

Blauvelt used large rear wheels off a New Idea manure spreader to build his steam-powered tractor.

Half-Size Steam Tractor

"I always wanted to own a steam-powered tractor. So one day I went to Fulton, Michigan to talk to Maurice Miller and his son, Paul, who have a lot of experience with steam traction engines. We went to a couple steam shows and I wanted to buy one but they talked me into building one myself.

"After talking about the project for hours, Paul also decided to build one and we both started looking for parts. The biggest difference between our two projects is that Paul built his on rubber tires and I wanted steel.

"Here's a list of some of the parts I used. The large rear wheels came off a New Idea manure spreader. I just welded two wheels together to make each rear wheel. The gears came out of a Deere model A tractor, although we had to modify the differential to

make it work. The steering wheel came off an old 'bean hauler' and the smoke stack is actually a piece of silo pipe.

"The main body of the tractor is made out of heavy-walled pipe. The steam engine itself was built in Kansas by Tom Terning of Valley Center, Kan., and is modeled on a Case 65. It's one of a kind. Gross weight of the tractor is 3,522 lbs. and it has brake horsepower of 18 in the belt. Cylinder dia. is 5 in. with a 5 1/2-in. stroke.

"It really talks to you when you put it to work. After a year and a half of work and a lot of late nights in the shop, I've now got the tractor I always wanted."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stan Blauvelt, 302 Milton Ave., Battle Creek, Mich. 49017.



The 3-wheel trimmer is powered by a 10 hp Wisconsin engine. Note fan in front.

SELF-PROPELLED UNIT MAKES IT EASY TO TRIM AROUND GRAVESTONES

Weed Trimmer Keeps Cemetery Looking Neat

Trimming weeds around gravestones was almost a full-time job until Noah Zimmerman, Leola, Penn., came up with this self-propelled trimmer fitted with a free-swinging "weed eater" cutterhead.

Zimmerman works as a cemetery caretaker and has come up with a number of machines to make the job easier. His 3-wheel trimmer is his biggest timesaver.

"I started with a hydrostatic rear end from a Ford garden tractor. It's powered by a 10 hp Wisconsin engine with the driveline coming out the front of the engine hooking up to the tractor's original hydraulic pump.

"I steer with my feet and control the hydrostatic lever with my left hand. In my right hand, I hold the trimmer head which is mounted on a high-speed hydraulic motor powered by the same hydraulic pump that runs the rear end. The trimmer head mounts on a rod that hangs from an overhead spring and I guide it with my right hand.

"A hydraulic reservoir tank holds about 20 gal. of oil. A large fan mounts at the front of the machine to keep some of the dirt off me and to keep me cool because the tombstones generate a lot of heat. I can trim approximately 400 tombstones an hour."



Trimmer is fitted with free-swinging "weed eater" cutterhead that Zimmerman guides with his right hand.

Zimmerman built another trimmer using hydrostatic rear end from a IH Cub Cadet.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Noah Zimmerman, 293 Brethren Church Rd., Leola, Penn. 17540 (ph 717 656-7868).



Evans mounted 150 hp jet turbine out of Chinook helicopter on back of stock mower.

World's Fastest Mower Powered By Jet Engine

If you don't like mowing your yard, you'll like this jet-powered riding mower that'll let you speed through the job at 45 mph and with enough ear-splitting noise to let the whole countryside know what you're up to.

Art Evans, manufacturer of Dixie Chopper mowers, mounted a 150 hp. jet turbine out of a CH47 Chinook helicopter on the back of one of his stock mowers. "When we take it to a show, everyone with a pulse knows we're there. It rattles your teeth when you start it up," says Evans, who's been making zero-turn mowers for 19 years in Coatesville, Indiana.

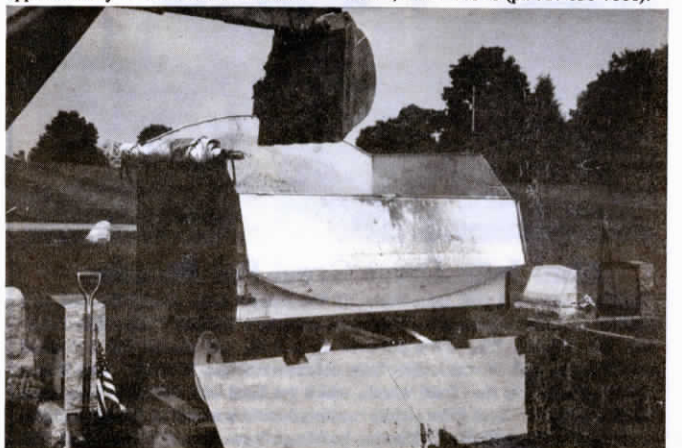
He put the mower together as a promotional gimmick but says he's run it at speeds up

to 45 mph on a speed track. He says it could go a lot faster but that it wouldn't be safe.

It took Evans and his sons a month to build the jet-powered mower. "After we built it we took it out to the high school football field and mowed it in less than 15 min.," he says. "It makes a lot of noise but it's smooth to operate. No vibration at all."

Although Evans has no plans to put a jet-powered mower into production, he jokes that you can special order one. "Just add \$20,000 to your Dixie Chopper order," he told FARM SHOW.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Art Evans, Magic Circle Corp., Rt. 1, Box 345, Coatesville, Ind. 46121 (ph 317 246-6191).



Zimmerman also built this self-propelled dump box to make it easy to refill graves after a body is interred, eliminating the need to shovel dirt back in by hand. The steel box mounts on the frame from the back end of a 3/4-ton pickup. It's powered by a 5-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine and dumps hydraulically. Zimmerman "drives" it by walking alongside and holding onto a steering handle in front. It has a 3-speed transmission. When digging a grave, he dumps all dirt into the box, which is then covered with a tarp and left parked alongside the grave. After the funeral, he can fill the grave quickly by simply pushing a button.