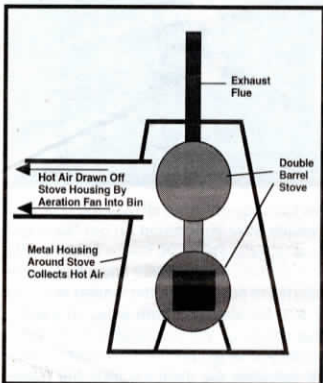


well known in the Western U.S. We thought FARM SHOW readers might like to learn about us, too. Our rubber tracks are positive drive so they'll never slip. We build our own heavy-duty undercarriages and use tracks from 9 to 36 in. wide. Tracks for vineyard-type tractors run around \$8,700. Track systems for 2-WD tractors run in the high \$20,000 range, while systems for 4-WD's are priced in the mid-\$50,000 range. After researching all the other systems on the market, we feel we've got the best by far. (Dennis Wilkinson, Omnitrac, 68287 Lower Cove Road, Cove, Ore. 97824; ph 503-963-0139 or 568-4735, fax 568-4571.)



Thanks for your article on our new "2 Plus 2" trailer which lets you pull two tipping trailers at the same time. We've had many letters from all over. Unfortunately, the phone number was incorrect. The correct number is below. (Michael Rasmussen, Rasmussen Enterprises, 619 E. Meadow Lane, Redwood Falls, Minn. 56283 ph 507 637-3926)



I built a simple wood-fired grain dryer out of scrap metal that works well for me and has saved a lot of money. It consists of a double drum wood burning stove that I made with scrap barrels and a commercial stove-building kit. I built a housing around the stoves that holds in the hot air off the stoves. A flue carries smoke up out of the housing, while clean hot air is sucked out from the housing by the bin aeration fan through a large duct that exits one side. After three years of use, it still works good. (Alvin J. Deugau, Box 61, Outlook, Sask. S0L 2N0 Canada)

We manufacture seed boots, fertilizer applicator units, sweeps, and other products for field cultivators and chisel plows. One unique product we make are furrow levellers that adapt to any shank. The spring-loaded teeth -



there are two teeth per shank - mount on either side of the shank. They help close the furrows when mounted on cultivators and chisels. Tine depth and angle are fully adjustable and they've got plenty of clearance for trash. They're designed to operate in the top 1 to 1 1/2-in. of loose soil. They've been particularly popular when placing NH3 at the time of seeding. (Lois Schimke, KeyAg Ventures, Rt. 4, Red

Deer, Alberta T4N 5E4 Canada (ph 403 343-6342; fax 403 343-6112)

In your March-April issue (Vol. 19, No. 2) there's a picture of Bryan Davis' Madison silo that tipped over. I don't think Bryan should necessarily blame Madison Silo Co. for the tragedy. I'm an engineer, and some 20 years ago a silo unloader manufacturer asked me to design a foundation for stave silos using their unloader which had a vertical shaft with swinging chains. After some study, I informed them that they might tip some stave silos over because silage typically will freeze on the north side but the south side may thaw out on warm winter days and let the silage on that side slide down.

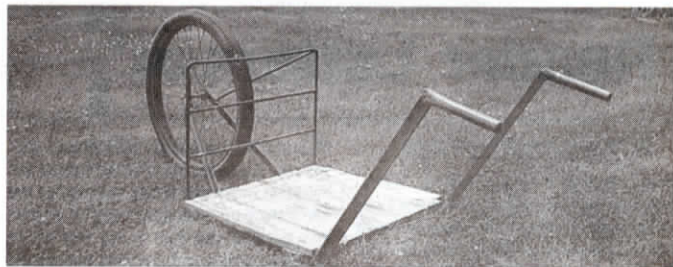
Well, the manufacturer didn't believe me. That was in October. In late January, one of their salesmen called to inform me that a silo had gone over in Kansas. It seems the farmer and his wife had just returned from town and were carrying in the groceries when the rods on the silo began to break, sounding like an automatic machine gun. After the dust settled and the farmer had regained his senses, he began to wonder where his prize bull was because the bull always laid on the sunny side of the silo. Well, after much searching, they found a few hairs on the top barb wire where the bull had made a quick exit and cleared the 6-ft. fence.

My question to Mr. Davis is: When he filled the silo did he use a distributor to spread the forage evenly around the silo? If he did not use a distributor, most likely the forage dropped and compacted more on one side and, as the silo filled, that dense, compacted core where the silage lands when it enters the silo would start leaning over to the side where the fill pipe was. Without a distributor running, that leaning, dense core of silage will form every time.

