Reader Letters

(Continued from previous page)

down to make an arch, then cut off any unnecessary steel. I bolted four stringers to the frame and then nailed 2 by 8's to the stringers. The bridge is strong enough to support at least 1 1/2 tons. ***(Paul Michener, Box 120, Waynesville, Ohio 45068)***

I enjoy restoring old tractors for a hobby during the winter. I made a rather unusual mailbox out of a 1943 Minneapolis Moline Z.

I unbolted the front end of the tractor and bolted on a fake radiator that I made from steel plating. The mailbox itself is a short length of 10-in. dia. auger tube. After making a door for the mailbox, I welded a bracket on back of the grill to hold a flower basket. The tractor mounts on a length of 3 1/2-in. sq. tubing anchored in cement 5 ft. underground. ***(Allen and Cindy Clow, 3739 230th Ave., Lancaster, Minn. 56735)***

This photo shows a dinosaur I made out of 1/4-in. thick steel plate. I have two of

them in front of my barn along a busy highway where they've become landmarks in our area. It's 6 ft. tall and 14 ft. long. It takes 6 or 8 sheets of 1/4-in. thick steel plate to make each dinosaur, so they're very heavy. I'd be willing to build them for others. ***(Paul Ezra, 9341 S. SR 39, Winamac, Ind. 46996 ph 574 278-7219)***

There are a lot of unused Morris rodweeders around our area now because most farmers have gone to

continuous cropping. My friend Derek Colwell took one and adapted it to fit the 3-pt. hitch on our Ford tractor. He took the wheels that were in front of the frame and moved them back to allow for a closer mount. With the wheels behind, the drive had to be reworked in order to drive the rod in the right direction. This was done by mounting two idler sprockets on the unit to reverse the drive. ***(Stan MacEwen, Elrose, Sask.)***

I built this 3-wheeled go-cart equipped with a single 8-in. drive wheel on back and a pair of 6-in. wheels on front. It's

stable enough that kids can operate it safely at speeds up to 40 mph. Power is provided by a 4 hp Honda engine, which belt-drives a small sprocket that chain-drives a larger sprocket on the wheel. Steering is accomplished by a cable and pulley steering system connected to bicycle handlebars. Cable wraps around a small pulley at the bottom of the column and extends on either side to the machine's tie rods. Turning the handlebars causes the cable to tighten up on one side of the pulley and lose slack on the other side.

The seat - designed for a garden tractor - is bolted to a plywood floor that's bolted to an angle iron frame. The driver is protected by a roll cage made out of 1-in. dia., thin wall tubing. The rig has a hitch on back, allowing it to pull wagons and carts. The wide front wheels make it stable, and the single drive wheel on back provides constant traction. ***(Neil Ohler, Box 127, Stavely, Alberta, Canada T0L 1Z0 ph 403 549-2480)***

Your article on a giant bug zapper that kills grasshoppers with electricity (Vol. 27, No. 5) brought back many childhood memories of the mid to late 1930's. We lived on a wheat farm in north central Oklahoma, and there were three years with extremely dry summer weather that led to an explosion of grasshoppers. During one of those years, the trees were bare, pastures were all dried up, and the flowers and weeds were nothing but stems by August 1. Grasshoppers were clustered everywhere and would even eat the wood and bark. By hitting a post with a leather strap you could kill dozens.

Some farmers used poisoned grain bran to kill the grasshoppers. The live ones would eat the dead ones and in turn be poisoned. Other farmers fabricated screen wire platforms that mounted on front of a tractor or truck. It was similar to the Canadian bug zapper your article described but wasn't electrically charged. The platforms had a screen wire back. Some had a canopy to prevent the grasshoppers from flying over the top. The bottom part had tin sloping down to a trough. The trough was filled with kerosene, coal oil, or used motor oil. One way or another, the grasshoppers ended up dead in the trough. The trough had to be cleaned out regularly and refilled.

Similar platforms were sometimes used to harvest tall wild grass seed. ***(Ivan L. Pfalser, Rt. 1, Box 162, Caney, Kansas 67333 ph 620 879-2938)***

My wife and I were both confused by the story and photo in your last issue of a Watusi steer with world record horns that were said to measure 37 1/2 in. in diameter. Judging by the photo, if these horns are actually that big - over 3 ft. across - then the people in the photo have to be more than 12 ft. tall. Either something is screwy with the photo or the horns are really 37 1/2 in. in circumference, not diameter. ***(Bill Voedisch, Marine, Minn.)***

I made this "easy chair" bicycle from parts off three bikes, a length of 2-in. sq. steel tubing, and a plastic chair. Two of the bikes were 26-in. 10-speed models and one was a 20-in. single speed. The back part of the bike consists of a 26-in. girls bike with the frame cut off ahead of the pedals and welded to the steel tubing. The pedals were cut off and the two sprockets on the peddle crank were spaced farther apart so two chains could run on it. The frame of another bike was cut so the pedal and sprocket assembly could be welded forward on the tubing. A 5-speed derailleur (used on the rear wheel) mounts under the seat to take up the slack in the front chain assembly. Two chains were spliced together to connect the two crank assemblies together.

What I have now is a 10-speed bike with brakes on both wheels. The bike is just under 8 ft. long. It takes a little practice to get used to riding it. ***(Larry Johnson, 1740 Kenyon Rd., Ontario, N.Y. 14519 ph 315 524-8244; email: joylarjo@aol.com)***

We made our own Loch Ness monster on Lake of the Woods in northern Minnesota. The creature is about 25 ft. long and 8 ft. high. Its body is made from an airplane fuel tank, with the rest of the animal made from 4 and 6-in. flex pipe, a milk can, truck muffler parts, and junk. ***(Jerry Krohn, 3752 - 61st Ave. N.W., Williams, Minn. 56686 ph 218 783-3321)***

I use a lawn mower handle to unroll spools of barbed wire over any ground that's too rough to drive. I run a pipe through the spool and use a wooden board, a big washer, and a clip at each end of the spool to lock it in place. When fully loaded with wire, the spool weighs about 80 lbs. but because of the handle it's still easy to roll around. It sure beats having to carry the spool around by hand. ***(John Liska, Box 36, Raymond, Alberta, Canada T0K 2S0 ph 403 752-4918)***

Here's a photo of my homemade bandsaw mill. It has removable fenders, wheels and lights and a cable lift jack that fits either end for easier setup. It has eight adjustable jack stands for stability and six adjustable bunks along with log holders and dogs positioned at 8, 12, and 16 ft. All the machined parts were made by George Solomon and Sons Machine Shop in Dryden, Ontario. The mill is powered by a 16 hp electric start Onan engine and has an electric clutch (from a hydraulic pump) that engages the band wheels. Other than that it's a simple push-pull outfit, with a cable lift for the head. ***(Garnet Trist, Oxdrift, Ontario)***

After a trip to Austria and seeing 3-way tippers on farms in the mountains which dump in any direction, I decided that was what I needed for my hilly land back here in the States. I built a 3-way dumper using a flatbed trailer and a hoist.

The dumping mechanism is powered by a 40-ton, hydraulic hoist that I got from a salvage yard. I didn't have any specifications or plans for

the 3-way dump hinge, so I experimented until I came up with the right dimensions that would provide the desired lift. Once I had a model made, I constructed the real unit with heavy steel components.

Two pins at the rear of the trailer control the direction of dumping. To dump straight back you leave both pins in. To dump to one side you simply remove the pin on the opposite side. *(Andy Justmann, E. 323 Cobb Town Rd., Waupaca, Wis. 54981; ph 715 258-5244; email: aj_tve_inc@yahoo.com)*