

“Chain Saw Sculptor” Carves His Own Niche

Rand E. Oertle has a job that lets him be a real “cut-up”! He’s one of only a handful of fulltime chain saw sculptors in the country. You may have seen him, or one of the nine or so other professional chain saw sculptors in the U.S., at some of the farm shows around the country where chain saw sculpting has been drawing huge crowds.

As a full-time chain saw sculptor, Oertle works about 40 shows and fairs a year carving eagles, Indians, squirrels, rabbits and nearly anything else with his chain saw. He’s been at it for 7 years, now.

Oertle works exclusively with the Stihl Chain Saw Co. Stihl furnishes him with saws and equipment and lines up the show dates. Oertle receives a fee for doing the show, plus whatever he can get for the sculptures he produces. For example, an eagle sitting in a perched position sells for \$200 to \$250. He also carves eagles with a spread-wing position that sells for \$350. Smaller carvings go for \$100 or less.

While some of the other chain saw sculptors start with the chain saw and finish up with a chisel, Oertle uses the chain saw all the way through. He uses whatever wood is available in the area he’s working and has used walnut, cherry, redwood, cedar and pine the most. He notes that cedar is probably the easiest to work with.

Much of the finishing work Oertle does on a sculpture is done with the tip of the saw blade which makes kickback a potential problem. “I don’t recommend anyone try this unless they’re totally familiar with their saw and how it reacts in all situations,” he explains. “You have to develop a 6th sense about potentially dangerous positions and be prepared at all times to react to a problem. It’s a very physically demanding job. You’ve got to be strong enough to handle 6 to 7 hours of sawing a day in awkward positions with a heavy saw.”

Here are some other tips Oertle offers anyone who wants to try chain saw sculpting: 1. Never carve when tired or ill. 2. Always make sure you have good footing. 3. Always be totally alert to dangerous situations. 4. Always wear hearing protectors and impact resistant glasses.

Oertle is also working on a book that Stihl is sponsoring that will detail, for potential chain saw sculptors, step-by-step instructions on how to create chain saw art safely and effectively.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rand E. Oertle, Chain Saw Sculptor, 15975 Nauvoo Trail, Redding, Calif. 96001 (ph 916 244-1547).



Oertle gets \$200 to \$350 for his chain-saw sculpted eagles.

Canadian Carvers



This 13-ft. bear, worked on at a recent farm show by Canadians Tom and James Penny, is one of the biggest sculpturing jobs we’ve seen. Sponsored by Black & Decker Co., the brothers “perform” on a full-time basis across Canada for chain saw companies. To learn the trade, they apprenticed for five years under a “master” chain saw artist in Vancouver, Canada. They’re going to make an eagle to match the bear, which started as a 3-ton chunk of willow.

Triple Tractor Works 200 Acres Per Day

By Frank Buckingham

When Jim Pogmore, of Byemoor, Alberta wanted to increase his field capacity back in the late ‘60’s, he built his own triple tractor. He tied three IH 660 tractors (about 80 pto hp each) in a triangle and built a control platform above and between the two rear tractors.

The front wheels were removed from all three tractors and a steel frame was welded together that permits carrying the front ends of two tractors on the rear of the third tractor. Another frame section ties together the rear ends of the two back tractors and holds the drawbar for pull-type implements.

Pogmore says the framing adds about a ton to the weight of the three tractors, but part of that weight is offset by removal of the front axles and wheels.

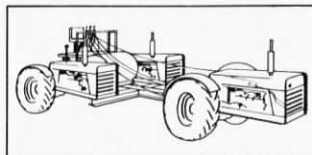
The hydraulic system of the front tractor operates the articulated steering system and hydraulic controls for clutches and brakes on all three tractors. Implements are controlled by the hydraulic systems on the two rear tractors, and throttles are controlled by cables from the engines to the operator’s platform.

Operating the triple tractor takes some getting used to, admits Pogmore. But, other than “a lot of engine problems”, he says he’s had no trouble with the three-unit arrangement. He first tried to synchronize engine operation by watching a tachometer for each tractor but soon discovered that these were so far off he could do better by simply listening to each engine.

On a turn, says Pogmore, the outside rear tractor pretty well follows the front one, and there’s little need to adjust engine or travel speed of these two units. However, the tractor on the inside of the turn must be slowed down considerably to permit a smooth turn, and this requires closer operator attention than would driving a normal tractor.

Pogmore owns a Versatile 850, 4-wheel drive tractor which he says outperforms the triple tractor on straight level work.” But the three-tractor rig works much better on hill-sides than the 4-wheel drive because we can control speed of each unit independently and thus maintain higher performance.”

Although the entire rig is 16 ft. 8 in. wide and 27 ft. 8 in. long, Pogmore says he’s had very few problems maneuvering or transporting his triple tractor. “Sometimes we have to wait on a hill, or let someone else cross a bridge first. But, it’s really quite easy to handle when you get used to it.” We pull 40 ft. of cultivators, harrows and press drills at 5 mph to cover as much as 200 acres in a single day.”



Pogmore removed the front wheels from all 3 tractors, then hooked them up in a triangle rather than a single line.

Pogmore adds that he went with the triangle arrangement over placing three tractors in a row because of better visibility and easier maneuverability.

When he built his triple tractor about 15 years ago, it cost him about \$800 for steel, hydraulic cylinders, etc. He’s been well pleased with his rig and says it is still used some 750-800 hours each year.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Pogmore, Byemoor, Alberta (ph 403 579-2465).

Another Triple Hookup!

Here’s another triple tractor hookup, built by Alvin Reimann of Irvine, Alberta. Alvin told FARM SHOW about his unusual tractor after reading



Alvin hooked 3 Deere tractors in a triangle, with two in back and one up front.

about Charles Fairchild’s triple hookup in Vol. 5, No. 6, and Donald Dufner’s “triple” in our last issue, Vol. 6, No. 1.

Alvin built his triple tractor in 1963-64 using three 1949 John Deere AR’s. He removed all three front ends and placed two tractors side by side at the back, and one in front in the middle. The triple hookup has just one gas tank, one radiator, one battery, one throttle, two hand clutches and one hand hydraulic steering lever. Most important, there are full-size tractor wheels, and of course, three motors.

“I farmed with the unit for a number of years and have since used it for demonstrations. It develops about 100 horsepower,” Alvin told FARM SHOW.