While their new house was going up, Ed Yager and his wife lived in their 30 by 80-ft. shop. They equipped it with specially-designed living quarters.

To create the "guest house" living quarters, Yager put up a wall 12 ft. from one end of building and across the full 30-ft. width of it.

"Ultimate" Shop Has Its Own Living Quarters

Some wives joke that their husbands live in their shops. Ed Yager, Glen Rose, Texas, really did live in his for awhile, along with his wife, Gail.

When the Yagers sold their home in Ft. Worth to move to an unimproved acreage near tiny Glen Rose, the first building up was Ed's new shop.

Yager says he always enjoyed working in the shop, but living in the city, he never had enough room for the kind of shop he wanted. He says they realized that it would take some time to build the house, and since local housing that fit their needs was not available, he designed the shop with a guest house in it. So while the house was going up, the Yagers lived there.

Yager's 30 by 80-ft. shop is a gabled steel building, like a barn, but they covered over the exterior steel siding with adobe-style brick. Inside, it has 8 in. of insulation all around covered by 3/4-in. plywood. "The combination of insulation and brick helps control the heat during the hot Texas summers - except when it is 110 degrees in the shade," Yager says.

To create his "guest-house" living quarters, Yager put up a wall 12 ft. from one end of the building and across the full 30-ft. width of it. He then partitioned the 12 by 30-ft. area into two rooms, along with bathroom and closets. One room is the living/kitchen area, while the other is a bedroom. He stubbed in a 10-ft. ceiling and dropped 10 in. of insulation on top of that.

"I put in sheet rock, and then got a good buy on some nice pecan paneling, so we paneled the entire living quarters," he says.

He used thermopane windows in the living quarters and the shop.

The all-steel shop building has 10-ft. sidewalls. The roof peaks at 15 ft. An overhead door at one end is tall enough that Yager can bring his Massey tractor inside, along with any implement that he may have on it, for service and repairs.

A 10-in. I-beam mounted overhead inside the 10 by 12-ft. door makes a track across half the length of the shop for a 2-ton manual chain hoist. He says this got a lot of use when he was unloading building materials for finishing the insides of the shop and later for the house. He continues to use it for unloading large containers of herbicide, building materials for fencing, and more.

One corner of Yager's shop is devoted to a water pressure tank and water treatment equipment that supplies the shop, guesthouse and the house with water. This corner also has a washer and dryer.

The rest is laid out in work stations, where he has work tables, shelves, and his shop equipment, including an oxy-fuel welder, a MIG welder, a stick welder, commercial drill press, band saws for both wood and steel, a table saw, a radial arm saw, and various other tools. He plans to eventually add a metal lathe. Yager built all the tables and shelves himself to fit the space he had available.

"I wanted to put in an oil change pit and sump area, but that was going to require cutting down into solid rock," he says. "We sloped part of the shop floor into a floor drain to make it easier to wash down, but even the drain was difficult to install because of the rock."

Yager also added a heat pump heating and cooling system for the living quarters. To make the shop more comfortable during the hot months, he installed two evaporative coolers in it. For warmth in the winter, there are a couple of forced air heaters in the shop.

Yager says the building and concrete slab it sits on cost a total of $56,000 (about $24 per sq. ft). "That doesn't include the exterior brick, interior siding, wiring or the improvements made to the shop and guest house area," he says.
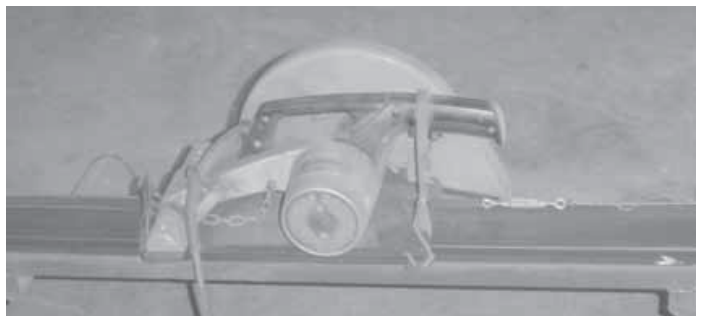
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ed Yager, 1564 County Road 2021, Glen Rose, Texas 76043 (ph 254 897-3770).

A 12 by 30-ft. area is partitioned into two rooms, along with bathroom and closets. One room is the living/kitchen area, while the other is a bedroom.

Kitchen contains all the comforts of home and is a nice place to take a break from work in the shop.

Home-Built Sheet Metal "Chop Saw"

Peter Visser of Dublin, Ontario, was tired of struggling to cut sheet metal with a torch.

"When I cut thin sheets with a torch, they would warp and I'd get a rough edge. So I came up with a chop saw that cuts sheet metal cleanly and straight," he says.

Visser removed the base from a Makita portable metal saw that he already had and replaced it with a piece of flat 3/8-in. thick steel plate, the same width as the saw. It's held in place with two bolts. On the bottom of the plate, he welded two pieces of angle iron to form a slide that holds onto a 10-ft. rail he made using two sections of 3-in. chan-

nel iron laying side by side.

Visser put a roller and a hand crank at each end of the rail and hooked the cable to each side of the saw's slide plate. The winch system moves the saw smoothly from one end of the rail to the other. The operator doesn't have to lean across the plate and pull the saw by hand.

"I use this system to cut sheets of steel up to 12-ga. I lay it on a couple of saw horses so it's up off the ground, and when I start to cut, I lock the saw down and pull it across," he explains. "It makes straight and smooth cuts. One blade will cut the length of an 8-ft., 14-

Winch system moves saw smoothly from one end of rail to the other.

ga. sheet three times."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peter Visser, R.R.1, Dublin, Ontario, Canada N0K 1E0 (ph 519 345-2182; email: pvisser@ezlink.ca).