



the wheel, it can be used on more than one wagon. They really save a lot of time and aggravation. I plan to sell them for about \$20 apiece or would license them to a manufacturer. (Danny Plantz, 107 South Side Drive, Pocahontas, Iowa 50574)



In the summer of 1988, I ordered a set of plans from Al Forbes in New Zealand for building a "slow speed generator". I had read about the home-built generator, which allows you to make your own electricity from a water or wind power source, in FARM SHOW (Vol. 12, No. 3 - Contact: Alfred Forbes, P.O. Box 3919, Auckland, New Zealand. Sells for \$65 postpaid). I successfully built my own generator in my spare time over a 1-year period. It was quite technical but not too difficult if you follow the excellent instructions and high-quality photos in the book by Mr. Forbes. The book clearly shows how to make each part. One of the hardest parts was finding materials but he also gives you guidance on that.

I built the generator to use on my ranch located in the lower mountains - not far from my home - to furnish lights and power for small tools and electrical motors that we use up there. The generator is powered by a water wheel when there is enough water to run it. The generator works good, delivering the recommended power at a slow speed of between 500 and 600 rpm's. The generator I had on the water wheel previously had to run at 3,200 rpm's and I was unable to get that much speed.

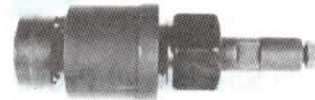
I enjoyed building the generator. It was a good challenge. (Hal C. Johnson, Johnson Tractor and Implement Inc., 1345 No. 200 E., Spanish Fork, Utah 84660 (ph 801 798-8696))



I'm sending along pictures of an animated "gorilla band" I put together on a budget that we think rivals just about anything Disney ever built. The lifesize gorillas "play" a saxophone, piano and drums. We play recorded music and the gorillas move like they're actually playing the instruments themselves. I used 20 small electric motors,

purchased from Grainger Co. (800 323-0620; 800 225-7149 in Ill.), to provide the animation. We built the frames and then fitted them with gorilla suits and clothing.

What's great about this idea is that we can take the band out to malls, parades and other special occasions and charge for the performance. Once I get there, I just turn them on and sit back and relax. They do all the work. I can charge a couple hundred dollars for an appearance. We change music to fit the occasion. I call them my "retirement plan" and I'm proud to have created something that works so well and pleases so many people. You almost have to see them to believe how life-like they are. I'd be willing to build more of these on a custom basis if anyone is interested. (Ken Winans, Box 1815, Binghamton, N.Y. 13902 ph 607 722-0054)



I developed this Compact Power Puller to remove even the most stubborn bushings and bearings from blind holes, dead-end shafts or open centers. I originally got the idea in the course of my job as an ag equipment mechanic as a way to remove spherical bushings (uni-balls) from the outward shaft of the rotor drive gearbox on combines. In this application alone, the bearing puller saves 4 to 8 hrs. of time on each job. In addition, the new puller greatly reduces the difficulty and eliminates the risk of damage to seals and shafts that often happens with conventional methods.

The Compact Power Puller will remove ball and roller bearings, bushings of soft or hard steel, and pilot bearings or bushings from any make of engine, hydraulic pump, starter, alternator, air conditioner, etc.. It's available in a wide range of sizes to accommodate a multitude of bushing and bearing sizes and is precision-made from high tensile steel. Prices range from \$249 for the 1-in. puller to \$205 for the 1/2-in. size. (Ron Parrott, Parrott Farm, P.O. Box 105, Franklin, Manitoba R0J 0S0 Canada ph 204 476-3968 or 2725)

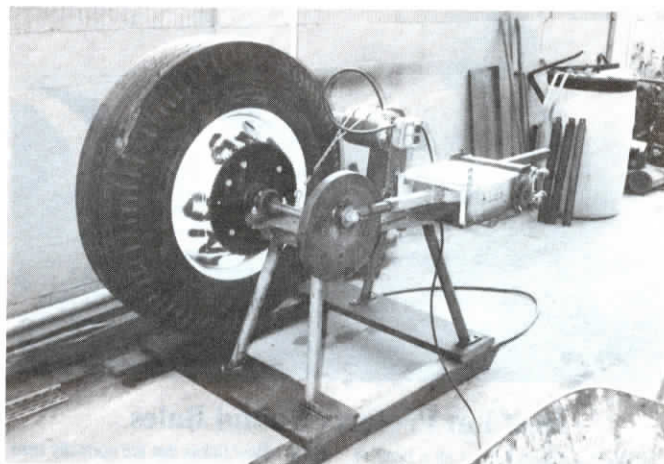
I am a farmer and a retired fire fighter and I'd like to comment on an article in the last issue of FARM SHOW entitled "Canadian Farmer Builds Earth-Sheltered House". Because the building was constructed entirely out of steel and concrete, the man said he had no chance of fire and that he didn't even have to carry fire insurance. I'd like to point out that living in steel and concrete structure offers no immunity from the dangers of fire. There are enough combustibles in one sofa, one mattress or one closet full of clothes to kill a house full of people. Here are some true life examples of people who have died from fires:

- A woman living alone and reading the Sunday paper over a tile floor falls a sleep while smoking. Cigarette ignites paper and the woman dies from the smoke even though the only thing that burns is the paper.

