

Reader Letters



A story in your last issue on how Noel Hicks of Scottville, Ill., motorized an old grinding wheel really caught my eye. When I was 12 years old, we motorized a wheel on our farm, replacing the slow speed foot paddles it came with. One day, while sharpening something, the big grindstone broke apart and pieces went flying. Fortunately, I was bent over to the side or it would have killed or badly injured me. I've since realized those stones are meant to spin at slow speed. Don't put a high speed motor on them. **(Budd Burthwick, Bovey, Minn.)**

Here's a photo of a "Truk-Tor" my husband, Gene, built. He used an



old Chevy 4-WD pickup and a Deere front-end loader. It has an automatic transmission, power steering, and power brakes, which is a big improvement from the Oliver tractor he was driving before. It's much easier for him to steer now that he's 72 years old. **(Connie Frederick, Troy, Mont., ph 406 295-9277)**

Years ago I was at a local quarry and saw that only the top few inches of a large pile of agricultural limestone was wet after a week of heavy rain. I had a basement with water problems so I put some of the limestone around the foundation, going 6 to 8 in. up on the basement wall and sloping away 10 to 12 in. from the house. Rainwater will not penetrate the limestone so water flows away from the foundation. Of course, the ground must have some slope away from the building. I've used this idea on several rental properties and it's been very successful. **(Ronald Wendt, RR #1, Box 63, Mozier, Ill. 62070, ph 618 232-1223)**



I mounted wheels and a handle on a magnet that came off an old Letz feed grinder. It's a very strong magnet and works great to pick up nails and other metal parts. **(Floyd Woznick, Bridgeport, Neb.)**



I was out on a farm recently and spotted this clever idea on a small trailer that the

farmer pulls behind an ATV. It has rear fenders made from old tires cut in half with the outside sidewall cut away. They're bolted to the side of the trailer and are cheap and nearly indestructible. **(Andy Sewell, England; classiccombines@aol.co.uk)**

I was interested in the article in your last issue on how to "auctioneer". It reminded me of a story my husband, a real auctioneer, used to tell. He went to auctioneer school and said they gave him 7 marbles to put in his mouth and then wanted him to practice the auctioneer's chant. As he got better he was to spit out a marble. By the time he lost all his marbles, he was a full-fledged auctioneer! **(Mrs. Grover Calton, Fortuna, Mo.)**

Anyone who runs a posthole auger knows it's a hassle to store it and hook up. I came up with a nifty method inside my dirt floor machine shop. I just drill a hole in one corner of the shop and drop the auger in the hole and unhook. It's always there and makes it easy to hook up again. **(Earl Sommerhouser, Mulvane, Kan.)**

I like poached eggs but I don't like the way they float all over the pan. I made it easier by cutting the top and bottom out of a can of tuna. The open-ended circle is just the right size for poaching eggs. Just set it into a pan of water and crack the egg into it. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**

Here's a picture of a 1949 David Bradley garden tractor that I restored and dressed



up a bit. The colors are all original. I used wheels off a Ford pickup with chrome center caps. The tires are 10-in. Hoosier race tires off my race car. The engine is the original 1 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton. I removed the muffler and run chrome pipe up either side of the hood. I finished it off with some flames on the hood. I also fixed up a small matching trailer to pull behind. If anyone has any attachments for this tractor I'd be interested in hearing from you. **(Lanny Fry, 401 Kings Loop, Kalispell, Mont. 59901)**



After you ran the article on my pto-powered belt pulley in your last issue, I got a letter from Wayne Beggs, Lincolnton, Georgia, with a picture of a Ford belt pulley. He had a 3-pt. mount for his tractor, and uses a short pto shaft to connect to the input side of the pulley. He set this up 20 years ago to power an old gristmill. **(Warren Farley, Jackson, Ohio)**



A local man in his 70's came up with this simple running board-mounted "swivel step", which makes it easier and safer to get into a pickup cab. Made from diamond plate steel, the step measures 4 by 6 in. It swivels inward, when not in use, on a nutted bolt that extends through the step and into a hole drilled into the running board. **(Rex Gogerty, 33475 K. Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122, ph 641 487-7617)**

My grandchildren love riding with me in parades on my Deere 4020 tractor, thanks to a pair of seats I mounted above



the tractor fenders. Each seat sets on top of a telescoping metal pipe, so by pulling a pin I can adjust the seat up or down and also rotate it. When I use the tractor for field work I remove the seats from metal brackets bolted onto the fenders.

The seats are made from pine board covered with glued-on armaflex, making them nice and soft. Each seat has a safety belt and holes for the rider's legs to go through. The photo shows my 4 and 6-year-old granddaughters. At parades the crowds think the girls are pretty special, especially whenever the girls start waving to them. **(Gary Emery, 8680 W. 8 Rd., Mesick, Mich. 49668 ph 231 885-1902)**



My husband Merle and two other retired friends, Eddie Turner and Jim Hunt, built this stagecoach for a local cowboy church. It's used in parades and church functions. Makes quite an impression on anyone who sees it. **(Kay Kellogg, 219 Flora Dr., Spring Creek, Nevada 89815)**



The owner of our local scrap yard lets me dig through piles of stuff any time I want. Over the years I've made a bunch of "yard art". People really get a kick out of them, including my giant,



8-legged "backyard spider", a giant rat, and an attractive flower planter made out of a hand-cranked cream separator. **(Doug Schiller, 345 Beister Drive, Belvidere, Ill. 61008, ph 815 979-4591; flagcaddie@gmail.com)**



My husband Charles made this giant "watering can" that sets in a small field where I like to grow wildflowers. It's built from a 55-gal. barrel that's painted Ford blue, with Allis Chalmers orange polka



dots. Charles also made 12 to 15-ft. tall flowers by welding old 4-ft. dia. wheel rake heads to lengths of pipe set in concrete. One of the flowers is double headed. We painted the rake wheels bright yellow, except for copper in the center portion. **(Barbara Kribbs, 18230 N. Hwy. 124, Centralia, Mo. 65240, ph 573 682-3980 or 573 819-9027; cbkribbs@centurytel.net)**



I built this sturdy swing from old telephone spools. I used one spool for the top half of each side and cut another in half for the bottom, and welded them together. I used a 2-in. pipe across the top with brackets on it for the chains to hook onto, and screw-in anchors to hold the swing to the ground.

Some of the spools have wood spacers and some have steel spacers. I use the steel spacers for braces and cut the wooden spacers in half for the seats of the swings.

I got the idea because I used to make hay feeders with old telephone spools. Getting the legs straight was the hardest part.



I also made a "whirly bird" to mount on my old Farmall using old fixtures I got from a factory. It's quite the conversation piece when we go on tractor rides. **(Lloyd Sorlien, 28482 424th Ave., Scotland, S. Dak. 57059, lgsorlien@svtv.com)**