

**Editor's
Notebook**



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Editor &
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Septic Heater Gives Peace Of Mind

My wife and I have a small lake cabin in northern Minnesota where we spend weekends during the summer but rarely visit during winter months. That means there's not much "activity" in the septic tank during the coldest months so it's susceptible to freezing.

In the past, we piled straw on the ground over the tank so it wouldn't freeze. Two years ago we heard about Chris Norgaard's Septic System Heater (Vol. 28, No. 5). Chris is a Minnesota native who invented the heater after a cold snap several years ago that managed to put many septic systems out of commission. It consists of a large "candy cane"-shaped piece of pvc pipe with a small heater built into it and electronic controls hanging from the side in a weatherproof box.



Septic Heater simply slips onto vent pipe above tank or drainfield. Control box turns heater on and off as needed to keep system from freezing.

You simply slip the pipe over one of the vent pipes from the septic tank or drainfield, and plug it into a 110-volt outlet. The heater blows warm air down into the septic system, turning on and off automatically to keep the system above freezing.

I obtained a unit from Chris last fall and installed it. It literally took 1 minute to take the cap off the vent pipe and slip the Septic Heater on. A small thermocouple hangs down into the septic pipe to monitor temperature. I ran an ordinary extension cord out from the house. A green light on the side of the box indicates when the heater is running. A red light blinks if there's a problem.

When we first installed it, the red light was blinking. Chris came down right away and checked it out. Turned out I had a faulty unit, which he replaced no questions asked. The new unit has been working flawlessly so far this winter. It draws very little power, since the heater runs intermittently. And it's great knowing I won't have to clear a big pile of straw off the yard come spring.

Chris said the heater is built to last for at least 20 years, and maybe more. But it's not cheap. Our fully automatic model cost \$1,395. A model equipped with a timer, which you can set to run periodically, sells for \$995.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Septic Heater Company, 4129 - 310th St. S.E., Gully, Minn. 56646 (ph 888 417-3784 or visit www.septicheater.com).

An early pioneer spent all summer making a huge stack of hay to feed his cows through the winter. When he thought he had enough, he sent his son to ask a wise old Indian chief what kind of winter to expect.

The Chief solemnly shook his head and said, "Bad!"

Alarmed, the rancher made even more hay, then sent his son back for an updated forecast. "Very bad!" the chief said.

So the rancher desperately made still more hay, then sent his son back a third time. "Bad, bad winter. Much cold. Deep snow for many moons," the Chief warned ominously.

Impressed and worried, the son finally asked, "Please tell me: How do you know this?"

The chief pointed toward the family's distant ranch and said, "Because white man make much hay."

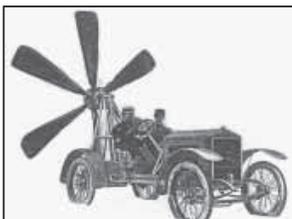
Wheeled Wonders

Long-time FARM SHOW reader Vernon Pearson, La Jolla, Calif., recently sent some photos of various "wheeled wonders" he thought might be of interest to other readers.

8-Wheeled Touring Car – The big rig was built in 1916 by an Indiana manufacturer for experimental purposes – and probably publicity purposes as well. The extra wheels smoothed out the ride greatly, according to reports of the day, and tire wear was claimed to be reduced due to distribution of weight over the 8 tires.



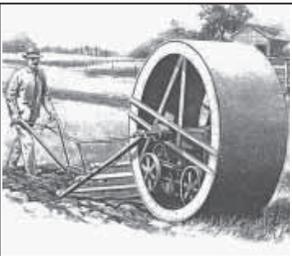
Wind-Powered Car – French army officers in the African desert made use of this prop-powered car with a 6-bladed propeller on back. Under the right circumstances, it would push the car at speeds of up to 50 mph. A clutch switched the transmission from engine drive to prop drive, as needed.



Circular Shock Absorbers – This 1911 Velie auto from the Velie Motor Vehicle Company of Moline, Ill. (see story on page 24 of this issue) had circular coil springs installed within the wheels. In the 1960's, the Bendix Corporation produced an experimental vehicle for moon landings with similarly-placed springs.



