

Giant Rocking Chair Stands 22 1/2-Ft. Tall

"The first one I built was about 10-ft. high, but I wasn't satisfied with that so I built a bigger one," says Joe Hejduk, Austintown, Ohio, who designed and constructed a 22 1/2-ft. tall rocking chair which, so far as he knows, is the largest in the world.

The chair sits outside, drawing attention to his Country Living Center, a general store stocked with everything from cold drinks to unpainted furniture. Many motorists who spot the chair while driving along I-90 interstate highway in northeastern Ohio, turn back to have a closer look and to take turns climbing into "the world's largest rocking chair" to have their picture taken.

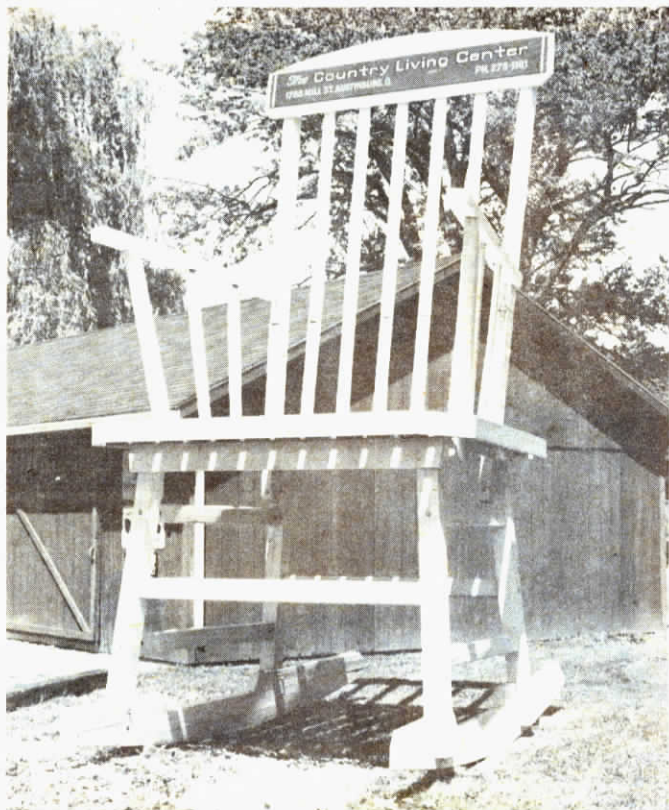
"It's painted white, weighs about 1800-lbs., is 8-ft. 2-in. wide, 7 1/2-ft. tall to the seat and has 14-ft. long rockers. As many as 35 people can stand on the seat at once. You could even put a Volkswagen in the seat," Hejduk points out.

"I used 2 by 4, 4 by 6, 6 by 6, and 4 by 4-in. treated lumber to build it. Instead of nails, I used threaded rod to hold boards together. All together, I probably used 80-ft. of 5/8-in. rod," Hejduk notes.

"The main problem I had was getting the chair to balance properly so it'd rock. I solved that by making the back of the chair adjustable. Now I can fine-tune it within ounces. One person sitting on the chair can rock it, yet it hardly moves on a windy day.

"I also made the chair so it'd fold up for transport with the back folding down and arms folding in. I displayed it at local county fairs for awhile but found it too time consuming and the chair was getting damaged."

Now, Hejduk leaves the chair sitting outside his store to draw in the curious. During the Christmas holidays he spruces it up with more than 400 sparkling lights.



Rocking chair is so well-balanced that one person can sit in it and rock back and forth.



This 4-story, 4-bedroom home was once a 36-ft. dia., 21,000 bu. capacity grain bin.

Family Converts Grain Bin Into A Unique Home

What was once a 36 ft. dia., 21,000 bu. Unico grain bin on the John and Carol Ferguson farmstead is now a beautiful 4-story home "home in the round."

The Fergusons, of Sonora, Ky., along with their children, Charles, Teresa and Glynda, started building their home five years ago. They tore down the bin, originally built in 1965, section by section, moved it to the current site and started rebuilding it into their new home.

"You really don't realize that you're living inside a grain bin," says Carol. "The only clues that it was once a bin are the rounded outside walls and the roof."

The new home has four floors. The basement has the furnace, laundry room and Carol's office. The first floor, which is also at ground level, has the kitchen, dining room, living room and master bedroom. The next floor has three bedrooms and two bathrooms while the top floor is John's office.

In building the top floor they raised the roof 32-in. and put in 8 windows at the top to provide a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.

"During construction we built the chimney so it runs right through the middle of



There's a 1-in. layer of foam insulation between the bin wall and the granite rock exterior.

our home and out through the spout hole at the top of the bin. This way it also acts as a floor support at each level," says Carol.

"We also super-insulated the walls and tried to get an R-40 value. In reassembling the bin sections, we put silicone along the seams to seal the cracks tight. We inserted insulation between the bin walls and the inside wood walls, and put a 1-in. layer of



"It was my kids' idea," says Wendy Durand, Rice Lake, Wis.

License Plate Asks Tough Question

"It was my kids' idea," says Wendy Durand, Rice Lake, Wis., who forces her neighbors and other motorists to consider the benefits of rural life with a questioning license plate that asks "Y Farm"?

Durand, who runs her 125-acre dairy farm single-handedly and takes care of

three kids ages 9 to 13, says she enjoys rural life. The question she carries around on her car only comes up during occasional periods of frustration. She obtained the special license plate through the state of Wisconsin's personalized license plate program.

thick foam on the outside of the bin. We put granite field rock on the outside of the foam to decorate the exterior. Actually, our home's so well insulated that now we have to pull fresh air in. Our total heating cost last winter was right at \$250," Carol notes.

The grain bin home now stands about 30-ft. tall and rests on a poured concrete foundation that's about 12 in. wider than the bin.

There have been well over 200 curious visitors to the Ferguson's "home in the round". "The most frequent comment is about how much larger the house is inside

than what appears from the outside. Others note the easy placement of furniture and the absence of what they expected to be pie-shaped rooms. We've had many tell us they'd like to buy our 'home in the round' if we ever decide to sell," John told FARM SHOW. He adds that "visitors are always welcome."

Would they do it again?
"Of course, but we like our unique home and have no plans to sell it," answers John.

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