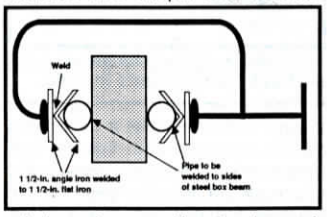
Reader Letters

After reading your story in Vol. 13, No. 6, about the farmer who made his own pressure washer using an automotive power steering pump, I decided to make my own. I didn't have much trouble and it works very well. The only change I made was that I used a 3 hp. Briggs & Stratton instead of an electric motor. I also plan to build the hitch for hooking two hay rakes together (also in Vol. 13, No. 6). It's a great idea. Keep up the good work publicizing these outstanding farm inventions. ***(Ernie Thiebaud, Rt. 2, Duffield, Alberta T0E 0N0 Canada)***

In your last issue (Vol. 14, No. 1) there was an article entitled "Warm Starts For Cold Engines" about a new system for starting cold engines by connecting coolant lines on cold engines with the lines on warmed-up vehicles. We have used that method here for years and it does indeed work very well. You don't have to use a 12-volt pump to circulate the water, however. If you plumb it into your heater hose on the cold engine you can simply let the water pump on the warm engine do the circulating. ***(Kenneth Syme, Box 92, Raymond, Mont. 59256)***

You can plug leaks in tires without taking them off the rim by forcing a good quality silicon into the puncture. Just find the hole, clean the area well, and let it dry. Then force the silicon into the hole. The funnel-shaped cap on most tubes of silicon works well for this. It's important that the silicon go all the way through the hole. Let the tire dry well and then fill it up again. ***(Joel Wessel, Rt. 1, Box 137, Osage City, Kan. 66523)***

I came up with a simple device to make it easy to clamp round objects for welding. I weld a length of 1 1/2-in. wide flat iron to a piece of 1 1/2-in. angle iron, and then saw them up into pieces 1 1/2 to 2 in. long to use as braces on C-clamps. Gets rid of the

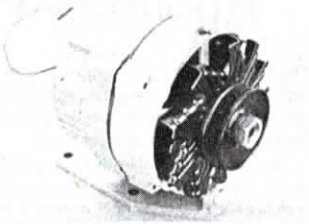


swivels on clamps, making clamping much easier. ***(Vern Cameron, 6634 N. Trenton Rd., West Bend, Wis. 53095)***

I made a tool for opening 5-gal. plastic pails using an old head bolt wrench from a Model T. The tool is about 12 in. long with a socket head on one end to which I welded to a flat 1 1/2 in. washer. I heated up the washer and bent the front edge up a little. About 2 1/2 in.

from the head of the wrench, I welded a 3 1/2 in. long prong that bends upward and is sharpened on the edge to get under the lid better. The long handle gives you plenty of leverage on the tightest lids. There are openers on the market but they're made out of plastic, which would never lasst during out North Dakota winters. ***(Bernie Wanzek, Rt. 1, Box 51, Courtenay, N. Dak. 58426)***

I want to thank FARM SHOW for your story on my auto parts business for old pickups (Vol. 13, No. 6). I wanted to let your readers know about a 6-volt alternator that I have developed. This alternator has an output rating of 50 amps, 7.5 volts which is nearly 60 percent greater than original equipment type generator systems. It totally eliminates



problems with hard starting and yellowish dim headlights, and provides plenty of power to charge batteries even at low idle speeds. It has a solid state internal regulator and simple 2-wire hookup for ease of installation. Can be used with both positive and negative ground electrical systems. Comes with standard 3/8 in. drive pulley but you can use the drive pulley from your old generator to match other belt widths. Sells for $109.95. Can be fitted with a 2-groove pulley to drive accessories. ***(Randy Rundle, Fifth Avenue Antique Auto Parts, 502 Arthur Avenue, Clay Center, Kan. 67432 (ph 913 632-3450).***

I made this brush guard for an Allis-Chalmers HD 19 dozer which my neighbor Dean Scheel uses for clearing timber and straightening out ditches. I built the guard after a log went over the top of the blade and into the radiator. An 18-in. high extension welded to the top of the blade keeps tree limbs from penetrating the radiator. Steel arms protect the hood. The entire framework is made from 3 by 4 in. box tubing and 1/4-in. plate. The operator is protected by expanded steel mesh sides which divert small tree branches. The entire structure, except for the welded extension, can be lifted off by removing four 1-in. dia. steel pins from brackets that I welded to the dozer. ***(Mike Grace, RR 1, Elberon, Iowa 52225 (ph 319 444-2906).***

