

Look! Up In The Sky!

By Del Gasche

"Hey, Ma! What the heck is on top of that silo?"

"Watch the road, Pa!"

"Oops...just look at that. What'd ya think it is, Ma. Looks to me like it's a tractor."

"Pa, I swear you've been watching one eclipse too many. Who in the world would put a TRACTOR on top of a silo?"

"Ivan would."

"Who?"

"Ivan Weaks, that's who."

Conversations similar to this just might be taking place every day as motorists approach the intersection of State Route 109 and Fulton County Road C, about halfway between Delta and Liberty Center in northwest Ohio.

Ivan and his wife Beulah own five acres plus a 45 ft. cement stave silo and some buildings there, and the fact that he now has a Farmall H sitting on top of his silo doesn't really surprise anyone who knows him.

Ivan is a prodigious tractor collector and a veritable wellspring of tractor lore and trivia.

He currently has about 70 full-sized tractors in his collection. Some are waiting to be restored, some are in the process and some have been restored to the point of looking almost "showroom new".

"I always wanted to set one on top of the silo to top off my collection," he says. "I decided the Farmall H I bought last August in Michigan for \$100 would be especially relevant since 1989 was the 50th anniversary of IH."

To ready the tractor for display, he screened and plugged all the holes, nooks and crannies so birds wouldn't use his high-flying tractor as a place to build nests. After applying six coats of paint, he welded a channel-iron grid to the tractor's wheels and



Ivan Weaks set a Farmall H tractor on top of his 45 ft. cement stave silo to "top off" his prize tractor collection.

fastened 4 in. adjustable angle-iron shoes to it. The shoes are designed to fit down inside the silo and press tightly against the edge.

Ivan hired a contractor who came out with a 70 ft. hydraulic crane to lift the tractor, which weighs a tad over a ton, atop the unused silo.

"He hooked onto it and had it up there in five minutes. My son Mike went up the silo and unhooked the cable and it was all over," Ivan recalls.

He notes that many motorists turn off Route 109 and onto Road C to take a close-up look at the eye-catching "tractor on top of a silo" display before driving on.

For more information, contact: Ivan Weaks, 7216—C, Rt. 2, Delta, Ohio 43515 (ph 429 822-5061). (Reprinted from Farmland News, Archbold, Ohio.)

BUILT FOR LESS THAN \$100

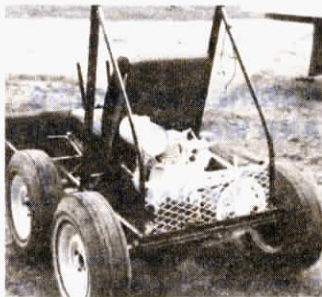
Toy 4-WD Dozer

"I built a toy 4-WD dozer for less than \$100 and it works great. The paint cost more than anything else," says Rick Clow, Princeton, Minn., who used mainly scrap parts to build the machine.

The tractor, 42 in. wide and 42 in. long, is powered by a 6 hp Wisconsin engine equipped with rope-wind start and has a 3-speed Chrysler transmission. It's equipped with a 42-in. wide, 18-in. high blade in front.

"Building it without expensive hydraulics helped keep the cost down," says Clow, who built the unit in 1975. "It works like a skidsteer loader because the dozer's two master brake cylinders are controlled by a hand lever on each side. The operator pulls the lever to stop the wheels on one side, allowing him to spin around. Another lever is used for shifting into low and reverse gears."

He took the axles and tires from a Ford Falcon car and the seat from a 1965 Chevrolet. He shortened the axles on one side, leaving room to mount the transmission. He geared down the transmission by mounting a large sprocket on the differential and a small one on the transmission, with a chain



Toy dozer is powered by a 6 hp Wisconsin engine equipped with rope-wind start.

drive leading from the transmission to the rear end.

Clow used 1/4-in. steel plate that formerly lined a chimney to build the blade, which can be manually raised and lowered by pushing on a foot pedal. A latch holds the blade in the "up" position. "If the operator needs extra down pressure on the blade, he just puts his feet on it," says Clow.

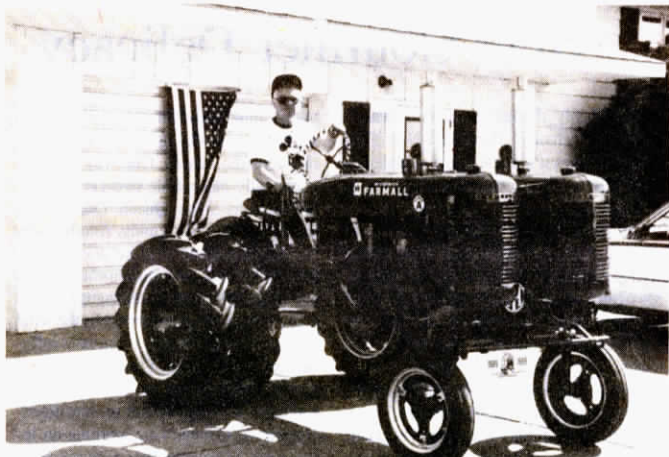
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FARM SHOW



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.



Lanny Vail's double Farmall tractor, built from two junked "B"s and a 1940 "A", has two separate engines, fuel tanks, clutches, throttles, and transmission shift levers.

"EVERYBODY DOES A DOUBLE TAKE"

He Built Eye-Catching Side-By-Side Tractor

People can't believe it when they see Lanny Vail's double tractor in a parade or on his hobby farm near Bowman, S. Dak.

"I got the idea as a kid in the late 40's or 50's when I saw a double F-20 Farmall tractor in a magazine. I never forgot it," says Vail.

He built his side-by-side Farmall starting with a junked "B" tractor that he already owned and another "B" that he got as a gift from a friend. Then he bought a 1940 "A" and started putting his double tractor together.

"Before I finished, I had to solve problems that I had never dreamed possible when I started. One challenge was making the connecting drive axle between the final drive differentials. But most of the real head scratchers came when I started putting the front axle pivot and steering linkage together. With three nearly complete tractors

I still needed more parts from a fourth tractor which I obtained from a salvage company. The tractor has two separate engines, fuel tanks, clutches, throttle and transmission shift levers. It has just one brake, steering wheel, pto, and belt pulley.

"It took a lot of effort to make it look like a factory-built machine and several onlookers at a recent fair actually thought it was an IHC production tractor. It's fun to drive and easy to synchronize the motors by the sound from the mufflers. It sports Super "A" decals which I tell people refers to the double engines because it doesn't have Super A accessories.

"The tractor has caused many older farmers to clean their bifocals to be sure they're not seeing double!"

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