

**"NEW GENERATION DISCOVERS
MARBLE PLAYING CAN BE A LOT OF FUN"**

"Marble Lady" Teaches Old-Time Game To Kids

Cathy Runyan is on a mission to wean the younger generation off TV and electronic video games and get them back down into the dirt - playing marbles the way she did as a child.

The "Marble Lady", as she's known, has taken it upon herself to teach the old-fashioned game of marbles to a whole new generation of kids across the U.S. The Kansas City, Mo., marble collector gives talks to young students at schools, clubs and churches, and often hands out free bags of marbles (she has a personal collection of over half a million marbles). She also makes presentations to under-privileged youngsters at inner-city schools.

"Many kids today don't know the slightest thing about the game which gave so much joy to earlier generations. I'm trying to change that," says Runyan. "Anyone can play marbles and it doesn't require a lot of money. For \$1 you can buy a bag of marbles. It doesn't matter if you're tall or short, fast or slow, girl or boy, and you can play just about anywhere. Many schools are now adding marble playing areas to their playgrounds, using dirt or concrete pads with lines laid into them. Marbles can be a great family game, too, because it gets everyone involved."

Besides teaching children how to play, Runyan also visits retirement centers and nursing homes. "Older folks' eyes just sparkle when they see marbles and remember fun childhood games."

Runyan serves as a referee at the annual National Marbles Tournament in Wildwood, New Jersey, and participates in an annual national tournament in Tennessee each September. She also does appraisals of marbles for insurance or selling purposes. She's now doing research on the U.S. and world history of marbles.

She learned the game from her grandfather. "The boys in our neighborhood wouldn't let me play in their ball games. Then one day my grandpa gave me a bag of really good marbles and taught me how to play. I whipped their tails."

Runyan grew up, got married, and had five children. One day she got her marble collection out of storage to show her children. She was surprised to discover that none of them had ever played marbles, and that she had forgotten many of the games. She did a lot of research at libraries but couldn't find any books on how to play. That's when she decided to write a book.

First she talked to older folks who'd grown up playing marbles, asking them about the games they'd played as youngsters. Eventually she documented more than 30 different games, including "Picking The Plums", "Pyramids", "Ringer", "Potsies", and many others.

Her book, "Knuckles Down! A Fun Guide to Marble Play", sells for \$7.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cathy C. Runyan, 7812 N.W. Hampton Rd., Kansas City, Mo. 64152 (ph 816 587-8687).

AUCKLAND
MANUFACTURERS'
ASSOCIATION INC.



Photo courtesy New Zealand Star Times

To convert boat from land to water, Roycroft drives into the water and then flips a switch to raise wheels up into elevated fenders.

TRAVELS 60 MPH ON LAND, 30 MPH ON WATER

Built-From-Scratch Amphibious Car

It took 5 years to "think out" and 2 years to build but once he finished, Terrence Roycroft, says his built-from-scratch amphibious car is like no other vehicle ever built.

The car/boat runs 60 mph or better on land and up to 30 mph on water and, unlike other amphibious cars that have been built in the past, Roycroft says it handles as well as a conventional car or boat in either configuration.

Roycroft built the car/boat in order to get to work faster and easier. He lives in Manukau Heads, which is across a harbor from Auckland, the capital of New Zealand. To get to his engineering job in Auckland, he faced a 2 hr. commute every day around the harbor through heavy traffic. He decided he could get to work a lot quicker by

taking a short cut - across the harbor.

On land, he says the prototype is easy to handle with normal steering and a comfortable ride. It handles just like any other car. In water, it's powered by a jet boat system that moves it along like a high-powered speed boat.

Converting the boat from land to water is simple. He just drives into the water and then flips a switch to raise the wheels up into the elevated fenders. The bowed shape of the boat's keel holds the four corners of the vehicle up out of the water so there's no drag from the wheels.

"The handling, turning and stopping are comparable to any jet-driven cruiser on the water," says Roycroft, who's now seeking private investment to bring the car-boat to market.



Tractor's steel wheels are from a horse-drawn manure spreader.

AUTHENTIC MODEL BUILT FROM SCRATCH

He Built His Own Rumley Tractor

"I always wanted to own my own Rumley Oil Pull but could never justify the cost of the tractor or of the tractor-trailer I'd need to haul it around, so I built my own," says Donald H. Miller, Randolph, Wis.

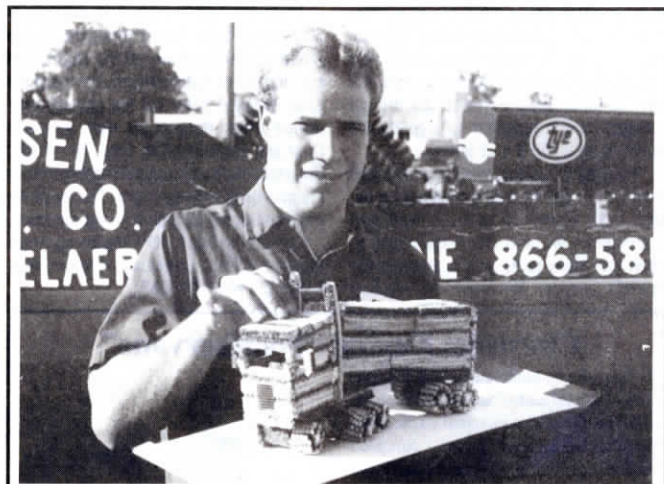
"I took a few photos of the real thing and then started gathering scrap parts.

"The steel wheels are from a horse-drawn New Idea manure spreader. I got the LB International engine out of a junked cement mixer. The 4-speed transmission and rear end came out of a Toyota and the 90° gearbox from a snowblower. The brakes and steering linkage came out of a 2-ton

Ford truck. The steering wheel came off a threshing machine - it was used to raise and lower the blower. The sheet copper for the cooler was salvaged from a printing press roller. I made the sun shade roof out of tin.

"The used parts make the tractor look old and rustic. I can haul it in the bed of a full-size pickup. My son Sam and I take this replica to steam shows. Sam's been running the tractor since he was 9 years old."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald H. Miller, W11468 Co. Road FW, Randolph, Wis. 53956 (ph 414 326-3639).



"Artist" Creates Corn Cob Masterpiece

After seeing a tractor made out of corn cobs, high school student Chris Claussen of Rensselaer, Ind., decided the new form of "art" might make an interesting art project for school.

So Claussen set out to build a semi-truck and trailer, complete with grille, mirrors and fifth wheel. He used ears of corn with kernels left on the ends for wheels, and thick slick slices of cob to form the walls of the cab and trailer. Glue

holds his "masterpiece" together.

Claussen has also used corn cobs to make a tractor with a disk harrow. His creations are now on display at Claussen Equipment Co. in Rensselaer, Ind., his family's farm equipment dealership.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chris Claussen, Claussen Equipment Co., 1531 N. McKinley Ave., Rensselaer, Ind. 47978 (ph 219 866-5812).