



Fireplace "Furnace" Heats Entire House

"We can keep our whole house toasty warm for pennies a day even in the coldest weather," says George "Bing" Ribble who converted his basement fireplace into a wood burning furnace that heats both floors of his house.

The Hetrick, Ill., farmer made the conversion because of the excessive heat loss through the glass doors of the fireplace he installed in 1976. Also, because the doors broke easily and had to be replaced frequently.

So Ribble had steel cut for an insert, assembled it and welded it together. He had to widen the fireplace opening for the insert which is 2-ft. high, 5 ft. wide and extends 8 in. out onto the hearth. The exposed metal surface radiates more heat into the room and the new firebox holds more wood than the original fireplace.

He used a gasket sealed boiler door on the front of the furnace and made an air intake a 12-ft. length of 4-in. dia. PVC pipe that extends outside the home. A 6-in. fan mounts on top of the PVC pipe to force air into the fire chamber. The squirrel cage fan forces warm air into a trunk line and ductwork, which Ribble installed with the fireplace, in the center of the 30 by 46-ft. basement to feed four rooms on the upper level.

Ribble estimates the furnace burns five or six cords of wood during a typical heating season. He has an abundant supply of everything from pine to hedge on his farm,



and cuts the wood into 24-in. pieces for burning.

"The only expense to heat the house is the electricity to run the squirrel fan," he says. "The system works great, too. You can be gone 14 hours and the temperature in the house will hardly drop in even the coldest weather."

Ribble built the system for about \$200. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George "Bing" Ribble, R.R.2, Hetrick, Ill. 62649 (ph 618 778-5752).

Old IH Tractor Converted To Power Steering

"It's the best \$300 I've spent in a long time. Makes my tractor unbelievably easy to steer, especially when it's equipped with a front-end loader," says Ed Snider, Chesley, Ontario, who borrowed the hydrostatic steering unit from an old New Holland combine in order to add power steering to his International B414 tractor.

The hydrostatic unit consists of an orbit motor and hydraulic cylinder from a mid 1970's New Holland 985 combine. Snider cut the steering column off the tractor and welded a steel plate onto it, then bolted the orbit motor to the plate and welded it back on in the exact position of the original steering column. The orbit motor operates the hydraulic cylinder that controls the steering arm. The tractor origi-

nally was equipped with a 2-stage hydraulic pump - one to operate the loader and the other to operate the steering system. He threw away the pump and replaced it with a separate hydraulic pump off an old skid steer loader. The pump is belt-driven off the tractor's alternator and is plumbed directly into the orbit motor.

"The original tractor steered hard. Now I can steer it with one finger, even when the loader is mounted on it," says Snider. "I use the tractor every day to haul manure and to feed my cattle. I paid \$150 for the hydrostatic unit off the combine and \$150 for the hydraulic pump and hoses."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ed Snider, Rt. 3, Chesley, Ontario, Canada N0G 1L0 (ph 519 363-2795).



"Chisel Disk" Designed For Bean Ground

Harvey Lorton, Greenfield, Ill., looked at conventional disk chisels on the market and didn't like what he saw, so he built his own "chisel disk" for working up bean fields.

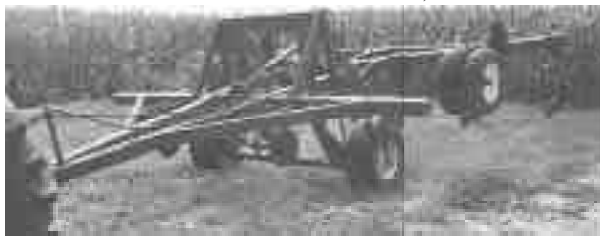
His "chisel disk" started out as a 9-shank Brillion V-ripper. He modified it for trash clearance by making it into a 7-chisel plow mounted on a high-lift caddy for extra ground clearance. Coulters off a moldboard plow mount on the caddy, running directly ahead of each shank.

Lorton added wings to each shank - 5 in. on each side. They lift and shatter the soil.

The caddy cart was made from scratch out of 5 by 5-in. square tubing. Cylinders on the caddy have 2 ft. of lift.

Lorton pulls the high-clearance chisel disk at 6 mph with a 310 hp. Versatile 936.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harvey Lorton, Greenfield, Ill. 62044 (ph 217 368-2168).



Low-Cost "Walking Beam" Tandem Axle Bale Trailer

"It's built strong and I spent less than \$500 to put it together," says custom hay grower Robert Rufi of Monroe, Wis., about the low-cost "walking beam" bale trailer he built from the wheels and axles off an old tandem axle fertilizer spreader and steel beams salvaged from an old building.

The 20-ft. long, 8-ft. wide trailer holds 12 bales placed vertically (four on each side and four on top) or 11 bales placed on their sides (four on each side and three on top). Rufi used 4 by 8-in. steel beams that he already had to build the rack. He welded a series of 8-ft. long beams 42 in. apart across the top of two lengthwise beams. The lengthwise beams are spaced 32 in. apart and pivot up or down on a 4-in. dia. thick-wall steel pipe that was already on the spreader axle.

He welded a 2-ft. length of 4-in. sq. angle iron on each side between the lengthwise beams and axle in order to support the bale rack. He welded a hitch off an old New Idea manure spreader on front of the rack and used a length of steel plate to make his own hitch on back.

"It's probably built stronger than necessary, but I don't have to worry about it falling apart if I ever hit it with my loader," says Rufi. "I use a 3/4-ton pickup to pull it. By pulling a second wagon behind it I can haul 24 bales at a time from the field to my yard."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Rufi, W4819 Greenbush Road, Monroe, Wis. 53566 (ph 608 325-6365).

