

Reader Letters



I needed a cheap patio light so I created this bucket light using a 5 gallon bucket and lamp socket. I turned the bucket upside down and switched the handle to the opposite end to act as a hanger. Then I just drilled a hole in the bottom of the bucket to insert the light socket. The whole thing only costs about \$4 to make.

Plans are available for anyone interested. **(Ernest Giddens, 509 Pettus Road, Lapine, Ala. 36046)**

My father-in-law made a 36-ft bale trailer that puts most commercial bale trailers to shame. He made it from an old tan-



dem axle truck bed. The heavy-duty deck is made from 1/16-in. steel sheets over channel iron except for the last 6 ft., which consists of crossbeams mounted narrowly together for added strength. End poles hold the round bales on the bed.

The trailer has eight 20-in. tires and can haul 31 800-lb. round bales. **(Bill Warner, 53188 490th St., New York Mills, Minn. 56567)**

When I read your story about free classified ads in the Editor's Notebook, (Vol. 28, No. 5), I thought that you might have missed one of the best uses for them.

No matter what printed media a person wants to place an ad in, it costs extra (usually quite a bit) to insert a picture with that ad. I suggest to advertisers that they just mention in their ad that a full color picture and detailed description can be seen at www.1classad.com (my website). The printed media still gets their classified ad and the advertiser can put a whole lot more information for about a dollar more (picture upload cost). It really is a good deal. **(Gerry Bergman, support@1classad.com)**

Because I have to fix fence on two different farms 20 miles apart, I created a cart



to carry my posthole digger on. It's made entirely of scrap metal. A metal rack at the back supports the top of the digger. The center boom rests on an old drywall jack attached to the trailer's base. When I need to use the posthole digger, I raise the jack with the hand crank which lifts the boom to hook up to the tractor's 3 pt. hitch. The tractor can hook up to the digger while it's still on the cart. **(Delbert Birkel, RR 2, Box 45, Bonesteel, S. Dak. 57317 ph 605 654-2319)**

I always carry a 2 1/2-gal. garden sprayer in the back of my pickup. It's

filled with water and I use it to put out small fires before they get bad. I've used it three times in the past few months: an engine fire in a car; a welding fire in dry grass; and a fire in a dozer where brush collected on the manifold.

My problem is I can't figure out a way to keep the sprayer secure yet easily reachable in case of need. I don't want to drill any holes in the bed. Any ideas? **(George O. Schneider, P.O. Box 125, Pioneer, Calif. 95666)**

Here's a simple modification I made to the springs on my overhead garage door.



On my door, the springs ran alongside the door. The problem is that if the spring breaks, it comes free with great force, which can be dangerous and damage vehicles. I solved the problem by running a wire through the center of the spring and anchoring the wire securely at either end. That way, if the spring breaks, it can't go anywhere. **(John Graham, 8022 Kraft Ave. S.E., Caledonia, Mich. 49316)**



When my granddaughter began kindergarten, she needed something to put over her sleep mat. I made a mat cover that fits securely without slipping off and a matching pillow cover that stays securely in place. Belle loves it. I got a patent and started sewing. Now I make and sell the covers.

My most popular cover set is made with John Deere tractor print fabric and sells for \$32 plus shipping. **(JoMarie Clark, Isabelle Chase Comfy Covers, 7705 Attala Road 5205, Ethel, Miss. 39067 ph 662 674-2228)**

I recently custom built a one-of-a-kind tile plow for a New York grape grower, Clyde Burnham of Northeast, Pennsylvania. The machine is designed to lay small 3-in. dia. tile only 3 ft. deep, between rows of grapevines spaced 9 ft. apart. Conventional drainage tile is usually 4 or 5 in. in diameter and requires a much bigger tractor which won't fit between rows of grapevines. Burnham uses a 135 hp tractor to pull one of our Farm Drainage plows. We built a special 5-in. wide "flat front" on the tile plow in order to accommodate the narrow 3-in. tile. The 3-in. tile feeds into a 4-in. main.