Our new mini-backhoe that mounts on lawn mowers, garden tractors, ATV's, small trucks, even on trailers is attracting a lot of attention. It has a digging depth of 5 ft., a reach of 9 ft., a swing of 365°, and a lifting height of 9 ft. It adapts to the different types of equipment with varying types of mounts. On mowers with front-mount decks, for example, it fits right on the existing lift arms and is either powered directly by the pto shaft or belt-driven. The unit has 6 hydraulic cylinders, including two on the stabilizer legs, one on the bucket, two on the arms, and one to swivel the arm. There are also a variety of attachments and tools for the digger. Ranges

in price from $3,850 to $4,250, depending on the model. ***(Wayne Glenn, WAG Co. Inc., P.O. Box 1858, Paragould, Ark. 72451 ph 501 239-4796).***

Would you kindly let your readers know that the pickup grill guard and tow bar combo that was featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 13, No. 2, which I built 13 years ago for my own use,

We at New Perth Agritech have acquired distribution rights to Grays Tube-Line bale wrapper from England which was first featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 11, No. 5). The Tube-Line bale wrapper wraps an entire line of bales in one long continuous line. We've used one on our own farm for the past two years and find it to be a very fast wrapper designed for medium to large-sized operations. Bales are less likely to get punctured because they're not moved after wrapping and it uses about 40 percent less plastic because it only wraps the sides of the bales. We're now selling the machine in both the U.S. and Canada. ***(Ken Mellish, New Perth Agritech Inc., Rt. 6, Cardigan, P.E.I., Canada C0A 1G0 (ph 902 838-4032)***

is now being manufactured by the SSR Pump Company, Michigan, N. Dak. 58259 (ph 701 259-2331). I use the towbar to pull my pickup behind machinery when moving from one field to another. It also doubles as a spare tire carrier. There's nothing else like it on the market. ***(Lowell Johnson, RR, Box 9, Wolford, N. Dak. 58385)***

In a recent issue of FARM SHOW, a reader complained that Amsoil synthetic motor oil had ruined his pickup engine. I know better than that. Amsoil never ruined any engine. But, if you put it in a dirty engine, it will loosen up all dirt and it will grind the engine apart if it's not properly filtered out. The dirt in the engine was from the conventional oils used in the past. If there's a problem with synthetic oil, why are big companies like Mobile, General Motors and at least 16 other companies coming out with their own synthetic oils? Eaton truck axles, Fuller transmissions, Cummins, Caterpillar and other construction equipment manufacturers are all using synthetic oils in their machinery because it's so much better than conventional oils. Synthetic oil is simply reconstructed natural ingredients just the way natural ingredients are reconstructed to make synthetic rubber for tires or to make synthetic fibers for clothing and many other products. Some of the companies that are now bringing their own synthetics on the market say Amsoil is 20 years ahead of its competitors in its technology. ***(Arden Walizer, Ams/Oil Dealer, Rt. 1, Box 54, Logantown, Penn. 17747 (ph 717 725-3050).***

Metal fenceposts make nifty stops for double field gates. We used stamped metal posts - the type with metal tabs on the face to hold wire in place. These posts fit easily inside standard gate bars and need no modifications. We slip a post into the end bar on each

gate frame. When extended downward, they fit into pipe collars buried in the ground. When lifted into the "up" position, the post is held in place by one of the wire tabs (all other tabs are flattened. When the gates are open, you can quickly lower the posts to hold them in place.

We also made a sliding latch for the gate using a metal post with the tabs flattened. The post slides back and forth inside the center horizontal bar and is extended from one gate to the other to hold the gate closed. We attached a small handle to the post to help slide it back and forth. It makes a strong, neat and inexpensive way to control farm gates. ***(Kenneth R. Evans, 1834 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, Tex. 77532)***

We specialize in building all types of horse barns, including unique house-barn combinations that include living quarters right along with stables. For the most part, we build these structures for people who own "show"

horses. Some of the owners use the buildings as their primary residence, while others use them as housing for workers. The owner of the building in the enclosed photo has approximately 2,500 sq. ft. in her second floor living quarters, which includes three bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, and a huge living and dining area. She also has a jacuzzi, two car garage, a large tack room, and grooms quarters on a lower level. Our customer spent nearly $400,000 on the building which is located near Millbrook, N.Y. Prices vary greatly from $18 to $35 per sq. ft. ***(Dan Nissley, Jr., King Construction Co., 601 Overly Grove Rd., New Holland, Penn. 17557 ph 717 354-4740)***

I have an idea to share with other FARM SHOW readers. I came up with the idea when I had to drill and tap holes into a gear case and didn't want metal particles to contaminate the oil. I've also used the idea when drilling on electrical equipment when I didn't want the metal particles to short out the equipment.

I salvaged a round magnet from an old radio speaker and secured a plastic bag to the magnet with a rubber band. Then I just place the magnet and the bag under the location where the hole is to be drilled or tapped. The magnet pulls in the metal particles so they either stick to the magnet or fall in the bag. ***(Lawrence S. Taylor, Rt. 2, Box 50, Beaulah, N. Dak. 58523)***