

been appraised at \$6,000. I figure I've spent over \$6,000 in parts. I've probably logged over 60,000 miles since I bought it and have really enjoyed driving it. I recently added a new high-torque, high-horsepower cam to the engine and am very happy with it. It adds even more acceleration and torque and improves the fuel efficiency. It gets 16 mpg on the highway. (Steve Okonski, Box 658, Hythe, Alberta, Canada T0H 2C0 ph 403 356-2837).



We sell virtually indestructible decks, chairs, tables, and fencing made from recycled plastic. Plastic lasts much longer than wood because it doesn't rot and is smooth enough that bacteria can't stick to the surface. You can use either nails or sheetrock screws with it. No pre-drilling is required.

The plastic material is maintenance-free and won't crack, split, warp, rot or splinter. It's resistant to chemicals, water, and moisture so you never have to seal, stain, or paint it. It's also pest and termite resistant. (Quality Fencing and Supply, 622 North Shirk Rd., New Holland, Penn. 17557 (ph 800 633-7093 or 717 354-9760)

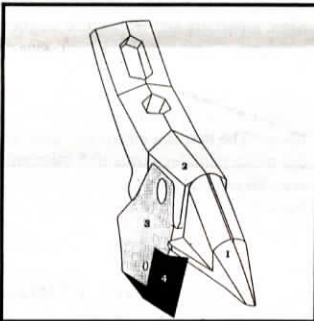
Your readers may be interested in our business of restoring vintage antique tractors. We have three full-time employees and have rebuilt over 100 tractors since we started business in 1988. We have customers from as far away as North Dakota, Michigan, Ohio, New York, etc., as well as Canada. We can work on any tractor, no matter its age or condition, and we can arrange for pickup and delivery. We also buy or sell tractors if you're looking for a certain make or model. We do both cosmetic and mechanical work, depending on what the customer wants. Some of the tractors we work on are mechanically good and need only a new paint job. Others people want their tractors to not only look as good as new, but to work as good as new, especially if they're participating in antique threshing shows or parades. We can rebuild all electrical units including generators, starters, magnetos, distributors, as well as rebuild carburetors and do rewiring. We can also overhaul the engine, transmission, final drives, and steering systems. In general, the cost for cosmetic repairs is \$4,000 to \$7,000 (Canadian). Restoring a tractor's mechanical ability can cost up to \$12,000. We just restored a pair of Deere D's with over 100 hours of mechanical work on each at a cost of over \$20,000 apiece. We rebored the front axles and installed new kingpins, differential gears, fuel tanks, and radiators. We even had to have some parts built for it. The pistons were seized so we had to put the engine in a hydraulic press and push them out. We also had to make a cast center for one of the steel wheels. Steam shows don't want steel wheel tractors driving around chewing up the grass, so we installed transport bands on the front wheels.

There are other people who do mechanical work on antique tractors, but as far as we know no one else does complete restoration work including both mechanical and cosmetic work. We bring the tractor to showroom condition. (Frank Henke, owner, Signature Restoration, Rt. 1, Cavan, Ontario, Canada L0A 1C0 (ph 705 277-1680)

In your Owner's Report on Best & Worst Buys Pickups (Vol. 16, No. 6), Floyd Temple, Muncy, Penn., says the computer system on his 1986 Dodge Ram 250 went out so he changed it back to old style points and condenser and hasn't had any trouble at all. How did he do this? (Edward Kobulnicki, 9646 Steubenville Pike, Bulger, Penn. 15019)

Editor's Note: We called Mr. Temple and here's what he told us. "The computer that advances the timing on the 318 cu. in. gas engine was acting up, causing the engine to hesitate and lose power. The cost to repair or replace the computer would have been about \$600. I removed the electronic distributor and bolted in a rebuilt conventional distributor and points which I bought at an auto parts store. I also bought a coil and ballast resistor. I screwed the ballast resistor into the firewall to reduce the voltage to the coil to keep the points from burning up whenever the ignition key is turned on. I then hooked a hot wire up to the fuse box and connected the wire to the resistor, coil, and distributor. Total cost was just \$60."

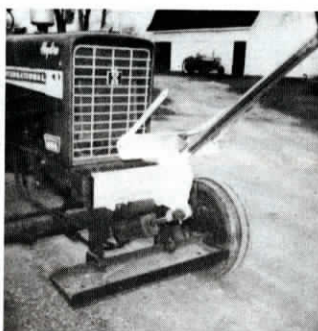
Here's an idea that may save lives lost due to silo gas. It also eliminates hard, disagreeable work. When topping off a silo with high moisture haylage, or when you're between different kinds of crops while filling the silo, cover the haylage with a load of very dry chopped hay. It absolutely eliminates spoilage and also eliminates the need to clean off spoiled crop before refilling. There's no need to level the haylage off if you're between crops. When topping off the silo, simply level off the last load of silage and then top it off with the dry chopped hay. One of my neighbors does this on his bunker silo, too. (Lloyd Polzin, Rt. 2, Cadott, Wis. 54727 ph 715 289-3137)



Our new "double shoot" point opener lets you convert conventional air drills, air seeders, or hoe drills to one-pass seed and fertilizer units. It makes two separate "V" furrows side by side for seed and fertilizer. Fertilizer is placed 1 in. below and 1 in. to the side of the seed.

