To support his extended boom, Boyce welded a framework of 1/2-in. thick by 3-in. boiler pipe for upright legs and upper horizontal supports. He added metal pockets for the forklift tines to slide into to lift the unit.

Jib Crane Added To Walk-Behind Forklift

By Bruce Derksen, Contributing Editor

When Randy Boyce needed something to lift heavy parts for his restoration business, he thought adding a boom and jib crane to his walk-behind Burro 6162 forklift might be exactly what he was looking for.

He left the Burro standard, with its 14-hp. Honda motor and 3-lever hydraulic system that controlled the boom, forks, 24-in. reach extension plus the electric winch.

To support his extended boom, Boyce welded a framework of 1/2-in. thick by 3-in. boiler pipe for upright legs and upper horizontal supports. He added metal pockets for the forklift tines to slide into to lift the unit.

The exterior boom is 8-in. square tubing with the interior telescoping beam slightly smaller. He welded a handle on the end for manual positioning, using a 1-in. pin to secure it every 2 ft. A large pivot pin supports the boom at the forklift mast with four U-bolts added for extra stability.

"When fully extended, I can lift the tail end of my van with it," says Boyce. "The winch is also great for lifting. I just run the cable around the end through a pulley."

With the forks lowered, the boom reaches out to an 8 ft. height. In the raised position, it extends up to 16 ft. when fully telescoped.

"If I were to build it again, I'd make the main pivot pin fit a bit better," Boyce says. "It's a little tight, so I need to use a hammer to slip it in and out."

He built and welded the jib crane from scratch and estimates he put slightly less than $1,000 into the project.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Randall Boyce, Quality Auto Repair, 1755 Oaks Avenue, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158 (ph 641-753-9468; quality@heartofiowa.net; www.qualityauto56.com).

They Made An Electrical Pole From Spare Parts

"We made an inexpensive and simple aerial electrical mast for our fabric equipment shelter using parts from an old TV antenna tower, some extra black pipe, and various conduit pieces and fittings," says Reid Allaway of Tourne sol Farm in Quebec.

"The mast uses random pieces of 2-in. threaded pipe that's welded into the top section of a truss-type antenna tower. We welded gussets to spread the load through several truss layers," Allaway says. "It's completed with a 2-in. PVC weather head at the top and a 2-in. LB elbow into weathertight conduit at the base. This allowed us to set up a sub panel supplied with 60A 240VAC that we use to run fans for our onion dryer. We can also plug in tractor block heaters and battery chargers for electric vehicles and tools."

Spare tubing, an old TV antenna and other miscellaneous parts were melded into an electrical pole for a hoop building.

Allaway says the cooperative always wanted power in the shelter but couldn't justify having an expensive installation done using a new pole and new electrical equipment. "Once I realized we had a used breaker panel on hand and could build a quick and simple mast to span the driveway, the project became a lot more affordable."

The TV mast is bolted securely to a concrete footing and anchored to the outside arch of the hoop building. With an overall height of 15 ft., the mast is tall enough to elevate wires above the roadway and secure enough to hold electrical wire extending to another building across the driveway.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Reid Allaway, Tourne-Sol Co-operative Farm, 1025 Chemin St Dominique, les Cedres, Quebec, Canada J7T 1P5 (ph 450-452-4271; info@fermetournesol.qc.ca; www.fermetournesol.qc.ca).

Draper Belt Repaired With Zip Ties

"My farmer engineer degree came in handy today," proclaimed Jerod Schmidt after executing a creative solution for fixing a broken draper belt on a combine head. He drilled holes along the side and used 11 zip ties to create sutures across the tear to hold the sides together. It held up until he could get a replacement.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerod Schmidt (www.twitter.com/SchmidtJerod).

Schmidt drilled holes along the side and used 11 zip ties to create sutures across the tear and hold the sides together.

FARM SHOW®

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

Have you come up with any unusual money-saving repair methods for fixing farm equipment? What maintenance shortcuts have you found? Have you had any equipment recalled by the factory? Name a particularly tough mechanical problem you've had with a piece of equipment and how you solved it.

These are a few of the questions we asked randomly selected FARM SHOW readers. If you have a repair tip, maintenance shortcut, or other mechanical experience you'd like to share, send details to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Managing Editor

Garnet Powers, Marsden, Sask.: "After breaking two keys off and bending the choke cable while mowing around trees, I installed a shield around the engine controls on my zero-turn mower. Now those low branches just slide up and over the top, doing no damage."

Gerald Ripps, San Antonio, Texas: "I attach magnets to the inside of oil pan drain plugs on equipment. I buy rare earth magnets from Harbor Freight at $3 for 10 magnets. Works great to pull metal filings out of the oil. Each time I pull the plug, I clean off the magnet."

Tim Barndon Jr., Kulin West, Australia: "I made an extension bar for box end wrenches. It has tabs that wrap around the wrench so it's much safer to use than a pipe or other methods. No more skinned knuckles or slips."

March Coover, Dallas, Texas: When adding new electric junction boxes in his shop, barn or attic where the walls are not finished, Coover writes the number of the electrical circuit on the metal cover of the box. That way, the next time that circuit needs servicing or expanding, he doesn't waste time making several trips back and forth to the panel trying to figure out which breaker to turn off.

Richard Bader, Middletown, N.Y.: "I got this idea to keep starting fluid aerosol cans from accidentally spraying liquids inside my truck and tractor cabs. In the past, covers would come off cans and fluid would spray all over. By storing it inside a Pringles can, the top is protected. No more leaks. Works for paint cans too. In fact, a friend of mine bought a new truck and stopped at NAPA to buy black spray paint to paint the inside of the fender walls. His son jumped in the truck, knocked off the cap, and sprayed black paint all over the inside of the new truck. My friend started using my Pringles can idea right away."

Richard Mountcastle, Indianapolis, Ind.: "I have a Stihl weed trimmer and the string release button wore out on the head. I tried to buy a new head for it, but they wanted over $40, and it would take a few days to get. So, I just used a hole saw to make a button out of wood and glued it where the old one was worn. I've been using it for over a year now and it's still working great."