



Imagine substituting the horses in the Budweiser team with Deere garden tractors. That's what Bill Sexton did, and it resulted in this "8-horse" Deere hitch and 2-wheeled cart.

## DRIVERLESS TRACTORS PULL ONE-MAN CART

# "8-Horse" Deere Hitch Big Hit At Parades

"I got the idea after watching the Budweiser team of horses perform on TV," says Bill Sexton, Woodbine, Kan., who "hitches" eight Deere garden tractors together like horses to pull a two-wheeled cart in local parades.

All of the tractors were made in the mid 1960's. The two lead ones are model 100's, with two model 70's and four model 60's following them.

The two lead tractors do the pulling. The others just tag along for effect. Sexton can start and control the tractors from his tow-behind cart. Electric car window motors control the clutches and steering on each tractor, and he ran the ignition switches back to the cart. The wires for the controls run through a length of flexible pvc conduit from the front tractors back to the cart.

A 3 by 1/2-in. steel bar connects the front

tractors to keep them running side by side. Both ends of each bar are hinged to allow the tractors to flex on uneven ground. The tie rods on the front tractors are connected by a 2-ft. long steel rod. The following tractors are connected by 2-ft. long trailer-type hitches.

"I put it together last summer and have already driven it in two parades," says Sexton. "It took 10 years to collect all the tractors which I bought from all over Kansas. Very few of them were in running condition when I bought them so I didn't have to pay very much for them. A couple of them were given to me. At one time or another I've had all of them running. I've even used some of them to mow grass.

"I can control everything right from the cart. The only time I have to walk up front is

if I want to switch gears. "When I make a turn the outside lead tractor tries to get ahead so I can't turn as sharp as I'd like. However, I can turn sharp enough to turn around any street corner.

"I replaced the original 8 hp engines on the two lead tractors with 12 1/2 hp engines because of the weight they have to pull. However, the engines probably wouldn't have to be that big. Operating the tractors would have been easier if I had used later style tractors equipped with hydrostatic drive transmissions.

"I used riding lawn mower wheels and plywood to make the cart. The Deere umbrella above it was a birthday present. My wife had the yellow and green seat on the cart special made for my birthday."

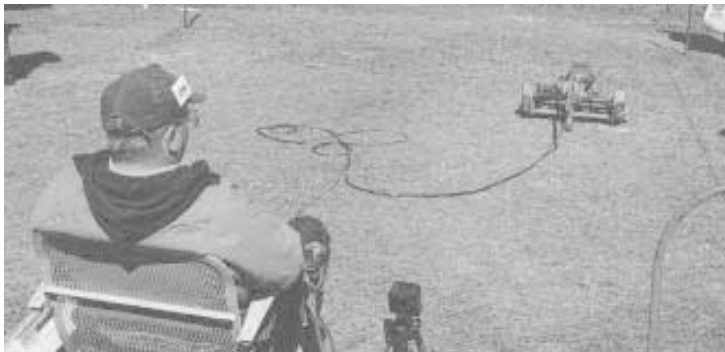
Sexton uses a home-built 31-ft. long, 7-ft.



He uses a home-built, 31-ft. long trailer to haul the eight tractors.

wide trailer to haul the eight tractors. It has 1-ft. high sides and is made from 3 and 6-in. angle iron. It rides on a pair of trailer house axles that he shortened up. A ramp folds down on back. He uses his van to pull it.

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"Antique" E-Z Kuttr mower is driven by a small electric motor that's connected by cord to a control unit held by Sage.

## "Antique" Robot Mower Was Ahead Of Its Time

Thousands of showgoers at the Farm Progress Show in Iowa last fall stopped to watch Curtis Sage of Waterloo, Iowa, put his "antique" robot mower through its paces.

At first glance, most people figured Sage had built the "hands off" mower using electronic switches and other things. But at second glance, it was obvious that nothing on the little mower was new.

Sage explained to FARM SHOW that he collects E-Z Kuttr mowers which were made by the Winpower company in Newton, Iowa, in the late 40's and early 50's. It's driven by a small electric motor that's connected by cord to a control unit held by the operator. The reel-type mower turns in its tracks, thanks to two small solenoid-controlled feet — one at each end — which drop to the ground to stop either end as needed. With one foot held down, the mower will turn in its tracks.

Sage joked that the mower is Y2K compliant and emits no emissions, so environ-



Reel-type mower turns in its tracks, thanks to two small solenoid-controlled feet - one at each end - which drop to ground to stop either end as needed.

mentalists would be happy. He has been collecting E-Z Kuttr mowers for years and says he'd like to add more to his collection. "It was ideal for someone with a small yard, or disabled people who wanted to do for themselves. Mostly, they're just a lot of fun to operate."



Nelson and Kurt Aumann were surprised at the size of the turnout at their antique equipment auction last year. The implement dealer sign shown here sold for \$250.

## Antique Tractor Auction Rings Up Big Sales

Everyone knows the antique tractor market is big but even an auctioneer who specializes in everything to do with antique farm equipment was surprised at the size of the turnout at what turned out to be one of the largest antique machinery auctions in recent years.

Nelson and Kurt Aumann of Aumann Auctions, Inc., Nokomis, Ill., hold an antique equipment auction each year on the two days after Thanksgiving. More than 1,100 registered bidders from 19 states showed up at this year's sale.

Antique tractors are the main attraction but Kurt told FARM SHOW that any good "name brand" equipment sells well. Collectors come from all walks of life - doctors, lawyers, farmers, factory workers, or whatever.

There were a couple surprises at this year's

sale on some smaller items that you might not think would be worth much. A pair of McCormick Deering farm implement dealer signs brought \$250 and \$270 apiece. An old John Deere 2-bottom plow brought \$275. An ancient 10-ft. Massey drill brought \$225.

Antique tractors brought much more, of course. For example, an AC D21 with cab went for \$6,750. An Oliver 55 diesel brought in \$5,600. A Deere 820 sold for \$5,900 and an IH 499D went for \$4,600.

All in all, a couple hundred tractors were sold over the two days. Even if they didn't buy anything, people appeared to have a great time and said they'd be back next year.

To get on a mailing list for future events, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Aumann Auctions, Inc., 107 E. State, Nokomis, Ill. 62075.