



Each Father's Day, Millie Clark adds a new creature to the scarecrow "family".

## "FAMILY" OF SCARECROWS ATTRACTS LOTS OF ATTENTION

# "Scarecrows" Make Unique Father's Day Gift

"We made this family of scarecrows as a gift for my father," says Millie Clark, who along with her husband Cameron operates a rural restaurant near Wintergreen, Va.

The scarecrows stand guard over a garden at the front of the restaurant, which is housed in an old farm house built in 1743 and specializes in old fashioned southern fried cooking. The restaurant is part of a family resort complete with horse stables and tennis courts.

Six years ago, Millie built "Jack", the male scarecrow, as a surprise birthday gift for her father, O.J. Wade. Every year since she has set up the display as a gift on Father's Day, and every year she adds a new "creature" to the display. Over the five years, "Jack" took wife "Marge", a dog, some chickens, a baby, a mule and an antique plow to help with the spring plowing. The display stays up until the last day of October, providing entertainment for the

Clarks and restaurant guests alike.

"Dad really looks forward to it. He knows there'll be something different every Father's Day, but he doesn't know what it'll be," says Millie. "Tourists like to take photos of themselves in front of the scarecrows. Some even sit on the mule to pose for photos."

Mildred uses scrap materials to build the scarecrows. Two by four boards and chicken wire, covered with old feed bags, old dresses or blue jeans, are used to make the bodies. "We redress the scarecrows each year, using the same frames," says Mildred. "Next year we may put Jack and Marge in an antique wagon, filled with hay and pumpkins. But don't tell Dad."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Millie Clark, Rodes Farm Inn and Stables, Rt. 1, Box 239, Wintergreen, Va. 22938 (ph 804 361-1200).

## HOME-BUILT SELF-PROPELLED "ROBOT"

# "Partsman" Built From Old Farm Equipment

"Farmers like trying to figure out what machines the parts came from to build it," says Wally Keller, Mt. Horeb, Wis., who built "Partsman", a self-propelled 12-ft. tall robot that's a big hit at parades.

The robot's orange arms are actually springs from an Allis Chalmers forage blower. They're fastened to a horizontally-mounted manure spreader beater that makes up the lower body. The upper body is built out of the pickup from a Fox chopper and the head consists of a tractor gas tank, two blow torches, sealed beam lights, and other miscellaneous parts. The legs are actually water softening tanks and the front wheels are tail wheels from a hay sickle rake.

"Partsman" is powered by a 6-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine that drives a Model A Ford transmission and a Chevy Vega drive axle. There are seats for 4 passengers on the robot and a seat at center for the driver. "I spent \$125 to build it, including \$50 for the engine," says Keller.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wally Keller, 3931 Hwy 78N, Mt. Horeb, Wis. 53572.

Parts from an old manure spreader, chopper, tractor, sickle mower, and other equipment were used to build the self-propelled "robot".



New mini excavator lets young operators roll bucket independently of boom action.

## "DIG RIG" LOOKS AND OPERATES JUST LIKE A REAL BACKHOE

# New Toy Excavator For Pint-Size Workers

George Manning couldn't find a good excavation toy for his son, so he designed one that looks and operates just like a real backhoe.

The "Dig Rig", made of heavy steel, is equipped with a seat and two levers. One lever operates the arm lift, and the other lever operates the shovel.

The unique toy excavator is designed to cut 16 in. deep, dump over the side of a 24-in. box, and rip out 70 cu. in. of sand with a single bite. It has a 2-ft. reach and weighs 40 lbs.

Manning, a Saskatoon, Sask., industrial designer, was observing his 4-year-old son watch a hydraulic excavator one day when he got the idea of inventing a child-sized replica.

"It reproduces the exact bucket motions of a full-size hydraulic excavator. On previous mini-excavators you couldn't roll the

bucket independently of the boom action. The Dig Rig has full movement in its primary boom, secondary boom, rolling bucket, and sideways pivoting action. Any one of the four movements can be easily controlled independently of the others. The result is a miniature excavator that captures the interest and thrill of operating a real backhoe," says Manning.

Some digging toys are frustrating to use, according to Manning, because their controls are too complex for children or so simple that they quickly become boring. In contrast, the Dig-Rig's simple control system can be learned in seconds, yet the digging action is so complex that even adults enjoy playing with the toy. "One simple adjustment tailors the toy for 30 lb. or 200-lb. operators," notes Manning. "The operator's weight counter-balances the weight of the boom and load and maximizes a small operator's digging power."

The seat rolls forward and back on an adjustable, sloped cam and controls the primary boom. The greater the slope of the cam, the more the operator's weight counter-balances the weight of the booms and bucket. The bucket and secondary boom are controlled by the two hand levers. The side pivot is controlled by the operator's feet.

The toy breaks into two parts with the removal of a single bolt and can be easily stored in a car trunk. It can also be quickly locked into transport mode and towed on its wheels using the boom and bucket as a handle.

Two models are available. The Junior Quarry Master is designed for ages 3 to 9, weighs 40 lbs., and sells for \$275. The Quarry Master, designed for larger children, has a heavier and stronger secondary boom system and bucket and sells for \$365. A set of plans and a construction manual to build your own Dig-Rig is available for \$21.50.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Child-Power Toys, Inc., Box 6001, Saskatoon, Canada S7K 4E4 (ph 306 382-5465).

