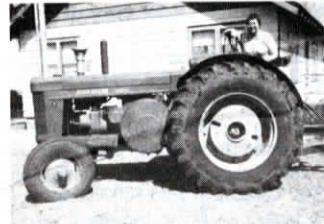


gen, propane, butane, and argon cylinders. It operates on two C-cell 1.5-volt batteries. Sells for \$39.95. (BCE, 6521 R 170, Basin City, Wa. 99343 ph toll-free 1 800 272-2367)

I enjoy tinkering in the garage on cold winter nights. So I decided to build a jeep-type go-cart for our girls. I salvaged the chassis from an old riding lawnmower and widened the



axles 10 in. so the jeep would be wide enough to sit side by side. I had to rework the steering system to adapt to the wider front axle. I made the frame out of 1 1/2 in. angle iron and used just 2 sheets of 3/8-in. plywood to make the body. It seats four kids - adults can sit in the front seats. The only thing I wish it had was electric start so I wouldn't have to start it for the girls all the time. (Gary Meisner, P.O. Box 33, Gramdamdale, Manitoba R0C 1C0 Canada)



I don't have a pickup with 800,000 miles on it (except for a new motor, transmission, rear end, frame and cab) or George Washington's original hatchet (except for two new blades and four replacement handles), but I'm sending along a picture of two of my "best buys" acquired in 1958 - my wife and a used 1949 "R" John Deere. The tractor has over 25,000 hrs. on it, and has been in the field 43 years. The motor and fuel system are all original except for a rebored block and new pistons. It still runs like new and is the main reason that we owe no one.

My wife is an earlier model than the tractor, but she says not to tell you what year so I won't. I have always taken very good care of both my "best buys" and I believe the picture shows that they have stood the test of time very well. In fact, they weren't just "best" deals, they were the best I ever made. (Bill Crain, Helena, Okla.)



My portable pto-powered sawmill has more capacity and is heavier-built than sawmills that cost three or four times as much. My portable sawmills start at about \$4,000. Many farmers would like to saw their own lumber but they don't know there's an affordable, heavy-built sawmill like mine available. The main frame of the saw is 36 ft. long by 4 ft. wide. It's pto or belt-driven, has a 12-ft. 3-block carriage (can be fitted with a longer 4-block carriage). It'll handle logs up to 30 in. in dia. and up to 20 ft. long.

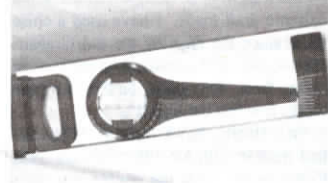
It's truly a one-man saw. A hydraulic log lifter eliminates the need for ramps or a loader. The sloping off table lets you saw up a whole log and then stack it rather than

having to pull away each board. The saw can be mounted on wheels with adjustable legs so you can move it and set it up again in minutes. (Reuben Kulp, Kulp Enterprises, Rt. 2, Stratford, Wis. 54484 ph 715 687-2495)

Your article in the last issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 15, No. 5) about the farmer who's been applying earthworms to his fields caught my attention. I agree that earthworms are valuable in the soil but I disagree with the practice of adding them to the soil in most cases. If a farmer creates the proper soil environment, earthworms will increase in number and do their work. Excessive tillage can destroy them but improper soil fertilization probably does more damage to earthworm populations. Yearly applications of large amounts of anhydrous ammonia (100 to 250 lbs. per acre) can virtually eliminate earthworm populations. Another fertilizer, which may destroy more soil life than anhydrous, is 0-0-60 murate of potash. In most instances, one application of murate of potash places a much higher concentration of chlorine in the soil than large cities use to purify their water. If you switch to more biological methods of enriching fields, worms will come back on their own without the cost of worms and the labor to distribute them. One farmer I know said it took only about a year for worms to work their way back into fields once he stopped applying chemical fertilizers. I am a distributor for a biological fertilizer company.

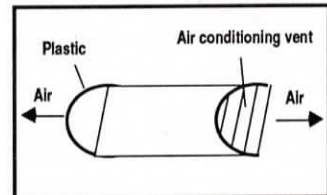
Incidentally, some states have understood the potential for abuse with earthworms and have made it illegal to sell earthworms to farmers for soil application. (Jay L. McCaman, McCaman Farms, Box 22, Sand Lake, Mich. 49343 ph 616 636-8226)

Our unique new angle finder level is accurate to within plus or minus one-half degree. It's great for any job where you need to set a pitch including laying pipe, roofing, setting



concrete, stud work, and even adjusting machinery. You just set the angle on the built-in protractor (no tools needed) and then keep the bubble between the two graduation lines to set the level at the required angle. To measure an angle, you set the level against the incline to be measured and move the protractor until the bubble's in the middle. It's available on levels from 24 in. long (\$26.99) up to 72 in. long (\$62.99). (Garry Lewis, Excalibur Hand Tools, 10621 So. Lockwood St., Oak Lawn, Ill. 60453 ph 708 424-4110)

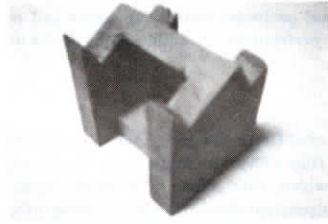
When we're driving in the car, my wife complains about the air conditioning hitting her in the face and chest so I have to turn it



off, even though I'm too warm when it's off. I solved the problem with a sheet of thin plastic (from the cover of a shirt box) which is the width of the vent and about 8 in. long. I bend it into a curve and slip the ends into the top and bottom of the vent, creating a tunnel over the vent with open ends on either side. As cold air comes out it is diverted to either side instead of blowing directly on

you. You can still adjust the vent to blow more one way or the other. I taper the ends of the plastic sheet so it wedges in the space around the vent and won't blow out. Now we're both happy. I get to use the AC and she doesn't complain.

