

He Uses Landscape Timbers To Put Up Low-Cost Buildings

By Janis Schole, Contributing Editor

Being born in 1916 may have something to do with Clyde Barnhart's ability to find economical, inventive ways of doing things. The 88-year-old says the Depression taught him to be frugal and innovative.

Barnhart has a Ph.D. in entomology and is retired from a career in research. He recently came up with a low-cost, relatively easy way to put up buildings that have a "log cabin look" to them. He calls them "landscape timber buildings."

He uses 8-ft. long treated landscape timbers which are most often used for flowerbed edging. The timbers are 4 1/2 in. wide by 3 5/8 in. thick and are flat on top and bottom.

"At the corners, I stagger them and let them stick out. There's no notching and no framework to the building. The timber itself is the frame for the building. Since they're treated, you don't have to paint it. It looks like a log cabin. The inside doesn't have to be covered

either, depending on what you want to use the building for," he explains.

Barnhart fastens the timbers together by drilling one 3/16-in. hole at each end of the timber and then drives pole barn nails down through into the timber below.

"You frame out the doors and windows like you would with any building," he says. "Landscape timbers are only about \$3 each and one person can lift them without any problem. It's much easier than building a conventional log cabin."

Barnhart has made four landscape timber buildings so far. The first was an 8 by 8-ft. unit with a metal shed roof and a 4-ft. double door, which he uses as a blacksmith shop. He also built a 12 by 12-ft. "hide-away" log cabin with a 4 by 4-ft. outhouse to match. The last building was a 12 by 16-ft. multipurpose unit with a gable roof. He calls it his "lab" and he uses it as a place to do glass-



Clyde Barnhart uses landscape timbers to put up buildings that have a "log cabin" look to them.

work, metal machining, repairs and inventing. This building is finished on the inside with heat and air conditioning.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clyde Barnhart, 13637 Angell Rd., Athens, Ohio 45701 (ph 740 592-4203).

8-WD Amphibious Machine

By Mark Newhall, Editor & Publisher

While looking for new products at a recent farm show, I came across a machine that at first glance did not look like an ag machine. It looked more like a toy rich hunters and other city slickers might bring to the country.

But after stopping to talk with inventor and manufacturer Patrick Miller from Townsend, Mont., I realized that this was a serious machine that's capable of doing a lot of work.

Miller, a mechanical engineer, built his first amphibious "Land Tamer" seven years ago because he wanted what he calls a "real ATV" that could handle hilly mountainous terrain as well as swampy, boggy land. His target market for the machine was the logging and mining industry so it had to be built to stand up to the toughest abuse.

After success selling it not only to industry but also to utilities, government agencies, surveyors, and sportsmen, he started getting requests for machines from farmers and ranchers. So he put together a machine with a pto and 3-pt. hitch.

The Land Tamer has four times more horsepower and torque than a typical 4-wheeler, with a liquid-cooled 4-cyl. Nissan gas engine (80 hp and 85 ft. lbs. torque) or an optional VW turbo diesel (79 hp and 114 ft. lbs. of torque). It's available either as a 6-WD or 8-WD with a cargo capacity of 1,100 lbs. and 2,000 lbs., respectively.

"It's built much heavier than any other similar machine on the market. What's more, we use off-the-shelf industry standard parts throughout. It's designed for easy maintenance," says Miller.

The Land Tamer can cross any body of



New "ATV" can be fitted with pto and 3-pt.

water. If you need more speed on the water, it can be fitted with an optional jet propulsion system like you find on jet skis.

Steering and speed are controlled by a single hydraulic lever on the all-hydraulic machine. It has a zero-turn radius. Padded seats give it a comfortable ride. Optional snow tracks and a heated cab are available. The machine's low center of gravity makes it extremely stable on hillsides, notes Miller. Top land speed is 35 mph. Water speed is 1 to 2 mph with tires and 6 to 7 mph with the optional water jet. The 6-WD model is 9 ft. long. The 8-WD is 11 1/2 ft. long. Both machines are about 6 1/2 ft. wide and weigh 1,600 to 1,900 lbs. in the basic configurations.

Price ranges from \$16,000 to \$33,000, depending on options. "We're willing to custom-build just about anything our customers want," says Miller.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Patrick F. Miller, PFM Manufacturing, Inc., 310 6th St., Townsend, Mont. 59644 (ph 406 266-5148; email: pfm_mt@msn.com; website: landtamer.com).



Manufacturer and inventor Patrick Miller will customize machine to fit needs of customers.



Built from off-the-shelf parts, the all-wheel drive is designed for easy maintenance.

Auger Drive Unit Speeds Bin Unloading

You can move grain in a big way without tying up a tractor or a worker with this new portable pto power unit with auto shut-off, says Bary Belknap, farmer-inventor.

The auger drive unit is designed to be pulled behind any ATV or pickup and is equipped with a side-mounted pto shaft that takes the place of a small tractor. An electric motor belt-drives the pto shaft.

A control panel at the back of the unit connects to a cable that runs to a sensor in your grain cart or truck. The sensor tells the auger drive when the cart or truck is full. At that point, it shuts down both your pto-operated auger and electric-operated bin discharge auger. The unit doesn't provide power to the discharge auger, but it does turn it on and off

automatically.

"It lets you empty your bins faster and more economically because you can use it to fill a grain cart without anyone there and then load trucks from the cart, which goes much faster than loading directly out of the bin," says Belknap. "It's a good alternative to a grain vac or elevator leg. The unit is smaller than an ATV and will fit in places inaccessible to even the smallest yard tractors. On hard surfaces you can wheel it around by hand."

The unit is built to order. Options include motors with various horsepower ratings, single or 3-phase electricity, and varying pto shaft speeds. The company says it will also take orders for electronics or mechanicals only.

Auger Drive is equipped with a side-mounted pto shaft that takes the place of a small tractor. An electric motor belt-drives the pto.



The price for a 10 hp model is \$3,500. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Barry Belknap, TFI, 1077 Belle Mar Dr., West Des

Moines, Iowa 50266 (ph 866 611-2882 or 1572-1754; email: barry_belknap@msn.com).