

Reader Letters



In a recent issue you had a letter from a reader about how he burns stumps.

Back in 1938, I worked for a fellow clearing river bottom land. He would drill 2-in. dia. holes in stumps from 12 to 16 in. deep and then fill them with a mixture of salt peter and water. He would keep the holes filled until the wood could absorb no more, then wait a short while, pile cobs around the stump, light a fire, and it would burn clear down into the roots. The idea even worked on trees where the trunk had been silted in 4 to 6 ft. by flooding. Those trunks would burn right down into the roots, too.

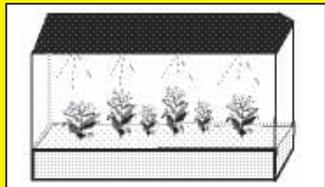
He'd haul the logs he cut back to the building areas and drill holes in the center of log to blow them apart with a mixture of potash and sugar to make "instant" firewood. **(Nyle B. Jurgensen, 3076 Valleyview Trail, Prole, Iowa 50229)**

My husband Allen Carter can do anything he puts his mind to. He recently moved



this car wash roof measuring 20 by 36 by 16 ft. tall using an old grain truck with a 16-ft. bed. He built a structure inside the truck box that held it up. He plans to build onto the sides of the roof to make a barn. **(Dava Carter)**

I grow produce as a sideline business and I start a lot of my own plants using



fish aquariums. I pick up the used tanks for a song. I put a 3-in. layer of sand and dirt in the bottom. They have built-in lights on top that really get the plants growing fast. So far I have nine of them in my basement. **(Larry Livingston, 1375 S Avenue B, Canton, Ill. 61520)**



In the November-December issue of your fine magazine (Vol. 30, No. 6), the first thing I noticed was that beautiful Super M Farmall that had been repowered with a V8 engine. I'm sending along a picture of a little brother of that Super M—a 220 hp Farmall H. The engine is a 283 cu. in. Chevy with a 4-barrel carburetor and exhaust headers. To accept the engine the frame was widened 5 in. and lengthened 5 in. The gauges and ignition were mounted on the steering column.

This 1946 H was originally a row crop tractor but with the bigger engine, it got

too scary to drive on the highway. So I put a wide front end under it, which solved the problem. **(Danno Walker, W166 N8998 Grand Ave., Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051)**

Here's a tip for anyone who wants an easy way to make "compost tea" for watering plants. Just put your kitchen waste into a Coleman 5-gal. water bucket that's designed for taking drinking water on camping trips. Add water to the waste material, and let it sit. When you need "tea", just open the spout. Very convenient. **(Herve Perreault, Willits, Cal.)**

Here's a quick and easy way to keep swallows from building their mud nests under overhangs on homes and barns. Just hang a couple of grocery store plas-



tic bags so they flap in the wind. A couple of staples will hold them in place and the birds won't go near them. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**

Here's a picture of an 8-ft. scooter I made. It has a 5 1/2 hp gas engine with an automatic clutch. A belt goes back to a jack shaft and then to the rear wheel, where I put on a pulley from a Whizzer motor-



bike. It runs and handles real nice. The frame is made out of 1-in. sq. tubing and 1-in. water pipe with 24-in. spoke bike wheels. I made the front fork with knee action and part of an old front end off a girl's bike. The seat came from an old scooter. **(Hiram Wilson, 315 Bonnaridge Dr., Hermitage, Tenn. 37076 ph 615 883-1177).**

I converted a 3-pt. mounted boom pole into an 8-ft. long model that lets me hook up to almost anything without getting off the tractor. The boom is equipped with a chain hook and also a 2 5/16-in. ball at one end, and a 2-in. ball that mounts on



an adjustable length boom located under the pole. The chain has a couple of J-hooks on it, which I use to lift equipment. I use the 2 5/16-in. ball on top of the pole to move gooseneck trailers, and the 2-in. ball to move tag-along trailers.

The pole was originally 6 1/2 ft. long and was equipped with a small metal loop to hook a chain into. I cut 2 ft. off the pole. Then I slid a length of larger diameter heavy tubing over the original tubing and welded it on.

The adjustable length boom that supports the 2-in. ball is made from 1 1/2-in. dia. tubing that rides over 1 1/4-in. tubing, with holes drilled in both pieces to drop a pin into. **(Lamar Reynolds, Hogansville, Ga. ph 706 637-6037)**

I made my own low cost 3-pt. mounted grader blade. I borrowed lengths of heavy angle iron from an old hay basket and clamped it onto the underside of my 3-pt. mounted bale fork. The blade works



great for leveling yards and driveways.

