



"Nora's Walkmobile" has windows on three sides and a curtain over the rear opening.

## "A LABOR OF LOVE"

# "Nora's Walkmobile"

When his wife, Nora, suffered a heart attack a few years ago and was told by her doctor to walk 2 miles every day, Chris Amacher, Marshall, Ill., built her a "self-walker", allowing her to get the necessary exercise in even the coldest weather.

"Nora's Walkmobile," as Chris calls it, is a "labor of love." It's heated, has plywood sides and a Masonite roof, and measures 6 ft. long, 4 ft. wide and 6 ft. high. It's attached to a 3-pt. hitch-mounted bale fork behind the Amachers' Massey Ferguson 85 tractor.

The house has windows on 3 sides, and a curtain draped over the rear opening. As Chris pulls "Nora's Walkmobile" along the Amachers' gravel lane and blacktop road in front of their farm, Nora can walk to her heart's content - there's no floor between her and the road. "In case I'd accidentally fall down, the rear curtain would just go over me," says Nora, who wears an insulated vest and coat while walking. "If I get tired, I can sit down on a seat and cushion mounted in the shed's front corner."

To provide heat, a 4 in. corrugated plastic tube extends from the tractor's enclosed

manifold back to the house. An old car heater, equipped with a switch for high or low setting, is used to regulate heat. "You'd be surprised how much heat comes in," says Nora. "The outside temperature can get down to zero and it's still warm inside the house."

Sunshine coming through the side windows also adds heat.

To keep himself warm while driving, Chris added an enclosed cab to the previously open-air tractor. He can look back through the rear window, and through the shed's front window, to see how Nora is doing.

"Walking Person" signs are posted atop all 4 sides of the cab, as well as in front of the tractor. On the rear side of the shed, there's a slow moving sign, as well as flashers and tail lights.

A front-mounted blade clears snow off the road.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chris Amacher, Rt. 1, Box 240, Marshall, Ill. 62441 (ph 217 826-2487).

## CORN STALK PONY, PUMKIN-HEADED DRIVER AND PUMPKIN-FILLED CART

# Build Yourself A "Pumpkin Train"

Traffic screeches to a stop as passersby take a "second look" at the unique "pumpkin train" that decorates the front yard of David and Janice Erickson's home in Eau Claire, Wis. It features a "corn stalk pony" with a pumpkin head and corn ears, driven by a pumpkin-headed driver, and hauling a cart full of pumpkins.

The Ericksons created the popular "pumpkin art" for Halloween last fall. They bundled up about 100 corn stalks and used twine to tie the bundles to a wooden sawhorse frame (4 ft. long and 30 in. high). On one end of the frame, a 1-1/2 ft. board, set at

an angle, holds the long pumpkin which forms the pony's head. Sections sliced from corn ears and enclosed in black oval patches form the eyes. A bundle of weeds serves as the pony's tail.

The driver, stuffed with straw, has a board running down its middle with a small platform at the top supporting the shoulders. The morning after Halloween last year, the Ericksons woke up to find that someone had put a pile of fresh manure behind the horse. "To this day, we don't know who did that but we had a good laugh about it," says Janice.



Photo by Karen Sornberger, Edmonton Journal

Busenius mounts old steel implement wheels on posts, then tops them off with bird houses.

## MADE FROM WAGON WHEELS TOPPED BY BIRD HOUSES

# Ornamental "Bird House" Fence

One man's trash is another man's treasure, and Len Busenius has an ornamental "bird house" fence to prove it.

Busenius, a 68-year-old retired dairy farmer near Hay Lakes, Alb., says he loves to make things out of old junk that he finds, welding it into interesting shapes and designs. The fence around his yard, for example, is decorated with wagon wheels mounted on 6 ft. high posts and topped by bird houses.

"Junk and birds are my favorite things in life," notes Busenius. His country showplace displays many other valuable treasures from bygone days, including a one-horse walking plow and one of the first Briggs & Stratton engines ever made. Busenius mounts his treasures on posts "so the public can see and enjoy them, and so they're out of reach and don't get stolen."

Most of his bird houses are built of wood and mounted on 6-in. long iron rods welded to the tops of the wheels, which were taken from old binders, plows and threshing machines, and painted in various bright colors. Busenius has also made bird houses from all sorts of other items, including electrical switch boxes and even toilet bowl floats.



Busenius used old antiques to build this decorative yard gate.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Len Busenius, Box 139, Hay Lakes, Alb., Canada POB 1WO (ph 403 672-7117).



Photo courtesy Country Today, Eau Claire, Wis.

Last Halloween a prankster put a pile of fresh manure behind the pumpkin horse.