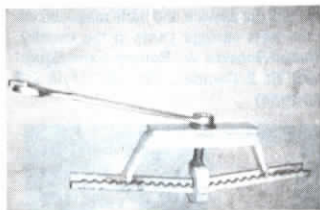
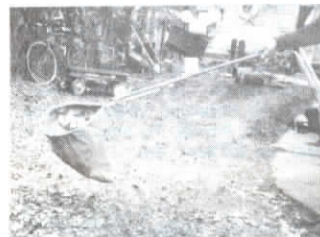


Reader Letters

(Continued from previous page)



This simple tool makes it easy to straighten bent feederhouse slats. Most farmers and repair shop mechanics use a torch and a big bar to straighten bent slats. That works but I've found that once a slat has been heated it will snap in two after a little more use. I've used my method for years now and am not aware of any slat that ever broke after being straightened using this tool without heat. You simply place the U-shaped tool over the bent section of a damaged slat and put the center-mounted hook over the slat. Using a 1 1/8-in. socket or wrench, it can then be pulled straight again in seconds. I made it for my own use. So far as I know there's nothing on the market like it. (James Rimmer, Rt. 1, Arkona, Ontario, Canada N0M 1B0)



I got the idea for my "fish net" pig catcher so my husband could avoid getting bit in the leg by sows. It consists simply of a fish landing net strapped to a broom handle. The net was removed and a 2-ft. deep bag made from denim was slipped on in its place. The broom handle gives it about a 10-ft. reach and because the sow can't see the pig in the bag, she doesn't get upset. It works great. There's nothing else like it on the market. (Mrs. Jennings Anderson, Rt. 1, Box 129, Mineral Point, Wis. 53565)



Digging out buried rocks in fields is a lot easier for us since we built a rock digger to attach to the dozer blade on my Minneapolis Moline "U" propane-powered tractor. It's easy to put on and take off and I've dug out rocks up to 5 ft. in dia. In one field I pushed out 81 rocks ranging from 2 to 5 ft. in an hour and 10 min. I made the two digging shanks with beams from a 3-bottom plow. A crossbar at the top or the shanks hooks over the top of the blade and a heavy iron frame hooks under the bottom edge of the blade. The shanks extend down about 21 in. below the bottom of the blade. I shove them into the ground in front of a rock and go forward and lift up at the same time. Sometimes I have to drop the blade again while going up to catch the rock better. I welded two teeth made out of 1 1/8-in. steel to the bottom of the shanks to help grab hold of rocks. (Oliver P. Howland, Grygla, Minn. 56727)



We needed a self-propelled auger for unloading grain from flat storage to our bins. The Massey Harris Super 92 is the only combine I know of that's got an engine mounted low to the ground on the back of the frame so the auger can be kept down lower than it would be on some tractor mounts. I stripped the combine down to the frame, leaving the operator platform, engine and driveline intact. Then I mounted an 8-in. by 61-ft. auger on the chassis. It's driven off the end of the beater shaft by a triple pulley. The lower end of the auger is lifted by a hydraulic cylinder. The upper end is raised by cable. We can back the auger 16 ft. into quonset buildings. With the use of a 15-ft. drag auger, we can get about 30 ft. into a bin (Bob Brekke, Box 128, Nielsville, Minn. 56568 ph 218 946-2875).



ATV tires are a real beast to remove because they're so small. If you use regular tire-changing tools the tire flips over and



My mid-mounted pickup sprayer subjects the booms to less than one half the movement and road shock of a conventional rear-mounted pickup sprayer. The booms on the sprayer mount on angle iron brackets just behind the cab. In transport they're held in alongside the pickup box. In the field they're allowed to swing freely to their extended

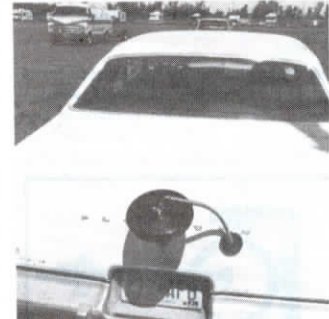
position, and are held in place by gravity. The pump and motor are located at the front of the box out of the dust. The sprayer control valve is mounted so that it's easily accessible outside the driver's window. (Adolph Anderson, Rt. 1, Box 1, Astoria, S. Dak. 57213)

bounces back at you. Commercial ATV tire changers cost about \$200. I modified an old car screw jack to do the job. I shortened the 3-ft. long jack by 1 ft. and welded a short length of pipe onto it. Then I removed the jack handle and installed a 1 1/4-in. nut in its place. The jack is equipped with a U-shaped clamp. The bottom of the clamp fits on one side of the wheel rim and the top of the clamp fits on the other side. I use a wrench to tighten the clamp, which makes an opening between the tire and rim as it's tightened down. Then I insert the pointed end of the jack into the opening and use a 1 1/4-in. socket wrench to screw the end of the jack outward, forcing the tire off the rim. (Richard Godbout, Star Rt. 1, Box 123, Cromwell, Minn. 55726 ph 218 644-3962)

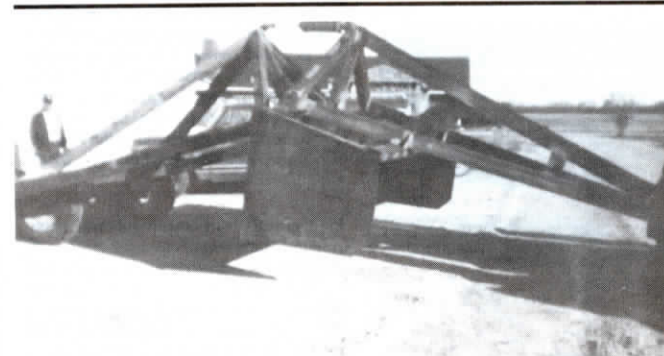
base and a large round mirror held by a flexible arm. You position the mirror so you can easily see the hitch from the car or pickup seat. Once you're hooked up you can throw the mirror in the trunk or cab. It's easy to set to the correct angle for viewing after you've used it a couple times. (William E. Egge, Egge Enterprises, Box 54, Heron Lake, Minn. 56137 ph 507 793-2794)



I bought a new Deere corn planter in the spring of 1990. It was set up for wide rows but I wanted to plant narrow rows. Everything on the planter could be converted to narrow except the marker arms, which were too long. Rather than spend \$700 on new markers, or cut them off and shorten them, I just welded a piece of square tubing to the end of each marker that points back toward the planter. The disks can still be mounted normally on the end for wide rows. (Curtiss Berndt, 5247 N. U.S. 31, Free Soil, Mich. 49411)



This magnetic backup mirror sticks to the back of a car trunk or pickup tailgate to make hitch-ups easier. It has a strong magnetic



Commercial dirt movers wouldn't lift high enough or dig deep enough so I recently built my own "high rise" scraper. I raise fish commercially and use the scraper to dig ponds and also to build terraces. I also use it to drag dirt into pot holes in fields during winter months. Commercial scrapers don't lift high enough to let me unload a pile of dirt

in a pothole. The long frame of this scraper, which is controlled by a top-mounted cylinder, lifts the blade to clear 3 ft. on dry ground. The scraper has a 15-ft. wide blade. I pull it with a 4-WD Deere tractor. (Frederick Allmandinger, Rt. 1, Box 238, Corning, Ark. 72422 ph 501 857-6137)