



Sorben's tractor mounts on a motorized pole which rotates about every 8 minutes. "SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT"

Neighbors Love His Rotating Farmall Tractor

Drive by Duane Sorben's farm near Bottineau, N. Dak., and you'll be treated to a most unusual sight - a 1944 Farmall tractor rotating slowly in the sky.

The tractor mounts above Sorben's machine shed on top of a motorized, spinning pole which completes a rotation every 8 minutes and 10 seconds. It even has working lights so it can be seen at night.

"I put it up there because I figured I could get people driving by on the highway to take their minds off their daily troubles for just a minute," says Sorben. The tractor was donated to him by Pete's Tractor and Salvage in Anamoose, N. Dak. Sorben then restored it.

The tractor rotates on top of an old truck axle and wheel where it's welded to a heavy piece of 10-in. pipe that runs all the way to the floor. The tractor frame simply bolts to the wheel via several channel iron braces. The axle extends down through the roof and is anchored in a 4-ft. chunk of concrete. The differential on the axle is chain-driven by a 1/6 hp electric gearhead motor, which turns the tractor above the roof.

Sorben used a 3-rail collector ring off an old silo unloader to get 110-volt power to the tractor to power the lights. The ring mounts inside the brake drum. The lights are controlled by an electronic sensor that automatically turns them on at night.

"I put the tractor up last May and it hasn't stopped rotating since then," says Sorben. "Some people come into the yard while oth-



Truck axle welds to heavy piece of pipe inside shed.

ers just stop on the road and take photos. I plan to put a Santa Claus on the tractor in time for Christmas.

"The motor runs at 1,725 rpm's and the gearhead's output shaft rotates at 4.3 rpm's. The output shaft has a 12:2 sprocket with a 4.33 to 1 carrier, putting the total motor to axle ratio at 14,280:1.

"I used a truck-mounted crane to lift the tractor on top of the building."

The building the tractor mounts on is also unusual. Sorben made the rounded roof by cutting apart a pair of 20,000-gal., 11-ft. dia. fuel tanks. The building is 22 ft. wide and 28 1/2 ft. long and has a 6-in. overhang at each end. The steel roof is 5/16 in. thick and rests on 4-ft. lengths of drill stem pipe.

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First Tractor Produced In Minneapolis

"It was the first tractor ever mass produced in Minneapolis. It was also one of the biggest commercial failures in tractor history because it was so underpowered," says Bill Thelemann about his Little Bull three-wheeled tractor.

The 5-12 hp Little Bull was produced in Minneapolis between 1913 and 1914. More than 500 Little Bulls were built. It was soon replaced by a larger model, the Big Bull, built between 1914 and 1921.

The Little Bull has a big drive wheel on back and a single front steering wheel. It's powered by a headless 2-cyl. opposed water-cooled engine.

"Its downfall was that it didn't have enough power to be very useful around the farm," Thelemann notes.



Little Bull tractors were too underpowered to be much use on the farm.

He knows of only three other Little Bulls that are fully functional.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Thelemann, Rt. 1, Box 188, LeSueur, Minn. 56058 (ph 507 665-2317).



It takes two people 50 to 60 hours to finish one of the log caskets.

Log Caskets Designed For Rural Departed

By Janis Schole

If you've ever had to pick out a casket for a departed loved one and were turned off by the fancy boxes normally available, you might appreciate the down-to-earth log caskets built by Patty Kramps and Kelly Miller.

The Pickardville, Alberta, husband and wife say their caskets are geared to anyone with a love of rural life or rustic, natural surroundings.

"It might seem a bit weird or morbid to some, but I really believe in what I'm doing. I do think there is a need for more variety in selection of caskets to allow people to better express the personal style they've developed over their lifetime," says Kramps. "We got the idea from an old-timer we knew who I'm sure would not have chosen to be buried in one of those regular caskets if he'd been given

the opportunity. Lying there in all that satin simply doesn't suit certain people. This fellow was not that kind of guy - he lived off the land and spent his entire life in denim, not satin."

Caskets are built in the couple's workshop out of 2 to 3-in. dia. peeled logs with horseshoes for handles.

Frames are reinforced with steel rods, and caskets are finished with stain and varathane. Upholstery is made from linen or cotton.

It takes two people 50 to 60 hours to complete each casket.

Several different models are available. Caskets sell for \$3,000 (U.S.)

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Patty Kramps and Kelly Miller, R.R. 2, Pickardville, Alberta, Canada T0G 1W0 (ph 403 961-2334).



Some of Secoy's bottled outhouses. The one on the left has a weather vane on top.

UNUSUAL HOBBY KEEPS OHIO MAN BUSY Outhouse In A Bottle

Everyone's heard of building a ship in a bottle, but how about an outhouse?

Somehow that strange idea occurred to Orin Secoy 25 years ago and since then the retired Athens, Ohio, resident has put more than 30 "classic" outhouses into bottles.

"I first started thinking about it when I saw a really unique double-decker in Montana in 1968," Secoy says. "I built a wooden scale model of it and then decided to put one in a bottle."

He makes his privies out of cedar.

"They're constructed inside the bottle, one piece at a time, instead of being built outside the bottle and then inserted into it

the way most ships are," he says. "It takes at least six hours to finish one, using two 14 to 16-in. long dowels with needles on the ends to handle the pieces inside the bottles."

One of Secoy's larger outhouses, built inside a whiskey bottle, even has a weather vane on top.

He takes some of his creations to shows and has even sold a few for \$25 to \$35 apiece. His current interest is in obtaining photographs of outhouses of U.S. presidents so he can build scale models of them.

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