

# Reader Letters



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My brother, David Matson, built this self-propelled crop sprayer equipped with an 80-ft. boom. It's built somewhat like a Rogator and works great.

The DT414 engine and hydrostatic transmission are off an IH 915 combine. The final drives are off an IH 815 combine, the front axle was the rear axle on an IH 1680 combine, and the cab is off an IH 1460 combine. The sprayer is equipped with a 1,250-gal. poly tank. The boom is made from Marflex box aluminum frame and is hooked up to electric-over-hydraulic controls. **(Donald Matson, 2751 430<sup>th</sup> St., Gary, Minn. 56545)**

Here's a photo of a unique bird house that my husband recently built. It mounts on the pump from an old windmill. The pump's handle was missing so my husband added a vertical pipe and placed the bird house on top of it. There's a small solar light on top of the pump, and a plant hangs from the water spigot. **(Joyce E. Hall, 1043 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., McPherson, Kansas 67460)**



My son, Bob Marley, built this small, A-shaped enclosure as a place for his cat to warm up during the winter. The 4-legged wooden structure has three hop-up steps that lead to an enclosure, where a panel of glass protects the cat from the wind. The leg at the far right is wrapped with rope, which the cat can use to sharpen its claws. It's really the ultimate in cat comfort. **(C. F. Marley, 26288 Oconee Ave., Nokomis, Ill. 62075 ph 217 563-2588)**

Anyone who's confined to a wheelchair will be interested in my stand-up wheelchair. It's powered by two 12-volt batteries and has an on-board charger with a retractable power cord for charging the batteries. It rides on a pair of 10-in. high rubber wheels on front and two smaller caster wheels on back.

A joystick lever is used to make the unit



go forward or backward and to steer it. A switch located behind the joystick is used to lift the seat so the rider can stand up. It's equipped with flip-up steps and spring-loaded, flip-out knee braces for easy exit from the chair. To release the knee braces, you just pull up on two levers, one on each side of the chair. The rider is secured by a pair of nylon straps around the chest and waist.

The beauty of this powered chair is that it's small enough that you can drive it just about anywhere around your house. Or you can drive it up a ramp and into a van, where you can lock it down behind the steering wheel so you can drive anywhere. You can go to the grocery store or to ball games, etc. The joystick lever can be flipped down out of the way so you can drive right under a dinner table, instead of having to pull up alongside it. Men can even drive it up to a urinal.

So far I've built just one prototype and am looking for a manufacturer. If it was built commercially I think it would sell for about \$12,500. **(Russ Baker, 9310 Syndicate Ave., Lexington, Minn. 55014 ph 763 784-5952; russbarbb2@aol.com)**



When my wife asked me to buy a new mailbox, I decided to weld together this "hot rod engine" mailbox out of miscellaneous scrap iron and engine parts. It resembles a small block engine out of a 1950's Chevy hot rod. There are four curved exhaust headers on each side, with three stainless steel "deuce" stacks made from an old dairy pipeline and cut at an angle on top. The valve covers are painted black, with a red fill cap on each side.

The mailbox itself is made from a section of 8 by 16-in. structural tubing with an aluminum tread plate serving as the door. The mailbox is welded to a length of steel tubing that's anchored in the ground. The entire structure is painted red, black and silver. It really looks nice. **(Les Kauth, W4671 Stacks Rd., Owen, Wis. 54460 ph 715 267-6356)**

I converted an old tractor cab into this nifty deer stand. All the windows are still in the cab, but I removed everything else and added a swivel office chair on caster wheels. During hunting season I keep an infrared heater inside the cab.

The cab mounts on a welded-together, triangle-shaped frame made from 2-in. sq. tubing. The legs at the base of the frame are about 12 ft. apart, and it's 10 ft. high to the base of the cab. A metal stairway with railings leads to a mesh screen platform located next to one of



In just a little more than three weeks I was able to restore my grandfather Charlie Johnson's 1951 International Harvester M tractor. As a young boy, I remember my grandfather driving past my dad's farm on his way home. When my grandfather retired, my dad bought the tractor from him and used it on his farm until he retired. The tractor continued to be used by our family until it stopped running and ended up in a neighbor's shelterbelt (see photo below), where it was used as a parts tractor.

I found the tractor last winter and bought it from my neighbor. It needed a lot of work. I started restoring the tractor on June 1 and completed the work three weeks later. My cousin Dale helped me. **(Loron Skretteberg, 5880 54<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.W., Carson, N. Dak. 58529 ph 701 622-3261; cabin@wildwesttriv.com)**



the cab's doors. I welded the other cab door shut.

I used 5-in. channel iron to build the steps and 1-in. sq. tubing for the railings. I welded 16-in. dia. disc blades on the bottom of each leg to keep the stand from sinking into the ground. If I want I can use a front-end loader to move the entire structure. **(David Lindula, 3955 Admiral Rd., Iron, Minn. 55751 ph 218 744-3399)**

I came up with an easy and inexpensive way to dry off wet work boots. I use old fashioned, outdoor Christmas tree lights. These are the egg-shaped, larger lights people used years ago. I have two lights on a string, and just put each light down into the toe of the boot and leave it on all night long. By the next morning, the shoes are dry. The light is warm, but not so hot it burns the shoe. I've been using this idea successfully for two or three years. It sounds funny but it works. **(Herbert W. Potts, 300 Anderson Rd., Pemberton, N.J. 08068 ph 609 894-4363)**

I enjoy reading your "best and worst buys" section every issue. I rarely make a "worst buy" since I've learned that you get what you pay for. So if you buy Milwaukee hand tools, Husqvarna chainsaws, Chevrolet vehicles, Baldwin filters, Castrol oil, hand load your own ammunition, butcher your own home grown meat, use J.A. Henkel cutlery, Danner boots, build your own wood/coal stoves, service and maintain your own equipment, use genuine Crescent wrenches, and always remember that you reap what you sow, everything will be peachy. **(Chris Hardy, 1114 N. 4<sup>th</sup>, Miles City, Montana 59301 ph 406 874-2124)**

We've had an overwhelming response to the story in the last issue (Vol. 31, No. 4) about our white dove release business, and want to thank readers for their calls and interest. We love hearing from them! We also apologize for any calls from the U.S. that haven't been returned and ask those people to please contact us again by mail or email, providing their return address. We'll be glad to send them an information package, which will answer many of their questions. We've had calls from Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and West Virginia, just to name a few. These folks are so enthusiastic that we want to do whatever we can to help them learn more about fancy pigeon breeding and about White Dove Releases. Thanks to all FARM SHOW readers for their interest! **(Joanne & Ken Dodman, The Sky's The Limit White Dove Release, P. O. Box 113 Erickson, Manitoba, Canada R0J 0P0 ph 204 636-7725; info@whitedoverelease.ca.)**