

Reader Letters



In Vol. 28, No. 6, a reader wrote about using a vacuum to help repair a gas tank. This is extremely dangerous! Gas fumes sucked through a vacuum will almost surely create an enormous explosion. Most vacuums use a brush-type motor, which creates a constant stream of sparks that will cause the fumes to ignite. Please tell your readers to be careful. **(John Orpen, jorpen@arvig.net)**



older son extended the cab and overhauled the entire body. The pickup is supported by air bags, and by flipping a switch on the dash he can lower it all the way down to the ground.

The truck in the middle of the photo is a 1943 International K-3 1-ton model that I restored. It's quite rare, because not many farm trucks were built that year. It still has its original power train. The truck was originally equipped with a grain box, which I replaced with a wooden stake rack.

My younger son owns the green and black pickup, a 1989 Toyota 1/2-ton model. He raised the body, put on 17-in. wheels, and repainted it. **(Benny Friesen, Rt. 1, Box 16, Morris, Manitoba, Canada R0G 1K0 ph 204 746-8436)**

I came up with this industrial strength suet feeder that's totally raccoon proof. It's constructed of heavy steel mesh and treated lumber. I just mount it on a tree, add suet, and watch the woodpeckers feed away. It cost me about \$35 to make.

If you thought the economy is unstable, you should see my homemade "Bonkers" squirrel feeder in action. It's a hollow



wooden box suspended by an 18-in. length of chain. When the squirrel jumps onto it the feeder bounces, twists, and turns. He gets the ride of his life and I get the fun of watching. All I add is four handfuls of sunflower seeds. It cost me \$35 to make.



This 24-in. dia. camp fire ring draws air from the bottom, which eliminates most of the smoke that gags us. I get a brighter fire and more heat. The ring mounts on four 18-in. sq. patio blocks. All I do is add dry wood and light the fire. It cost me \$120 to put together. **(Dan Jacobson, 8913 Weaver Lake Drive, Pequot Lakes, Minn. 56472 ph 218 543-6623)**

My son Justin and I made this self-propelled "bar stool" and it's a real conversation piece. It's powered by a 3 1/2 hp

Here's a simple way to make sure your family parks in the right spot in the ga-



rage. I just hang a tennis ball on a string from the roof of the garage. It's positioned so it's just touching the windshield when the car's stopped. Makes it easy for all members of the family to park in the same place every time. **(Al Kemp, Winnipeg, Manitoba)**

I was deer hunting last fall with a friend of mine near Remer in northern Minnesota when he shot an unusual buck with three horns. The third horn looked nor-



mal but was growing right out of the middle of the buck's forehead. It was turned sideways a bit, so it grew right up between the other two antlers. We've heard this happens from time to time but I'd never seen it. My friend, Chris Mealhouse, of Emily, Minn., plans to have it mounted. **(Nicholas Wetschka, Eagan, Minn.; email: nicholas.wetschka@CenterPointEnergy.com)**

I bought this Farmall H for parts, then decided to replace the original engine with a 305 cu. in. Chevy V-8 small block engine. I also mounted big combine



wheels on back. There's a custom made chrome straight pipe on each side of the tractor. My sons painted the tractor with yellow flames on front. It's the life of the party in parades. The new engine was wider than the original one so I had to build a new frame between the transmission and front end. The tractor runs twice as fast as the original one. It was a fun project.

My two sons work in the auto body business, and this photo shows how they "dressed up" some pickups. The red and black pickup is a 1951 Chevy 1/2-ton. My



Editor's Note: In the last issue (Vol. 28, No. 6), we carried two stories featuring inventor Roger Erickson, who built his own helicopter from scratch and who also manufactures a line of heavy-built corn-burning stoves. Unfortunately, the phone number listed in both articles was wrong. The correct number to reach Roger is 507 238-4134.

Since the article we've obtained bet-

ter photos of Roger's made-it-myself helicopter, Erickson built, cast or milled every part of the copter, except for the Chevy V-8 engine that powers it. **(Contact: Roger Erickson, Erickson Machine, 1114 East 4th Street, Fairmont, Minn. 56031 ph 507 238-4134; email: rerrick@frontier.net; website: www.cheetah350.com)**



Briggs and Stratton engine and rides on the front wheels off a pair of riding mowers. It has a little bit of everything on it. The driver sits on a real bar stool that



has a 1-gal. beer keg mounted behind it. The engine chain-drives the rear axle. The clutch is off a go-cart, the throttle is off a snowmobile, and the disc brake is off a motorcycle. The driver uses a handle on front to steer the rig. The impression most people have the first time they see

me driving it is to start laughing. Top speed is 14 mph, but to go that speed I've got to be on a smooth tar road.

We repowered our 1949 Cockshutt 30 tractor with a Chevy 283 cu. in., V-8 gas engine and added four aluminized exhaust pipes on each side of the engine.



The tractor was originally powered by a 4-cyl., 30 hp engine so it has a lot more power and speed now. Sometimes I exhibit it at tractor pulls and also drive it in parades. The tractor still has its original clutch and transmission. We had to build a new bell housing and other adapters. With all the exhaust pipes it's very loud and sounds a lot like a stock car.

We also repowered our Bolens garden tractor with a Chevrolet 305 cu. in., V-8 engine. To make the conversion we had to lengthen the frame by 3 ft. The tractor was originally powered by a 20 hp Bolens engine with a hydrostatic transmission. I made an adapter plate to connect the

(Continued on next page)



Nearly three years ago our Big Bud toy 1/32-scale die-cast tractors were introduced in FARM SHOW (Vol. 26, No. 2). We thought your readers might also be interested in our new Big Roy Versatile 1080 1/32-scale die-cast toy tractor.

The Big Roy first rolled off the production line in 1977. The 8-WD tractor rode on four axles powered by a massive 600 hp Cummins engine. Retractable ladders, a camera-monitor system and many in-cab comforts made a tour of the futuristic tractor forever memorable.

Big Roy was a star on the farm show circuit for many years after its introduction.

The new replica tractor measures 11 1/4 in. long by 3 3/4 in. wide by 4 1/4 in. high. It has an articulating frame with

eight Firestone tires on metal rims. It comes with a removable engine cover, retractable ladder, hood ornament, and moveable drawbar and camera detail.

Two paint schemes of the new toy model are available - a Series II version (as it rolled out of the factory in 1977) and a Series III version as it can be seen today. Quantities will be limited to a single production run based upon orders received by April 1.

Each tractor sells for \$80 plus S&H. When both tractors are ordered as a set they sell for a total of \$150 plus S&H. **(Lori Botner, Toy Farmer Ltd., 7496 106 Ave. SE, LaMoure, N. Dak. 58458 ph 800 533-8293; website: www.toyfarmer.com)**