



Ernst travels with a portable Wood Mizer band saw. He charges 13 to 15 cents per board ft. to cut up trees on location.

## HE ONCE TURNED A PILE OF TELEPHONE POLES INTO A BARN Custom “Lumber Maker” Travels From Farm To Farm

Carroll Ernst is a custom “lumber maker” who travels from farm to farm with his portable sawmill, turning trees into dimension lumber for building barns, garages, sheds and even houses. He’s kept himself fully employed at the job for the past 9 years.

The most unusual job he ever did was to saw up a pile of salvaged telephone poles for a farmer who used the wood as framing for a pole barn. Ernst saved the poles, cutting some up into 2 by 4’s and 2 by 6’s for use as framing.

“Utility poles work well because they’re so dry. Real nice to work with,” says Ernst.

Normally, a farmer hires Ernst to saw up trees cut down on his own farm. Ernst uses his portable Wood Mizer band saw. The charge is 13 to 15 cents per board foot, depending on the type of wood.

He saws the lumber green and stacks it for drying. A drying fan that can be used to speed the process. Customers like the way the portable saw’s thin band-type blade keeps waste to a minimum, and the fact that the wood comes out so much smoother than wood cut with a large circular blade.

Ernst says some of his customers are cutting wood for a specific building project.



Framing for this farm building was sawed by Ernst from a farmer’s trees.

Others like to cut up trees in the off season and keep the lumber on hand for use as needed. They like not having to haul the logs to a sawmill for cutting.

Wood sawing is generally a two-man job. Usually, the farmer who Ernst is working for acts as his helper.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carroll Ernst, Rt. 1, Box 252, Farina, Ill. 62838.



Stone shows off a few of the 13 scale-model barns he’s built in the past 2 1/2 years.

“IT’S A WAY TO PRESERVE THEIR BEAUTY BEFORE THEY DISAPPEAR”

## He Builds “Lifelike” Scale Model Barns

Harold Stone has found a way to preserve the beauty of old barns in southeastern Wisconsin - he builds scale models of them with as much attention to detail as possible.

So far he has built 13 scale-model barns, patterning them after ones that are still standing. He takes photos of the barns and then builds his models on a scale of 1/4 in. to 1 ft., the same scale used for making miniature railroad trains.

“A lot of pretty barns are falling to the wayside. I hate to see it happen because they’re much more interesting than today’s fiberglass or aluminum ones,” says Stone. “Most of the barns I use as subjects are in rough shape. They may be weathered to the point where there’s virtually no paint left on them, or they may have boards coming loose or windows broken. However, they’re still a part of our rural history and culture and deserve to be remembered as they were when they were young. I usually try to build my models with a weathered appearance but without any sign of disrepair or neglect. I don’t want them to look like they were just built, but I do want them to look like the owner cared about them.

“One time I displayed my collection at a local library. Following the exhibit I got a phone call from a woman who said that she had recognized one of the barns as belonging to the farm where she had grown up.

Her grandfather built the barn in the 1800’s. She had me make a copy of it for her home.”

Stone started making scale model barns 2 1/2 years ago after reading “Barns of Wisconsin” by Jerry Apps, a Wisconsin preservationist.

He paints the barns either red or grey. To make the siding for red barns he fashions scale model planks (1/32-in. thick) out of old patio furniture. Siding on the grey barns is made from driftwood that he finds along the beach near his home on Lake Michigan. The lower level on many of the barns is made from concrete, brick, or field stone. To simulate concrete, he uses field stone and covers it with patching plaster and paint to give a weathered look. To simulate brick he uses model railroad stonework (a vinyl material). Roofs are made from sandpaper and have lightning rods made from stick pins with tiny beads on top. Aquarium gravel can be used to accent the base around the barns. One barn even has tiny flower boxes under its windows.

Stone has also made scale models of an old Cargill grain elevator, as well as the Red Wing, Minn., railroad depot, for a friend.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold C. Stone, 4932 N. Marlborough Dr., Milwaukee, Wis. 53217 (ph 414 332-5119).



From a distance, parade float gives the impression of a galloping horse.

## “Galloping” 8-Rider Horse Popular At Parades

Parade-goers in Raymond, Ill., and surrounding towns, get a kick out of this galloping horse float used by a local dance group to promote their act.

Mounted on top of a flatbed wagon, the 8-rider “horse” actually appears to gallop as it’s pulled down the street by a pickup. Here’s how it works:

The horse consists of a carpet-covered telephone pole fitted with eight saddles. A horse head is fitted to the front end.

The front end of the horse is anchored in place by a pivoting cross shaft that holds

it in one place but allows it to pivot up and down. The back end of the horse is raised and lowered in a gentle rhythm by a chain-drive eccentric cam. From a distance, it gives it the galloping action of a real live horse.

The Rusty Spur Dancers have taken the innovative float to several community gatherings where it is often a prize winner.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Rosenthal, Rt. 1, Box 63, Raymond, Ill. 62560 (ph 217 229-3154).

## Portable Goose Blind Doubles As Decoy

This easy-to-build portable goose blind doubles as a decoy for hunting geese in farm fields.

Bob Lamb, Greenfield, Ill., built it by making a grillwork out of light weight steel rod, and then covering it with black cloth. Once it’s set up in a field, he can move it around by standing up and walking it.

He puts a small portable gas heater inside and there’s a comfortable seat. Even though it’s big, geese think it is another goose and they come on in.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Lamb, 516 South Main, Greenfield, Ill. 62044 (ph 217 368-2131).



Even though it’s big, geese think Lamb’s goose blind is another goose.