



Bunn's farm parade float features mini buildings his dad built as well as a variety of toys.

Fold-Up Farm Parade Float

"I collect farm toys of all sizes and display them in a museum in Alice, N. Dak., but I like driving in parades and wanted a float to advertise my museum," says Andy Bunn, who put together a permanent rolling exhibit that he doesn't have to take down after each parade.

"I started with a flatbed trailer and created a farm scene on it using buildings my dad had built for me to play with as a child. I added farm toys, using eye bolts to hold them in place.

"I needed something that would trail at high speeds since we have to travel some distance on the road. My dad helped me construct a stiff hitch that lets the front wheels of the trailer float. To back up, we made a lever that controls the front wheels independent of the hitch. I've pulled this trailer at 65 mph and it trails perfectly.

"In transport, the hinged sides fold up like a box. When we get to the parade, they



In transport, sides on the float fold up into a portable box.

hang down and act as signs. For storage, we put tarp bows across the top and cover the wagon with canvas. When I reach the parade grounds, I can be ready to go in 5 min."

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Petersen's creation is 22-in. long, 5 1/2-in. in dia. with more than 6,000 kernels glued onto it.

"NEVER MORE THAN IN '94"

Ear Of Corn Commemorates Bountiful Harvest Of '94

Sonke Petersen likes to keep busy during the off-season, and last year he found a project that kept him occupied for a good six weeks.

The Stewartville, Minn., farmer made a giant ear of corn to commemorate the record 1994 harvest. "There never was more than

in '94," proclaims a sign on the side of the giant ear.

Petersen's creation is a 22-in. long by 5 1/2-in. dia. ear of field corn. It's mounted on a toy wood-wheeled wagon "pulled" by a team of toy draft horses commanded by a toy driver.



Desjardin's ferris wheel is a hit among kids (and grown ups who would like to buy it).

POWERED BY A 1/2-HP ELECTRIC MOTOR

Mini Ferris Wheel Is A Big Attraction

"Everyone who sees it wants to buy it. I could've sold it a thousand times already," says Denis Desjardins, Alcové, Quebec, about his home-built 12-ft. high ferris wheel for kids.

The 4-seat wheel mounts on a steel pole that stands on a heavy steel platform covered by 3/4-in. thick plywood. A 1/2-hp electric motor mounts at the base of the pole and belt-drives a gearbox that's geared down at a 10:1 ratio. The gearbox is coupled by U-joint to the bottom of a 1-in. dia. shaft that runs up to the input shaft on a rear end out of a Datsun Z car that mounts on top of the pole. Four 1 1/4-in. dia. pipes fasten to the axle shaft that extends out of the rear end. Desjardins used kids' plastic patio chairs with the legs cut off for seats. An L-shaped steel plate bolts to the bottom of each seat and

is welded to a short steel shaft mounted in a pillow block bearing at the end of each arm.

The electric motor is wired to a lockable box mounted on a stand at one corner of the steel platform. Desjardins uses a key in the box to start the ferris wheel.

"My kids can't get enough of it," says Desjardins, who built the ferris wheel 7 years ago. "It's safe. The kids always wear seat belts and it has a low center of gravity. It's anchored so well that the wind doesn't even budge it, even with four big kids on it.

"I welded spider gears onto the rear end to cut its speed in half and to always keep it turning in the same direction."

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Petersen painstakingly glued over 6,000 kernels onto a cob carved out of wood. "He'd work in the shop sometimes 'til 3 or 4 in the morning, then go feed the cattle, then go right back to it," says Petersen's wife, Corrine.

The wagon, team and driver are all hand-

crafted as well, she notes. They were made by an elderly man in Conger, Minn. Even leather harnesses are hand-crafted, she adds.

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