



Photos Wayne Kolberg

A 15-ft. long covered walkway connects the Scotts' silo addition with the main house.

FIVE ROOMS HOUSED IN 40-FT. STRUCTURE

Concrete Silo Became Part Of Their Home

When a rural Minnesota couple put up a new home, they decided to build it around an unused 40-ft. silo. The spacious 12-ft. dia. silo now houses five rooms and there's a three-season observatory on top.

The two-bedroom house built by Heidi and Homer Scott connects to the silo through a 15-ft. long hallway. The bottom floor of the silo, which serves as a laundry/utility room, has an 8-ft. high earthen berm around it.

The ceilings in the four main rooms are 8 ft. high. Walls are finished with plaster or paneling.

Above the bottom floor laundry room is the Scotts' office. Above that are two bedrooms, one for each of the Scotts' daughters, Inga, 17, and Bailey, 10.

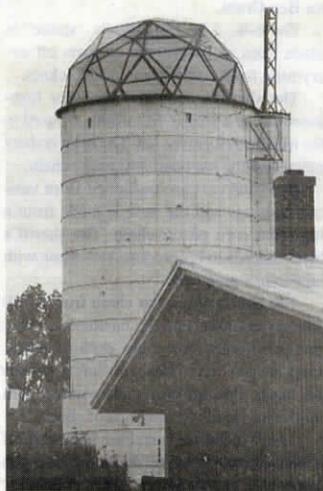
Heat is provided by electric wall furnaces. There are lights in the ceilings and walls, and each room has one 3 1/2-ft. by 1 1/2-ft. window cut into the side of the silo.

A ladder with wide steps runs up the center of the silo. Each section can be raised up so all floor space is usable.

The hardest part of converting the silo into living space was building the glass geodesic dome for the observatory on top, Heidi says.

"It only took Homer about two weeks to build it, but he had a pipe cleaner model on the kitchen table that he fiddled with for about a year while he was designing it," she says.

The wall supporting the 10-ft. high dome is about waist high and is fitted with custom-cut single pane triangular glass panels. It was constructed on the ground and the Scotts hired a crane to lift it to the top of



The top floor of silo addition is an observatory deck.

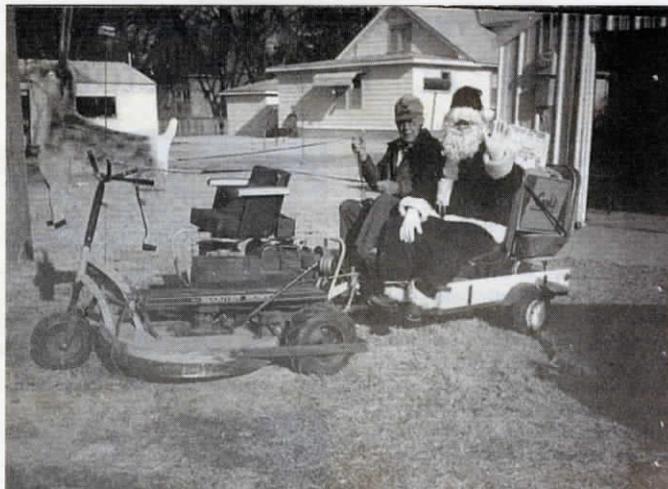
the silo.

A wooden bench the circumference of the inner wall attaches to the wall for star or landscape-gazing spring, summer and fall. The observatory is seldom used during winter because of moisture condensation on the glass, Scott says.

Completing the silo is a parabolic TV antenna on the chute.

The Scotts plan to stucco over the exterior of the silo so they won't have to paint it every few years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heidi and Homer Scott, R.R. 1, Box 7, Dunnell, Minn. 56127 (ph 507 695-2941).



'Scooter' mower hitches to two-wheel trailer to pull Santa and his gifts.

"RUDOLPH" IS STEERED FROM TRAILER

Riding Mower Pulls Santa Claus's "Sleigh"

"I'm a member of our booster club and we wanted to be able to drive Santa Claus downtown to deliver his treats to the kids," says Arthur Witt, Claflin, Kan., who mounted a wooden reindeer on the steering handles of his 'Scooter' riding mower and hitched a 2-wheeled trailer behind it for Santa, who "drives" Rudolph with a pair of reins.

Witt tied a line onto each of the mower's

handles and moved the hydrostatic drive foot controls to the back of the mower, allowing him to control the mower's forward and backward direction with his foot while riding on the trailer and guiding Rudolph with the lines at the same time.

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Kids love the electric rocking horse Desjardins built out of a 45-gal. plastic drum.

ROCKS BACK AND FORTH BY ITSELF

"Motorized" Rocking Horse

"Kids love it and will ride non-stop for hours," says Denis Desjardins, Alcouve, Quebec, about the motorized rocking horse he made for his children out of a 45-gal. plastic barrel.

The barrel mounts on a pair of automotive coil springs, anchored to a large steel plate on the ground. A pair of 1/2-in. thick round steel plates at the top of the springs fasten to the bottom of the barrel. A 10-in. pulley mounts under the barrel. A steel rod that's anchored to the base unit fastens to one side of the pulley. As the belt-driven pulley turns, the rod pulls the horse up and down.

"It moves forward and backward like the push arms on a train wheel," says Desjardins. "Two kids can ride it back to back. The front rider hangs onto a foam-covered handle salvaged from an old lawn mower and the back rider hangs onto the horse's tail. I used 3/4-in. thick plywood to make both the head and tail. The plastic barrel is soft which makes it comfortable to ride."

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