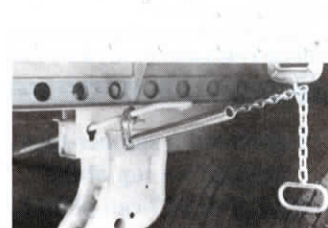
Another handy idea I had was to make a holder for sharpening lawn mower blades with a bench grinder. I made the holder from



a couple pieces of 2 by 6 with a pair of 6-in. long spacers between. I hold the blade against the angled portion of the holder and use the same number of strokes to sharpen each end. If the angle isn't quite right you can cut some off the bottom. It works so well I've made several for friends and they really like them. (Cecil Hess, 1636 Cayuga Dr. N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2L 0N3 Canada)



My lever-powered tire changer, made out of scrap materials, has more power to break beads than an air-powered bead breaker. It'll handle up to 20 in. tires and works great because you can increase power as needed by slipping a pipe over the handle to increase leverage. (John R. Hubble, Jr., 1801 9th St., Victoria, Va. 23974 ph 804 696-2744)

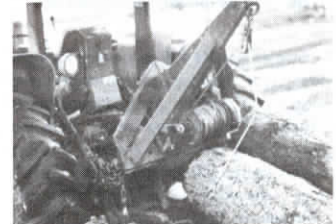


Your readers may be interested in our "rod jumper" that lets one person safely and easily move the axles on tandem axle trailers. It consists of a clamp equipped with a peg and a chain hooked to a spring. The spring is fastened to the release rod by a clip and pin, and the clamp is fastened to the trailer side rail and lined up with the existing sliding release rod. You pull on the chain to put the release rod in the release position, then slip the chain over the peg on the clamp. Rock the truck up to 18 in. in either direction to release the sliding rail pins. One person can do the job instead of needing one person to hold the rod and another person to rock the truck. Sells for \$29.95 (SM Sales and Mfg., Jct. 14 and 71N, Sanborn, Minn. 56083 ph 800 533-5326, in Minn. 800 348-4019)

I like FARM SHOW very much. I'm going on my 80th year and haven't bought any new equipment or trucks in many years so I know little about modern equipment. However, if I were young again, I'd still farm. Most farmers now won't milk a cow, raise chickens, ducks or geese, plant a garden, or do anything by hand. Many owe more money than they will ever pay back. You can't pay \$40,000 or \$50,000 for a tractor, \$100,000 for a combine and buy all your food from a

store and make any money. (Vlad Sedlacek, Pearland, Tex.)

We use this home-built heavy-duty tractor winch primarily for skidding logs but also for other jobs around our ranch. Commercial 3-pt. winches cost about \$1,500. We spent just a fraction of that and it's worked without any trouble for 4 years. It mounts on a Deere 2555 front-wheel assist tractor. It takes about 60 hp. to handle heavy logs. The winch plugs directly into quick-couplers and is free-spooling for unrolling cable.



The "arch" and mast on the winch were salvaged from an old Farmhand F-11 loader. We used 1-in. thick scrap metal and 2 by 4 in. tube steel to form the rest of the frame. The 8,000-lb. King winch, powered by a Char-Lynn hydraulic motor, mounts below the mast. Cable runs up through a pulley dangling from the end of it. The frame cost about \$25 to build and I bought the winch at an auction for \$100. The snatch block is detachable in case it has to be positioned to create more leverage. (Tom Ruffatto, 238 Bass Creek Road, Stevensville, Mont. 59870 ph 406 777-3510)



I came up with this drive-over electric cattle gate that lets me get into corals to feed animals without climbing off the tractor. Each gate has four wires 6 to 8 in. off the ground, spaced about 1 ft. apart. Wires are attached to rubber bungie cords on one end to provide spring tension. Gates I've made range in width from 16 to 24 ft. Wires connect to a standard fence charger. The home-built gates are used on calves 3 months old as well as full-grown cows. I like them because we can never forget to close them. (Roy Zimmerman, 217 E. Cherry St., Fox Lake, Wis. 53933 ph 414 828-2262)

I'm sure many of your readers will be interested in our new "Beef Management For Registered Cattle" software. It tracks all needed information, prints pedigrees, and gives performance reports that make "keep or cull" decisions easy. It keeps track of the number and quality of a cow's calves, calving ease, sex, birth weight and adjusted gain, frame score, most probable producing ability, sale information, scrotal score and circumference, and even expenses. The sire report gives calves' sex, number, birth weight and adjusted gain, frame score, and average daily gain. You can view or print reports on a whole herd, or only those you select: bulls, weaned calves, cows whose calves died before weaning, etc.

A demo copy is available for \$25, which will be deducted from the purchase price of \$495 if you purchase. We also have standard "Beef Management" software. (Dorothy Nichols, Infopoint Software, P.O. Box 83, Arcola, Mo. 65603 ph 417 424-3424)