



ered for transport. **(James Finch Welding, 2787 Lower Meeker Hollow, Roxbury, N.Y. 12474 ph 607 326-7529)**

I built a fish house out of scrap metal and parts that I was able to scrounge up. The fish house measures 8 ft. wide, 12 ft. long, and 6 1/2 ft. high. The wheels and axle came off a Chevy Citation car. I cut



the axle in half and lengthened it. The Citation axle keeps the fish house low to the ground. The rest of the unit is made from leftover tin that I bought cheap at a lumber yard during the winter months, when the company was trying to reduce its inventories. I was able to buy all the tin I needed for only \$80. The door came off an old house, and the windows were given to me by some people who were redoing their house. The windows are double paned so they won't fog up as much. I've built other fish houses for neighbors. **(Mike Nordby, Box 202, Grygla, Minn. 56727 ph 218 294-6659)**



About 35 years ago, when I was 19 years old, I worked for a farmer who had a factory-built rock picker. After using it for a few days, I had a long list of improvements I felt it should have to make it more efficient. The list included a larger bucket and bigger wheels for handling much larger rocks. So I built my own fork-type rock picker equipped with 20-in. wheels, a 6-ft. wide picking fork, and a large bucket. It can dig out rocks weighing up to about 3,000 lbs. and works better than any fork-type rock picker I've ever seen.



Over the years I've removed hundreds of loads of rocks and it still works good. I improved the machine by adding dual wheels and twin hydraulic cylinders on both the fork and the bucket.

Fork-type rock pickers don't work the best for small rocks, so I looked at all the reel-type rock pickers on the market. Again, I wasn't satisfied with any of them so I built my own. It has an 8-ft. wide pick-

ing fork and 3-yard bucket and rides on 11.00 by 20 tires. After breaking a couple of spindles, I mounted dual wheels on both sides.

As far as I know, these two rock pickers are the biggest working machines in the world. If anyone knows of larger ones I'd appreciate hearing from them. I'm willing to supply plans for a small fee. **(Dale Rogers, Box 59, Mayfair, Sask., Canada S0M 1S0 ph 306 246-4577)**

I had a lot of fun building a bunch of toy tractors out of scrap metal nuts and bolts. The wheels and hood are made from sheet metal, with nails used for the wheel spokes. Two of the tractors are painted Deere green and yellow. A Ford tractor is painted gray. There's also a Caterpillar, with the grill and an umbrella-type roof made from pieces of perforated scrap



metal. The track is made from lengths of double wide roller chain. **(Tad Schreiner, 16250 Suel Lane, Prior Lake, Minn. 55372 (ph 952 447-5421)**

I thought your readers might like to see the snow blade I built for my brother Tim's home-built all terrain buggy, which you featured in FARM SHOW last year (Vol. 26, No. 1).



The blade measures 6 1/2 ft. wide by 4 ft. high and is made from an extruded sheet of plastic bolted to a curved steel frame. The blade angles back to the left, and the right side extends about 2 ft. higher than the left side. However, the arms that support the blade are set in oversized bracket mounting holes so when the blade is lowered the entire bottom edge is in contact with the ground. The blade looks overwhelmingly big on the buggy, but because it's made out of plastic it's lightweight and easy to handle. The one-of-a-kind, 4-WD buggy was made from a Jeep station wagon. **(Mike Koontz, 8671 No. 2 Clarabella Road, Clare, Mich, 48617 E-mail: Mikek@gllcomputers.com)**



I turned an old Ford 70 3/4-ton pickup into a tracked vehicle equipped with an 8-ft. long box on back. I stripped the pickup down to the engine, 4-speed transmission, chassis and running gear, then added an axle and wheels off a Ford 2-ton truck on front of the pickup's rear wheels. Rubber tracks mount on both sets of wheels. The tracks were made out of a pair of old rear tractor tires. **(Bernard Hanson, 2860 County Rd. 102, Wrenshall, Minn. 55797)**



During harvest, supper time in the field is family time for us. But trying to balance a plate full of food on your knees can be tricky. So I built a pull-type picnic table that rides on four large caster wheels and has a hitch on one end, allowing us to pull it behind our pickup down the highway between farms. The table is painted Deere green and yellow and seats up to 16 people. I used parts off an old sprayer to build it. The supporting arms for the wheels are made from steel tubing. The

rear caster wheels are locked, but I leave the front ones unlocked for road travel.

It took some persuasion to sell this idea to the women in our family, many of whom thought it would be embarrassing to travel down the road towing a portable table picnic. However, once they tried it they enjoyed it. The table is a real conversation piece in our area. **(Benny Friesen, Rt. 1, Box 16, Morris, Manitoba, Canada R0G 1K0 ph 204 746-8436)**



I built this 1/4-scale Case-IH 2144 combine for my grandson, who really loves it. It's also a real parade favorite. I built it the hard way, without any powered shop tools except an electric drill and welder. It took about two months to build out of scrap metal. It's built on the chassis of an old White 1610 garden tractor, which I reversed to run backward. I replaced the tractor's original engine with a 12 hp Briggs & Stratton. I built a frame for the 8-ft. long machine out of angle iron and covered the frame with galvanized sheet metal. A 4-ft. grain auger fashioned out of a 4-in. dia. driveshaft is fitted on the side of the machine. There are lights on front and flashers on back.

Since completing the combine last spring, the machine has appeared in eight area parades.

It really draws a lot of attention. I can always tell when I'm in a town with a lot of retired farmers. Many of them give me the

thumbs up sign and then make their wives go out in the street and take a photo.

The driver sits in the "grain tank". The throttle is located next to the steering column. I moved the steering sector up front and lengthened the original steering rod.

Reversing the gears on the tractor was easy. The engine belt-drives the transaxle and the belt already had a 1/4 twist in it. To reverse the gears all I had to do was twist the belt a quarter turn in the opposite direction. The 4-row corn head is complete with gathering chains that were made out of bicycle chains, with metal hooks pop riveted to them.

It has a lot more sheet metal on it than I ever thought it would have. All together I used more than 1,100 pop rivets. I paid \$25 for the garden tractor. Otherwise, the engine and the decals were the only things I bought. I paid \$360 for the engine and \$25 for the decals. **(Jerome Lenth, Box 35, Postville, Iowa 52162 ph 563 864-3770)**



When we put metal cattle panels up in our corral, we needed a way to attach insulators to the top of the panels in order to power an electric fence at the other side of the lot. To attach the insulators, we put Velcro patches on the pipe and also on the insulators. Then we stuck the

insulators to the patches and inserted plastic cable ties through the insulators and around the pipe to hold them in place. The insulators can be attached to either the top or side of the pipe. **(Dwight Ruhlen, 2591 Halcyondale Rd., Sylvania, Ga. 30467 ph 912 863-4398)**