

Photos by Alice & Robert Lupper

The transmission on the 3/5ths scale Farmall was fashioned from two old riding lawn mowers and the wheels and rims were salvaged from a junked manure spreader.

HE BUILT THE CROWD-PLEASING DISPLAY FROM THE GROUND UP

“Mini” Farmall Drives Corn Sheller Replica

Gene Hermanson, Centerville, S. Dak., first got the idea of building a small-scale tractor when he spotted an unused Kohler light plant that reminded him of the engine in an F-20 Farmall. After working out a deal to buy the motor from the owner, he got started on a project that's kept him busy for years.

He built the “mini” Farmall to 3/5th scale because that's how the Kohler engine matched up to the actual Farmall engine. The tractor's transmission was fashioned from a couple of old power lawn mowers. The differential housing was cut out of sheet steel and welded together. The rear wheel rims and 750 by 18 tires were salvaged off a discarded Case manure spreader. The front wheels and tires were purchased new. Other parts were scrounged from other junked equipment or simply built from scratch.

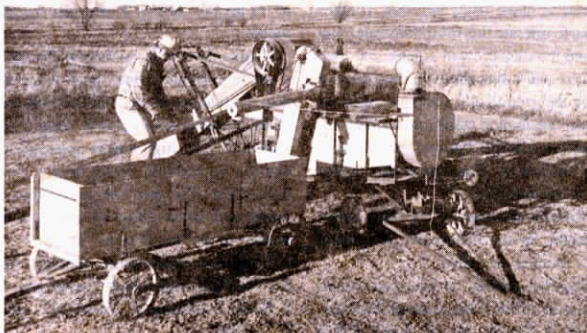
Once he completed the tractor, Hermanson started a search for a “job” it could do and got the idea of building a corn sheller for popcorn. He dug up an owner's manual for a Minneapolis-Moline mid-century cylin-

der sheller and set out to build it.

The corn sheller project was much easier than the tractor since off-the-shelf chain, gears, pulleys and bearings could all be easily found in the correct sizes. He built the frame out of angle and channel iron and cut tin to size for the body. The shelling cylinder was built out of heavy pipe with wings or flats welded along the surface. Steel rod spaced and welded to supports lets the corn through. The angle of the wings moves the cobs to the end where they drop into the cob carrier. Sieves and a blower cleans the corn before it is augered into a scale size 50 bu. box mounted on a steel wheel wagon.

Hermanson takes the tractor and sheller around to steam threshing shows. While on display he shells popcorn - grown on his own farm - and then sells it to showgoers. Total out-of-pocket cost to build both machines was about \$550.

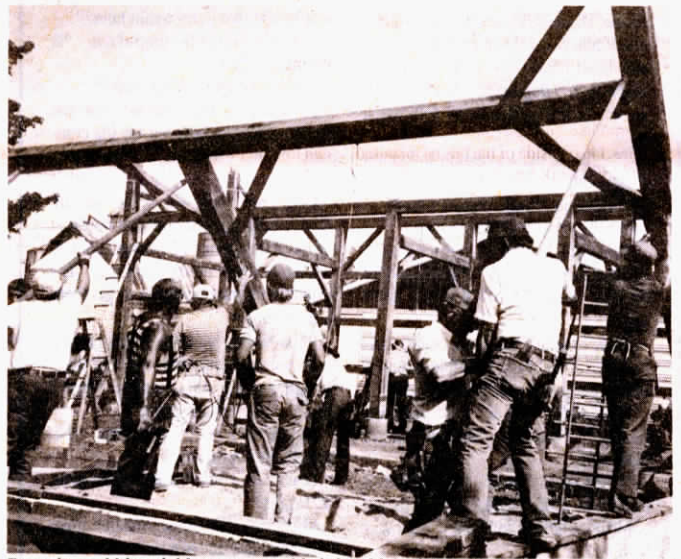
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Hermanson built the corn sheller replica from the ground up, modeling it after a mid-century Minneapolis-Moline sheller. He uses it to shell popcorn at shows.

Editor's Note: Most of what goes into Ag World stems from story ideas sent to us by readers. This special section of FARM SHOW touches on the lighter side of farming and ranching — everything from human interest stories, to unusual hobbies, to unique things farm families are doing for fun or profit.

If you've read or heard a good Ag World type story you'd like to share with others, send it to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029 Lakeville, Minn. 55044.



Busenitz and his neighbors reassembled the old Amish-built barn using the original mortise and tennon joints held together with wooden pegs. No nails were used.

“WE WANTED TO PRESERVE THE CRAFTSMANSHIP OF A BYGONE ERA”

“Raising” Helps Save Old Fashioned Barn

“We wanted to preserve the craftsmanship of a bygone era,” says Glenn Busenitz, Roanoke, Ill., who staged an old fashioned barn raising on his farm last summer with the help of 40 to 50 neighbors.

The barn Busenitz' neighbors helped put up was moved from a neighboring farm three miles away.

“It was originally constructed in 1880 by Amish farmers who didn't use any nails. It was built with mortise and tennon joints held together by wooden pegs, most of which we were able to drive out and reuse,” says Busenitz, who salvaged the entire frame of the 40 by 40 barn (some of the siding had

previously been removed) and then re-roofed and re-sided the building with steel.

Busenitz started dismantling the barn in February, 1988 and staged the barn raising last July 30. The big crew worked all of one day and 15 returned the next day, nearly completing the job. Busenitz made the finishing touches over the following week. Except for the siding and a couple of rafters, no nails were used to erect the structure and no new lumber was purchased.

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