

## FARMER "BATTLES" WET HARVEST CONDITIONS WITH SENSE OF HUMOR

# Combine 'Lifeboat' Helps Harvest Wet Fields

By Penny Harrison

Unionville farmer Barry Hedley says he's seen wet harvests before, but he's never seen anything like the mess he battled last year. He decided he just had to find some humor in it.

"Aw, it was such a poor year, I just thought that if we could laugh about it somehow, it'd be easier on all of us," he says with a grin.

Hedley's solution was to strap an aluminum rowboat on the side of his combine and head for the corn field, logging his way through mud and

water that was sometimes hub high on the combine.

"There were places out there where I could have let the boat off and she'd have floated," he says. "I even had to go around a muskrat's house — right out in the middle of the cornfield! I'd never seen that before!"

Hedley says the comments and laughs he's gleaned from neighboring farmers and passersby have been well worth the 15 minutes it took for him



Photo courtesy The Michigan Farmer

Barry Hedley spoofed his neighbors with this combine boat and life jacket.

and a friend to strap the fishing boat on the side of the combine. As a final touch, he hung a life jacket next to the cab door, "just in case I need it."

"The only thing missing," he says,

"was a set of downriggers. Then I could've trolled and picked corn at the same time."

Reprinted with permission from the Michigan Farmer.

## IT WAS SCRAPPED IN THE 1940'S

# Round Baler Built At Turn Of The Century

Most farmers think the round baler is a recent invention but Nebraska farmer Merrill Barnell, Sutton, Neb., has evidence that hay was rolled into bales 80 years ago.

Barnell's photo shows his grandfather, Sumner Barnell, working with the Luebben Baler on a farm near Sutton, Neb. in 1909. Working with neighbors, the farmers fed hay onto a conveyor which carried it to the baler's processing unit which rolled and tied the bale and dropped it out the side.

"It was invented by Hugo Luebben,

a banker in Sutton, and manufactured in Beatrice, Neb. I'm not sure how many were manufactured but I've heard there are still a couple in Oregon. My grandpa, who passed away in 1956, took it around the country, going as far south as Texas. The machine was scrapped for metal in the early 1940's but we still have the wheels around the farm," says Merrill.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Merrill Barnell, Sutton, Neb. 68979 (ph 402 773-4633).



Photo taken in 1909 reveals that round bales are 'old hat'.

## SPINS AT A SAFE 3 TO 4 RPM'S

# Retired Farmer Builds Ferris Wheel For Kids

A ferris wheel built from junk parts entertains kids at fairs and carnivals in Aneta, N. Dak., thanks to retired farmer Herlof Huso, 70, who got into the inventing and manufacturing business when he quit farming several years ago.

When Huso got the idea for the ferris wheel he took it to the Aneta Booster Club. They decided to support the project so he started scrounging around his farm for parts to use.

At the center of the wheel is one-half of a traveling gun irrigation hose reel. Four arms fan out from the center of the reel and a square, stabilizing frame wraps around the outside of that. The wheel is 6½ ft.

in dia. and when the top rider cage reaches the top of the ride, it's about 14 ft. off the ground.

The 3-ft. cages are made from square metal tubing and expanded wire mesh. They ride on free-wheeling auto hubs which Huso bought new. The wheel is turned by a ¼-hp. reversible electric motor with a worm gear drive at 3 to 4 rpm's.

The entire rig mounts on a two-wheel trailer that can be pulled down the road. He spent about \$500 in all to build the ferris wheel.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Herlof Huso, Aneta, N. Dak. 58212 (ph 701 326-4584).

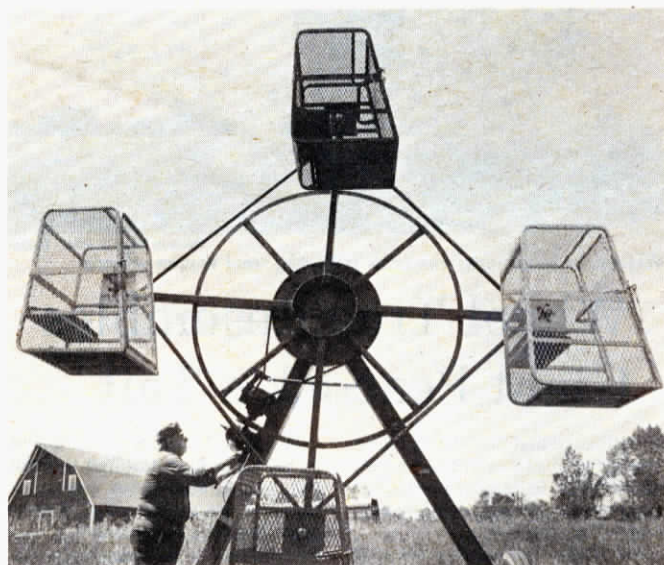


Photo courtesy The Fargo Forum

Center hub of homemade ferris wheel was fashioned from a traveling gun irrigation hose reel.