

the job. I came up with the idea one day while moving fences on our intensively grazed dairy operation.

Sells for \$30 including S&H. We're looking for dealers and distributors. **(David Kline, Progressive Solutions, 10580 CR 329, Shreve, Ohio 44676 ph 330 567-5910)**

Here are some pictures of a plastic barrel sling that works well in our shop. Plastic drums of oil are hard to handle with-



out a special grapple. I make a double 90° bracket to firmly grasp the bottom of the barrel. The barrel sling has a pivotal grabber that has a 90° angle embodied to increase the holding force proportionately to the weight being lifted. This sling can be used with overhead hoists or trac-



tors and loaders. It can be built in any shop with a hydraulic press and a welder. **(Robert Rottinghaus, Clever Tech, Inc., 4121 South Canfield Rd., Jesup, Iowa 50648 ph 319 827-1311)**



Your readers might be interested in our horseshoe tailgates, made in gooseneck or standard style. The bottom half is designed with horseshoes and the top half with expanded metal "mesh". A person can order it with their brand, initials, or choice of a silhouette to be placed in the bottom center.

They sell for \$369.88 plus \$45 shipping. A "plain jane" version sells for \$299.99 plus \$45 shipping. **(Reid Baumberger, Cowboy Creations, 259 Dublin Gulch Rd., St. Ignace, Mont. 59865 ph 406 745-8000; www.cowboycreations.com)**

Here are photos of the portable hydrogen generator I wrote you about in Vol. 24, No. 6. It's installed in a Volvo station



wagon. It more than doubled gasoline mileage in the Volvo. I will soon be testing it in a Chevy Blazer.

After my letter appeared, I was overwhelmed with calls and letters from people who wanted to buy one.

I regret that at this time, I am not pre-

pared to sell or even provide detailed information on the generator. I do not have the funding to begin manufacturing it. I would, however, like to hear from individuals who would like to invest in the project and help me get the generator on the market. **(Robert Ferreira, 9775 W Sunny Day Ct., Crystal River, Florida 34428)**

Made from welded-together pieces of steel mesh, this 3-ft. wide door step lets us easily clean mud and snow off our boots before entering the house. Rain



and snow falls right through the mesh, and if any ice builds up on it, stamping one's feet up and down causes the mesh to bend so the ice will break off.

We use a dump trailer to pick up rocks in the field. In the past, someone would stand on the trailer hitch and jump on and



off to pick up rocks and throw them into the trailer. We wanted something safer so we mounted a steel step alongside the trailer. The S-shaped step is positioned about 1 ft. off the ground and simply hooks over the side of the trailer. **(Gabriel Verleun, Upper Montague, RR 3, P.E.I., Canada C0A 1R0 ph 902 838-4658)**

Thanks for the story on the shop exhaust system I made from PVC pipe (Vol. 26,



No. 5). It involves heating plastic to 280 degrees in an oven until the plastic becomes soft, then bending or flattening it to the desired shape. I used this same technique to make a walker for my 6-year-old grand daughter who has cerebral palsy. The 41-in. high walker helps her learn to balance so that maybe one day she'll be able to walk. I heated the walker's four PVC uprights to get the exact angle that I needed.

The walker rides on four caster wheels and has a square "holding bar" at the top which my grand daughter holds onto as she walks. The holding bar supports a cradle which she can sit on whenever she gets tired. Commercial walkers sell for up to \$1,500 and don't provide any place to sit.

I enjoyed reading the story in your last issue on a home-built "dumbwaiter" that a Vermont couple use to bring wood up to the fireplace in their living room. I built a similar system about three years ago. The upper end of the dumbwaiter shaft

runs into a built-in cabinet that's adjacent to the fireplace in our living room. There's

a door in the cabinet, and another door in the basement. I built metal tracks for a plywood box that measures 15 in. wide by 23 in. deep by 24 in. high. The box has its own door. There are three wheels on each side of the box and they roll up and down the track. The dumbwaiter is raised and lowered with a screw-drive garage door opener. The motor mounts below the box in the basement and the jackscrew runs up the back of the elevator shaft.

To provide counterbalance for the dumbwaiter, I attached a 60-lb. weight to the box with a steel cable over pulleys at the top of the elevator shaft. For safety, I wired the dumbwaiter so that all three doors must be closed before the elevator can be operated. **(Steve May, 41464 Ratcliff Dr., Prairieville, La. 70769 ph 225 622-2246)**

I work for a dairy farm where we built four bunker silos ourselves up to 75 ft. wide and 250 ft. long. To make the silos, we made a steel form that allows us to build



10-ft. high tapered concrete pillars, spaced 10 ft. apart.

To build each pillar, we dig a 4-ft. deep hole in the ground, then set the form over it and use a mixer truck to fill both the hole and form full of concrete. Then we open up the form and use a crane to lift it off the pillar. After we finish making all the pillars, we use another form to make the walls and then tip them up against the pillars. The top part of the walls extends about 1 ft. above the pillars. The photo shows a bunker silo that's 60 ft. wide by 120 ft. long.

We have our own batch plant and are able to mix the concrete right at the farm. We save a lot of money compared to the cost of hiring a contractor, and we don't have to worry about the wall falling over under the weight of the silage because the pillars are built so strong. **(Ken Reynolds, 15826 Shermanville Rd., Linesville, Pa. 16424 ph 814 683-4890)**



My homemade hitch attaches to the bucket on my Case 580 backhoe and allows me to tow it behind our pickup. I started with the hitch off an old New Idea manure spreader and cut it down to the width of the bucket. The hitch extends underneath the bucket and attaches to both its front and back sides. A3-in. angle iron bolts onto the front part of the bucket,



and chains held together by chain binders are used at the back of the bucket. **(Gary Warner, 1900 N. Ave., Sheffield, Ill. 61361 ph 309 452-4293)**

I'm enclosing a photo of an 8-row corn planter mounted on front of my Massey Ferguson 750 combine. I used it until



the late 1980's. I made the planter by connecting four 2-row horse-drawn planters together. The ground-driven planters attach to a steel bar that mounts in place of the header. The planter is supported in front by a pair of 20-in. high rubber wheels and on back by the planters' original steel wheels.

Using my combine planter I could cover a 20-acre field in only about two hours. The planter was wide enough that I could turn right around and make the next pass without even having to back up. Making two passes around the field provided all the headland I needed. **(Eric Webster, 697 Warburton Rd., Lansdowne, Ontario, Canada K0E 1L0 ph 613 659-2450)**

We custom bale hay and weren't satisfied with the skid loader forks on the market, so we came up with our own design for forks made especially for hay.



They look like pallet forks except that the prongs are fixed onto the mounting bracket, and they're round and beveled at the tip for easier penetration of bales. Also, the mounting plate is at an angle with the top leaning a lot more toward the front for easier pickup and tipping back of the bale. Works great for handling large square bales and for doing other jobs around the farm. Sells for \$375. **(Jason Burkholder, 64410 CR 3, Wakarusa, Ind. 46573 ph 574 862-1904; fax 574 862-1904; E-mail: tweesly@juno.com)**



This David Bradley feed grinder was purchased by my grandfather from Sears *(Continued on next page)*