



Horsemobile has four forward gears and one reverse. Moves down the road at 8 mph.

### DRIVES JUST LIKE A CAR

## Ohio Farmer Builds Horse-Powered Car

You've never seen an attention-getter like the "horsemobile" Dick Frey, Forest, Ohio; built to take to parades and shows, and just for horsin' around. The "engine" in Frey's creation is a draft horse driving a treadmill that's hooked to a standard transmission with four gears forward and one reverse.

Frey built the "horsemobile" after he saw an article in FARM SHOW (Vol. 8, No. 2) about the first horse-powered car, built by an inventor in England. Just four months after he saw the story, he was driving his own rig in a 4th of July parade.

The horse-driven car is built around the frame of a Chevy pickup. The treadmill on top drives rollers that came from a junkyard. A shaft out of the middle of one of the rollers runs directly into a gear box that Frey salvaged from an old International cornhead. The driveshaft running to the transmission came from a Gehl silage chopper, and the bell housing and crankshaft bearing were taken from a junked New Holland baler. The remaining parts of the transmission — jack shafts, gears, chain and the side-slung transmission that transfer power to the rear axle — came from old Minneapolis-Moline, Deere, and Allis Chalmers tractors. The seats and brakes were taken from an old school bus and the metal structure surrounding the horse and driver was built from galv well pipe.

"All we got from the article was the idea. We had to figure everything out ourselves and there were lots of problems to work out. For instance, we had to rubberize the main roller so the treadmill would grip it and, because of the direction the roller is driven, we had to reverse the transmission so we'd have four speeds forward rather than four in reverse," says Frey, noting that he also built a box right behind the treadmill to catch manure.

There are two fins at the rear of the horsemobile. Before starting a



Another Frey attention-getter is this "chicken power" rig. The legs you see are stuffed. Frey is standing inside the barrel and walks the trailer forward.

parade, Frey fills them with dry ice and, via a hose from the driver's seat, occasionally squirts water into them to make fog puff out, simulating exhaust.

The car drives like a conventional 4-speed with a clutch and brakes. It'll move down the road at about 8 mph and climbs right up hills. When Frey shifts into reverse, the horse keeps walking forward but the horsemobile goes backwards.

"It took some training to get the horse to power it. At first, it was like putting a pig on ice," says Frey. He says that some people have accused him of cruelty to animals but he feels it's a lot easier for the horse than pulling a plow.

Frey spent about \$1,000 to put the horsemobile together.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dick Frey, Forest, Ohio 45843 (ph 419 273-2295).

**FARM SHOW**



**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.

### MARKED EAR OF CORN MADE HIM A BELIEVER

## A Desperate Farmer's Answered Prayer

"By the summer of 1964 my uncle Roger Geisbert had had five bad crop years in a row due to drought," says Paul Geisbert, Sr., Frederick, Maryland, who speaks throughout the country at churches and schools about what happened on his uncle's farm that dry summer.

"Nearly all feedstocks in the area had been depleted and my uncle, who had a small herd of purebred milking shorthorn cattle, knew he wouldn't be able to feed those cattle unless we got rain. Unfortunately, his hay, barley, and wheat crops were all failures. He was down to his corn crop. The stalks were already beginning to dry up when my uncle went out to the field, knelt down and prayed right there in the cornfield for rain. As he finished his prayer he asked for a sign that he had been heard. As he got up, the sky was clear with only one visible little white cloud.

"Before he could get back to the house, a beautiful fresh shower of rain was falling, just enough to lightly wet the ground. The next day we got a good soaking rain that was enough to fill out the corn. My uncle knelt down again and thanked God for the rain.

"He was 76 at the time and shucked his corn by hand. As we shucked the second shock in that field one ear began shaking in his hand as he threw it onto the pile. He picked it up to look more closely and found a red



Geisbert found this ear with its red cross in almost the exact same spot he'd knelt to pray.

cross of kernels on an otherwise normal ear of yellow-kerneled corn. He looked around and realized he was standing almost exactly where he had knelt down and prayed some weeks earlier."

With the help of a nearby manufacturer, Paul and his uncle preserved the ear of corn by encasing it in a block of clear plastic.