



Individual bins inside the 20 by 30-ft. structure were converted into rooms.

**TOOK 2 1/2 YEARS TO COMPLETE**

## They Converted Granary Into A Luxurious Home

Old granaries make great homes say Ed and Dorothy Wichman, Grand Rapids, Ohio, who spent 2 1/2 years converting a century-old granary into a luxurious home.

The Wichman's granary home still looks like a granary, inside and out, because they preserved many of the features of the 20 by 30-ft. farm structure. Hand-hewn beams exposed throughout the building and other features, such as a grain chute trap door still in the dining room ceiling, remind visitors of the building's origin. Individual bins inside the building were converted into separate rooms. The original wooden bin floors were sanded and refinished to a mirror-like finish.

The stairs leading to a second-floor bedroom and sitting room are original. Ed corncob-blasted the stairs to remove a century of grime. He notes that the corncob method is much gentler than sand blasting. Outside, the vertical siding was removed during construction and then replaced and repainted.

The entire conversion took 2 1/2 years to



Stairs leading to a second floor are restored originals.

complete. The building, which was built in 1850, was moved to a new housing site and mounted on rock and concrete pillars to avoid flood waters from a nearby river.

**ONE MAN CONTROLS ALL FOUR TRACTORS FROM WAGON SEAT**

## "4-Horse" Deere Hitch Big Hit At Parade

"We got the idea from a story in FARM SHOW," says Ken Wise, Rockyford, Alberta, who "hitched" four Deere 400 garden tractors together to pull a covered wagon in a local parade.

Wise improved upon an idea first conceived by an Allis Chalmers dealer several years ago (Vol. 6, No. 5). "That 'team' of garden tractors required three drivers, each handling a separate set of controls.

"I wanted to be able to control it myself so I fooled around until I figured it out. It works so well I can turn the entire rig around in a 50-ft. circle," says Wise, who controls the tractors with a set of reins and a pair of

foot pedals that work like airplane rudders.

One of the secrets of the hitch is that only the front two tractors do the pulling. The others just tag along for effect. The reins control the hydrostatic levers while the foot pedals control the steering.

"I spring-loaded the hydrostatic levers and ran the reins through pulleys ahead of the levers, and blocked off reverse. To go forward, I pull on the reins which pulls the levers forward. To stop, I just ease off on the reins and the springs on the levers pull them back," explains Wise.

To control steering, he decided all he had to do was control one of the front tractors



Des Moines Register Photo

Former Nickerson Farms Restaurant houses 800 head of hogs.

**THEY CALL IT THE "HOG PALACE"**

## Abandoned Restaurant Makes Great Hog Barn

Nearly everyone's seen or heard about people who've turn an old barn into a country restaurant, but who's ever heard of turning an old restaurant into a hog barn?

That's what happened recently at an eating establishment along Interstate 80 near the eastern border of Iowa. Nickerson Farms Restaurant was once part of a nationwide chain familiar to motorists throughout the country because of its use of a distinctive red peaked roof. When the restaurant chain went broke, the building stood vacant until Heinhold Hog Markets, Inc. decided to convert it to a hog-buying station.

According to a report in the Des Moines Register, the new owners gutted the restaur-

ant, auctioning off the kitchen equipment, booths and tables. Heinhold installed hog pens in their place and built an addition that nearly doubled the size of the original structure. Capacity is now about 800 head, brought in by farmers and then transferred to slaughter plants.

The company says it chose the Nickerson location because the building was in good shape and because it's so well situated, just off a major freeway. Everything in the building was converted to accommodate hogs except for the original main entrance to the restaurant, which now houses manager Michael Clayton's office.



Only the front two tractors do the pulling. Foot pedals control the steering.

and turn the other into a "slave". He first disconnected the steering arms from the hydraulic valves (Deere 400 tractors are equipped with power steering). Then he attached a control lever to the valve and tied it to a set of ropes that run through pulleys to the steering pedals in the wagon. He tied the slave tractor to the steering tractor with a tie rod.

To round up four tractors to use in the hitch - and the three that trail freely behind

the wagon as "outriders - Wise contacted friends, and customers of a local Deere dealership who had bought Deere 400's. He already owned two of the tractors himself. To rig up the hitch, only a few holes were drilled so they were easy to convert back to normal operation.

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