I've found that a short length of pvc pipe makes a good corner post insulator for electric fence wire. **(Donley Aisenbrey, 28348 423rd Ave., Olivet, S. Dak. 57052)**

I came up with a low-cost calf sled by building a crate out of old broken hockey sticks and mounting it inside a plastic toboggan. The crate has a plywood bottom so the calf's weight holds the crate in place on the sled. There's also a sheet of plywood on the front end. I pull the sled either by hand or behind my ATV. The back and sides of the crate are open so the cow can always see her calf and will follow behind.

The crate measures 4 ft. long, 2 ft. wide, and 2 1/2 ft. tall. It's lightweight and easy to clean. I bolted the hockey sticks together. **(Robert Hougham, Y Coulee Ranch, P.O. Box 144, Frenchman Butte, Sask., Canada S0M 0W0 ph 306 344-4911)**

I mounted homemade steel forks on my loader bucket and use them to move utility poles and trees after they've been cut down. Makes it easy to lift the trees so I can trim them.

If I want I can place a 4 by 8-ft. pallet with a closed plywood top over the forks, and loosely chain it to the bucket so that I can dump the load without the pallet



sliding off the forks. Makes a nice carrier for leaves and brush.

I use the same pallet to help get rid of beaver dams on my property. I rip out part of the dam by hand, then place the material on the pallet and dump it somewhere. The beavers won't reuse any material that's already pulled out and will eventually move on.

I used old school bus tires to make a pair of easy-to-build stairways to the top of a steep hill. I used a bumper jack to hold the beads apart and then filled the tires with sand. It took a 5-gal. pail of sand



to fill each tire. The tires make it easier for workers to access the pole if they need to replace a fuse or transformer, etc.

To hold the soil on the rest of the hill, I used discarded metal display shelving that's supported by pipe railings driven into the ground.

My Kubota L3710 tractor doesn't come with a toolbox. To solve the problem I mounted a mailbox on back of one side of the tractor. It worked so good that I bought another mailbox and mounted it on the other side. Each mailbox measures 19 in. long by 6 in. wide by 8 1/2 in. high and sets in a strap iron "saddle". **(Charles Steigmeyer, 11093 N Mac Rd., Irons, Mich. 49644 ph 231 266-5916)**

I made this 2-wheeled "parade cart" just for fun. It bobs up and down and is a real crowd pleaser. The cart rides on a pair of 24-in. truck wheels and is painted white. The seat, big enough for two adults or three kids, bobs 18 in. up and down as the rig moves along due to an offset axle that rotates inside a larger pipe.

In parades, it's amusing to watch men run alongside it and lean over and look under it, trying to figure out how it works. It rides so easy you can't believe it, yet some people won't ride in it because they



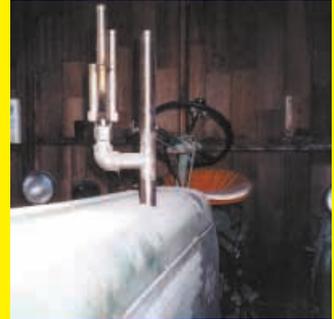
think they might get sick. We use a restored Oliver 550 tractor to pull it. **(Robert Barth, 824 W. 5th St., Minonk, Ill. 61760 ph 309 432-2450)**

"To provide extra leverage for opening the gates on my gravity wagons, I made my own 'booster pipe' by welding a pair of L-shaped metal hooks onto a 4-ft. length of 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe. The hooks latch onto a metal bar inside the wheel that's used



to raise and lower the wagon's slide gate. If the wheel still turns hard, an 18-in. long extender pipe can be added.

"Just for fun I mounted an old 'triple pipe' steamboat whistle on the hood of my Oliver 60 tractor. The whistle came off an old Model T gravel truck. To mount it I removed the tractor's muffler and slipped the whistle over the exhaust pipe. A metal rod runs from a valve on the



whistle back to the steering wheel. Pulling on the rod forces the exhaust air through the triple pipe to make it whistle. It makes a pretty shrill sound that you can't miss. People really get a kick out of it. **(Carroll Meimann, 66717 160th St., McCallsburg, Iowa 50154 ph 515 434-2583)**