

Hand-Pumped Cart Also Pulled By Dog

Hand-pumped rail cars inspired Ken Grazier's 4-wheel "mail getter" cart that he also lets his big dog pull.

A telescoping pole lets his dog pull from the side of the cart. It connects to a harness at the front of the cart. The operator steers with his feet.

The split axle cart is fitted with a homemade "eccentric" drive on one side that Grazier powers by pumping on a T-handle, just like a real rail car. "With each full stroke of the T handle, I go 7 ft. forward," says Grazier.

"I often use the cart to go get my mail. We have a long driveway that sometimes gets icy.

I had been walking to the mailbox and using a pointed stick to make sure I didn't slip on the ice, but riding my cart is a lot safer. It's quite comfortable to operate and has a light, horn, rear view mirror, and rear reflectors."

Grazier used 1/4-in. thick steel plate and a brass bearing off an old washing machine to build the eccentric. The pole that connects the dog to the cart was made from a telescoping TV antenna.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Grazier, P.O. Box 1746, Havre, Mont. 59501 (ph 406 265-7670).



Split axle cart is fitted with a homemade "eccentric" drive on one side that's powered by pumping on a T-handle. A big dog can also be used to pull the cart.

"Giraffe" Lawn Sprinkler Covers A 110-Ft. Circle

"Just for kicks I came up with this 9-ft. tall giraffe sprinkler that hooks up to an ordinary garden hose. I use it to water my 1 1/2-acre yard. It rides on a 4-wheeled cart and covers a 110-ft. dia. circle at a time," says Ken Grazier, Havre, Mont.

The giraffe's frame is made from metal pipe and is covered with tin. A metal hose runs up the giraffe's body to a sprinkler mounted on top of its head.

The giraffe is light enough that Grazier can easily pull it by hand. The tail is welded to the rear axle but is free to swivel back and forth where it attaches to the animal's rear. The back legs swing freely at the hips.

"It's kind of a weird setup but it works, and it draws a lot of attention," says Grazier. "It works better than a traveling sprinkler because it doesn't get stuck like they often do, and because it covers a much wider area. In fact, it'll replace at least two tractor sprinklers. I leave it in one place for 2 to 3 hrs. at a time before I move it again."

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9-ft. tall giraffe sprinkler rides on a 4-wheeled cart and hooks up to an ordinary garden hose.



Ervin Schulze built this "mini" Deere 8400 tracked tractor by converting a Deere 140 garden tractor. "It looks realistic and drives like the real thing," he says.

Mini 8400 Tracked Tractor Works Like The Real Thing

"It looks and works pretty much like a real Deere 8400," says Ervin Schulze, Hampton, Neb., about the "mini" Deere tracked tractor he built by converting a Deere 140 garden tractor.

The mini tractor is equipped with rubber tracks that measure 7 1/2 wide and 5 ft. long. They were made by modifying the tracks off an old Deere 400 snowmobile.

"I call it my Deere 8400 1/2 T. It took a lot of work to build, but it looks realistic and drives like the real thing," says Schulze.

He removed the garden tractor's wheels and replaced them with the homemade track drive, with help from Neil Andreason of Jensen Mfg. in Hampton, Neb. The snowmobile tracks were originally 15 in.

wide. He cut them in half.

He welded metal rods across the drive wheels for the track lugs to catch on to. However, there wasn't enough friction so the lugs weren't catching. He solved the problem by having someone spray pickup bedliner material on the wheels to increase the friction.

He also removed the tractor's steering wheel and installed a pair of levers, which are used to operate the brakes that steer the tractor. "The snowmobile tracks don't have real deep lugs so it doesn't turn real good on grass, but it turns great on pavement and gravel," says Schulze.

He also converted a Deere 110 garden tractor to look like a Deere 4020. He replaced the garden tractor's original front wheels and



"Gun" walking canes are made entirely out of wood. "No two are alike, because I don't use patterns or blueprints," says inventor James Amnott.

Walking Canes Look Like Guns

"A lot of people think they're real guns and can't believe they're made entirely out of wood," says James Amnott, Medfield, Mass., about his "gun" walking canes.

He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of canes made to look like a Colt Western Peacemaker, a model 1911 Army 45 automatic pistol, and a replica of an 18th century flintlock. The canes are made completely out of wood, except for a few metal fasteners or screws, which are used to secure the barrel or provide decorations.

"They're lightweight, sturdy, comfortable and make great conversation pieces," says Amnott. "They're put together with glue and screws. No two are alike, because I don't use patterns or blueprints."

The gun stocks are made of 1/4-in. plywood of various types glued together, "which provides great strength without the weak points of a single piece of wood." Some stocks have decorative inlays in them. Stock designs and shapes vary. The barrel, flintlock, trigger guard, ramrod tip and ramrod guides are painted in metallic colors. The stocks are stained to look old, and the entire cane is completed with multiple layers of a hard, clear finish.

Amnott can also make canes featuring the tools of trades people, the logos of sports teams, or something emblematic of other professions or interests. "Almost any idea can be incorporated into these canes," he says.

It takes quite a while to make a gun cane, says Amnott. "I cut out each piece roughly on a bandsaw and glue the pieces together. To shape all the parts I use belt sanders, drills, chisels, small cutting tools, rasps and sandpaper."

Amnott came up with the idea when his knee started going bad. "Instead of using a conventional cane and having people feel sorry for me, I thought I'd make something more interesting to divert their attention. People began asking if they could buy one, and that's how my business began."

Amnott sells his walking canes for \$300 to \$500. When ordered, the canes are cut to the desired length, fitted with a rubber tip, and shipped free anywhere in the U.S. Custom designs are quoted on request. The canes can be viewed at www.GunCanesandMore.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James Amnott, 112 Harding St., Medfield, Mass. 02052 (ph 508 359-6467; aamnott@aol.com).

axle with new "pedestal-style" wheels, and he installed 15-in. tall, 10-in. wide lugged wheels on back. He also lowered the tractor's rear axle and transmission 2 in. in order to make room for the bigger wheels.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ervin Schulze, 1703 North X Rd., Hampton, Neb. 68843 (ph 402 725-3365; ervdischulze@hamilton.net).