



Photo by Kurt Wilhelm
It took Charles Van Mater about a week to build his figure 8 swimming pool using curved metal panels from Harvestore silos.

'Harvestore' Swimming Pool

Walk into the back yard of Charles Van Mater, Columbus, N.J., and you'll find the most unusual swimming pool you've ever seen: a 48 ft. long, "figure 8" shaped pool made of two interconnected circles of used 5 x 9 ft. Harvestore glass lined steel silo sheets.

The pool is surrounded by a huge 60 ft. long deck, with a diving board at one end.

Van Mater, a dairy farmer, built the unique pool 4 years ago with used silo sheets purchased from a Harvestore dealer. He has worked part time for 16 years servicing Harvestore silo unloaders, paid about one fourth the price of new sheets," says Van Mater. "I built the pool in a figure 8 shape because I wanted a deep part to dive in, and a shallow part for my wife and kids."

One circle, 2 sheets high and 28 ft. in dia., is 8 1/2 ft. deep; the other circle is 1 sheet high, 20 ft. in dia., with a concrete floor that's 3 1/2 ft. deep on 1 end, tapering off to 2 ft. on the other end.

Where the 2 circles meet, Van Mater left out a couple of sheets to form a 14 ft. opening between the circles.

In all, Van Mater used 35 sheets - 26 in the big pool and 9 in the small one.

To build the pool, Van Mater used a backhoe to dig circular holes about 9 ft. deep. Then he set up the sheets, applying

sealer between them and bolting them together. Next, he poured 8 in. of concrete on the bottom, placing 2 or 3 bricks on edge under each sheet to allow concrete to envelope the lower edges of the sheets for a good water seal.

Mastic strip, applied on the lower inside edge of the sheets, provides an additional water barrier.

After waiting 2 days for the concrete to set, Van Mater backfilled around the pools. "Altogether, it only took us a week to build the pool," he says.

But it took him most of a summer to build the 60 ft. long deck, which is 35 ft. wide on the ends.

Van Mater bought the pool's filter, pump and lines from a local swimming pool company. Altogether, he figures he spent about \$4,000 for the silo sheets, concrete and filtering system. He spent another \$4,000 to build the deck.

Next time, says Van Mater, he'd use only unchipped glass sheets. "Some of the sheets I used had chipped glass. Wherever there's a chip, water can eat at the steel. The pool hasn't leaked yet, but I'm watching it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles Van Mater, RR 1, Box 33, Columbus, N.J. 08022 (ph 609 298-7136).



A 60-ft. long wood deck surrounds the pool, which holds 50,000 gal. of water.

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.



Photo courtesy This Week

The conversion added 8 ft., 4 in. and about 2,000 lbs. to the original pickup.

YOU CAN GET ONE FOR \$46,000

Down Home "Limo" For The Super Rich

What do you buy for someone who already has everything? "That's easy," says Joel Krass, a Minnesota manufacturer whose business specializes in serving the super rich. "You buy them a pickup limo complete with all the comforts of home."

Krass builds "stretch" cars for customers throughout the U.S. He recently built his first pickup limo and says interest has been tremendous, particularly from Arab countries. "They want comfort but they also want something that can work its way through sand and other tough conditions."

Krass started the pickup conversion with a top-of-the-line GMC 1-ton pickup with a 4-door crew cab. He cut the pickup in half right behind the front seat and added 100 in. to the chassis, for a total overall length of 31 ft. The conversion added about 2,000 lbs. to the truck, but left it stronger than it was originally, according to Krass, who says he "overbuilds" the add-on frame to stronger

specs than the original chassis.

Krass uses all manufacturer's parts to finish and carpet the interior of the truck which contains plush bench seating for 9 adults. It has a television, ice box, liquor cabinet, and it's own heating and air conditioning ducts, as well as deluxe overhead lighting. To accommodate the added accessories, Krass installs an oversize alternator. He also adds heavier springs and a vinyl roof. The pickup has a 454 engine.

"The conversion doesn't change the pickup's towing capacity at all and it still has a full box for hauling. We provide a lifetime guarantee," Krass told FARM SHOW. The original pickup cost \$20,000 and the conversion added another \$26,000.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Krass Brothers Custom Coach, 21661 Cedar Ave., Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 612 469-4638 or 4639).