

Reader Letters



Regarding the "best buy" in your last issue on the new Staber washing machine – which has a horizontal washing drum rather than a conventional vertical drum – I can offer a bit of historical perspective. There was a washing machine with



a similar design built in the early 1900's by the Paragon Mfg. Co. in New York and Chicago. It was a wood frame machine with a galvanized tank. A drum with internal paddles like a cement mixer held the clothes and tumbled them in the tank of water. It was energy efficient. One 10-year-old on the crank was all the power required. I'm sending along a picture of a Paragon washer we own that's in its second career – serving as a plant stand. **(Richard Wenkel, St. Paul, Minn.)**

Just thought you would like to see a peacan sheller I made in my shop. It has a 1/8-hp. electric motor on each side. The inside breaker plate runs counter clock



wise at 94 rpm's. The outside tank, with the slats, runs 12 to 14 rpm's. I can shell a peck of nuts in anywhere from 5 to 9 min., depending on the thickness of the shell. It works great. I have shelled 80 bu. in 4 weeks. About 90 percent of the nuts come out in halves. I am applying for a patent on this great new design. **(Hoover A. Lingle, 1022 S. Main GQ St., Salisbury, N.C. 28146 ph 704 279-2465)**

I mounted a forklift boom on front of my Allis Chalmers D17 tractor. I can use



standard forks on it or attach a bale spike in place of them. Hydraulics are supplied by a pump on the right side driven by bolting a flangeless (hubless) V-pulley on the belt pulley hub. The tractor's one-way hydraulics run through 2-way controls mounted on the right fender. **(Harold R. Stoudt, 1241 Hex Highway, Hamburg, Penn. 19526)**

I have written a book from journals that my mother left behind after she died last year. She was born in 1925 on a farm in Minnesota. Her father was a farmer and he delivered her himself. She was three months premature so her first bed was a shoebox. To keep her warm, she was placed on the open door of the kitchen wood stove.

The book is filled with her stories of threshing, black blizzards in the 30's, the depression years, grasshoppers that would crawl up overalls, and many other experiences over the years. She wrote many of her experiences in the form of short stories which are both informative and often funny.

I sell the book, Golden Memories, by mail for \$13.95 plus \$3 S&H. **(Carol Yarrow, 2000 E. Mulberry, Sioux Falls, S.Dak. 57103)**

The article in your Vol. 23, No. 6 issue telling readers how to use a water level was informative. I've used the idea myself and have a few suggestions that might improve on the idea.

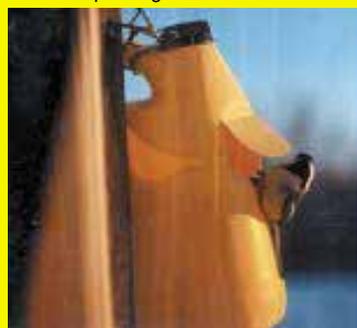
I suggest you use small dia. clear tubing of 1/4 to 5/16-in. dia. The smaller hose is cheaper and takes less water to fill. You don't have to pour water into the hose. Just stick one end in a bucket and siphon the water. It's faster and you won't get any air bubbles in it.

Although it's easiest for two people to use a water level, one person can do it by tying one end in place. To make it easier to see the level of the water, just add some food coloring to the water.

I own a fairly expensive transit level but I hardly ever use it anymore. The water level is handier and faster, with less chance for error. **(John Strunck, 9123 Gholson Rd., Waco, Tex. 76705)**

Our gates along a county road kept being stolen so we painted them fluorescent pink and orange. Who wants to steal a gate that looks like that? It would be incriminating from a long distance. No stolen gates since we started this. **(Linda Bormann, 4200 S. Hulen St., Suite 435, Ft. Worth, Texas 76019)**

I make cheap bird feeders out of 1-gal. plastic jugs, like the kind anti-freeze comes in. There are so many of these jugs that just get tossed away but they would be put to good use. Commercial



bird feeders are expensive and they're open to snow and rain. All I did was to cut a flap in the front side of a jug and fold the flap up. Small birds can reach in

under the flap but the flap keeps out moisture. I fill the jug with sunflower seeds up to the hole. Birds reach down inside. If the seeds get down too far, the birds go right inside. If you make the hole small, only the smallest songbirds – like chickadees, thrushes, goldfinches, etc. – will use it. Sparrows, blackbirds and other "bully" birds don't seem to use it. I have the jug pictured hanging outside my kitchen window. **(R.B. Prescott, 51037 Range Rd 221, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8E 1G8 Canada 780 922-2247)**

