

**"THERE MAY BE THOUSANDS OF THEM IN JUNKYARDS"**

## Highway Guard Rails Make Great Buildings

Several years ago, when Harlan Courtney and his neighbor found out that thousands of discarded highway guard rails were being sold at junkyard prices, they decided to get some. There's a lot of steel in the metal crosspieces, they figured, and a use for them would eventually surface.

It took a couple years but Harlan finally did find a use. He built a machine shed from the rails that has already gone through a tornado. "It'll stand as long as any other building in the state of Kansas," he predicts.

"These rails were outlawed in Kansas and many other states because they were too strong and didn't bend enough when vehicles went up against them. We bought them for 50

cents each and there may still be thousands of them lying in junkyards around the country, still available," Courtney told FARM SHOW.

The 13-ft. long rails Courtney used to build his building were made from a heavy gauge rounded steel and are right at 12 in. wide. To build his shed, he first poured a concrete footing all around the foundation, leaving a trough in the top formed by leaving a 4 by 4-in. piece of lumber in the cement and pulling it out just before it set permanently. Courtney then stood the rails up one by one in this trough, bolting them together lengthwise along the one side. The result is a solid wall that stands up without special bracing.

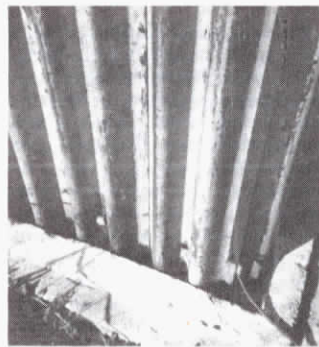


**"It'll stand as long as any other building in the state of Kansas," says Courtney.**

"One of the biggest jobs was drilling each rail to join to the next one. I certainly learned how to sharpen drill bits," says Courtney. "It took us about 1½ years to complete the 40 by 70-ft. building, working at it on and off."

The building required about 200 rails. It has a 13-ft. high door for moving in big equipment. There are no windows but they could be added. The rails, which were originally galvanized, have not been painted. Courtney built a tin roof on top of roof trusses made from 2-in. dia. pipe.

Costs for the building include \$800



**Bolted together along one side, rails mount vertically in a cement trough.**

for the cement, \$1,000 for the roof trusses, \$1,000 for the roof, and 200 guard rails at 50¢ each. Other miscellaneous costs put the total cost "somewhere between \$3,000 and \$4,000".

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harlan Courtney, Rt. 2, Box 101, Oskaloosa, Kan. 66066 (ph 913 863-2654).



After downed animal is rolled onto bag, a battery-powered "rapid inflator" fills the bag with air.

### INFLATES IN MINUTES

## Air Bag Lifts Down Animals

"This system works incredibly slick for getting a downer cow back on her feet," says University of Minnesota veterinarian Victor Cox, one of the first in the U.S. to test the Bovi-jak 10, an air bag for lifting down animals.

Developed in England, the Bovi-jak system uses a tough air bag that inflates to conform to a cow's underside, including the udder.

"One advantage of this system over those that use hip lifts to raise the animal is that you can leave an animal standing longer using the air bag — up to 30 minutes — without worrying about pressure on the animal's hips," explains Dr. Cox.

The bag is supported by four tubu-

lar slide-in legs which provide a base to keep the bag from rolling when the animal is on it.

The bag inflates quickly using a "rapid inflator" powered off a tractor or car 12 volt battery. A safety release strap goes around the animal's withers to help keep it steady on the bag.

Sells for \$545 plus freight and duty from England. The company is looking for distributors.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Snell-Wessex Ltd., c/o T.B. Snell, Penn Land, Hardington Mandeville, Yeovil, Somerset, BA229PL England. (ph Yeovil 093-586-3151).



Shoe chains fit any shoe or boot and store easily in a pocket.

### SLIP THEM ON TO CROSS SLICK OR SLIPPERY SURFACES

## "Shoe Chains" Make Winter Walking Safer

Chains have been used for years on tires for increased traction during the winter months. Now, there are chains for shoes and boots to make walking safer on slick or slippery surfaces.

The "Shoe Chain" is marketed by Saf-T Shoe Chains, Mt. Prospect, Ill. The company reports that the chain pulls onto almost any form of footwear and "helps prevent slipping on frozen, wet, oily or greasy surfaces without affecting a person's stride."

Shoe Chains slip on easily over any

shoe or boot. Light and durable, they can be worn on either foot and store easily in a pocket or briefcase.

Two models are available. The standard model sells for \$14.95, and the heavy-duty model for \$17.95.

Sizes available are small (0-4), medium (5-9), large (10-13) and extra large (13+).

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Saf-T Shoe Chains, Inc., P.O. Box T, Mt. Prospect, Ill. 60056 (ph 312 562-0095).