

# Reader Letters



Thanks for the article in the last issue on my lawn roller. I've had a lot of calls so I thought I'd answer a couple of the questions I've been asked.

The original cultipack roller was 8 ft. long. It was old and probably horse-drawn. I made bearings for the roller from small wedge-shaped pieces of red oak, which I packed in around the shaft. I have also added 6 concrete blocks filled with concrete for extra weight.

I'd be glad to help anyone who calls or writes. **(Robert Comer, 7998 E Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827 ph 517 663-8913)**

Three years ago you published a short Editor's Notebook story about our small employment agency in Brooklyn, New York, and our efforts to find employment for skilled agricultural workers from the Ukraine and Russia. I just want to say thanks.

After the issue flew around the U.S., we got dozens and dozens of calls, email requests, and faxed messages. Last year alone we assisted 75 seasonal workers from the former USSR who came to the U.S. and found work on farms. Your subscribers have been a big help and are now like a big family to me.

Employing legal workers results in a huge savings for everyone with no risk of employing illegal workers. The process of getting skilled seasonal labor from overseas is easy, fast and pretty affordable. **(Bogdan Chugunov, Carte Blance World Consulting Agency, Inc., 1 Bay 25<sup>th</sup> St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11214 (ph 718 265-9091; carteocean@yahoo.com)**

Since I was brought up in eastern North Carolina, I've been around barbecue all my life. Over the years I've built several cookers for cooking pork, chicken and



anything else you might want to barbecue. When I came across an old stainless steel milk cooling tank, I knew right away what I would do with it. I built a cooker that I call "The BRC Ultimate Cooking Machine". It has a stainless steel grill, three large propane burners, a small gas burner and a cast iron pot to hold wood chips. A round tank on back is under pressure to provide running water. There's also a chopping board and a work table on each side, in addition to a water cooler for drinks and storage for cooking tools.

The BRC stands for Bar Room Cooking. I owned five different bars and a night club over a 19-year period. We did a lot of cooking and learned a lot of ways to cook different things. I retired at 70, bought a computer, and wrote a 300-page book on barroom cooking. I

really enjoy cooking and entertainment. My book sells for \$25 plus \$2.50 S&H. **(Ollie Bass, BRC, P.O. Box 57, Van Wyck, S.C. 29744 ph 803 286-9022; website: olliebass.tripod.com)**



I found a face that looks like ET of movie fame inside some big logs I cut a while back. I thought you'd like to see what I saw. **(Kenneth Filburn Sr., 289 Filburn Ln., Crossville, Tenn. 38571)**

I'm looking to sell this unique-looking utility machine I made out of an old self-



propelled combine. It has a front-end loader and turns on a dime. It's very versatile and you could add on a mid-mount mower, post pounder or use it to transport a large grain auger. Call for more information if you're interested. **(John Philipation, P.O. Box 329, Onianole, Manitoba Canada R0J 1N0 ph 204 848-2501)**

This is a two-thirds scale model 1937 "B" I made from scratch using the real thing as a model.

The front pedestal was chopped from the rear axle off a 1950 Chrysler. The



steering post was cut down from a Deere H. The cap on the air intake was a soup ladle. The top of the radiator was routed out of solid mahogany by my son. It's not a kit. I made most of the parts myself using a chop saw.

The major parts that were fashioned to fit were the flywheel, belt pulley, brake pedals, hand clutch, radiator and the seat bracket.

After I spray painted the tractor green and my wife painted the yellow parts, it was almost a shock every time I walked into the shop and saw the baby "B."

I drive it in parades pulling a mini hay wagon, which I also made. **(Mr. Robert Buffum, 11174 Bullis Rd., Marilla, N.Y. 14102)**

Thanks for the article in the last issue about my backyard fish and vegetable operation. Here are some other ways to contact me for more information. My website is [www.solaraquaponics.com](http://www.solaraquaponics.com)



During the 2002 drought our pasture pond went dry, so my husband and I revived an old well and bought a plastic cattle watering trough. This got us through the season nicely.

Thankfully, last year we got enough spring run-off to fill the pond so we didn't need to pump water. Still, there were some very hot days when we and our three kids found even the shade too warm for comfort. Since the swimming pool in town is too far away, we decided to use the 8-ft. dia. stock tank as a pool.

Our whole family has had a lot of fun and cool relief splashing around in our "new" pool. Proof that it's a multi-purpose unit can be seen in the tooth marks around the edges left behind by calves suffering from boredom.

We paid \$400 (Can.) for the durable tank. It's nice to know that we're prepared should we ever need it again for livestock purposes. **(Janis Schole, R.R. 1, Pickardville, Alberta, Canada T0G 1W0 ph 780 349-3538).**

and email address is [jmventures1@netzero.com](mailto:jmventures1@netzero.com). Please put "Aquaponics" in the subject line. Otherwise, leave a voice message at my home 580 563-2063. **(Mark Ostryre, J & M Ventures, 15565 SCR 206, Blair, Okla. 73526)**



I made this BBQ "smoker" from half of an old 80-gal. electric water heater. Electric heaters are the best because they don't have flue pipes through the center. Water heaters have a glass lining so they won't rust through. **(Tom Belusko, 2451 Hemlock Ave., Granite City, Ill. 62040 ph 618 797-2016).**

Anyone who finds it difficult or impossible to walk will be interested in my home-built, three-wheeled "runabout". You use your hands to operate it, much like a bi-



cyclist uses his feet. As a result, it's a lot easier to use than a wheelchair and you get more exercise. The twin cranks chain-drive the front wheel and are also used to steer the rig. There's no battery or motor to maintain. The machine is equipped with pneumatic tires which roll easy and give you a great ride, even on gravel. It weighs only 66 lbs. It's easier to use than a wheelchair and less expensive and lighter in weight than a three-wheeled electric cart, and it's virtually maintenance-free.

The rig's seat is low to the ground and swivels to either side, making it easy to get on or off. A pair of plastic knobs can be used to adjust the seat forward or backward. There's a basket on back for carrying extra stuff. The entire rig comes apart in three pieces for easy loading. **(Harold Fratzke, 234 Shoreview Dr., Cottonwood, Minn. 56229 ph 507 423-6341)**



Here's a photo of what I call my Buggy. I built two of these units last winter. One is a gear shift model and the other uses the hydrostatic drive off a lawn mower. The gear shift model has a 5 hp electric start motor while the hydro unit is a 12 hp model. Even the 5 hp rig, though, has plenty of power. They both have convertible tops that can be folded down when they're not needed for shade. And they're both air conditioned. Both rigs can go about 10 mph. **(Bob Schmidt, 217 N. 18 Ave., Sturgeon Bay, Wis. 54235)**

I have three boats and a wood splitter, with little space to park them. It was always a hassle trying to back them into



small spaces. So I got my stick welder and a bunch of scrap metal and made a bracket that slips on front of my ATV. The bracket is equipped with a ball hitch and

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