Burnham has used the machine to install about 19,000 ft. of tile. Last summer he had a lot of rain but it wasn't a problem because even though the tile is relatively small, it drains out a lot of water. He was really happy with it. The driveways between grapevines were so wet he couldn't get any machines on

them. The tile helped tremendously. **(Don Wurdinger, Farm Drainage Plows, Inc., 909 4th St. N.W., Waverly, Iowa 50677 ph 319 352-3911)**

Here's a handy tip. To give my thumb more leverage for accelerating my 4-wheel ATV, I slide a 6-in. length of garden hose over the thumb accelerator. Makes it a lot easier to move. **(Michael Morris, P.O. Box 1096, Del Rio, Texas 78841 ph 830 719-1265)**



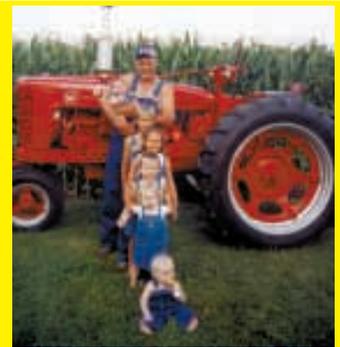
I came up with a nifty way to keep shovels and forks, in place in the bed of my pickup. The shovel handle lays across the wheel well and is held in place by a metal bracket. It keeps the shovel off the bed floor and out of the way. No drilling was required as I was able to use holes already in the bed. The bracket is secured by a tapered pin that goes through an I-bolt that's inserted through the side of the box. **(James Feldman, 10993 Stanton Blvd., Northfield, Minn. 55057)**



I made a calf carrier out of a heavy plastic wading pool that I bought at a local discount store. I cut a piece of 3/4-in. plywood to fit inside it, held in place by carriage bolts. Two short pieces of flat iron were used to make attachment points for a nylon tow rope. I used it last spring for the first time and it worked well. The pool cost \$10 and the bolts less than \$5. I already had the rest of the material. **(Clinton Whitney, 1723 S. Country Club Rd., Warsaw, Ind. 46580)**

I'm secretly writing to you hoping you'll include this photo in one of your issues. My father, Dan Lowe, enjoys your newspaper so much he receives two copies, one for his home and one for his shop. He's president of "Thee Olde Time Farm Show" here in Kankakee, Ill., and recently joined "The Green Club." He has almost 40 antique Farmall tractors and spends nearly all his free time restoring them and teaching his grandchildren all about them.

I really hope one of these days my fa-



ther will be reading your paper and come across this photo of himself with his six cherished grandchildren. The photo shows, from top to bottom, Dan holding Liam Lowe, Codey Lowe, Alexandra Lowe, Elijah Blanchette, Autumn Blanchette, and Quinton Blanchette. **(Aleta Lowe, 4545 Main St., Kankakee, Ill. 60901 ph 815 791-9906)**



Skin cancer is an increasing occupational risk for anyone who spends a lot of time in the sun. An inexpensive umbrella, with better side protection all around than the commercial models, can be made by tying an appropriately-sized piece of woven wire fence to a ROPS frame with baling twine and then covering it with lightweight fabric. It took me only about 15 minutes last summer to make the canopy shown here. I'll probably remove it for the winter and set it up again next summer. **(John E. Hohmann, M.C., Clearview Farm, 11015 Mill St. S.W., Pataskala, Ohio 43062)**

These photos show the saddle blanket racks that I build. I came up with the idea two years ago when a friend built a nice,



new barn. He was hanging his horse blankets and saddle blankets on bale string that he tied along the walls in the alleyway. He asked what I could come **(Continued on next page)**



A few years ago we started collecting tin cans and other similar antiques. Our collection grew until we didn't have any more room to store them.

When we gave up dairy farming in 1999 we started building shelves in our 12 by 24-ft. milk house. We continued to pick

up more tin cans as well as trays, lamps, bottles and other items, mostly at garage sales. We now have thousands of items, all on display neatly on shelves. It's a fun hobby. **(Wayne Bergsma, P.O. Box 1501, Carman, Manitoba, Canada R0G 0J0 ph 204 745-3462)**