The opener consists of a replaceable chrome "V" point that's secured with a roll pin, the main body of the point which bolts to the existing shank, and a fertilizer knife body that bolts onto the side of the opener. The side-mounted fertilizer knife, which also has a replaceable point, can be removed when all you want to do is plant seed. Metal delivery tubes mount on back of the shank. It's available in two models. One model is designed for air seeders and sells for \$64.90. The other model is designed for hoe drills and sells for \$49.90 (Canadian). (Vic Wickstrom, Swede Industries, Box 298, Tompkins, Sask. Canada S0N 2S0 ph 306 622-4428)

I use piston shafts from hydraulic truck hoists to make bale spears that I mount on both the front and back of my IH 656 tractor. Each spear is controlled by its own hydraulic cylinder so it can be tipped up or down independently, allowing me to haul two round bales at a time and load them onto trucks or wagons. I make the spears out of 55 in. long, 1 1/2 in. dia. hoist shafts, fashioning a point



on one end. The front spear's mounting bracket is hinged, allowing the cylinder mounted beneath it to push the bale up to a 45 degree angle. The rear-mounted spear is mounted on a heavy-duty steel framework that attaches to the tractor's 3-pt. The spear is hinged on top of a vertical steel pipe, allowing the spear to raise the bale on end at a 45 degree angle and lift it 4 ft. off the ground when the 3-pt. is fully raised.

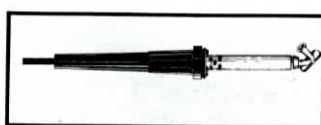
It really works slick and saves a lot of time and work. I can raise the rear-mounted bale much higher than the 3-pt. and stand bales on end. However, the front-mounted spear can raise the bale only about 16 in. off the ground so I can't use it to load bales onto a truck or trailer. I can use both spears to unload. The only disadvantage of the front-mounted spear is that when I'm on the road I have to stand so I can see ahead of me. The truck ram shaft is made with chrome-plated hardened steel so it slips in and out of the bale very easily and won't rust.

I bolted the front-mounted spear onto a 2-in. slotted pipe that's welded to a yoke equipped with a 1 1/4-in. pin that serves as a hinge. The yoke is mounted on an angle iron bracket that bolts onto the tractor's front-end weight bracket. The cylinder mounts on a bracket that bolts to the bolster ahead of the front axle. (Gene Buch, Rt. 4, Box 22, Fairfield, Iowa 52556 ph 515 472-3768)



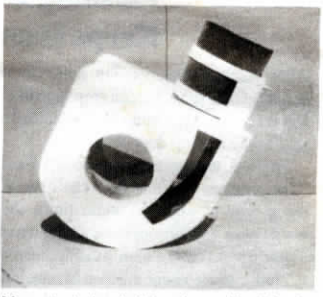
I started making these hog sorting panels because I was tired of buying junk at stores. Store-bought panels always break so I designed these to be tougher than anything on the market. They're made of stress-relief poly so they won't warp and weather will not affect them. You can throw them against a concrete wall at 30 degrees below zero and they won't break. You can even run over them with a tractor or skid steer loader and they will not be damaged. I've used them for three years along with several of my neighbors. The panels are 33 in. high by 36 in. wide and made out of white poly because white will turn a hog faster than any other color. One other benefit is that they're not noisy like aluminum panels. They sell for \$45 apiece and are guaranteed for one year against breakage. (David Patterson, Rt. 1, Box 86, Stanton, Iowa 51573 ph 712 829-2652)

You can repair battery casings, sprayer tanks, water troughs, grain hoppers, plastic pails and anything else made out of polyethylene with our new "welder" that uses a specially-formulated plastic wire to seal up cracks. It can even repair polyolefin



"crosslink" plastic, which previously was not repairable. The beauty of this product is that anyone can use it like an expert. It runs on 110-volt power. The welder won't work on ABS and PVC plastics.

The welding wire itself is made up of a membrane which means that if a crack is repaired because of a stress situation, the repaired weld will stretch rather than break again. Sells for \$49.95, including 30-ft. of wire. An additional 30-ft. of wire sells for \$19.95. (John Fouillard, Fouillard Farm Supplies Ltd., Box 524, White City, Sask. S0G 5B0 Canada ph 306 781-2141; fax 306 781-2958)



My patented spiral "grain cushion" for leg elevators brings grain to a sliding stop to reduce grain damage and foreign matter by more than 50%. It replaces the downspout's original "dead head" and bolts onto the end of the downspout on any leg elevator. It consists of an 8 to 12-in. dia., spiral shaped steel assembly that mounts inside a box attached to the top of the bin. The downspout passes through a hole in the top of the box. Grain enters the spiral cushion and smaller and smaller, causing grain to fall out on each side and drop into the bin.

The curve gradually sharpens which causes grain to lose velocity rather than allowing it to slam into itself or against a hard object. The amount of curve decreases as the grain speed decreases, and the grain then falls out of the spiral and into the bin. I've tested the system for three years on my own farm. David Jones, University of Nebraska agricultural engineer, also helped test the system. I got the idea because I had terrible problems with grain damage caused by a 72-ft. long downspout that drops down at an 8 degree angle. All of my grain had 5 to 6% damage and I got docked 15 cents per bu. After installing the grain cushion it averaged only 1.4% damage.

Each grain cushion is custom designed according to your grain volume and downspout slope. An 8-in. dia. farm-size steel unit handles 3,000 bu. per hour. I sell a full range of sizes. (Lloyd Berquist, LGB Industries, Inc., 1124 Tibbals St., Holdrege, Neb. 68949 ph 308 995-4009)

The article in your Vol. 17, No. 1 issue concerning the use of underground storage tanks for hay shelters or barns should have had some precautions for your readers. Many people have been killed cutting into fuel tanks. These tanks should be defumed first and tested with an explosion meter before any cutting is attempted, and then only with special equipment (such as an air reciprocating saw). Second, one should never enter one of the tanks without special precautions such as breathing protection. Finally, the sludge inside the tanks is most likely a hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly.

I believe your readers would be well advised to obtain cut-up tanks from a licensed underground storage tank remover. The cost is minimal. (Griff Shirley, Contractor, Rt. 9, Box 188, Ringgold, Ga. 30736)