Reader Letters

(Continued from previous page)

pickup. It pins between the hitch on the back of the wagon and on the pickup hitch. A second person steers the tongue. ***(Cameron Churchill, 4880 Adams Rd. N.W., Depauw, Ind. 47115)***

I'd like to tell your readers about our mail order catalog which features thousands of new parts. We offer high-quality replacement parts for the following tractors: Allis Chalmers, John Deere, Ford, International, Massey Ferguson, Long, and Zetor. We also offer a large selection of parts for rotary cut-

ters, finish mowers, round balers, sprayers, gardening and tillage equipment, repair manuals, and various other farm products.

We've got the best prices around and many parts you won't see anywhere else. We'll send a free catalog to anyone who calls our toll-free number. When you call us you'll get real people - no recorders. Customer satisfaction is our number one goal. ***(Russell Stevens, Stevens Ag Parts, Rt. 1 Box 32-B, Coushatta, La. 71019 ph 800 333-9143)***

I converted an old car wheel and axle, a flywheel, and a pair of disk blades into a low-cost barbed wire unroller. The spool of barbed wire rotates on the axle which extends vertically out of the wheel which lies flat in the

back of a pickup or Jeep. It lets me put up fence all by myself and is easy to use. Also, the wire won't tangle up.

I removed the axle from the wheel and reattached the axle so that the wheel's lug bolts are on top. I bolted an old car engine flywheel onto the axle bearing, then slid a disc over the axle with the round side up and slid the spool over the axle. I cut 2 in. off the threaded end of a disk axle, then cut off the end of the car axle and welded the cut-off disk axle on. I placed another disc on top of the axle with the round side down to keep the spool from bouncing. A nut on top of the axle is used to secure the disc.

To unroll wire, I tie the wire to the fence and drive forward. To wind wire back up onto the spool, I hold the wire with one hand and turn a handle that's pinned onto one of the corners of the spool holder.

The flywheel rotates on the bearing and keeps it from getting warped. The axle remains stationary as the spool rotates on it. I placed the wheel with the lug bolts on top so that the axle is up higher and the spool won't contact the wheel. The spool stops turning whenever I stop the vehicle so the wire never gets tangled up. The flywheel always turns with the spool so there's no backlash. To wind wire back up, I pin a steel handle onto the top of the spool. I used the top railing from a chain link fence to make the handle. ***(Ewell Lee Trimble, 4532 Camargo Road, Mt. Sterling, Kent. 40353 ph 606 498-3474).***

Your readers might get a kick out of this "tricycle" that's big enough for a full-grown

adult to ride. It has an 8-in. high front wheel and wide, 6-in. high rear wheels off an old riding mower. The steel seat, handlebars, and pedals are off an old exercise bike. The seat can be raised or lowered. The handlebars are similar to bicycle handlebars but extend straight up which provides more leg room. I used 1 1/2-in. dia. steel tubing to make the frame. There's even a hitch on back for pulling a wagon.

I also made a push-pull 3-wheel cart after reading in FARM SHOW about the one made by John Hass of Rock Rapids, Iowa (Vol. 19, No. 5). ***(John Krueger, Rt. 1, Box 539, Blanchard, Okla. 73010 ph 405 392-4796)***

I built this barrel bicycle for use in parades. It rolls along on old wooden whiskey barrels instead of tires. The bicycle has been in five

different parades and won first prize for best entry in each one. It uses a standard bicycle frame with 3/4-in. dia. steel pipe bent to form the forks for each barrel. The bicycle pedals turn a jack shaft that chain-drives a sprocket on one side of the rear barrel. The white oak whiskey barrels were used to age whiskey as well as hard cider used to make apple wine. The small keg mounted on the handlebars holds 1 gal. of whatever the driver wants to drink. ***(Charlie Henderson, 5651 Wilson-Burt Rd., Burt, N.Y. 14028 ph 716 778-7827)***

Three years ago I converted an old gas station in Dickinson, N. Dak., into a 48-ft. wide, 56-ft. long, 14-ft. high barn for calves that I "background" to about 700 lbs. I paid $500 for the station. We had to tear the entire building down and haul it 20 miles to our home, then put it back together again. When we put it back together we removed the interior walls. It works good, but it was a big job.

Half the barn is used as a heated sick pen where at any one time there will usually be 10 to 15 calves, out of my 700-animal herd. The other half is an open pen, with livestock chutes, a head gate, weigh scale, and branding equipment in one corner. The entire building is insulated except for the roof.

A commercial building of comparable size would sell for $10,000 to $15,000. ***(Eugene Sicker, HC1, Box 86E, Manning, N. Dak. 58642 ph 701 225-0395).***

I'd like to update your readers on the huge self-propelled offset disk that I built 17 years ago (Vol. 3, No. 6). After it was featured in FARM SHOW we had tremendous response from your readers. The disk was designed to virtually eliminate soil compaction, particularly in heavy, gumbo soils. The 36-ft. wide, 4-WD disk has an engine, cab, and controls mounted right on the frame. It "walks" itself through fields, propelled by its own powered gangs of 32-in. dia. discs. Wheels carry the machine in transport but in the field they float, acting as gauge wheels.

I don't use the disk any more but I still power up the engine every once in a while just to make sure it's still in working condition. I custom built it for a local farmer, but soon after I built it he went bankrupt due to the farm crisis in the early 1980's. People from all over the U.S. and some foreign countries came to watch me demonstrate it. Several people even said they wanted to buy one, and one Florida corporation wanted me to build them a dozen models. They grew 30,000 acres of sugar cane and thought that a self-propelled disk could do a better job of killing the cane after harvest than a pull-type disk, because

my self-propelled disk can cut it up better and work the soil 10 in. deep. Pitch of the discs, which is adjusted hydraulically, controls the depth at which the discs operate.

I used it in demonstrations to pull a 30-ft. harrow and hardly even knew it was there. I'm sure it could be used to pull a 12-row planter or up to a 30-ft. grain drill, but I've never tried it. As soon as the farm crisis hit, interest in my disk dried up as if it had never existed. I'm amazed that people who wanted the machine so bad when it was built never bothered to come back. However, people still occasionally stop by my farm to see it. ***(Kermit DeHaai, Kermco-DeHaai, Inc., 741 Carpenter St., Monroe, Iowa 50170 ph 515 259-3043).***

Two years ago you published a story on a "frog farming" system that we were in the process of developing as a profitable new livestock enterprise for farmers (Vol. 19, No. 4). We're happy to report that we're now ready to go into full production. We've set up facilities to produce baby frogs and have located a market for the mature frogs. We've constructed 200,000 sq. ft. of breeder pens, a 16,800 sq. ft. hatchery capable of hatching 5 million frogs, a grow-out house large enough to grow 200,000 frogs, and a grow-out chamber. We are now holding seminars to train potential growers and also to introduce potential growers to buyers.

Selling frogs at a profitable price is no problem. We already have a standing order for 5 million bullfrogs per year. This buyer has agreed to sign a contract with us on behalf of our licensed growers.

We have more than 1,000 people on our waiting list to get into this business but the business is open to anyone. We're accepting a limited number of applications for our licensed grower seminar on a first come, first serve basis. ***(Frogs Unlimited, A Division of Ken's Hatchery & Fish Farm, Box 449, Hwy. 129 N., Alapaha, Ga. 31622 ph 912 532-6135; fax 7220).***