

## “Deere” Walk-Behind Tiller Pulls Him Around Shows

Marvin Johnson rides around in comfort at antique tractor shows, thanks to the 2-passenger cart he attached to a David Bradley walk-behind garden tiller. Both the cart and tiller are painted Deere green and yellow.

“It gets a lot of attention wherever I go. Some people tell me they never knew Deere made a walk-behind garden tiller, and I have to tell them they didn’t,” says Johnson. “I wanted it to match my Deere tractors.”

He started with a late 1940’s David Bradley walk-behind tiller that he bought at a garage sale that had no engine. The original tires were worn out so he installed big 16-in. high “knobby” tires.

Then he built the two-passenger cart, which rides on a pair of 8-in. wheels purchased at a

flea market. The cart supports two new replacement seats for 1947 to 1952 Deere tractors. He welded together a steel frame to support the seats, adding a wooden carry-all box under the seats and a platform just ahead of it. The cart’s tongue pins onto a hitch on the garden tiller, allowing it to swivel on turns. He also added a hand-operated brake lever (the hand clutch from an old Deere tractor) that acts on both of the cart’s wheels. The lever is located just above the platform.

“It looks nice. A lot of people ask me if I can build one for them, but I’m not interested in doing that,” says Johnson. “The kind of seats I used are found on Deere’s A, B, and G models. Antique tractor shows often have flea markets or crafts, and the box eliminates



“It gets a lot of attention wherever I go,” says Marvin Johnson, who attached a two-passenger cart to a David Bradley walk-behind garden tiller.

the need to carry anything that I might buy.” Johnson, 8548 237<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E., Stacy, Minn. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marvin 55079 (ph 651 462-5388).

## “Monster Wagon” Gets Attention At Farm Shows

Bill Cates of Enon, Ohio, pulled his two kids in this home-built “monster wagon” at the recent Ohio Farm Science Review Show near London, Ohio. Bill made the sporty wagon out of truck and golf car parts.

The wagon has a 4-ft. long by 2-ft. wide box that sets about 4 ft. off the ground and rides on 12-in. high golf car wheels. It’s fitted with air bags off a semi tractor, and a homemade, 4-link suspension system. An air tank off a semi tractor mounts under the wagon. Cates can adjust the pressure in the air bags by flipping an air-operated switch.

“Reducing air pressure lowers the box and results in a softer ride. Increasing the air pressure raises the box and increases the load

capacity,” says Cates.

There’s a drawing of a semi truck on both sides of the stainless steel wagon box, which has cup holders at each corner

“I take it often to car and truck shows and also truck pulls. It draws a lot of attention,” says Cates. “I use a stainless steel T-handle to pull it. However, at shows people often ask me where the motor is located. They think something this big and heavy has to be self-powered. Pulling the wagon from a dead stop is a little rough, but once the wheels get rolling it pulls fairly easily,” says Cates, noting that at a recent 4-WD truck show he took first place in a home-built wagon contest. He gives special thanks to friends Mike Culberston and



Bill Cates made this sporty wagon out of truck and golf car parts. The 4 by 2-ft. box is fitted with air bags off a semi tractor.

Steven Cole and to others who contributed. Enon, Ohio 45323 (ph 937 864-2737 or 614 332-0036; fax 614 879-7667; www. mikes trucking.com). Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Cates, Mike’s Trucking, 6569 Sterling Drive,

## Self-Propelled Radio Flyer Wagon

“Everyone who sees it gets a real kick out of it,” says Jason Peterson of Boyceville, Wis., who added power and an imposing chassis to a Radio Flyer wagon. Powered by a 2/3 hp Briggs & Stratton engine, it rides on big 23-in. high wheels. To “drive” the wagon, all he does is squeeze the handle on the wagon’s steering tiller.

FARM SHOW spotted Peterson using the wagon last summer to pull his sons Tyler, 6, and Trent, 3, at an antique tractor show.

“It makes pulling the wagon an almost effortless job. It goes a little faster than walking speed,” says Peterson. “It all started when a friend mentioned that he was going to build a gas-powered wagon. I decided to build one, too, and started working on it last June. After many modifications, I had the final result ready just in time for an antique tractor show in August.”

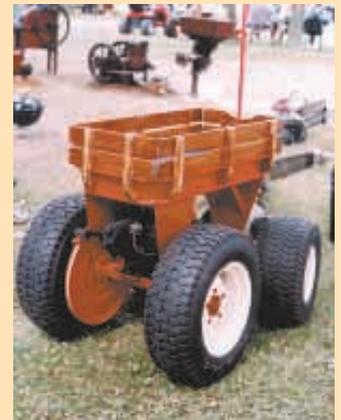
To keep the weight down, everything on the wagon is made out of aluminum except

for the axles and spindles, which are steel.”

The engine belt-drives a jack shaft via a 6-in. pulley on the engine and a 2-in. pulley on the drive. The 2-in. pulley in turn belt-drives a 16-in. pulley on the wagon’s rear drive axle. The 23-in. high wheels accommodate the large pulley. “Squeezing the handle on the steering tiller tightens the belt between the engine and jackshaft. If I want to go slower, I just feather the belt tensioner,” says Peterson.

All four wheel hubs were taken off an old Montgomery Ward tractor. The front wheels are the rear wheels off a Simplicity garden tractor. Peterson used the spindles off a Montgomery Ward garden tractor and welded a 1-in. shaft on the wheel end to accommodate the front wheels.

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“My kids really enjoy riding in it,” says Jason Peterson, who added a 2/3 hp Briggs & Stratton engine and an imposing chassis to a Radio Flyer wagon. To “drive” the wagon, all he does is squeeze the handle on the steering tiller.

## Deere Garden Tractor Converted Into “Chariot”

“My 5-year-old grandson Dylan has a lot of fun riding it in parades at local antique tractor shows,” says Gary Lindstrom, North Branch, Minn., who converted an early 1970’s Deere 112 garden tractor into a “chariot”.

He removed the engine and front axle, then cut off the tractor’s frame just ahead of the steering column, keeping the steering wheel and steering column. A tongue made from 2-in. tubing runs back to the rear axle and has a ball hitch on front of it, allowing the tongue to swivel when turning.

“It’s a lot of fun to drive in parades. At one show last summer my grand daughter Sabrina Martin drove the lead garden tractor, a Deere model 70, while Dylan rode on the chariot. When people see them coming, they often give them high fives or a big thumbs up,” notes Gary.

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Gary Lindstrom converted an early 1970’s Deere 112 garden tractor into a “chariot”.