

Made It Myself

(Continued from previous page)



Articulated Chore Tractor

"It really works well for cleaning holding pens and loafing barns, for moving round bales, and for pushing and packing corn silage into a pile," says Gerald Athorp, Cleveland, Wis., about his 30 hp, articulated 4-WD tractor.

To build the tractor, Athorp converted two Allis-Chalmers WF models with wide front axles. By putting their rear ends back to back and by hinging the rear axle in the middle so that it pivots, Athorp ensured that the loader remains stable when the bucket is raised.

The compact rig is only 5 ft. tall and wide, small enough for barn work. Yet its four large tires, 12.00 x 24s, also allow Athorp to use the tractor outside. "All of the small commercial articulated tractors have low wheels which work alright on concrete, but as soon as you leave it you're stuck," says Athorp. "The large tires on this tractor allow me to carry a loaded bucket, even in soft ground, without getting stuck."

Bucket lift height is 8 ft.; capacity is 3/4 yard. To move round bales, Athorp

replaces the bucket with forks.

The articulated tractor can turn in a 17 ft. radius. "For the size of the machine, it's remarkable how you can get around posts inside the barn," notes Athorp. "As long as you can get through with the bucket, your wheels will always clear because they all follow in the same tracks."

In building the tractor, Athorp turned the engine around to get power from the engine to the transfer case. After hinging the axles, he connected a driveshaft between them. He also rebuilt a gearbox taken from a McCormick-Deering 10-20 tractor. There are 4 gears in forward and reverse.

On the floor in front of the seat are 4 control levers; one to raise and lower the bucket, one to tilt the bucket, one to shift gears, and one to steer. To turn left, Athorp pushes the steering lever forward; to turn right, he pulls it backward. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Athorp, Box 346, Cleveland, Wis. 53015 (ph 414 565-3274).



18-Year-Old Rebuilds Ford Roadster

When his dad challenged him to rebuild a rusted out, banged up 1929 Ford Roadster convertible, 18-year-old Mike Amst, of Geraldine, Mont., went to work.

Originally, the Roadster sported a 4-cylinder, 40 hp. engine. Mike replaced it with a 300 hp. Ford Mustang 302 engine. To accommodate the bigger engine, he made alterations to the firewall and "beefed up" the running gear. He also replaced the car's rear end and transmission, installing a 1954 Oldsmobile rear end and a 1971 automatic transmission.

Mike designed and built his own frame

for the car, using a 1929 Ford as a prototype. "I was able to salvage the Roadster's body. But its steel fenders were in bad shape so I replaced them with fiberglass fenders," says Mike, who painted the car a bright canary yellow. It's equipped with bucket seats and a trunk.

Mike's final step in renovating the sporty-looking "roadster" is to redo the upholstery.

Last summer, his car renovation project earned him his state's top 4-H "automotive" award.

Torch Cart Mounts On Tractor 3-Pt.

"Several neighboring farmers built their own torch cart after seeing mine," says Bill Short, Hamilton, Mo., who came up with a nifty oxy-acetylene torch cart that's fitted with 3-pt. attachments for easy transport to the field for emergency repairs.

Short built the heavy-duty hand cart using salvaged steel he had around the farm. The cart is 20 in. wide and 39 in. high with big 12-in. tires. Tanks rest on a base made of 6 by 4-in. angle iron. There's a tray on the back of the cart for tools and a storage box for torch accessories.

The lower 3-pt. hitch connections consist of a 2 by 2 by 1/4-in. piece of angle iron, 34 in. long. It's bent to a standard 26-in. width for Cat. I or II lift pins. The top link connection is an 8-in. long piece of 2 by 1/2-in. flat iron that's bent into a



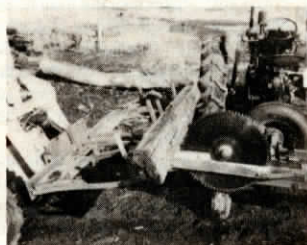
"U" shape and drilled to receive the top link. A wrap-around chain holds the tanks in place.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Short, Rt. 2, Box 23, Hamilton, Mo. 64644 (ph 816 583-2361).

Loader Wood Cutter

"This loader attachment lets me cut logs and railroad ties by myself from the seat of a skid steer loader," says Orville Rach, Verndale, Minn., who needs big logs and ties to feed his king-size outdoor wood-burning furnace that heats 7 buildings at once with hot water. His furnace was featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 12, No. 1 issue.

Rach's new attachment lets him cut and stack 8-ft. long ties and logs without any "hands on" work. "I first ripped a 7-ft. metal H-beam in two. I fastened one half of it to my front-end loader. I then welded four 42-in. long angle iron tines to it, one on each end and two in the middle about 1 ft. apart. About a foot from the end of each tine I welded a vertical piece of iron, forming an L that holds the wood. I pick up a railroad tie with the tines and carry it to the saw. I line up my buzz saw between the two center tines. After it's cut, I carry the two pieces away to a stack. It's the most 'work-free' method I've ever seen for cutting the ties and logs that



work great in my furnace," says Rach.

He also built his big portable "beltless" buzz saw. "I welded a pto spline on a car wheel and bolted it to a car spindle. I put a tire on the wheel and positioned it so the wheel rubs against an arbor pulley that drives the saw blade. A pair of wheels support the saw rig," explains Rach, who plans to offer plans for the log handler. He also builds furnaces commercially.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Orville Rach, Rt. 1, Verndale, Minn. 56481 (ph 218 924-2711).

Spray Tank Modifications

"I got tired of standing on a tire or a step ladder to fill my spray tank or mix chemicals, so I designed a fold-up step to mount on the back of the sprayer," says Stanley Shavlik, Linwood, Neb., about one of the innovations he came for his crop sprayer. He also added PVC filler "elbows" to the top of the tank so he can fill with two hoses at once.

The first step in making the fold-up ladder was to weld two strap hinges to the sprayer frame. He then welded one long piece of 2-in. angle iron across the hinges and welded the rest of the step - made out of more 2-in. angle iron - to the first hinged piece. He suspended the step with chain attached to each end. A short chain and hook holds it up in the folded position when working through a tall crop.

The filler elbows on top of the spray tank were made out of PVC pipe. He cut holes in the top of the plastic tank with a sharp thin knife heated with a propane torch. To hold the elbows in place, he put a male fitting through each hole and tightened them down with a nut and washer.

"Before I installed the filler elbows, there was nothing in the tank lid to hold



the hose in place while filling. Now I can fill the tank with two hoses at once from two pumps and the hoses never come into contact with the water or chemicals. Works great," says Shavlik.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stanley Shavlik, Rt. 1, Box 167, Linwood, Neb. 68036.