

C. F. Marley Photo

DRIVEN WITH REINS LIKE REAL-LIVE HORSES

Tractor "Horse Hitch" A Real Crowd Pleaser

Hometown celebrations are a big thing in many rural communities in the good ol' summertime, and here's a novelty that's a proven crowd pleaser.

In and around Shelbyville, Ill., Barker Brothers Equipment Company, has come up with this multiple hitch of four garden tractors pulling an old flare bed wagon, and controlled strictly with reins.

The unique tractor "horse" hitch has turned out to be such a hit that the

Barkers have been invited to perform in other parades throughout the state.

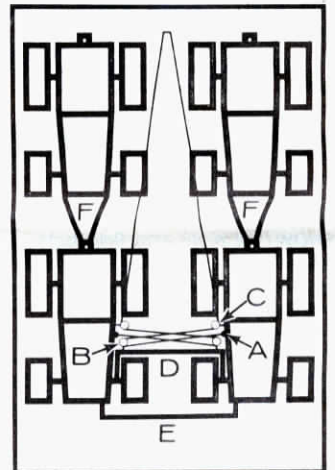
The feat that fascinates viewers most has been the turning of the "team". In one town, the viewers were so fascinated by this that parade officials cleared a street along an entire city block so the mechanical horses could demonstrate a series of figure 8's.

How is the hitch put together?

One of the secrets is that all the pulling is done by the two lead trac-

tors. The others just tag along for the effect. The center driver is responsible for the steering while the two "outriders" operate hydrostatic drive levers. All operations are handled with ropes that simulate "reins" in the time-honored horse hitches.

The hydrostatic lever moves forward and backward. Forward is neutral, and back is in gear. There is a pulley on the hood latch for neutral position.



Lines leading to sheaves on steering bar control the two lead tractors. Note solid connecting bar(E) and V-type hitches (F).

"BOOT HILL RANCH" MARKED BY 600 BOOTED FENCE POSTS

Motorists Get Kick Out Of Boot Fence

Next time you're driving through Kansas, swing by Russell Springs on Route 25 and take a look at rancher John Smith's landmark "Boot Hill Ranch". He tops his fence posts with old cowboy boots and, in the past five years, has "booted" right at 600 posts.

The unique project has gotten him on national TV twice, and he often gets talked about by a Denver radio disc jockey. Smith hopes he'll get famous enough so that a U.S. president will send him a pair of boots. Friends and relatives have helped him collect boots.

He prefers the boots worn out: "They could tell some real stories about the hard times in ranching and farming. And, if they're worn out,

they seem to stay on the fence posts longer.

"The boots are strictly cowboy style, and aren't secured in any way. They don't shorten the post life. "We've had a few people stop and want to trade for a pair of boots on posts that were in better shape than what they were wearing. Occasionally, a pair or two of boots will disappear from the posts," reports Smith.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Smith, Star Rt., Box 22, Russell Springs, Kans. 67755 (ph 913 751-4485).



Smith says a pair or two of boots in good shape will occasionally disappear.