

FARMER NAILED WORN-OUT COWBOY BOOTS TO TELEPHONE POLE

“Boot Pole” Joke Now A Local Landmark

When Rick Ott, Marble Rock, Iowa, nailed a pair of worn-out cowboy boots to a telephone pole next to a nearby highway, it wasn't long before neighbors started nailing their worn-out boots to the pole, too. The “boot pole” is now a local landmark and more boots get added all the time.

“I just did it for fun,” says Ott. “It got to be a bigger thing than I figured on. People stop and take pictures of the pole, and photos of it have appeared in several newspapers. Last summer some sparrows nested in the boots.”

Ott says he'll keep nailing boots to the pole until he runs out of space, although he admits that as he gets closer to the top, it's getting harder to get the job done.

Not to be outdone, someone recently started nailing old athletic shoes to a pole a mile down the road from the boot pole. “I don't know anything about that one,” says Ott.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Ott, 2636 Echo Ave., Marble Rock, Iowa 50653 (ph 515 756-2208).



Ott nailed a pair of boots to telephone pole at the corner of one of his fields, and others followed suit.

BUILT IN 1957 FROM AN OLD FRAZIER, MODEL T, PACKARD

Kids Learn To Drive In Powered “Toy” Car

“My four children learned to drive in this miniature car that I built in 1957. Now my four grandchildren are having fun with it,” says Robert Weisz, Hurdsfield, N. Dak.

The geared-down two-seater “toy” car is powered by a 5 hp single cycle engine and has a 3-speed transmission from a 1941 Packard car. The differential is from an old Deere corn planter and the steering wheel and steering gear from a Model T car. The engine belt-drives the transmission which chain-drives the differential. The differential chain-drives a gear on each rear wheel.

“My grandchildren love to drive it,” says Weisz. “It has a clutch, brake, and accelerator pedal. You push the clutch in to loosen the belt that goes from the engine to the transmission. It's had a lot of use. Over the years I've reupholstered it three times and painted it five times. I originally painted it pink and white. It's now painted 'Jaguar red'.”

“When I built it, cars with tailfins were in style. A neighbor had a Frazier car and let me cut off the rear fenders. I used other miscellaneous body parts to form the car's body. The Frazier car ornament mounts on the hood.

“I built the chassis and front and rear axles from scratch. It took me all winter to build the chassis, but only about two weeks to build the body. It has coil springs on all four wheels.

“I took the 8-in. wheel rims and tires off two Cockshutt combine header pickups. In the fall I had to jack up the car and take the wheels off in order to harvest.”



Geared-down two-seater “toy” car is powered by 5 hp single cycle engine and has 3-speed transmission from 1941 Packard car.

The parking lights are the interior lights from a 1929 Studebaker car. The headlights are the parking lights off a 1955 Dodge truck. The tail lights are from a 1957 Plymouth.

One weak spot on the car is the steering. “Model T's didn't steer very well because they used a planetary gear that wore easily. My miniature car has the same problem. If you go at top speed the steering system wobbles,” notes Weisz, adding that he closely supervises kids at all times when driving the car and doesn't let them drive any faster than they can safely handle.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Weisz, Rt. 2, Box 46, Hurdsfield, N. Dak. 58451 (ph 701 962-3743).

FARM SHOW

Ag World



To make the pool, Portner bolted seven bin panels together and sealed them with silicone. He put 3-in. dia. plastic drainage tile, split lengthwise, over the top edge.

HOLDS 10,000 GAL. OF WATER

“Grain Bin” Swimming Pool

Steel grain bin panels make dandy swimming pools, according to the Andy Portner family, Winthrop, Minn.

“It's better than commercial above-ground models,” says Portner, who built the “grain bin” pool behind his house five years ago. “We previously had a small above ground metal swimming pool for a few years, but it was starting to rust out and was so flimsy that we couldn't lean on it without breaking it. I wanted something that was built stronger. Our grain bin pool holds 10,000 gal. of water. We fill the pool on Memorial Day weekend and drain it on Labor Day weekend, and the water stays nice and clear all summer long. We installed a pump that filters water at the rate of about 16,000 gal. of water per day.

“Whenever we're not using the pool we cover it with a solar blanket. It absorbs the sun's heat and keeps the water about 10 degrees warmer at night. However, last summer was so cool that even the solar blanket couldn't keep the pool warm enough. I solved the problem by running the water through a wood stove made out of a gas water heater that I set up next to the pool. I

made a wood burning chamber under the heater out of sheet metal and connected the water heater fittings up to the discharge hose on the water filter. The filter pump pushes water through the water heater and back into the pool.

“I paid \$60 for the bin panels. Total cost for the 21-ft. dia., 4-ft. high pool, including the concrete floor, solar blanket, and pump and filter, was about \$1,000.”

Portner bolted the seven bin panels together and sealed them with silicone. He also used silicone to seal the inside of the panels to the concrete floor and used black tar to seal the outside of the panels. He put 3-in. dia. plastic drainage tile, split lengthwise, over the top edge.

The concrete floor has a PVC drain at center that leads outside the pool. To drain the pool, Portner pulls a plug at the end of the pipe. He uses Hilex to scrub the floor clean before filling the pool each spring.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Andy Portner, Rt. 1, Box 210, Winthrop, Minn. 55396 (ph 507 647-2543).