To illustrate, take a tall juice can and cut out the bottom. Then take 6 to 8 wooden pencils and bind them together with a rubber band and set them in the can to one side and let them go. They will tip the can over. There is very little to hold a stave silo down other than its own weight. (Robert L. Mensch, PE, Mensch Engineering, 2500 Albion Ave., Fairmont, Minn. 56031 ph 507 235-9151)

I've been a subscriber to FARM SHOW since its inception and was elated about the story on the "Big Brutus" giant mining shovel (160 ft. tall) which is now a tourist attraction in Kansas (Vol. 19, No. 3). I was interested because my brother Chester Dowell assembled this machine for Peabody Coal Co. over a 13-month period. When Chester finished high school he went to work for an engineering company specializing in drainage, canals and levee work. They put together a 3-yard machine in 1914 which was used to keep the Rio Grande river from flooding cities in Texas. Chester eventually went to work for Peabody, setting up smaller shovels before Big Brutus arrived. He had the job of overseeing the building of it and took pictures of the work in progress. When I heard they had retired the machine and were setting up a museum around it, I tried to find the pictures but was unable to. Chester has since passed away. (J. Irwin Dowell, Rt. 1, Box 56, Chillicothe, Mo. 64601)

In one of your back issues (Vol. 18, No. 3) there was a story about Steven Dennis of Ontario and his row cleaners. We'd like to get more information about how to handle a heavy volume of waste material when planting corn with our 6-row Deere 7000 planter. We plant corn on pineapple fields as early after harvest as possible, knocking down as many of the plants as possible beforehand. Thus we have a heavy covering of semi-decayed leaves and pineapple



I've farmed in east central Iowa most of my life and I've always been frustrated with the fact that heavily loaded wheelbarrows invariably tip over. The problem is the high center of gravity. So I designed a wheelbarrow I call the "Yard Mule" with a very low center of gravity. I recently received a patent on the design and am working with several manufacturers who are interested in producing it. My prototype (pictured) has a big, 26-in. dia. bicycle tire in front. Instead of wooden handles angling upward from the front axle, my wheelbarrow has metal tub-

ing angling downward from the axle, then upward from the ground to form handles. A 24-in. square platform capable of carrying up to 350 lbs. mounts between the axle and handles. The platform stays parallel with the ground at all times. My brother and I spent about six months perfecting the "Yard Mule" last winter. We believe we'll have a deal with a manufacturer in time to have it on the market next spring in at least a couple of major building supply stores. (Tom Kueny, 2650 62nd St., Vinton, Iowa 52349; ph 319-472-5521).

stubs. We'd like to be able to clear off the rows and leave residue between rows. We don't do any cultivating or spraying. There are areas where we have to contend with volcanic stone, which tends to surface during the preparation for pineapple planting.

We chop all of our corn as to supply the growing cattle industry here in the southern Philippines. We'd appreciate any information you or your readers could supply. (Jared W. Barker, Farm Service & Development Corporation., P.O. Box 7982, 9506 Koronadal, South Cotabato, Philippines)

You can easily make an inexpensive dog house out of an old 50-gal. barrel. Just cut one end out of the barrel and put in a little



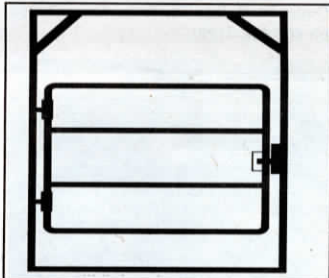
straw for bedding, and you'll end up with a comfortable spot for dogs to get out of the weather. To hold the barrel secure, stakes can be driven into the ground on either side of it. One of the stakes can double as an anchor for a chain if the dog needs to be tied. You can anchor the barrel down by running wire over the top of it between the stakes. (Heather Thomas, Box 215, Salmon, Idaho 83467)

I hang a piece of 1-in. long chain down to the cutting edge of each bottom on my moldboard plow. The chain hangs about 6 in. out from the face of the moldboard. It knocks trash down into the furrow so that it's covered up by dirt coming off the moldboard. You can adjust the length and positioning of the chain to fit varying conditions. The idea should work on any plow. (Don Yegge, 2378 Donner Place, Santa Clara, Calif. 95050)



In regard to the article in the last issue of FARM SHOW titled "World's Largest Farm

Tractor?" (with a question mark after it), I thought the big new South African tractor was interesting to read about but I think I know of a bigger tractor. The Big Roy, manufactured by Versatile in the early 1970's, was an 8-WD tractor with big engines in both the front and back. The one-of-a-kind tractor weighed 28 tons and was 30 ft. long and 11 ft. high. It was fitted with 6-ft. high tires nearly 2 1/2 ft. wide. Last I heard, the prototype tractor is still in operation in California. (Jacques R. Tetreault, Rt. 2, Tilbury, Ontario N0P 2L0 Canada)



To make access easier to lots and pens, I've made several 4-ft. wide gates by building a 7-ft. high framework out of 1-in. dia. steel pipe. The walk-through gates mount next to conventional gates, eliminating the need to open a large gate or crawl over a fence. My small gates swing either way, held in place by an automatic latch. They could be made wider to accommodate an ATV. (Eugene Alt, 1720 Heron, Audubon, Iowa 50025 ph 712 563-4115)

Our 3-pt., ground-driven "Verminator" gopher killing machine is one of the most expensive on the market but does a great



job and will last a long time. It's easy to operate, set up, adjust, and maintain. The unit forms smooth tunnels that keep dirt from falling onto the bait and can dispense one bait or two baits alternately. A fluted, spring-loaded coulter ahead of the tip cuts

(Continued on next page)