time we were planning our quonset, we realized the roof was starting to leak in the farmhouse and would soon have to be replaced. That’s when we got the idea

of solving both problems at once by building our quonset right over the top of the farmhouse,” Linda Burns told FARM SHOW.

They put up a 150-ft. long quonset with an arc angle big enough to go over the roof of the old house, which is positioned toward the rear of the quonset.

“It worked better than we expected,” says Linda, noting that the farmhouse still serves as the shop and storage area. It can be heated in winter to create a comfortable working area. Large equipment is parked inside the quonset and it can also be used for temporary grain storage.

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Ag World

Editor's Note: Most of what goes into Ag World stems from story ideas sent to us by readers. This special section of FARM SHOW touches on the lighter side of farming and ranching — everything from human interest stories, to unusual hobbies, to unique things farm families are doing for fun or profit.

If you've read or heard a good Ag World type story you'd like to share with others, send it to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

SEVEN PEOPLE STEP AND PULL TOGETHER

Teamwork Makes These “Walking Boards” Work

“I don’t know who came up with the idea but they’re easy to make and great family fun,” says Gerald C. Duffie, executive director of 4-H Camp Ohio, in Saint Louisville, Ohio, about the “walking boards” campers use for races and just plain walking around fun.

Made from two lengths of 7 1/2-ft. long, 6-in. wide oak, the walking boards hold 7 walkers who pull up on the ropes and step in unison. Chanting “right, left, right, left” the walkers can make it move smoothly with a little practice. If one person gets out of step, though, it brings everything to a halt, says Duffie. To reverse direction, everyone simply turns around on the boards.

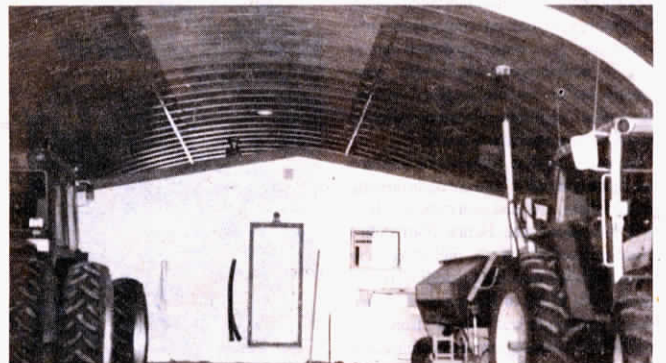
Duffie recently made a second set of walking boards using two pressure-treated 2 by 6 boards. The 36-in. long ropes, spaced 1 ft. apart, are knotted at the ends and the ropes recessed in the bottom of the boards so they’ll sit flat. “We used a 1-in. dia. bit to make the recessed holes and a 1/2-in. twist bit to make the holes through the



If one person gets out of step, everything comes to a halt, says Duffie.

board,” he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald C. Duffie, 4-H Camp Ohio, 11461 Camp Ohio Road, Saint Louisville, Ohio 43071 (ph 614 745-2194).



Instead of tearing down their old farmhouse, John and Linda Burns built a 150-ft. quonset right over the house so they can have a heated shop area in winter.