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FLOATS ON TERRA TIRES

“Sailing” Tractor Makes 2 1/2 Mile Ocean Voyage

One of the most unusual sights at the recent Agromek '91 International Exhibition in Heming, Denmark, was this amphibious tractor making an ocean voyage.

P. Ellegaard A/S, a Danish tire company, continuously played a videotape about the “Sailing Tractor”. It drew lots of amused looks and chuckles from the hundreds of farmers who stopped to watch. The “sailing tractor” is a 40 hp 2-WD Ford equipped with four large Terra tires. The company used the tractor as a promotional stunt for its tires. The tractor “sailed” across 2 1/2 miles of ocean separating the mainland of Denmark from an island where a plowing match was being held. The journey took one hour to complete. The only modification to the tractor was a long rubber pipe extension of the air cleaner to keep water out and a rear-mounted safety light. A 2-bottom plow was mounted on back to counterbalance the

heavier front end. To make a turn, the driver simply locked one of the wheels.

Company spokesman Hans Jepsen said the voyage left a little water in the engine oil, but caused no other problems. The tractor still works.

“It was an interesting trip for the driver and for a couple of painters who were working on a scaffold on the bridge the tractor passed under,” Jepsen told FARM SHOW. “One of the workers happened to look down and he couldn’t believe his eyes. He turned to the other and said, ‘I don’t know a lot about agriculture, but I’ve never heard of tractors on the sea.’”

Tractor was equipped with 48 by 31 by 20 front tires and 66 by 43 by 25 rear tires. Jepsen says he knows of only one other “sailing” tractor. A German company used a tractor and rear-mounted scraper to harvest oysters on the North Coast of Denmark.

MADE FROM ROUND, RECTANGULAR BALES

“Timothy The Hayman”

When it snows some people build snowmen, but when it rained earlier this summer Charles Johnson and his family, of Tioga, Penn., built a “hayman”.

The Johnsons used round bales, small rectangular bales, and scrap parts to build “Timothy the Hayman” on a rainy summer afternoon. “Timothy” is dressed with a garbage can hat, coffee can eyes, an orange highway safety cone nose, red fabric mouth and tie, and black plastic pants.

“We couldn’t make hay that day so we just decided to have some fun and build a hayman,” says Johnson. “Our farm is located on the highest ground in the township so you can see Timothy from a long ways off. We had a steady stream of people driving by to see Timothy.”

Johnson used a front-end loader to set two 800-lb. round bales end-to-end on top of each other. He wrapped a black plastic tarp around the bottom bale, then placed a 12-ft. long rod horizontally across the top of the second bale and set a third bale on top of the rod. He tied two square bales onto the rod on each side of Timothy to form his arms.

Unfortunately, nine days after he was

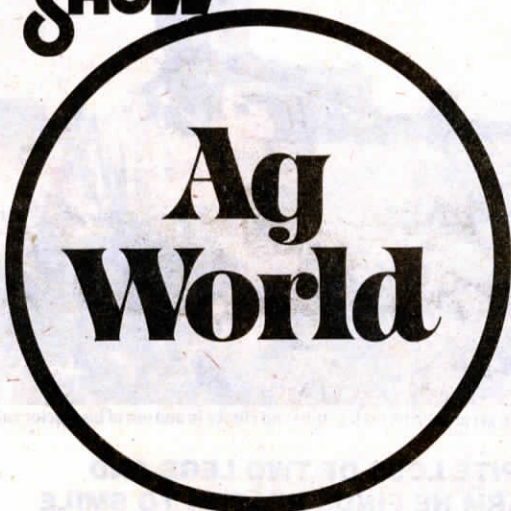


Charles Johnson and his family had lots of fun building this big “hayman”.

built Timothy met a sad fate when he was torched in the middle of the night by local pranksters.

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FARM SHOW



Marvin Hohenbrink's grandfather ordered this barn out of a Sears catalog in 1903.

BOUGHT OUT OF A SEARS CATALOG

Ohio Farmer Owns A Mail-Order Barn

By Del Gasche

There's nothing about Marvin Hohenbrink's barn near Holgate, Ohio, that looks all that unusual. At least nothing that would make you stop along the road and take a second look.

What's unusual is the fact that in 1903, Marvin's grandfather ordered the barn out of a Sears, Roebuck & Company catalog, making it an honest-to-goodness mail-order barn!

“My grandfather bought the place in about 1892. I'm the third generation to farm it,” says Marvin, who was born on the farm in 1930.

His grandfather had built a new barn in 1902 but it burned down not long after it was put up. And so, because he needed to get another barn put up in a hurry, he simply ordered a replacement out of the Sears catalog. The entire structure cost \$970. “It was put up in 1903 but it's still in good shape today,” says Marvin, noting that he may have to roof it soon, however. He expects the new roof to cost \$4,000, more than 4 times the original cost of the barn.

The price of the mail-order barn included not only the pre-cut materials, but also the raising, finishing, painting and all other work. “By the time Sears was finished, my grandfather had a 70 by 36-ft barn - 46 ft. to

the peak - ready to use. I don't know what it would cost today - maybe \$50,000 to \$100,000.”

But Marvin's not sure the barn could be duplicated because of the high-quality of the construction. He says the wood was all clear pine with no knots. “The timbers are all nicely squared and it's obvious it was done by machine and not by hand. The flooring is all tongue and groove.”

The joists are 3 by 12-in. on 12 and 16-in. centers and everything is fitted together with wooden pins. The main support beams on each side of the main-drive floor are angled up from the front and back of the barn to provide a clear-span area on each side of the main drive, making it possible to store large pieces of machinery on each side of the center open hayloft, which is what Marvin uses the barn for today.

“The barn was well-designed and built. I've always admired Sears and Roebuck for offering such a superior piece of work at that price,” says Marvin.

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