

Paddlewheel on Engel's homemade 8 by 20-ft. pontoon is an old combine reel.

Pontoon Powered By 'PaddleReel'

"When farmers go past us in their boats and realize what we're using for a paddlewheel on our pontoon, they always give us a big thumbs up," says Arley Engel.

What farmers notice when they get close up is that the paddlewheel of Engel's homemade pontoon is an old combine reel.

"It started out as a joke," explains Engel, who runs an automotive parts business in Chippewa Falls, Wis. "My neighbor had the reel off this old Allis Chalmers combine and said I could have it if I could think of something to make with it."

That's when Engel got the idea to build a pontoon. Now, five years later, Engel's pontoon is a well-known summertime fixture on the lakes and rivers of west central Wisconsin.

The combine reel mounts at the rear of the 8 by 20-ft. pontoon. Original belts and drive sprockets off the combine drive the reel, powered by a 3 1/2 hp. Briggs and Stratton engine out of an old lawn mower.

Engel chose the engine over a larger one because of its low idle. "We don't go very fast and we don't go very far," he notes.

The flat-bottomed plywood craft, with 10 in. of styrofoam packed into the bottom for flotation, has a forward/reverse transmission, also out of the old mower. A lawn mower's steering mechanism turns the pontoon's rudders.

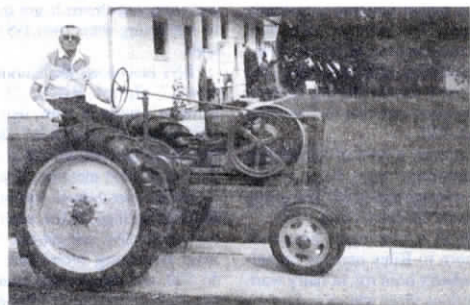
The steering wheel is a 14-in. dia. pulley with bolts fitted into it at intervals to resemble spokes.

A regular pontoon canopy provides shelter for up to 14 passengers. Park benches on each side hold seven passengers apiece.

Engel says he takes the pontoon out at least two or three times a week during the summer and has traveled as far as six or seven miles on one cruise.

He estimates he has about \$500 invested in the craft.

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Shemko shortened tractor frame by 15 in., then bolted stationary engine onto frame.

ORIGINAL 2-CYLINDER ENGINE REPLACED WITH 1920 DEERE 3 HP STATIONARY ENGINE

1939 Deere H Powered By "Hit & Miss" Engine

Nick Shemko and his son Dennis have a museum on their farm where they exhibit a lot of old tractors of different makes and models, as well as a half dozen old "hit and miss" stationary engines. Last winter they decided to make something different for their collection by mounting a 1920 Deere E 3 hp stationary engine on a 1939 Deere H 2-cyl. tractor.

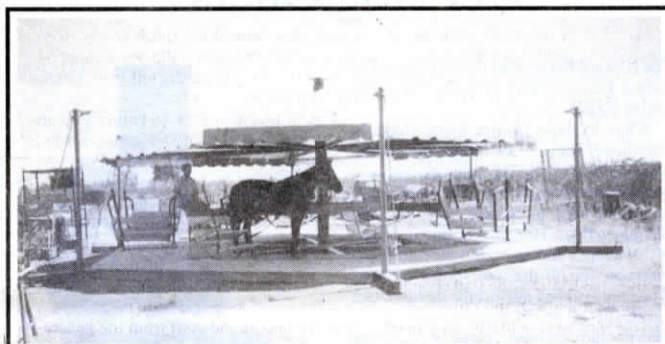
"It works real good," says Nick. "We took it to a parade last summer, and the older people really got a kick out of it."

The Shemkos removed the original engine and shortened the tractor frame by 15 in. They bolted the stationary engine to an 8-in. wide length of channel iron and bolted it to the frame. The stationary engine belt drives the tractor's original flywheel. How-

ever, the engine runs at only 650 rpm's and its small 6-in. pulley would have caused the tractor to go too slow so they replaced it with a big 23-in. pulley off a Deere self-propelled combine. A 2 1/2-gal. water tank mounts on top of the engine, with the gas tank underneath.

"It's fun to drive," says Nick. "A lot of people come to our museum just to see this tractor. Sometimes I crank it up for them and take it out for a spin. They think it's really something."

"The 'hit and miss' engine has plenty of power. The tractor is now so short that when I turn sharp the inside rear wheel backs up. It still has the original crankshaft and I can still use the pto and all three forward gears. Top speed is about 4 mph. However, it goes



Porch-type swings are pulled by horse around merry-go-round's center pole.

Horse-Powered Merry-Go-Round

"Two people can set it up and run it," says Steve Haupt, a San Joaquin Valley vegetable grower and horse breeder, who designed and built his own horse-drawn merry-go-round.

Haupt built it to create another source of income when his wife decided to quit her off-farm job.

The entire project took about four months. He had it nearly complete in time for last year's fair season in California.

Key to success of Haupt's design is the merry-go-round's center pole. It's a 10-in. dia. pipe 14 ft. tall that weighs over 1,000 lbs. Attached to the center pole at 7 ft. above ground are 10 15-ft. long arms to which porch type swings attach. The swings each hold two adults or three children.

Six I-beams weighing 400 lbs. apiece attach to poles mounted at the end of each. I-beams extend up 9 ft. and are fitted with steel cables that support the merry-go-round's canvass top. A wooden platform covers the I-beams.

Power for the merry-go-round is sup-

plied by one of the Haupts' quarter horses that walks on the platform.

The hardest part of building the one-of-a-kind amusement ride was making it so two people could set it up, Haupt says. To speed up the process, which takes a day and a half, Haupt designed a winch and pulley that mounts on the back of the truck he uses to haul the merry-go-round. The system helps lift and pull components into place.

Haupt charges \$2 per person for a 3 1/2 to 4 minute ride. He says its appeal is not just limited to kids.

"People are thrilled, especially kids' parents who can ride with their children," he says. "I think parents and senior citizens enjoy it as much as the kids do."

Haupt says he and his wife are hoping for a busy fair season this year and are willing to accept any reasonable invitation.

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too fast in third gear for parades so I have to use second gear, and even then I sometimes have to slip the clutch. The engine needed a 3-in. wide belt, but I was only able to find a 4-in. wide belt. The engine's mounting plate has four slots. By loosening four bolts I can move the engine forward or backward to tighten or loosen the belt.

"I keep the water tank about 2/3 full to allow for expansion. A 1/4-in. dia. steel pipe on top of the tank allows water vapor

to escape. At the parade last summer I ran the tractor for quite a while and the engine got a little hot so some steam came out of the pipe."

The Shemko's keep 66 old tractors in their museum, with 27 in operating condition. They have six stationary engines that range from 1/2 hp to 7 hp. All of them run.

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