



Aardema's 3-speed bike is fitted with big engine-powered fan on back. Photo courtesy Dune Press

**NO NEED TO PEDAL**

## Fan-Powered Bike Travels At 15 Mph

"It gets a lot of strange looks but I like it because it goes up to 15 mph without pedaling," says Dave Aardema, Doon, Iowa, about his 3-speed bike fitted with a big engine-powered fan on back.

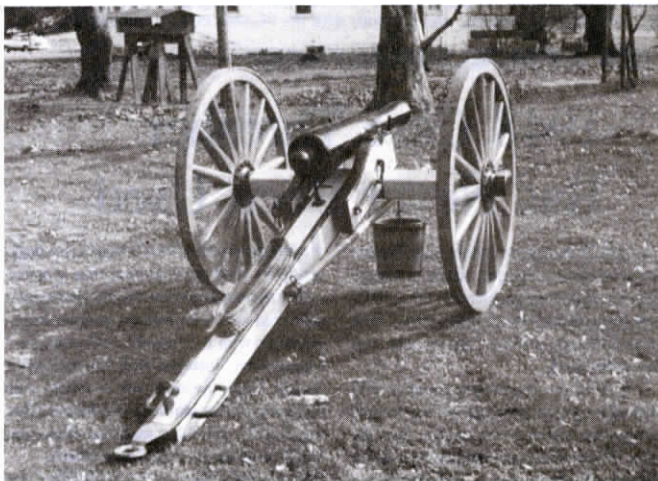
The 2-bladed "swamp boat" fan is powered by a 2 hp rope start gas engine. It's mounted on a frame that Aardema built from steel tubing, plywood, and fiberglass. The base of the frame is secured to the rear forks of the bicycle with two set screws.

"It works great and virtually eliminates pedaling under most conditions," says Aardema, who works as a freelance jet aircraft mechanic. "One drawback is that

the fan is noisy and causes a lot of vibration. It takes a while to get used to driving it. Also, I have to take it easy going around corners because it's so top heavy. I got the fan from my Dad who used it on his canoe.

"The fan is equipped with a throttle lever that I can reach from the seat to control speed. At top speed it goes about 15 mph on level ground when there's no wind. When I'm going with the wind I can really go fast. However, when I'm going into the wind I sometimes have to pedal."

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Cannon's 54-in. long steel barrel shoots 2 1/4-in. dia. steel cannon balls up to 1/4 mile.

**"IT FIRES JUST LIKE THE REAL THING"**

## He Built A 3/4 Scale Civil War Cannon

"It's authentic to the last detail and fires just like the real thing," says Wayne Bashore, Mifflintown, Penn., about the 3/4 scale cannon he built.

The cannon is mounted on 42-in. high

wooden wheels and is patterned after Guinnesburg Civil War cannons. The 54-in. long steel barrel shoots 2 1/4-in. dia. steel cannon balls up to 1/4 mile.

"People enjoy it because it really makes



Baer used cab and tandem axle trailer frame from International 4300 semi tractor to build 37-ft. long camper. It's powered by a 400 hp Cummins 6-cyl. diesel engine.

**BUILT FROM A SEMI-TRACTOR CAB AND TRAILER FRAME**

## Home-Built RV Camper

Canadian Mark Baer likes working with metal and anything with wheels, so building his own RV camper seemed like the perfect free-time project.

Baer, of LaCrete, Alberta, used the cab and tandem axle trailer frame from an International 4300 semi tractor to build the one-of-a-kind camper. It's 12 ft. 4 in. high, 37 ft. long, and 8 ft. 6 in. wide. Baer cut out the back of the cab and lengthened the frame by 10 ft., so the drive wheels would be positioned toward the back of the rig. He used 4 by 4 5/16-in. steel tubing to build the frame, then installed aluminum studs and riveted aluminum sheets onto them.

"It's built stronger and has more power than most other comparable size commercial RV campers," says Baer, who built the camper over a period of five years. "I built it without using any blueprints. It looks so

professional that once in a while on the highway I'll hear truckers on the CB radio arguing whether it's home-built or factory-built. Almost everything I used to build it was bought at junkyards. I spent just a fraction of the cost of a comparable commercial model. The semi tractor didn't have an engine so I installed a 400 hp Cummins 6-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine which has plenty of power. It has a 13-speed transmission and 11.00 by 22.5 tires. The coach has plenty of room with an interior width of 8 ft. and a ceiling height of 8 ft. 6 in. in front and 7 ft. in back. The interior is lined with oak paneling and has a kitchen, bathroom, sitting room, and two bedrooms."

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He used steel tubing to build frame, then riveted aluminum sheets onto it.

a loud noise when it's fired. I use a Dixie cup of powder each time I fire it which is about all my neighborhood can stand," says Bashore. "I pull it with a garden tractor. There are handles on each side of the tongue so it can also be moved around by hand. During the Civil War, if the horses that pulled it got shot, soldiers had to pull the cannon themselves. An aiming hole is mounted on the tongue. You put a stick in it and squirt down the barrel in order to aim it."

A ramrod and "swab" are stored under the cannon's axle. The ramrod is used to ram a bag of powder into the barrel, then to ram the cannon ball. A 4-in. long fuse is then stuck into a "touch hole" on top of the barrel and lit. After the cannon has been fired, the

"swab" (a paint roller mounted on the end of a wooden rod) is dipped in water and used to clean out the barrel, making it ready for the next shot.

"The swab cleans out any smoldering paper left over from the bag of powder and keeps the next bag from catching on fire too soon," says Bashore. "It'll use up about 1 lb. of powder for seven shots."

Bashore works in a railroad car factory and used an axle designed for a rapid transit railroad car for the barrel, lathing it out. He used sq. steel tubing to build the cannon's axle.

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