



She may be 106 years old, but Myrtle Farrell still manages to sew about 100 baby quilts a year. She sells some and gives others away to families in need.

She's 106 And Still Quilting Every Day

At 106, Myrtle Farrell says she has slowed down. But she still manages to sew about 100 baby quilts a year. The Mapleton, N. Dak., woman always has a few on hand and also makes custom quilts from fabric customers bring her.

"I have to do something," she says modestly when asked why she quilts.

She learned to sew on a treadle machine before she was married. Now she sews on an electric Kenmore sewing machine, but she still cuts out 4 1/2-in. squares with scissors.

Jean Madsen is a friend. She and her husband, Tom, moved Farrell into their home a few years ago so she wouldn't have to move to a facility where it would be difficult to sew.

Madsen says she helps Farrell occasionally, yet she marvels at how accurate the centenarian quilter is. Farrell sews the squares together, then lays out the flannel backing and batting on a bed to pin it together. After sewing it around the edges she can relax in a chair to tie the quilt.

Farrell says she enjoys putting colors and patterns together, and she feels fortunate to have good enough vision and health to quilt most days. While many are sold, she has given many away to families in need and for charitable organization fundraisers.



Farrell enjoys putting quilt colors and patterns together.

Madsen recalls how Farrell shook her head in disbelief when one baby quilt sold for \$525 at a recent charity auction.

"She has always been generous with her time and talents," Madsen says. "She was always good about having neighbor kids over to learn to cook, sew and garden."

"I do the best I can," Farrell says. "I'll keep it up as long as I can."

Though most are sold locally, she has also shipped quilts (\$40 plus postage) to customers in other states.

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"Hay Trolley Heaven" Found At New Website

Everything you ever wanted to know about antique hay trolleys can be found at a new website, www.haytrolleyheaven.com. The website is the go-to place to learn about hay trolleys and to identify most hay trolleys made in years past.

The website grew out of discussions between longtime hay trolley collector Steve Weeber and new collector Daniel Dibben. The goal was to preserve and present information on hay trolleys. Working with other members of the North American Hay Tool Collectors Association (HTCA), the website became a reality.

Hay Trolley Heaven describes what hay trolleys are and the role they played from 1860 to the introduction of large round bales. Over that period, hay trolleys evolved and were modified from loose hay carriers to small bale carriers.

The website lists and provides information on companies that made the hay trolleys. Included are early, small scale, independent artisans and the later, large, consolidated manufacturers.

Go to the research section and you can view more than 90 drawings of hay trolleys. Links



"Hay trolley heaven" website is the go-to place to learn about hay trolleys.

to the drawing identify the model name and manufacturer. Going to a listed company, such as Stowell Mfg. and Fndy Co., displays drawings of the company's product line. Each company page includes a history and multiple product line names, if available.

The site includes a link to the HTCA web page and newsletters. The forums offer a place for site visitors to follow various topics, as well as HTCA events. Members are eager to help fellow members research hay tools or simply discuss various tools. It also serves as an informal parts wanted site.

FARM SHOW



Fold-out pontoon extends from an 8-ft. road width to 11 ft. wide in the water. It has built-in wheels so no trailer is needed.

Fold-Out Pontoon Has Built-In Trailer

"We think it'll revolutionize the pontoon boat industry," says inventor Jeremy Little about his fold-up pontoon that expands from an 8-ft. road width to 11 ft. wide in the water. It also has built-in wheels so no trailer is needed. He developed the idea with his father, who unfortunately passed away recently.

"It seats up to 17 people comfortably with room to spare. And after you're done boating for the day, you can pull up to the dock and automatically fold the pontoon back up to road legal width."

The Unique Pontoon has 4 separate 25-in. dia. pontoons on the outside to make room at the center for the wheel assemblies to fold up. In addition, there's a full length pontoon down the center of the boat.

To launch the boat you unlock the trailer tongue on shore and back up straight into the water. As you back into the water the pontoons and wheels will start to float. Once they float, the trailer tongue automatically separates from the receiver hitch on your pickup.

Then you fold the boat out by pushing a button on the boat's control console. "The deck retracts flat, the trailer retracts underneath the deck and out of sight, and the wheels retract up and out of the water. It all takes just under 2 min.," says Little. "The system is set up on limit switches so you simply press a button to fold the boat out, and it will automatically stop when it has reached its maximum width. Power is provided by a 12-volt, gear-reduced motor driven by the outboard battery."

According to Little, the 11-ft. wide deck adds a tremendous amount of room to keep your party from feeling so cramped. "The extra 3 ft. of width also adds for a lot of stability on the water."

After you're done boating for the day, you fold the pontoon back up, hook the trailer



Pontoon folds up to an 8-ft. road width. Folded-out pontoon seats up to 17 people comfortably with room to spare.



tongue back onto your pickup and lock it down. Now you're ready to pull your boat out of the water.

"While your boat is hooked up to the pickup, the pontoon and wheels are floating. Simply drive forward and a few feet from shore your wheels will touch the launch apron and your boat will pull out of the water," says Little.

"Because the wheels for the trailer are located on the outside of the pontoons, you have a 7 1/2-ft. wheelbase which makes it very stable down the road, especially for cornering."

Little says he's gearing up for mass production and is now taking pre-sale orders.

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