- A man drops a cigarette onto a couch and calls his wife in to help when he can't put it out (it's just glowing at this point). They try to carry it out the front door but the couch gets hung up in the doorway where it bursts into flames. He dies during the resulting house fire. She survives.

- A man is standing out in the street watching a house fire when all of a sudden his plastic rimmed glasses burst into flames, giving him second and third degree burns on his face.

These are just a couple examples of how fire can do much more damage than you



I'm sending along a photo of an aluminum can crushing machine I built out of miscellaneous parts. It consists of a large truck tire and wheel (weighs about 220 lbs.) that's turned at about 70 rpm's by a 1/2 hp. electric motor salvaged from a washing machine. A friction roller mounted on the electric motor turns against the tire. The wheel turns a shaft connected to a round metal plate which drives a 5 by 12-in. piston with a 4 1/2-in. stroke. The piston com-

presses 2 to 3 cans at a time against a back plate that's spring loaded with heavy springs for safety. The two sides of the can-crushing piston are teflon coated making it quiet and easy to lubricate. A 1 hp. motor would work better but we used what we had available.

We use the can crusher, which mounts on wood skids, to recycle cans at local parish churches to buy food to give to the needy. (Jack P. Despins, 5222 Bransford Dr., Lapalma, Calif. 90623 (ph 714 523-9117))

would expect. The best course of action is to have a rehearsed family plan of action in case of a fire at night (practice crawling out on the floor with the lights off) and to keep working smoke alarms. It's good to have small extinguishers available, especially near the kitchen, but don't try to fight a fire of any size. Instead, get everyone out and call the fire department from another location. (Jack Freeman, 606 N. Chisholm, Mustang, Okla. 73064)

I turned an unused stock watering dugout on my farm into a profitable trout brokerage and "U-Fish" facility. Capital cost to upgrade this cattle pond was less than \$2,000 and yet the fish business now comprises over 60 percent of my net farm income. In addition to providing income, a properly maintained fish pond provides unlimited recreational potential. Besides fishing, we use the pond for swimming, snorkelling and ice skating and hockey in the winter.

I have written a 128-page book entitled "Pond Raising Rainbow Trout" that may interest many of your FARM SHOW readers. It deals with everything from building a pond to stocking it with trout and launching a profitable fish business. The book sells for \$19.95, which includes postage. (Bruno Wiskel, Box 194, Colinton, Alberta T0G 0R0 Canada ph 403 675-4762)

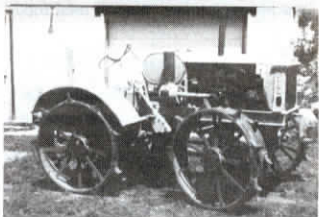
In 1953, a bushel of corn was worth about \$2. Two weeks ago, I stopped in at a local feed store to pay a bill. A sign on the wall read: "Grain Price - Oats \$1.35, Corn \$2.07."

In 1953, I bought a new half-ton truck for \$1,300. Recently, I stopped at a local GM dealer and read the window prices on several new half-ton trucks. The cheapest one I could find, for the bare-bones truck, read \$13,395. Add to that price \$700 for sales tax plus \$300 more for transportation: \$14,395.

In 1953, it required 650 bu. of corn to buy this half-ton truck. Today, in the inflation-ravaged, chaotic '90's, it requires 6,954 bu. of corn to buy this half-ton truck. If the corn farmers in the United States can still produce corn at 1953 prices and still survive and stay in business, why can't General Motors and the United Auto Workers produce a half-ton truck at 1953 prices? (Mel Simonson, Emerald, Wis. 54012)

The best and cheapest row crop guidance system I know of is a cultivator shank with a

spike shovel on it, mounted on your planter. Just set it to run 3 in. deep in the middle of the tractor tracks. Then use 7.50 by 16-in. single rib tires on the front of your tractor when cultivating or spraying. I've used this idea for 10 plus years and I have them set deep enough I don't even have to steer the tractor. (Jim Holkesvig, Rt. 1, Box 16, Hayville, N.Dak. 58257)



As a collector of old tractors, I'm always trying to find out the history of very unusual old models. One such tractor that I have is a 4-WD tractor that was built by the "Four Drive Tractor Company" in Big Rapids, Mich. This tractor was one of the first attempts to build a 4-WD for farm use. Like many of its competitors, the idea was valid but the construction and design was not the best.

Since owning the tractor, I have spent countless hours trying find out about the company that built them but have been able to find very little information. They started building them around 1914 and the last one was built in 1929. Aside from selling the tractors in Michigan, there was also a dealer in Colorado. Several models were built. I've enclosed a picture of a later design.

I'm looking for manuals, advertising, literature and any other information anyone might have about this tractor. If you ever drove one or saw one work or have the remains of one, I'd like to hear from you. (Bob Hamilton, Rt. 1, Gobles, Ontario N0J 1V0 Canada ph 519 458-8024)

Your story on our ground-driven ATV sprayer (Vol. 16, No. 1) contains an error. The price quoted was for our optional foam marker, not for the sprayer. Sprayer price varies depending on options. Also, we no longer offer 110-gal. tanks (Gleve Corp., Box 490, Poseyville, Ind. 47633 ph 800 453-8326 or 812 874-3385)