

SELF-CONTAINED UNIT OPERATES INDEPENDENT OF TRUCK

New Fork Lift For Pickups

If you've considered buying a fork lift or similar equipment, you may want to look into a new towable lift that hitches to the front of your pickup and is rigged for over-the-road travel.

"It can lift 1,500 lbs. up to 12 ft. high, enough for many jobs around the farm, including moving big round bales," says lift designer, William Blackwood, Shingle Springs, Cal. "Equipped with a man lift, the unit can even be used as a scaffold for painting and building. New uses are cropping up every day."

The hydraulic lift is completely self-contained, with a 30-amp overnight charger for the heavy duty 12-volt golf cart batteries that power it. It hooks to a hitch mounted permanently on your pickup. The pickup's engine doesn't have to be running but will charge the batteries when turned on. Even without daytime charging, it will raise and lower a 1500 lb. load 230 times.

"The best thing about this lift is

that all lifted weight is on the lift and not on the truck's suspension," Blackwood told FARM SHOW. The fork lift pulls behind the truck on the road, and pushes in front of the truck for work. Dolly-type wheels automatically follow movement of the truck's front wheels. The unit can also be disconnected from the truck and operated as a free-standing scaffold. The fork tilts 10° backward and 5° forward.

The unit is made to mount on all Ford, GMC and Dodge pickups and, although recommended for ¾ ton trucks, will work on ½ ton models. Hitches are also available for adapting the unit to certain makes of tractors.

Cost is right at \$5,500. First production units slated to be out in late July.

For more details, contact: FARM Lift Co., P. O. Box 165, Shingle Springs, Cal. 95692 (ph. 916 622-7799).



Hydraulic, self-contained pickup forklift can lift and lower 1,500 lbs. 230 times without recharging its built-in batteries.



Hercules, who stands 19½ hands tall, dwarfs his handler who is 6 ft., 4 in. tall.

"LOOKOUT" PROVIDES PANORAMIC VIEW

New Life For An Old Silo

A "lookout" built on top of an old, unused silo gives an Arkansas farm family a panoramic, 20-mile view of the world around them.

About five years ago, Gerald and Lydia Verser, of Eudora, built a new house close to an unused 17 ft. dia. concrete silo. When they learned the cost of tearing down the old silo, they decided to remodel it for storage and built a scenic lookout-rest area at the top.

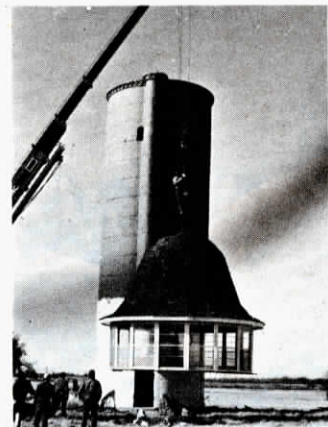
Gerald was satisfied that the silo, despite its age, was strong enough for the new use. "This is tornado country and it seems like a big storm comes through here every year or so. But that old silo has stood there since 1918 and never been hurt," he points out. "We didn't add much weight to the silo itself. The circular wooden stairs, plus the floors of the entire new upper story, are all supported by steel pipe set in concrete and run up the inside of the silo. We poured lots of concrete in the bottom of the first floor which helps hold those pipes up."

The Verser's silo is not connected to their home. The first floor is used to store lawn mowers and other summer equipment, and the second and third for seasonal items, such as Christmas decorations. Each of the three levels in the silo are 16 ft. from floor to ceiling. The top level, with windows all the way around, has 8 ft. high walls

and is capped with a 12 ft. high, bell-shaped roof. Designed by an architect, it was constructed on the ground and lifted into place by a crane.

Gerald credits attractiveness of the structure to his wife who, he says, was the "designer, doer and builder of the whole project."

The Versers can see for 20 miles from the unique lookout on top of their silo. They frequently climb the silo's 79 steps for the panoramic view of the world around them.



Lookout was built on the ground, then hoisted into place.

2,780 LBS. OF LIVE HORSEPOWER

Largest Draft Horse

One of the headline attractions at fairs and shows across the nation this summer is a giant Belgian gelding, billed as "Hercules, the largest living draft horse".

"Up to now, nobody has challenged that claim," says owner Wayne Pies, whose big Belgian stands 19½ hands tall at the withers and weighs a whopping 2,780 lbs. —

and is still growing!

Pies bought Hercules a couple years ago in Indiana. He says his Belgian is probably not the all time record size horse. "The Guinness Book of Records lists a horse named Brooklyn Supreme that weighed 3,100 lbs., but that horse is now dead. I haven't heard of any other living horse as big as mine."

The gelding is 8 yrs old and has put on weight since being purchased by Pies. Because he doesn't know the ancestry of the horse, Pies isn't sure if he comes from a long line of big animals, or if he's just a biological accident. Since he's still putting on weight, there's a slim chance, says Pies, that he could top the all-time record of 3100 lbs. The horse, whose feet are as big as nail kegs, eats 25 lbs. of grain and a 60 lb. bale of hay every day.

What is he worth? Pies says that's hard to answer. He's had offers of over \$10,000, which is "more than I paid for him".

Hercules is booked for state fairs in Ohio, Texas, Kansas, and Louisiana, plus dozens of other shows and exhibitions.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wayne Pies, 24211-24th Ave. E., Palmetto, Fla. 33561 (ph. 813 729-3060).



Seventy nine steps lead to lookout on top of 17 ft. dia. silo.