"Rolling Hoop" Tractor – A farm tractor that looked and worked like a squirrel cage, this "rolling hoop" tractor was invented by a Connecticut Farmer in the early 1900's. The main wheel was 5 ft., 6 in. tall with a tread width of 30 in. It was propelled by a 15 hp. gas engine inside the wheel fitted with four small drive wheels. It looked like a little car trying to climb the inside surface of the wheel.



A Great Warrior's Advice

Live your life so that the fear of death can never enter your heart.

Trouble no one about his religion.

Respect others in their views and demand that they respect yours.

Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life.

Seek to make your life long and of service to your people.

When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength.

Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living.

If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself.

Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision.

When your time comes to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way.

Sing your death song, and die like a hero going home.

— *Tecumseh, Shawnee Chief (1768-1813)*

Insults With Class

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." *Clarence Darrow*

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book. I'll waste no time reading it." *Moses Hadas*

"He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know." *Abraham Lincoln*

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." *Mark Twain*

A Reader Writes . . .

"I started my own fireplace and stove business in 1975 and quickly learned that not all stoves are created equal," says Rick Titus, Clarion, Iowa. "I sold my first corn-burning furnace in 1982, a 'Kernel' stove made right here in Iowa. It burned corn but boy did it stink because it burned a pile of corn all at once inside the furnace.



New S.A.R. corn furnace.

Today most corn stoves feed corn in just a few kernels at a time and they burn very hot so there's no smell. However, most corn stoves don't do a good job burning bin-run corn. The fines often build up in the drop tube and cause a blockage.

"About a year ago, I heard about a new corn furnace that customers were saying was the best unit they had ever seen. So I went to the factory and saw it for myself. I was so impressed by the simple design and truly unique way of burning that I decided to become a dealer. S.A.R. is the name of the company which stands for the names of the three owners of the company, but it could also stand for Superior Advanced Research. They spent 7 years perfecting their design.

"Not only does it easily burn bin-run corn but it has a 4-bu. built-in hopper, which doesn't stick off the side like other stoves. It's out of sight. Also, the ash only has to be cleaned out once a month. Sizes of forced-air units range from 100,000 to 250,000 btu's. You can get more information by calling 712-855-2346; or at www.expresscornburners.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Titus, The Country Store, 1898 250th St., Clarion, Iowa 50525 (ph 515 532-3881).

Punny Word Thoughts

- I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- Police were called to a daycare where a 3-year-old was resisting a rest.
- When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it's two-tired.
- There was once a cross-eyed teacher who couldn't control his pupils.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- The man who invented the door knocker got a no-bell prize.
- A guy was fired from the orange juice factory for lack of concentration.
- He wears glasses during math because it improves division.
- If you leave alphabet soup on the stove and go out, it could spell disaster.

Liberty Quotes

"It is better, so the Fourth Amendment teaches us, that the guilty sometimes go free than that the citizens be subject to easy arrest." *Justice William O. Douglas*

"Men in authority will always think that criticism of their policies is dangerous. They will always equate their policies with patriotism and find criticism subversive." *Henry Steele Commager*

"It is not only vain, but wicked, in a legislature to frame laws in opposition to the laws of nature, and to arm them with the terrors of death. This is truly creating crimes in order to punish them." *Thomas Jefferson*

"Parties who want milk should not seat themselves on a stool in the middle of a field in hope that a cow will back up to them." *Elbert Hubbard*

"When a government controls both the economic power of individuals and the coercive power of the state – this violates a fundamental rule of happy living. Never let the people with all the money and the people with all the guns be the same people." *P.J. O'Rourke*

A new pastor moved into town and went out one Saturday to visit his parishioners. All went well until he came to one house. It was obvious someone was home but no one came to the door, even after he had knocked several times. Finally he took out his card and wrote on the back, "Revelations 3:20" and stuck it in the door.

The next day, as he was counting the offering he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was a notation, "Genesis 3:10".

Revelations 3:20 reads: "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him and he will be with me."

Genesis 3:10 reads: "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked."