

# Ross's Splitter One Of A Kind

Anyone who has ever tried to split hardwood with an axe and wedge will appreciate the latest invention of Horace Ross of Kings Mountain.

Ross, with the capable assistance of friends Bob Morris, Fred Dixon and Larry Slycord, has constructed a mobile woodsplitter which could be the only one of its kind.

Unlike most homemade—or marketed—woodsplitters which must be hauled on the back of a truck or trailer, Ross's is driven to the wood pile.

And, Ross's machine cost him hundreds of dollars less than what it would have had he purchased it. Except for the hydraulics, every item on the woodsplitter was taken from scrap or junk yards.

The idea for building the splitter came following a discussion between some older and more experienced wood cutters and some younger bucks one day at City Auto and Truck Parts, where Ross works.

Some of the younger men were bragging on their woodsplitters while some of the older ones, including Ross, were saying that they could split more wood with a go-devil than the younger ones could with their fancy woodsplitters.

After all the joking was laid aside, Ross made the comment that "I'm not really throwing off on the woodsplitters. I'd like to have one, but I can't afford it."

So, Morris, Dixon and Slycord said they would volunteer their time to help Ross build a woodsplitter, if he would supply the parts.

"I went home and started going through my junk. We decided if we were going to build one, we might as well go all the way and build one that I could drive. I live on a small city lot and it's hard to maneuver



## Stewart's Slants

By Gary Stewart

one around on a truck or trailer," he said.

Ross's splitter, called a "Portasplitter", contains parts from old golf carts, riding mowers and garden tractors, and such name brands as Craftsman, Homelite and Snapper.

"I built it, clamped it and bolted it together, and then took it to Bob

Morris's and Bob, Fred Dixon and Larry Slycord did the welding and hydraulics," Ross said.

Before they would turn the machine back over to Ross, they made sure it was in good working order by splitting a pickup load of wood. Ross has also used it to split a load and it works perfectly.

"We believe it's one of a kind," said Ross. "We've seen woodsplitters hauled behind tractors and on trailers, but I believe this is the only one in the area than you can drive to the job."

The men originally intended their challenge to be a part-time, summer hobby, but they got so wrapped up in their work they completed it in six weeks spare time.

Ross, who has burned only wood for the past four winters and uses about five cords of firewood a year, built the machine for his personal use only and does not plan to build another, although it would be a good business venture for someone who had the time and finances to build them.

His splitter travels four inches a second and will split wood up to 24 inches long and any diameter. The motor is a 10 horsepower Kohler which came off an old golf cart. His hubcaps were taken off an old Ford garden tractor. John Mitchell, an expert sign painter who works with Ross at City Auto and Truck Parts, took the name Ford off the center of the caps and painted Ross on them. A special sign on the side of the splitter credits Morris, Dixon and Slycord for helping Ross build it.

"It was a challenge for all of us," says Ross. "We're proud of it."

Ross received quite a few comments and words of congratulations as he displayed it in front of City Auto and Truck Tuesday afternoon. At the end of the work day, he returned it to his home on Second Street to rest up for awhile before the fall splitting season.

## Girls Activities Set

Cleveland County Girls Club will sponsor a variety of activities during the month of May.

On Mondays an art class in water colors will be instructed by Ruth Self. There will be softball practice coached by Bobbie Mitchell and Mardella Shelby. On Tuesdays karate class is instructed by Dora Jackson and photography is taught by Edwin Stilwell. Needlework is taught by Ruth Self.

### IT'S A BOY

Wayne and Rachel Thomas of Kings Mountain announce the birth of a son, Matthew Wayne Thomas, April 30 at Gaston Memorial Hospital. He weighed eight pounds, 13½ ounces. He has a five-year-old sister, Cindy.

On Wednesdays the Sunbeams are led by Peggy Vess and there is softball practice. A baton class is taught by Lynn Propst. On Thursdays Family Life class is taught by Linda Hooker and crosstitch is taught by Elwin Stilwell. Needlework is taught by Ruth Self. On Thursdays, Family Life Class is taught by Linda Hooker and a crosstitch class is instructed by Kim Bumgarner. Cooking class is taught by Annie Browner.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Thomas of Bessemer City and Mr. and Mrs. William Bradley of Gastonia. Great-grandmother is Mrs. Ola Thomas of Dahlonega, Ga.

On Fridays, May 4th is the Girl of the Month party and birthday party. May 11 will be the last session of the winter bowling tournament and there is a one dollar fee. May 18 will be video games and putt putt at one dollar fee. May 25 will be the VIP trip to the mall cinemas with a 50 cent fee.

Registration for the summer session will be June 1 and 4 with summer hours starting on June 4th. The Cleveland County Girls Club is a United Way Agency. It is located at 105 Rogers St., Shelby, and is open to all girls of school age in Cleveland County. For more information about the club and its activities, call the club at 482-8431 or stop by.

