



Truman Jacobson always loved Farmall tractors. So when he died, his family had his casket painted IH red, with IH decals ad ded.

## Casket Becomes Tribute To Man Who Loved Farmalls

"I wish we could have a red casket for him," said Richard Jacobson while he was picking out a casket for his father, Truman Jacobson,

a farmer who had loved Farmall tractors.

While standing next to a gray casket, Richard's sister Carol replied, "This feels just like the metal on a tractor after my husband gets through sandblasting it."

When the funeral director returned, the siblings asked if they could paint the gray casket red. "He kind of swallowed real hard and asked where we wanted it delivered," Carol recalls.

Carol's husband Ronald runs a sandblasting and painting business so over the next couple days he and other family members and friends dismantled the casket, repainted it, and put it back together. They bought International Red paint from a shop that also sells IH decals.

## Lifesize Cornstalk Mailbox

When Lori Feltis, a member of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, was brainstorming with other members about publicity ideas for an upcoming farm show, she had an idea that everyone liked.

"I said it would be really neat to have a cornstalk mailbox because what farmer wouldn't like having one of those at the end of their driveway," she says.

She couldn't find anything like it on the market so she went ahead and welded one together herself. The committee liked it so much she made three more.

The lifesize cornstalk mailboxes are made from different sizes of rebar and 18 and 20 gauge steel that she pounded out. From a distance, they look real, thanks to realistic details like the metal "husk pockets" that each hold a real ear of husked field corn.

Because each mailbox is handmade and takes a week to create, they sell for \$500 plus S&H. While on display, Feltis says a lot of people took pictures of them. "They said, 'This wouldn't be too hard to make,'" she recalls. "And I do hope they make them because they are neat."

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**Lifesize cornstalk mailbox is complete with metal "husk pockets" that each hold a real ear of field corn.**



**Vol. 28, No. 5, 2004**

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**FARM SHOW** (ISSN #01634518) is published bimonthly (6 times a year) for \$19.95 per year (\$29.95 in Canada and foreign countries) by Farm Show Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 1029, 20088 Kenwood Trail, Lakeville, Minn. 55044. Periodicals postage paid at Lakeville, Minn., and Madelia, Minn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 952 469-5572; fax 952 469-5575). E-Mail: Circulation@FARMSHOW.com. Website: www.FARMSHOW.com. Single copy price is \$5.00 (\$7.00 in Canada). Publication No. 469490.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40032660  
 Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses To:  
 Dycam Mail Sves.  
 495 Berry St.  
 Winnipeg, MB R3J 1N6  
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**Sept.-October, 2004**

## He Added 3-Point Hitch To Farmall H

Posthole digging goes a lot better since Larry Francis added a 3-pt. hitch to his Farmall H. "I built the whole thing with scrap I had laying around, except for some pins for the ball joints," says Francis.

He began by welding pins to the angle iron that connects the drawbar to the axle. The outer pins provide pivot points for the lower arms of the hitch. The inside pins provide a base for two hydraulic cylinders that lift the hitch.

Each arm was constructed from two 2 1/2 by 3/4-in. steel bars that were long enough to extend just past the drawbar. Balls welded to the end of the bars fit over the outside pins.

A second set of bars with balls were welded to one end to extend the arms' reach beyond the drawbar. The balls formed the implement receiving ends of the arms.

"The extensions had to be bent in about 4 1/4-in. on each side to fit around the drawbar and yet match implement hitch width," explains Francis.

For his third point, he bolted a steel plate to the tractor platform. He then welded a piece of 5 1/4 by 2-in. angle iron to the plate. It served double duty, holding pins for the ball joint for the third arm of the 3-pt. hitch.

A second piece of angle iron welded to it forms a bracket to enclose the center section of a 31-in. long, 1 1/4-in. steel rod. This rod serves as the pivot point for the arm lift mechanism.

Francis then built a set of braces to pivot with the rod and serve as the lift mechanism for the hitch. Each brace is composed of one long outside steel strap and one shorter inside steel strap, both with holes drilled in one end, allowing them to slide over the rod. A third steel strap welded in place between them and at the end of the shorter strap completes the brace. A bracket made from a piece of

Carol says that aside from the eerie feeling of having a casket in the shop, the process was simple.

Those who knew Jacobson were impressed with the casket; many were amazed family members even thought of the idea. "It was a wonderful thing in the end," she says.

Carol says they'd be willing to assist others with similar tractor-themed caskets. They would charge \$500 for the paint job.

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"I built the whole thing with scrap I had laying around, except for some pins for the ball joints," says Larry Francis about the 3-pt. hitch he added to his Farmall H.

angle iron is welded to the underside of the connecting strap. A pin welded to the angle iron accepts the shaft end of the hydraulic cylinder. The outside arm of each brace extends to a point directly above the midpoint of the lower arms. Adjustable brackets connect each brace to the lower arms and allow them to be leveled as needed.

When an implement is mounted on the hitch, Francis engages the hydraulic cylinders, pushing the braces upward and lifting the lower arms with them.

"My first cylinders were 2-in. rams, and they were too small. I replaced them with 4-in. rams and that helped a lot," says Francis. "I hooked up the hydraulics to left/right controls, so when I push the left one up, the rams push up. When I push the right one down, the rams pull down. It's nice to have the down pressure. It lets me dig postholes, even in hard ground."

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