Water for the 5-sided "luxury outhouse" is supplied by a windmill (in background).

FOR USE DURING SUMMER GATHERINGS

Farm Couple Builds "Pentagon" Outhouse

Gene and Patricia Traxler, Monomonie, Wis., built a 5-sided "luxury outhouse" on the edge of their yard - complete with flush toilet and stained glass windows - so friends and family at summer gatherings wouldn't have to use the bathroom in the house.

"We chose the 5-sided design so we could use standard 4 by 8-ft. panels of siding material. We preconstructed each side during the winter in a garage. Two sides have stained-glass windows designed by Patricia and two have louvered windows to allow for ventilation. The door is on the fifth side and is fitted with a stained-glass window with a crescent moon."

The outhouse was built over a precast concrete septic tank with fittings for a flush toilet, sink, and air vent. Water is supplied by a windmill on a hill behind the outhouse. Electricity powers a compact 2-gal. water heater and stained-glass ceiling light. There's also a built-in soap dispenser, medicine cabinet, magazine rack, shelves on two sides, and an easy-to-clean vinyl floor. There's even a stereo boom box.

The outhouse sits on the site of a 100-year old smokehouse. Some of its bricks are inlaid in the outhouse's concrete step.

Outhouse is complete with flush toilet, magazine rack, and vinyl floor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Traxler, Rt. 6, Box 80, Menomonie, Wis. 54751 (ph 715 235-2469).

Built-From-Scratch Electric Car

"After reading about many exciting and creative innovations accomplished by FARM SHOW readers, I thought you'd be interested in this convertible electric car I designed and built myself, piece by piece, from the ground up," says Spurgeon Kimmel, Wellsville, Penn.

"The three 12-volt batteries driving this car are controlled by a solid-state controller. Another 12-volt battery is used for lights, horns, and accessories. Two of the batteries mount in front of the car and two at the rear for better weight distribution. The car has a range of about 50 miles between charges. It passed our state vehicle inspection requirements so it's licensed for legal driving on the highway. It goes up to 35 mph.

"A 4 1/2 hp DC series-wound motor is mounted at the rear of the car. A belt-driven potentiometer transfers current from the motor to the differential. The motor also belt-drives a torque variator that I designed to keep the motor from overloading on hills. The torque variator keeps a uniform load on the motor by reducing the car's speed going uphill. I activate it whenever I come to a hill by pulling a lever."

The car's frame and axles came off an old 1951 Crosley station wagon. "I made an aluminum rib cage for the body and put chicken wire over it, then added two layers of fiberglass and resin. "I've learned a lot from this experiment and already have a new and improved version on the drawing board."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Spurgeon E. Kimmel, 40 York St., Wellsville, Penn. 17365 (ph 717 432-3117).

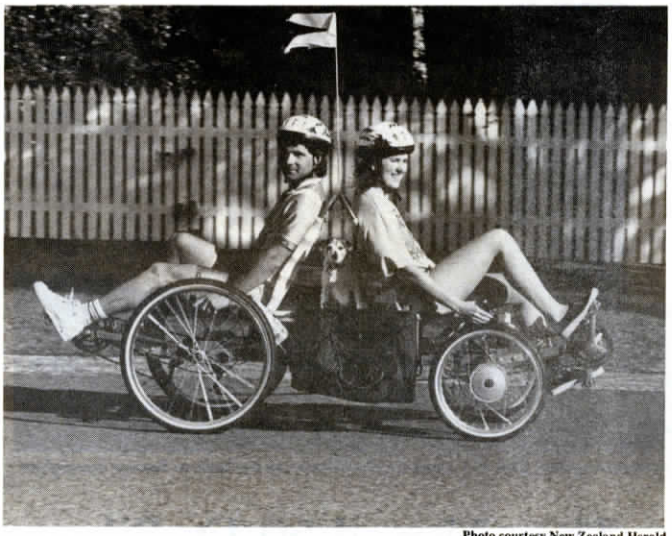


Photo courtesy New Zealand Herald

Back-to-back 4-wheeled Quadcycle has 20-in. front wheels and 26-in. rear wheels. Front wheels have motorcycle hub brakes and are steered by underseat handlebars.

"TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO CONVENTIONALLY-DESIGNED BIKES", SAYS INVENTOR

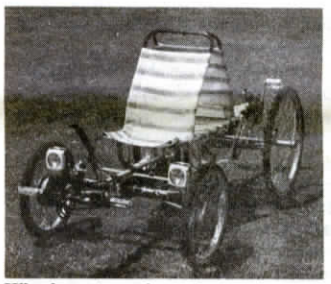
First-Of-Its-Kind Back-To-Back Bike

After Tony Woodroffe hurt his back several years ago, the biking enthusiast knew that if he was ever going to keep up his love of biking he was going to have to come up with a new design. Fortunately, the New Zealand native is a design engineer so he had the skills to come up with what he needed.

His new back-to-back 4-wheeled Quadcycle has two independent sets of 21-speed indexed drives to the 26-in. rear wheels. The front rider drives the right wheel and the rear rider drives the left wheel through a gear that reverses rotation onto the axle. The 20-in. front wheels are equipped with motorcycle hub brakes and are steered by underseat handlebars.

Between the seats are racks and slings for carrying luggage. Wheels, seats and crank extensions can all be easily removed for transport or shipping. "It's safer, more comfortable, stronger, and much easier to operate than a conventional bike," says Woodroofe about his 4-wheel design.

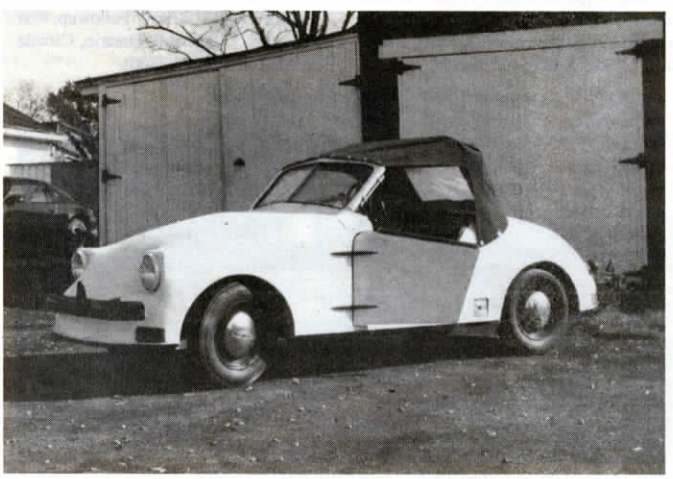
Woodroofe has been on something of a campaign to eliminate conventional bikes, which were first designed 108 years ago, and switch to a recumbent bike, which he says makes much more sense.



Wheels, seats, and crank extensions can be removed for transport or shipping.

The Quadcycle sells for about $2,850 (U.S.). He also has other bicycle designs and will send information to anyone who sends $2 cash to cover mailing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tony Woodroofe, Ardmore PDC, Pvt Bag 14, Papakura, Auckland, New Zealand (ph 09 2980228).



Car is powered by three 12-volt batteries controlled by a solid-state controller.