



Gene Snellings converted a pair of Murray riding mowers into "play tractors", which his grand kids love to drive. Tractors are powered by small Briggs & Stratton engines.

## Play Tractors Geared Down For Kids

"These tractors are a big attraction for my grandkids," says Gene Snellings, Montreal, Mo., who converted a pair of Murray riding mowers into "play tractors".

Snellings got the 10-year-old tractors free from friends. He removed the mower decks and had a local muffler shop bend 2-in. dia. tubing into rollbars. He replaced the original seats with new ones and used 1 1/2-in., 11-gauge sq. tubing to make front bumpers. He replaced the original muffler with a 2-in. dia. tractor muffler, which is bent so exhaust fumes are diverted to the side. The muffler is welded to the original mounting bracket.

He painted one tractor Deere green and yellow and the other IH red. He also applied chrome paint to the wheels.

"Our grand kids love to drive them. They've ridden them so much around our

house that part of the yard almost looks like a desert," says Snellings. "The tractors are powered by small Briggs and Stratton gas engines, but with the mufflers they sound pretty throaty. I used to farm with Deere and IH tractors, and my grandchildren wanted their tractors to look like mine. For safety I blocked the high gears on each tractor in order to keep them from going too fast. The kids haul their toys behind the tractors in a 4-wheeled wagon and a 2-wheeled trailer that I made."

Snelling notes that tractor operation is restricted to level ground for safety reasons. And they're only used when adults are around.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Snellings, 222 Cowboy Road, Montreal, Mo. 65591 (ph 573 346-4733).



Tractors are fitted with rollbars and front bumpers. Original muffler was replaced with a 2-in. dia. tractor muffler, which is bent so exhaust fumes are diverted to the side.

## "Tailgate Table" Fits Into Pickup Receiver Hitch

Field lunches and tailgate parties are a lot easier to pull off with this table that plugs into a receiver hitch. Once mounted, it can be used as a dining table, workbench, or even a fish-cleaning table. Measuring 18 in. by 45 in., it's big enough that two adults can sit behind it on a pickup tailgate.

The table is made of high-density polyethylene. It mounts on supports and a frame made of powder-coated square steel tubing. Because it has a smooth impermeable surface, it's easy to clean, too.

When not in use, the table folds down to 6 in. wide so it can be stored behind the seat. It weighs just 35 lbs. The \$189 price includes a nylon storage bag. Shipping is included.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Table is big enough for two adults.

Trailgate Marketing LLC, 6910 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Suite #103, Van Nuys, Calif. 91406 (ph 661 430-0195; fax 661 430-0198; E-mail: camper@trailgate.com; Website: www.trailgate.com).



Daniel Lowe joined these Farmall F-20s together using a farmer-built hitch. Lever hooked to clutch of rear tractor extends up and over the hood.

## "Piggybacked" F-20s

Dan Lowe is known as the F-20 man to friends and family because when he isn't tearing apart diesel engines and turbochargers with his partner and employees at Triangle Diesel in Kankakee, Illinois, he's at home tearing apart F-20s. In addition to owning 22 of the antique Farmalls, Lowe has a 48-foot semi trailer with enough parts on it to build three more.

In fact, the only thing he likes better than one F-20 is two of them running together piggyback. He has a couple that he joined together and notes that piggybacked Farmalls used to be fairly common in the late 50's and early 60's.

While there was never a factory piggyback kit available, dealers often fabricated piggyback attachments for customers. However, Lowe's piggyback hitch was built by a farmer. "He made twin square tubes from 5-inch channel iron," explains Lowe. "The tubes bolt to the drawbar of the rear tractor and run forward

under the front wheel spindles and pin to the drawbar of the front tractor."

Two drawbolts attached to the rear tractor frame draw the tubes up and against the spindles to keep the front end of the tractor from bouncing off on rough ground. A lever hooked to the clutch of the rear tractor extends up and over the hood to end just behind the operator's shoulder.

"The operator would put both tractors in gear, get on and release both clutches and drive," says Lowe. "Most piggybacks had an M on the front and an H on the rear. You had to be careful turning, or they could jackknife."

"Both tractors have identical transmissions with factory installed high speed 4th gears," says Lowe. "Each runs about 18 pto horsepower. Together, they could pull a four bottom plow, no problem."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Daniel Lowe, 4545 Main Street, Kankakee, Ill. 60901 (ph 815 933-4119).



When C.F. Marley was in fifth grade in the 1920's, he and his siblings drove a Model T like this one to school. It was all legal because in those days nobody had to have a driver's license.

## Grade School Kids Drove Dad's Car To School

By C.F. Marley

When I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the 1920's, I drove my Dad's Model T to school. And it was all legal.

A few years before I started taking the car to school, my brother, sister and I rode horses. However, my brother, who was three years older than me, learned to drive the Model T out on our farm. It was an older, "knock around" car since the main family car was a newer 1928 Chevy sedan.

My Dad decided that we might as well drive the car to school rather than take the two horses. In those days, nobody had to have a driver's license. If you thought you could drive, it was all perfectly legal.

Everything went smooth for a while on the 4-mile drive to school. But envy was getting the better of most of the boys in school. Retaliation was coming.

One night as we tried to pull away, just

about every boy in school who could get a hand on the back of the Model T hung on tight and held the car back. The underpowered car killed out and the boys thought it was hilarious.

The next day, they did it again. My brother, Spud, who had a temper, got mad. He would jump out, crank the engine, jump back in, and chug ahead a bit until the engine quit because of the boys hanging on. After four or five times, Spud got his revenge. Instead of going forward, he put the car in reverse. I saw boys scattering left and right. Directly beneath me, I saw the rear wheel run over someone's leg. No one got hurt. The guy who got run over got up and brushed himself off.

Nobody ever held us back after that. But some of the fun had gone out of driving to school.