



Six-passenger tractor is a big hit at antique tractor shows.

2 HP STATIONARY ENGINE BELT-DRIVES GEARBOXES CONNECTED TO REAR END

"Hit & Miss" Engine Powers 6-Man Tractor

"People really get a kick out of it. It's definitely one of a kind," says Edward Cox, Sidney, Ohio, about his 6-passenger tractor that's powered by a 2 hp "hit and miss" stationary engine.

Cox often takes the 8-ft. long, 4-ft. wide tractor to antique tractor shows where it draws a lot of attention.

He used 3-in. channel iron and steel plate to make the tractor frame and bolted a Nelson Bros. "Jumbo" 2 hp "hit and miss" engine onto it. A 90 degree gearbox belt-drives a 4-speed gearbox that's connected to a 3-speed gearbox out of a Model T Ford. A universal joint connects the Ford gearbox to the rear end and axle which is out of a 1969 Chevrolet panel truck. The front axle and spindles are off a 1937 Ford truck.

The tractor is equipped with 16-in. tires in front and 25-in. rear tractor-type tires (off an old ground-driven manure spreader) in back. The steering system is from a Montgomery Ward rototiller, the hand clutch is a converted emergency brake lever out of an old Ford truck, and the brakes are from a 1967 Nissan pickup. The emergency brake is off a Chevrolet Vega car.

"It took an entire winter to build," says Cox, who put the tractor together three years ago. "I kept it under 8 ft. long and narrowed up both axles so I can fit it in my pickup bed and take it to shows. I welded two U-bolts onto the back of the tractor so I can chain it down. I mounted a plaque on front of the tractor that lists the parts. When people read that it has a rototiller steering system, they start laughing. The two gear-



Gearbox belt-drives dual gear boxes. (Photo shows seat removed.)

boxes provide 12 speeds forward and one reverse.

"The seat is made from plywood covered by 2 1/2-in. thick foam rubber. It's big enough for six adults - three facing forward and three backward. A tread plate floor-board mounts in front and back of the seat. The seat lifts off by removing five bolts, allowing me to easily work on the rear end and transmission."

Cox cut the stubs off both ends of the front axle and welded them to a length of steel box tubing. He cut the disc brakes off the Vega's rotors, then mounted the rotors on the Ford spindles. He lathed the spindles down so that the Vega's wheel hub would fit onto 8-in. rims which he bought new.

He used 2 1/2-in. dia. driveshaft tubing to make the exhaust.

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They Make Furniture Out Of Old Barns

Before you torch or tear down any old barns on your farm, you might want to let Ed Holand know about what you've got. He just might want to take it off your hands, saving you a lot of hassle.

About a year ago the Wisconsin wood-worker began making furniture out of wood from old barns. The Barn Again Furniture Co. of Eau Claire already boasts a full line (soon to be expanded) of products made from the weathered lumber of farmers' barns.

"We get four or five calls a day from farmers with barns they'd like to get rid of," says Holand, 36, a native Californian who began building furniture at the age of 17. "The farthest away we've ever been contacted about a barn was from Vermont, but so far we haven't traveled any further

than 200 miles or so to take one down.

"We use the old barns to build quality furniture that some people call 'new-tiques'. It's priced well below real antiques and just slightly over upscale furniture."

For example, the company's 72 by 22 by 33-in. credenza sells for \$1,295. Towards the other end of the spectrum, its hall mirror sells for \$165. (A complete catalog of the company's wares is free for the asking.)

Each piece is one of a kind because the wood used varies so much. Some wood has large knots or other marks. Other wood has holes - sometimes even from buckshot.

The six or seven barns Holand has used in the past year have all been over 80 years old.

Holand made a number of barn wood fur-

1/16-Scale "Erickson" Tractor

Years ago, Alfred Steidl built his own full-size 4-WD tractor. Now he likes to build 1/16-scale models of home-built tractors built by other farmers, such as this "Erickson" tractor based on a full-size machine built by a neighbor.

"I'm a perfectionist so I build my models as close to the real thing as possible. If you take a photo of one of my scale tractors and compare it to a photo of the real tractor, I don't want you to be able to tell the difference," says Steidl. "The Erickson tractor is powered by a 475-hp V-12 Detroit diesel and has triple wheels all the way around. It also has dual exhaust stacks and air cleaners. Erickson made the tractor for his own use, but he also built a few tractors that he sold to area farmers."

Steidl has built scale models of other



Steidl's model "Erickson" tractor is based on a tractor built by his neighbor.

home-built 4-WD tractors over the years, including five of the original Steiger prototype. He's now building three Wagners.

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Steel-Wheel Tractor Carried By "Parade Dolly"

Antique tractor collectors everywhere are familiar with the problem Harry Lee, Elnora, Ind., faced for many years: After you spend months or even years restoring an antique steel-wheeled tractor, you want to show it off but you can't drive it on the streets.

Harry is known to antique tractor enthusiasts all over the country as a man with an outstanding collection of more than 50 restored "classics" and as the man who's put together some of the most unusual one-of-a-kind antiques ever built, including a couple side-by-side "triple tractors" and a copy of a Farmall prototype tractor that no longer exists.

When Harry got frustrated with not being able to show off his steel-wheeled tractors in parades unless he put them on trailers, he set out to find a solution. He designed a 3-wheel dolly that tows from the front and holds the tractor just 4 in. off the ground so people can get a really good look at it.

To build the dolly, he used two F-20 Farmall front spindles, round spoke wheels, rubber tires, a crazy wheel off an IH mower, and part of the frame off the mower. The



Dolly carries steel-wheel tractor just 4 in. off ground.

front wheel on the dolly can be left down on the ground, or raised up so the steel front wheel rolls on the ground.

"I've pulled it over the road for more than 100 miles with no problems. It installs easily with a couple wrenches and a hammer.

"The attached photo shows the dolly mounted on my 1923 Experimental Regular Farmall (SN#296). To my knowledge, there are two of these tractors that exist out of the 26 prototype models built. Some 200 production models were later produced in 1924."

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Credenza (left) and table (right) are both made from salvaged barn wood.

niture tools himself. The pieces are assembled by hand and finished with water-based preservative, no stains or colors.

When Holand hears about an old barn that's available, he hires a salvage company to take it down. Before they do, a drawing is made of the barn that's later made into a stylish pen and ink rendering that's shipped with each piece of furniture made from the barn. A write-up on the history of the barn is also provided.

Occasionally, when an owner requests it, the company makes a table or hutch for the farmer in exchange for his barn. "It becomes an instant family heirloom," Holand notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Barn Again Furniture Co., 800 Wisconsin St., Eau Claire, Wis. 54703 (ph 715-835-5962; fax 0221).