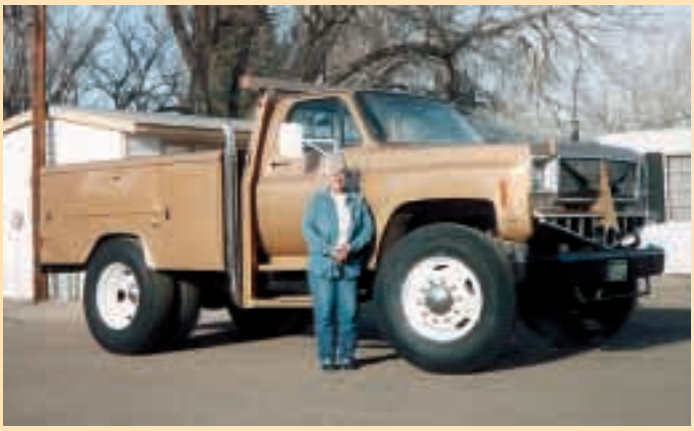

Bill Swets cut the cab and utility bed off his Chevy 3/4-ton pickup and mounted them on the frame and running gear of a school bus. Big pickup stands 7 ft. 10 in. tall.

"I Made My Own 3-Ton Pickup"

When the engine wore out on his 1976 Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup at 168,000 miles, Bill Swets, Fort Collins, Colo., knew he would have to spend $30,000 to $40,000 for a new pickup. Instead, he decided to build his own by mounting the pickup's cab and utility bed on the frame and running gear of a school bus.

The giant 3-ton pickup stands 7 ft. 10 in. high at the top of the cab, yet it's only 6 in. longer than a regular 3/4-ton pickup. It's powered by the bus's original 366 cu. in., 250 hp gas engine and 5-speed transmission.

Pickup is powered by bus's original 366 cu. in., 250 hp gas engine.

"I expect it to last a long time," says Swets, who built the pickup last winter. "I pull some big trailers and needed more power. I paid just $700 for the bus and did most of the work myself so the total cost was only about $2,300."

He bought a 1981 GMC 3-ton, 65-passenger school bus equipped with dual rear wheels. The body and front end were removed and the running gear was shortened by about 14 ft. The pickup bed was cut down the middle and widened 14 in. to cover the bus's dual rear wheels. The cab was welded in place. He had the wheel hubs machined to accept big 43-in. high wheels for better highway speeds.

The rig is equipped with the pickup's original cab guard and has a stainless steel muffler on one side. An extra step was added onto each side in order to make it easier to climb up into the cab. The last step was to add six coats of metallic gold paint - the only job that Swets didn't do himself.

"I finally have a pickup that can pull big loads, and the cost was right," says Swets. "When I pull a fully-loaded 30-ft. longbed trailer, the engine doesn't even slow down. Most people are amazed when they see it for the first time. Some of them even steer clear of me and move over to the side as I go down the road."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Swets, 4801 E. Harmony Rd., Fort Collins, Colo. 80528 (ph 970 484-9509).

Pickup is only 6 in. longer than a regular 3/4-ton truck.

Vol. 26, No. 4, 2002

Harold M. Johnson
Founder & Publisher Emeritus

Editor/Publisher - Mark Newhall
Senior Editor - Bill Gergen
Contributing Editors - Mick Lane, C.F. Marley
Office Manager - Anne Lash
Circulation - Marcy Isaacson, Peg Nagel, Shelly Mende

FARM SHOW (ISSN #01634518) is published bimonthly (6 times a year) for $19.95 per year ($27.95 in Canada and foreign countries) by Farm Show Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 1029, 20088 Kenwood Trail, Lakeville, Minn. 55044. Periodicals postage paid at Lakeville, Minn., and Shakopee, Minn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 952 469-5572; fax 952 469-5575). E-Mail: Circulation@FARMSHOW.com. Website: www.FARMSHOW.com. Single copy price is $5.00 ($7.00 in Canada). Publication No. 469490 GST No. 131272023 Publication Agreement #40032660

FARM SHOW does not accept advertising and focuses exclusively on new products and product evaluations.

FARM SHOW does not charge for new products or services featured in the magazine. Anyone with a new product or service of interest to farmers - whether inventor, manufacturer, marketer, distributor or whatever - is invited to contact FARM SHOW regarding possible publication.

