



Geiger's 1/2-scale Case 4890 4-WD took about four months to build.

HALF-SCALE TRACTORS  
"PROPORTIONALLY CORRECT"

## Mini 4-WD's Took 4,000 Hours To Build

"They're proportionally correct in every detail and people go wild over them everywhere I take them," says Gary Geiger about a pair of 1/2-scale 4-WD early 1970's vintage tractors he built.

The International 4786 and the Case 4890 each took about 2,000 hours and cost \$3,000 to build, notes Geiger of Woodland, Mich. Each is 10-ft. long, 6-ft. high and weighs about 2,000 lbs..

He built the International over a period of about 18 months. It's powered by a 4-cyl. Wisconsin gas engine coupled to a hydrostatic transmission. It has a rear end out of an Economy garden tractor, 8.4 by 24-in. duals mounted on rims off a New Idea corn picker, and hydraulic articulation with cylinders off a rear steer Deere combine.

"The hydraulic drive presented a lot of problems because I had to fit 150 ft. of 3/8-in. dia. hose into it, exactly half the amount and half the size of the real tractor," Geiger says.

The Case 4890 took a period of about four months to build. It's powered by a 4-cyl. Perkins diesel, with rear end and transmission out of an old Ditch Witch so the



The International 4786 was built over a period of 18 months.

tractor "crab" steers. It features 17-in. wide tires and rims off a rear wheel assist combine. It's complete with a working 3-pt.

"The sheet metal on the Case was the hardest part," Geiger notes. "Everything's double angled, nothing's straight."

Geiger takes his tractors to about a dozen area shows every year, pulling them on a 24-ft. trailer behind his motor home.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Geiger, 2280 South Clark Rd., Woodland, Mich. 48897 (ph 616 367-4995).



The wagon is equipped with the running gear out of a 1938 Ford car and fitted with 15-in. wheels.

MEETS EVERY WEEK

## Portable Card Party Spices Up Retirement

If you ever get the chance to travel the backroads of east central Wisconsin during the summer, you may well come across one of the area's best known card games.

What makes it different from most card parties is that this game travels from town to town in a horse-drawn covered wagon built by retired farmer Ralph Mader of Brillion.

"The rolling card party sort of evolved over the past 10 years to the point where we now carry along up to 15 players, mostly retired farmers and factory workers. We hitch up my two Palominos, Hawk and Spirit, up every Thursday and travel about 20 miles round trip to neighboring towns, playing cards all the way and occasionally stopping at a local tavern for refreshments," says Mader.

He built his wagon after he bought his granddaughter a horse that turned out to be too big for her to ride.

The wagon is 6 ft. wide by 12 ft. long and is 6-ft., 4-in. high at the highest point of its arched top. Built mostly out of 2 by 8's, the wagon is equipped with a running gear out of a 1938 Ford car and is fitted with 15-

in. wheels.

It has a plastic cover that keeps rain out. It also has plastic curtains on the sides that can be lowered in inclement weather. Cover and curtains attach to 3/4-in. galvanized steel bows that serve as supports.

The wagon is entered and exited via a fold-down ladder on the right side. Softly cushioned benches are arranged around the sides and rear. There are two radios, a 12-volt battery and charger, a stow-away card table, and a big card table for large gatherings.

Of course, there's also safety equipment such as slow moving vehicle emblems on back, a yellow flashing light on the left, and a rear view mirror.

The entourage travels at about 5 mph, playing sheephead, swapping stories, and imbibing sodas or beer from coolers they bring along for the ride. Their longest jaunt to date was a 30 mile round trip to Potter, Wis.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ralph Mader, 2595 Schmidt Road, Brillion, Wis. 54110 (ph 414 989-1658).



## World's Biggest Barbecue

This transportable barbecue pit is billed as the biggest in the world.

Here are a few particulars about the cooker which makes the rounds to farm shows, fairs, super market promotions, etc.

"The World's Largest Bar-B-Q Pit" weighs more than 30,000 lbs. and is pulled by a 1994 Peterbilt semi-tractor. It's 48 ft. long by 5 ft. in dia., for a total cooking surface of 64,832 sq. in. It has five smokestacks, the tallest of which towers 28 ft. in the air. It can cook 4,250 lbs. of brisket, 1,000 chickens or 900 lbs. of ribs at a time. The wood-fired pit features an upper and lower cooking level and 8 doors per side which are accessed by 3 ft. walkways.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rainbow Productions, 23810 FM 2978, Tomball, Texas 77375 (ph 800 727-2634 or 713 351-5929).



Ten of the regular sheephead players. The wagon comfortably holds 15 passengers.