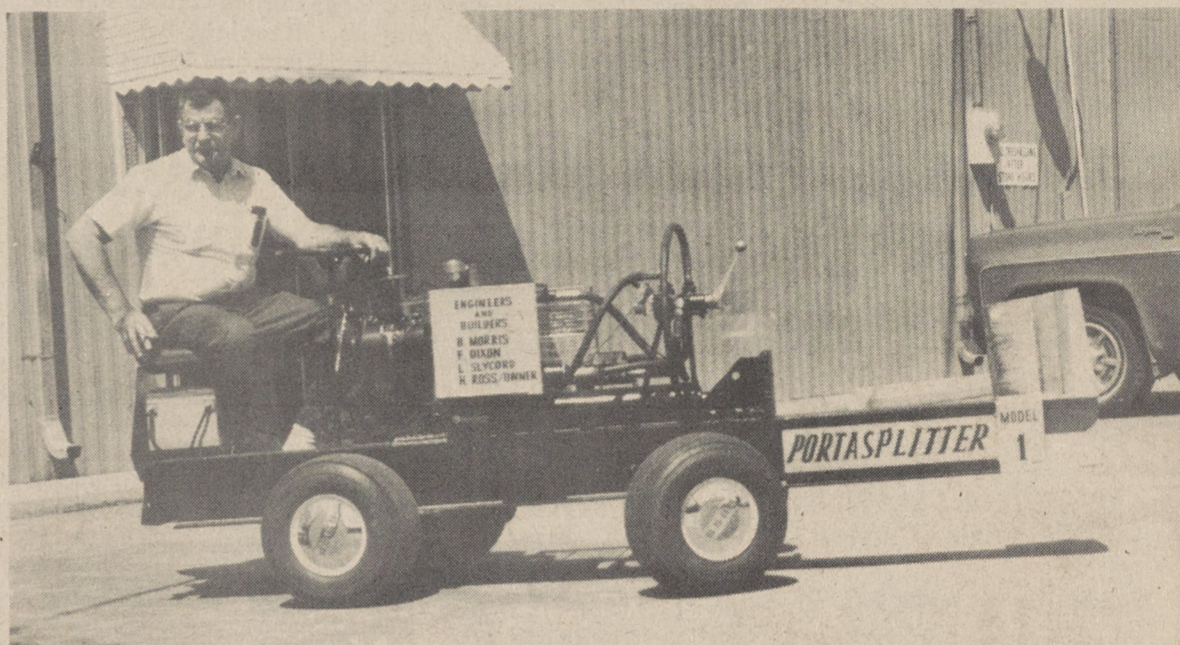


Photo by Gary Stewart

WOOD SPLITTER - Horace Ross of Kings Mountain sits on his mobile woodsplitter which he and some friends built from scrap

parts recently. Ross's invention could be the first of its kind and is an idea many others will probably pick up on.

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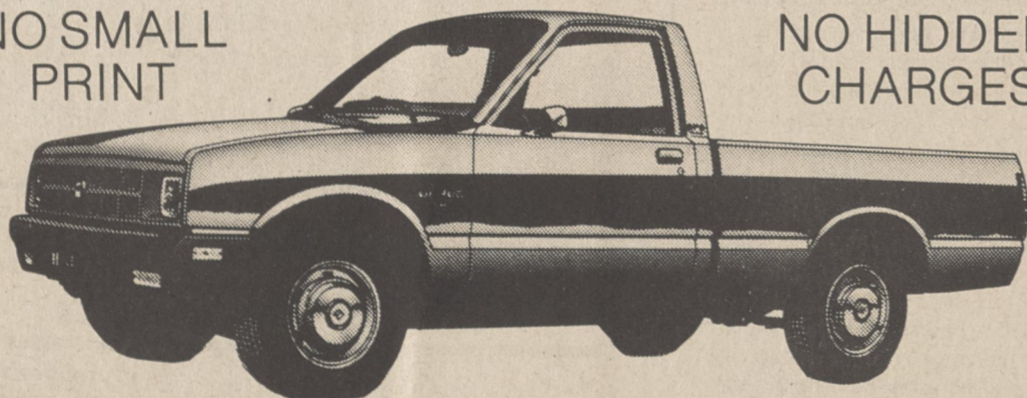
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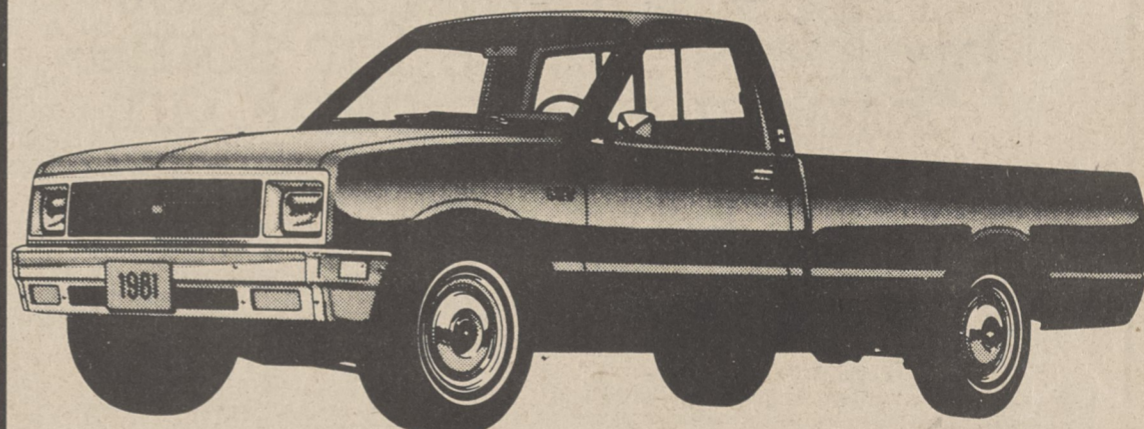
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