FARM SHOW Publishing, Inc., has not tested or used any of the ideas or products described in its publications. FARM SHOW Publishing, Inc., does not promote, recommend or endorse the use of the ideas or products described in its publications. FARM SHOW Publishing, Inc., disclaims any and all responsibilities and liabilities in the event of personal injury, death, property damage or losses as the result of the use or application of any such ideas or products. Anyone applying or using such ideas or products does so at his, her or their own risk.

Printed in U.S.A. All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction, in whole or in part, without written permission.

July-August, 2002

One-Man Fence Stretching Machine

"I was fencing in my property and wanted to do it by myself. I talked to people who sell wire in the area and they said I couldn't. That I would need a come-along and several people to help," says Ted Kingery, Forest City, N.C.

"Since I have a metal fabricating shop in my backyard, I decided to design a piece of equipment that would enable me to get the job done alone. My idea turned into what I call a Fence Caddy, which enables one person to install fencing using a tractor. It picks up the roll, unrolls the wire, and stretches it. You only have to touch the wire when you roll it off the truck.

"The Fence Caddy tips down to the ground to pick up the fencing, raises it up, and then the fencing is fed out through a locking device that pulls it taut while you fasten it to your posts.

"The locking device consists of a freely-rotating vertical steel pipe with a flat bar welded to it that in turn has six pegs welded onto it, and a length of sq. tubing with six slots milled into it. The pipe and sq. tubing are spaced 1/16 in. apart. As the tractor goes forward the pipe rotates and the pegs fit into the slots, catching the fence wire and holding it tight. Once the fence is tight enough the driver can set the emergency brake on the tractor, then get off it and nail the fence to the post. He then relieves the pressure on the tractor and unrolls another stretch of wire so he can repeat the process.

"You can also use spools of barbed wire with the Fence Caddy."

Contact: FARMA SHOW Followup, Ted Kingery, 840 Shiloh Road, Forest City, N.C. 28043 (ph 828 248-2726; Email: kingery@rfci.net).

Fence Caddy allows one person to install fencing using a tractor. It picks up the roll, unrolls the wire, and stretches it. Fencing is fed out through a locking device that pulls it taut while you fasten it to your posts.

Unit tips down to ground to pick up fence roll and then raises it up.

Powered "Boot Wash"

Need help cleaning dirty boots? Then have a look at Gene's Clean Machine, a new powered "boot wash."

Made from heavy-duty poly, the unit is fitted with 16 water jets - 8 on each side - and two overhanging shields. It measures 10 in. wide and deep and 10 3/4 in. high. It runs off a garden hose. To clean your boots you simply stick them one at a time into the jets. It takes only about four seconds for the jets, which spray the boots from four directions, to clean the boots. There's a small drain hole in a pipe at the bottom of the unit for draining water out of the unit in freezing weather.

"It has a lot of pressure and does a great job cleaning," says inventor Gene Himelick. "Eight of the jets shoot upward at a 25-degree angle, and the other eight go down at a 25-degree angle so it covers the entire boot. I got the idea after some neighbor kids took care of our 4-H calves and used our boots whenever they went into the barn. The boots got extremely dirty. We tried using a hand brush and two fixed brushes and water to get the bottoms of the boots clean, but couldn't."

Sells for $49.95 including S&H.

Also available is a larger unit for hog producers that dispenses disinfectant with the water. It measures 10 1/2 in. wide and deep by 30 in. high. Disinfectant is sucked out of a 1-gal. jug that sets on top of the unit and is tapped into the water line. A ball valve is used to control the boot washer and a quarter turn valve to control the disinfectant. The unit has 15 choices of metering tips with a range of .3 oz./gal. to 8.1 oz/gal.

Sells for $195.

Powered "boot wash" is fitted with 16 water jets - 8 on each side. It runs off a garden hose. To clean your boots, you simply stick them one at a time into the jets. Large unit for hog producers (left) dispenses disinfectant with the water. Disinfectant is sucked out of a 1-gal. jug that sets on top of unit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Himelick, Gene's Clean Machine, 10986 Taylor Road, Economy, Ind. 47339 (ph 765 886-5661; fax 765 886-5259; E-mail: glhimelick@aol.com).