Here's how to make inexpensive cleanup "towels" for your farm shop. Use old telephone books. They work great for wiping oil dip sticks and as quick towels for everyday use. To make them useful, though, you have to do a little preparation. I first clamp a piece of 3/8-in. plywood to the top and bottom of the book, and then drill a 1/2-in. dia. hole through one corner of the book. Then I take the clamps off and run the book through a table saw, cutting off about 1/4-in. of the glued binding. Then I just take off the front and back cover and hang the pages from a nail or shower curtain hook. The pages come off easy and they're very absorbent. **(Carl Reid, RR2, 521 Campbellville Rd., Campbellville, Ontario L0P 1B0 Canada)**

Some of your readers might be interested in a modification we made to our Deere 1030 tractor. The tractor is fitted with a front-end loader. The grille kept getting



dent when we would get too close to a truck or wagon. After having the grille straightened, I was determined not to bend it again. I made a heavy-duty grille guard with a fold-down center section of slats that fold down when you need to get at the battery. The slats are made from 2-in. strap metal welded to 2 1/2-in. sections of steel on either end. The slats fit inside the outer frame of the grille guard, which is made out of 4-in. channel iron. It bolts to the tractor frame. The section of slats folds down out of the way when you need to get at the battery. **(Kenneth Brecht, 353A McKean Rd., Moorcraft, Wyo. 82721)**

In your last issue, Richard Jacobs, Beaver Dam, Wis., complained about boots that cost a bundle but last only six months. He's not alone. I've bought name brand boots for as much as \$150 and cheap foreign ones for as little as \$40 with the same results – poor quality.

There might be hope, though. Wesco Shoe Co. (Box 607, Scappoose, Oregon 97056) makes boots to fit and they also rebuild their own boots when they get worn. They're not cheap but I figure they're worth it if they'll last three times what store-bought boots cost.

Another similar company is Bailey's Logging Supply Co. (Box 550, Laytonville, Calif. 95454).

Both these companies specialize in logger's cork boots and also make regular boots of all kinds.

Both companies have catalogs you can order. **(Elmer Pinkerton, Elmwood, Neb.)**

I was interested in the story in your most recent issue about making tire feed bunks out of tractor tires. It's the first time I've seen tires cut this way. My only question is: What keeps animals from stepping into the feeder with dirty feet or relieving themselves? **(Jack Dumkley, Clinton, Ind.)**

My father repowered his Farmall C tractor in 1974. Because there are still a lot of these tractors around, some of your readers might be interested in what he did.

The engine had a big crack between two cylinders and was beyond repair, so Dad took a straight six cylinder engine



with a 3-speed transmission from a 1962 Ford car.

He built a frame around the engine and transmission and attached it to the rear axle. He built a new wide front end for the tractor and used the original tires and spindles as well as the original gas tank, hood and grill.

With the combination of two transmissions you have every conceivable ground speed imaginable from super slow speed to drag strip road speed. It has 13 forward speeds, four reverse speeds, three pto speeds and one pto speed in reverse (which doesn't do you much good but is interesting).

Guys who see it wonder how you get thirteen forward speeds. The original tractor had four speeds multiplied by the added three speeds results in 12 speeds. Then if you put both transmissions in reverse, the tractor moves forward – making 13 speeds.

Dad later added live hydraulics to power a front-end loader, and he built a hydraulic 3-pt. hitch, which he built himself. He used the tractor for years to cut weeds along ditches and fence lines, using a Deere chopper that he cut down to about 6 ft. wide and fitted with a 3-pt. hitch. **(Jeff Lang, Wisconsin, E-mail: ninahunsch@msn.com)**



Here's a photo of a calf sled we built. We needed something to bring newborn calves in from the field. We can pull this sled with a 4-wheeler or horse and it