

18-TON, 12-FT. HIGH ROCK
HANGS NEXT TO DRIVEWAY

Giant "Weather Rock" Amazes Visitors To Iowa Farm

"People can't believe it when they see it," says Mike Dick, Humboldt, Iowa, about the giant 18-ton "weather rock" that hangs at the end of his driveway. It's held in the air by two 9-in. dia. steel posts that support a wooden railroad trestle. It took a whole truck load of cement to make the 6-ft. deep footings.

The 12-ft. high, 8-ft. wide granite rock hangs about 18 in. off the ground. It's held up by a threaded steel bolt that runs all the way up through the rock to a homemade swivel that allows it to sway in the wind.

Dick operates an agricultural fabricating business on the same small acreage where he lives. "It's a great attention getter. A lot of people drive by our place just to look at it."

For anyone not familiar with it, "weather rocks" have been used for years to get a laugh. Here's how you use it to tell the weather. If the rock is wet, it's raining. If it's moving, it's windy. If it's hot, it's hot out, etc.

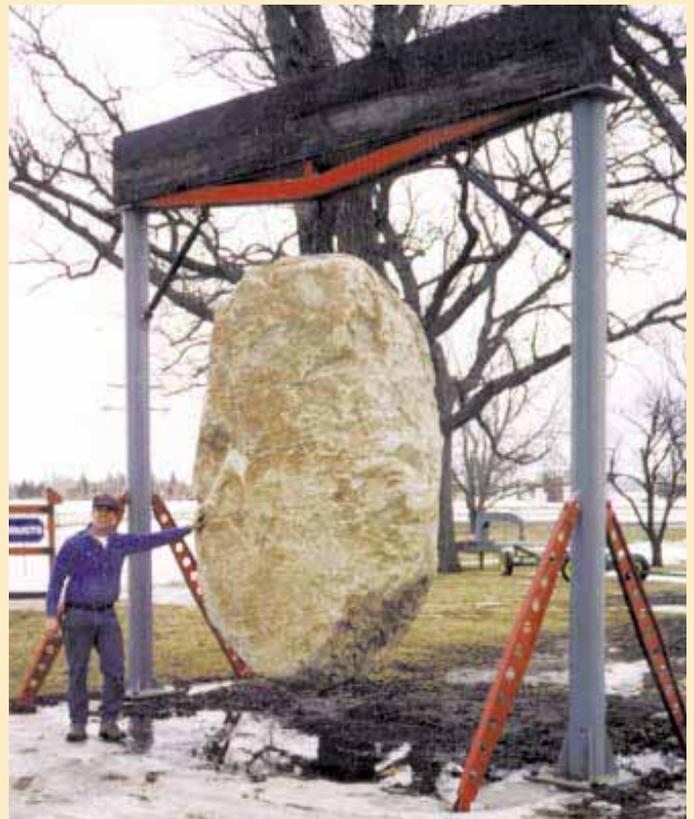
Dick bought his rock from a local quarry. He drilled a hole through the rock using a

13-in. long, 1 5/8-in. dia. carbide-tipped drill bit welded onto the end of a 12-ft. long pipe. A garden hose hooks up to the pipe to cool the bit with water. He then inserted a 15-ft. long, 1 5/8-in. dia. threaded steel bolt through the hole and put a nut on the bottom end.

A 50-ton crane lifted the rock into place. "It was a fun challenge to set up," says Dick. "While hauling the rock home we stopped at a grain elevator in town to weigh it. It weighed 36,180 lbs. The rock is as flat as a table on the side that faces the highway. I plan to engrave our business name and the rock's weight onto it.

"Surprisingly, it takes only about a 4 mph breeze to make the rock sway in the wind but it doesn't move much. Last fall we had a 60 mph wind that moved the rock about an inch."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Dick, M.D. Products, 1998 215th St., Humboldt, Iowa 50548 (ph 515 332-3550; fax 3770).



Mike Dick's 12-ft. tall granite rock hangs about 18 in. off the ground. Even though it weighs about 36,000 lbs., a 4 mph wind will make it sway.



Green balls with yellow Deere writing were produced as a promotional gimmick by Brunswick in 12 and 16-lb. sizes.

RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY?

John Deere Bowling Balls Sold Out Fast

You may think you've seen just about every John Deere collector item under the sun. But have you ever seen a "Deere" bowling ball?

That's what Sparta, Mich., toy traders Robert and Billie Squanda offered at last winter's annual Decatur, Ill., toy show. They said everywhere they take the balls people are simply amazed.

"People say they'll be the talk of the alley," says Billie.

The green balls with yellow Deere block writing were produced some time back by Brunswick as a promotional gimmick and

were available in both 12 and 16-lb. sizes.

The Squandas purchased their supply from a Deere dealer who had 180 available. They've since sold more than 25 and have only one left. The dealer friend sold all his bowling balls, too, so they're now officially a "rare" commodity, Billie notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Squandas' Farm Toys & Crafts, Glenwood Mobile Home Park, 3851 County Park Dr. NW., Sparta, Mich. 49345 (ph 616 887-7105).

Swing Set Built From Corn Planter Wheels

Chance Farlow decided to build a swing set for his two grandkids, Jimmy, 4, and Kristy, 5, because he wanted them to have something unique.

"I didn't want them to have just an ordinary swing set," says the Barronett, Wis., farmer who came up with a design in his head and did the work in about a week.

What makes it unique is that he used steel wheels off old corn planters. Each wheel is painted a different color.

The three legs of the 8-ft. high swing set are made from a length of 1 1/4-in. dia. pipe bent into a U shape and sunk 1 1/2 ft. in the ground.

Three 2 1/2 ft. dia. steel corn planter wheels are welded to each leg. A smaller steel packer wheel welds to the front and back of each leg at the bottom to ensure stability.

Two home-made swings hang from a piece of pipe that runs through the spindles on the planter wheels.



He added a teeter-totter to one end of the swing set using a planter axle and some additional wheels.

Farlow also recently added a slide to the swing set. It's the only part of the project that's store-bought, he notes.

"The kids love it and even their grandma can use it because it's so sturdy," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chance & Carol Farlow, 705 27 1/2 Ave., Barronett, Wis. 54813-9401 (ph 715 822-4159).

Order Form For Subscribers (New & Renewal)

Yes! I want to be first to learn about latest new products. Please sign me up for FARM SHOW. I understand I can cancel at any time and receive a full refund if not satisfied. Check here to renew.

United States

\$15.95 for 1 yr.

\$29.95 for 2 yrs.

\$39.95 for 3 yrs.

My check (\$_____) is enclosed.

Canada (& foreign countries)

\$23.95 for 1 yr.

\$43.95 for 2 yrs.

\$57.95 for 3 yrs.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State /Prov. _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to FARM SHOW. Clip and mail this coupon to:
FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665).
VISA & Mastercard accepted.