



For her husband Bill's 70th birthday, Vera Harrill commissioned this 7 by 50-ft. mural on one side of their barn.

Wife Gives Husband Barn Mural

Looking for something different to get your spouse for a special day? How about a mural?

That's what Vera Harrill did for her husband Bill's 70th birthday, when she commissioned a 7 by 50-ft. mural on the south side of their barn. As a hobby artist, Harrill knew professional muralists, Linda Spencer and Roberto Regalado, a married couple who paint together through their business Laughingwell Studio (www.laughingwellstudio.com).

The artists spent a lot of time with the Harrills before putting any paint on the wall.

"They took photos of the farm and asked Bill what he wanted," Harrill says. Bill picked out his favorite Oliver tractor, dogs Blue and Buster, and some of the animals the Harrills raise on their 260-acre Lebanon, Mo., farm.

It took the artists a few days to paint in the sky and grass and fill in the details, in-

cluding Bill driving his Oliver tractor. They spent about as much time doing prep work, Harrill notes figuring out what to paint and priming the wall.

Harrill notes she got a very good deal at \$3,000 for the mural. Prices will vary in different regions.

Murals don't have to be huge, Harrill points out. It can just be a small one around a shed door or on the side of a chicken house. The picture can be of whatever the person enjoys: a quilt pattern for a quilter; cows for a dairyman.

And if you want something permanent, the side of a barn makes a good canvas.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill and Vera Harrill, 23488 Highway N, Lebanon, Mo. 65536 (ph 417 588-3768; www.lebanonartguild.org; vharrill@embarqmail.com).



David Hilty's log splitter can handle wood up to 30 in. in dia. without having to put it through the machine twice.

Powerful Machine Splits Wood Six Ways

David Hilty's 6,800-lb. wood splitter means business. It splits a log in six pieces, cycling in just 8 seconds thanks to its 80 hp, 4-cyl. turbo Cummins diesel engine.

"With an operator and two laborers, it's possible to split more than four cords per hour, and it can handle wood up to 30 inches in diameter without having to put it through the machine twice," Hilty says.

The splitter is an upgrade from a 3,500-lb. model that he built 30 years ago. It had a 23 hp, 4-cyl. Deutz diesel engine and split wood into five pieces with an 11-second cycle time.

The splitter is designed to be towed by a ball hitch behind Hilty's pickup. He sometimes takes it to steam and tractor shows to be operated and displayed. Hilty says spec-

tators are impressed by the speed of the machine and its power to split large blocks.

A waist-high hydraulic table lift takes the work out of handling big chunks. A 6-in. cyl. with a 4-in. rod powered by a 40 gpm hydraulic pump rams the wood into the 1 1/4-in. thick blades of the 20-in. dia. splitting wedge. After it's split, the wood falls behind the splitter, which is 6 1/2 ft. wide by 11 ft. long.

Hilty says the splitter cost between \$12,000 and \$14,000.

"I don't even burn wood," he laughs, but he plans to sell wood, which will pay for coal for his furnace.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Hilty, 594 Rockville Rd., Spring Grove, Penn. 17362 (ph 717 225-7242).

Gooseneck Cushion Ball

"Imagine running on concrete with metal shoes on. That's what happens when you tow a gooseneck trailer with a solid steel hook up. Our new Shocker Cushion Ball is like putting on a pair of soft running shoes. It takes the bang, clang and much of the fatigue out of pulling a gooseneck trailer," says Bob Sagen of Shockerhitch about his latest new hitch.

Sagen is also manufacturer of the popular "Air Shocker" hitches fitted with adjustable air bags that take the jerks out of towing. His premier air shocker gooseneck hitch sells for \$599 and has a 20,000-lb. towing capacity. In contrast, the new Shocker Cushion Ball hitch sells for just \$119.95 plus S&H.

The new gooseneck ball has a polyurethane bump cushion sandwiched between two steel plates. When the tongue weight of the trailer is added, the polyurethane compresses, taking the weight. "The polyurethane serves as a punching bag, absorbing road shock as you go," notes Sagen.



New Shocker Cushion Ball has a poly bump cushion sandwiched between two steel plates to make towing smoother.

He says the Shocker Cushion Ball helps protect your trailer from fatigue and reduces noise. The hitch ball assembly is designed to drop into a B&W gooseneck socket.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Shockerhitch, Inc., P.O. Box 172, Arthur, N. Dak. 58006 (ph 877 967-8577; www.shockerhitch.com).

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