

Photo courtesy Capital Press

## Volkswagen Spray Rig

A Volkswagen driving down the middle of an orchard creates a strange sight at the Keith Olson farm near Salem, Oregon but he's just operating his unique "made it myself" field sprayer.

Olson, who raises about 50 acres of nuts, builds and adapts machinery to fit different specialized chores on his operation. To build the sprayer, he first bought a 1957 Volkswagen for \$150 after it had been rolled in a car accident. He cut the top off, mounted a 50-gal. drum as a spray tank in the back seat, and installed a 20-ft. boom on the front of the car.

"It's low enough to drive under the trees. Works better than a tractor," Olson says. He uses the sprayer to strip-spray for weeds between trees and to individually spray each tree for sucker control. He simply pulls a rope inside his car to release chemical out the end nozzles. The ends of the boom are spring loaded to protect both the spray boom and trees from damage.

In addition to his VW sprayer, Olson has also built a hydraulic lift platform, or "tree squirrel," that raises to a height of 12 ft. The machine is operated by an optional 4-way wobble stick or foot pedal.

The machine is different in that while other home-built



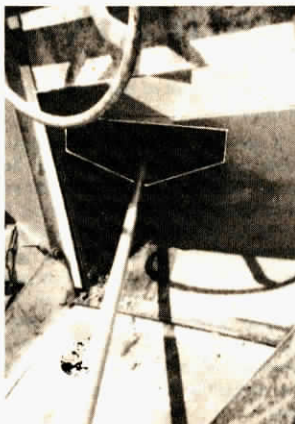
high-lift units use mechanically driven axles' Olson installed hydraulic motors on each wheel so that speed is infinitely variable and he can steer by controlling individual wheels.

The hydraulic motors are driven by a 12-hp. engine. A hollow front axle doubles as a 12-gal. fuel holding tank. Olson figures he saved approximately 30% on his home-built unit over the cost of a commercial unit. He uses the platform to prune trees. It takes three weeks for two people to prune the orchard.

## Gravity Box Corner Scraper

"I designed and built this handy scraper to clean wet corn out of the angled corners of gravity flow boxes. It's become one of the most useful tools on our farm," says Ron Christianson, Northwood, Iowa.

Christianson has started manufacturing and selling the scraper which features an angled edge on one side and a straight edge on the other. "The blade is heavy enough so that it falls right through the grain and cleans it out quickly, right down to the metal. It has a 6-ft. long fiberglass handle that makes it easy to handle and light enough so that the scraper stands up on

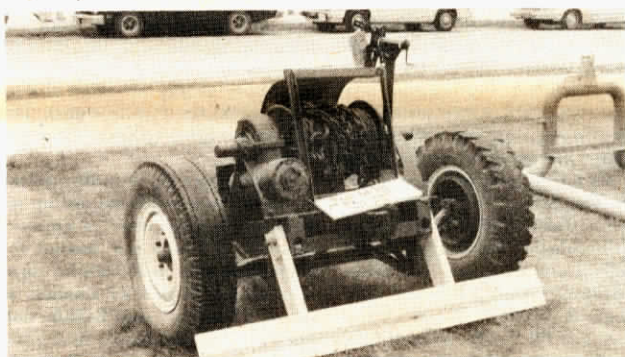


**FARM  
SHOW**

**"Made  
it  
Myself"**

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044).

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



## Pto Winch "Unstucks" Bogged-Down Machinery

Iowa farmers Ross Wiley and Earl Erger, of Vinton, built a pto-driven winch that "works great for pulling out stuck combines, tractors and other equipment, and also works well for pulling out tree stumps."

Wiley notes that the winch works better than a tractor and

log chain because there's a steadier pull, with no jerking on equipment.

The inventors purchased the winch at a salvage yard and fitted it with 200-ft. long, 1-in. dia. cable. The rig's framework was taken from an old Massey combine, an axle from a pickup truck, and the pto from a forage blower.

end by itself."

The corner scraper has been sold locally for the past two seasons to both farmers and grain dealers. Christianson notes that it is also used to clean out flat bottomed trucks and wagons.

The scraper sells for \$12.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Christianson, Oleo Acres, Rt. 3, Box 138, Northwood, Iowa 50459 (ph 515 324-2690).

A hammermill screen fits over the winch to guide the cable onto the spool and to protect the tractor driver if the cable should break. A "dozer blade" on back digs in and acts as an anchor when pulling, allowing for the use of a smaller tractor. The inventors have about \$500 invested in their machine.

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