

Hebron, Nebraska, is on record at the Guinness Book of World Records for having the world's largest swing.



Seat is 32 ft. long and will hold as many as 32 children or 16 adults.

Nebraska Town Boasts World's Largest Porch Swing

When Tim O'Callaghan co-chaired the Hebron, Nebraska, Fourth of July Committee, he wanted to make sure it was a memorable celebration.

So, despite the negative comments of a few naysayers, he asked John Davis, an engineer at Reinke Irrigation Co., to draw up plans for the world's largest porch swing. On the plans were in hand, he commissioned his father, Paul, to build the giant swing's seat.

A section of center pivot provided the top

girder for the swing. Lyle Arnold, a local welder, did the necessary cutting and welding to set it firmly on the ground at the correct height, and added brackets to mount the chains for the swing.

About 50 people helped get the swing together erected in the town's Roosevelt Park just in time for the celebration. The swing seat itself is 32 ft. long and will hold up to 32 children, if they're small and sit close together. Sixteen adults can fit easily.

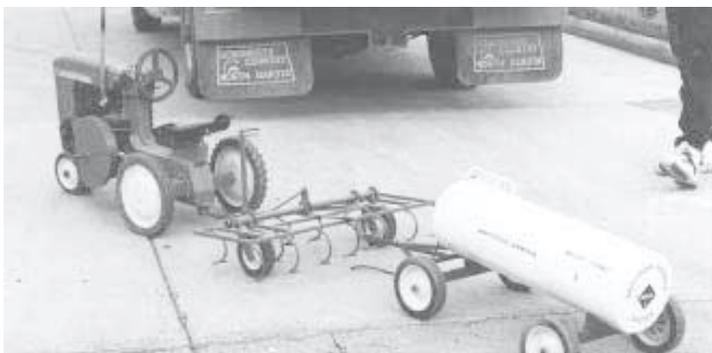
O'Callaghan says the original swing his father built for the Fourth of July celebration was made of treated pine lumber and then painted.

The weight of the swing caused a lot of wear around the bolts that held it together. So the heavy wooden swing was taken down and replaced with a wooden swing on a lighter-weight frame, which was built from 1-in. square steel tubing. "Without all the wood for bracing and strength, the swing is

lighter and sturdier, too," O'Callaghan says.

"With the volunteer labor and materials provided by Reinke's, the original swing cost us only about \$250 to construct," O'Callaghan says. "It got the town of Hebron into the Guinness Book of World Records for having the world's largest swing."

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Miller has built several implements for his Deere 20 pedal tractor, including this chisel plow and anhydrous trailer.

Another Motorized Pedal Tractor

"I've often wanted to comment or send you photos of some of my projects but it wasn't until after reading the last issue that I finally decided to write," says Frank L. Miller, Mott, N.Dak.

"The motorized pedal tractor that you showed wasn't bad but it was big and I didn't think it still looked like a pedal tractor after the motor was installed. I thought your readers would like to see a motorized tractor I put together for my grand kids. They must have put a million miles on since I built it 10 years ago.

"The tractor is built out of a Deere 20 series pedal tractor which I completely restored. I cut the center part out of the hood and installed a 3 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine. The engine direct-drives a centrifugal clutch which chain-drives the rear axle. It is geared down by a big sprocket and three separate shafts so there is almost no limit to its power. My grand kids wore out two sets of rear tires by tying the tractor to a tree, etc., and then putting it in gear. Because of all the power, the original 1/2-in. dia. shaft on the rear axle bent, so I replaced it with a bigger 5/8-in. dia. one. The pedal tractor originally drove off only the right rear wheel. I welded up the rear axle so that both rear



Tractor is powered by a 3 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine.

wheels turn together.

"The tractor still has its original front and rear wheels, seat, and steering wheel. I added a throttle lever which I use to control tractor speed.

"The tractor has appeared in many parades over the years. I built several different implements to the same scale including a hay rack, chisel plow, anhydrous trailer, grain drill and a 4-bottom plow moldboard plow. The implements are mostly for show - I don't use them on my farm."

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Farming With Older Tractors Provides His Profit Margin

"I buy old tractors in run-down condition and completely restore them. I don't pay much for them and they run cheap, which allows me to keep farming at a profit," says Roger Fisher, Spirit Lake, Iowa. His NEWEST tractor is a 1956 Deere 720.

Fisher farms just under 500 acres and also has an off-farm job. He buys tractors from junkyards or neighbors, then overhauls and repaints them. In recent years he has restored several International tractors including a Farmall M, Farmall H, and Farmall Super H; several Deere tractors including a B, 50, 70, 720 diesel, and 730; and a 1939 Case VAC.

"After repainting them I put on original decals so they really look nice," says Fisher.

"We use the Deere 720 and 730 tractors to pull a 16 1/2-ft. tandem disk and a 4-bottom plow. We use the Super H for chores. The Case VAC operates an elevator that delivers small square bales into our barn.

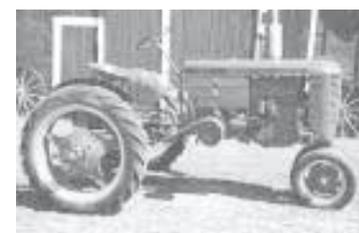
"We use the Deere B to operate a post hole auger that I found in a junkyard. We recently used it to dig post holes when we put up a new shed. We use a homemade boom on front of the Farmall H to do heavy lifting jobs. The boom is equipped with a hydraulic cylinder that raises or lowers a pulley that acts on a chain. We use the Deere 50 to operate an old Deere No. 10 side-mounted mower that's belt-driven off the pto. We use the Farmall Super H to operate a front-mounted wheel rake, which I adapted to fit the tractor.

"These tractors are fuel efficient. For example, the Deere 730 uses only about 1 gal. of fuel per hour. They're also cost efficient because I can do all the maintenance and repair work on them myself."

Fisher also uses old equipment to do his harvesting. He owns a 1962 Deere 45 self-propelled combine for soybeans and a 2-row



Fisher uses his Deere 720 diesel to pull a 16 1/2-ft. disk and a 4-bottom plow.



1939 Case VAC operates an elevator that delivers small square bales into his barn.



He uses a Farmall Super H to operate a front-mounted wheel rake, which he adapted to fit tractor.

corn picker, which mounts on his Deere 70 tractor. All his corn is stored in cribs.

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