



Edwards once served 10,000 people in a single day with his high-capacity barbecue grill.

“Railroad Engine” Barbeque Grill

You’ve never seen a barbecue grill like the one built by Ralph Edwards, Efland, N.C., that’s 22 1/2 ft. long with a 5-ft. dia. tank and a pair of smokestacks on top that make it look like an old railroad engine. It even has a large brass dinner bell at one end of the grill.

Mounted on a trailer fitted with axles off an old mobile home, the grill stands 13 ft. high and has brass bands at both ends and on top of the smokestacks (the bands are secured to the tank by copper rivets). The tank has two separate cooking chambers, with individual temperature control for each chamber.

“We’ve taken it to the Indy 500 and to conventions. When we pull up to do a job, people know right away that we mean business,” says Edwards. “We once served 10,000 people per day at the grand opening of a sporting goods store. The grill is big enough to handle large sides of beef.”

Edwards made the grill by welding two 1,000-gal. steel tanks together end to end. He cut out two doors along one side and welded a brass handle to each one. Charcoal and wood are stored in a compartment that runs the length of the grill under the doors. A pair of openings lead from the compartment into both cooking chambers, making it easy to add charcoal or wood to the fire.

Each smokestack contains a spring-loaded damper for regulating air flow through the grill. A clean-out bin is located at each end of the grill. Air flow into the grill can be controlled by adjusting the doors in the cleanout bins and charcoal storage compartments.

Edwards spent about \$10,000 to build the grill not including labor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ralph P. Edwards, 6101 High Rock Road, Efland, N.C. 27243 (ph 919 563-1965).



This is said to be one of only eight Farmall F20’s ever built with 8-ft. rear wheels.

Rare 1939 Farmall “Highwheeler” Tractor

Gerald Wheatley recently sent FARM SHOW a photo of this unusual tractor - a 1939 Farmall F-20 “Highwheeler” equipped with 8-ft. high rear wheels. It sits along the highway in front of his farm equipment business near Massena, Iowa.

“People stop to take photos of it all the time. It’s one of only eight that was ever built,” says Wheatley. “A friend of mine, Willard Kee of Niobrara, Neb., already had two of these tractors and he located this one for me. It had been used around the Brunswick, Neb., area right up until the 1960’s.

“The tractor was made during the Dust Bowl era of the 1930’s. It was used to pull three 36-in. wide grain drills - one belly-mounted and two rear-mounted - in standing corn in the late summer or fall. The farmer drilled winter wheat, rye, or vetch

between the rows to keep soil from blowing over the winter. The tall rear wheels allowed the tractor to go through tall corn without damaging it. After harvest the standing stalks could be shredded, and the following year the wheat, rye, or vetch could be harvested, or it could be plowed under in the spring as green fertilizer.

“The tractor’s rear steel wheels have 10-in. wide tire tread bolted onto them. The spokes are heavy-duty angle irons welded to a steel plate at the center of the wheel. The single front caster wheel is about 1 1/2 ft. high. We plan to repaint the tractor and show it in parades and at other events around our area.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald L. Wheatley, Rt. 2, Box 151, Massena, Iowa 50853 (ph 712 779-3418).



Two garden variety male rabbits, Flotsam and Jetsam, power Wace’s lawnmower.

WATCHING IT IS A HARE-RAISING EXPERIENCE

Rabbit-Powered Lawnmower

It’s simple. It’s quiet. And it doesn’t cost anything to operate.

Those are the benefits of a rabbit-powered lawnmower invented by Australian botanist Nigel Wace. He began experimenting with the rabbit mower years ago to entertain his children. But when he set it up near his office at the Australian National University in Canberra this spring to keep the lawn trimmed, word of the unique mower quickly spread all over the world.

Wace told FARM SHOW he’s been inundated by dozens of calls from everywhere.

The mower consists of three 27-in. dia. bicycle wheels set 3 ft. apart parallel to each other. They’re covered with a 7-ft. wide piece of 1 in. rigid wire mesh. A 5 gal. bucket, which serves as a hut to shelter

the rabbits from the elements, mounts inside the mower. Two large male rabbits do the “mowing”, walking the wire cylinder all over the yard. Once they’ve “mowed” down grass underneath the cage, they simply roll it to a new spot in the lawn where there’s more growth. They occasionally need a little push when they get stuck, Wace notes. One benefit is they fertilize the lawn as they go, he adds.

Wace settled on rabbits after experimenting with everything from caged guinea pigs to small, fenced-in kangaroos.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nigel Wace, Division of Archaeology & Natural History, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia 0200.

MEDICINAL HERB BRINGS A BIG RETURN

Demand High For New Farm Crop

“I’ve had over 250 calls since an article about my herb business appeared in a regional farm magazine, including one from a buyer in California who wanted to buy my entire crop,” says Len Donais whose company, Northern Wild Harvests, plans to harvest its first full crop of the rare medicinal herb, echinacea, next fall.

The plant is much sought after by herbalists for its ability to strengthen the immune system against colds and flu. Grown commercially in Europe and on a smaller scale in the U.S., it’s processed into tablets or tincture and is sold in health stores.

Donais, of Prince Albert, Sask., says echinacea is well-suited for growing in Canada and the northern U.S. It grows wild in many northern states, he notes.

The plant itself has deep or pale purple flowers (depending on which variety is grown) and grows up to 4-ft. high.

There are eight varieties of echinacea, but only three are grown for their medicinal properties.

Donais is experimenting with all three varieties. It takes three years for the crop to mature enough to harvest the root. He currently has five acres of echinacea that will be three years old this fall, five acres that will be two years old, and five acres that will be a year old.



Three varieties of echinacea are sought after by herbalists.

He got his original seed from Richter’s Herb Catalogue (Goodwood, Ontario, Canada LOC 1A0; ph 905 640-6677), which sells echinacea seed beginning at \$151 (Canadian) for 2 lbs. Seed is planted at 1/4 lb. per acre. Each seed needs 1 sq. ft. of space. It thrives in sandy soils with a pH of about 7.5.

While seed is pricey, echinacea roots fetch prices of up to \$8 per pound, he says. Processed echinacea sells for \$32 per lb. when imported from Europe, he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Northern Wild Harvest, P.O. Box 154, Prince Albert, Sask., Canada S6V 5R5 (ph 306 764-4499).