

# Opening and Protecting Culvert Ends

When cars and trucks drive at the edge of driveways and narrow roads they can flatten the culvert ends underneath. Town of Hazel Green patrolman Virgil Runde has come up with a way to open them back up and protect them. The spreader looks like a giant pinch clothes-pin and it works like a see-saw. When the portable hydraulic hand jack forces the open side closed, the other end opens and forces the culvert end apart.

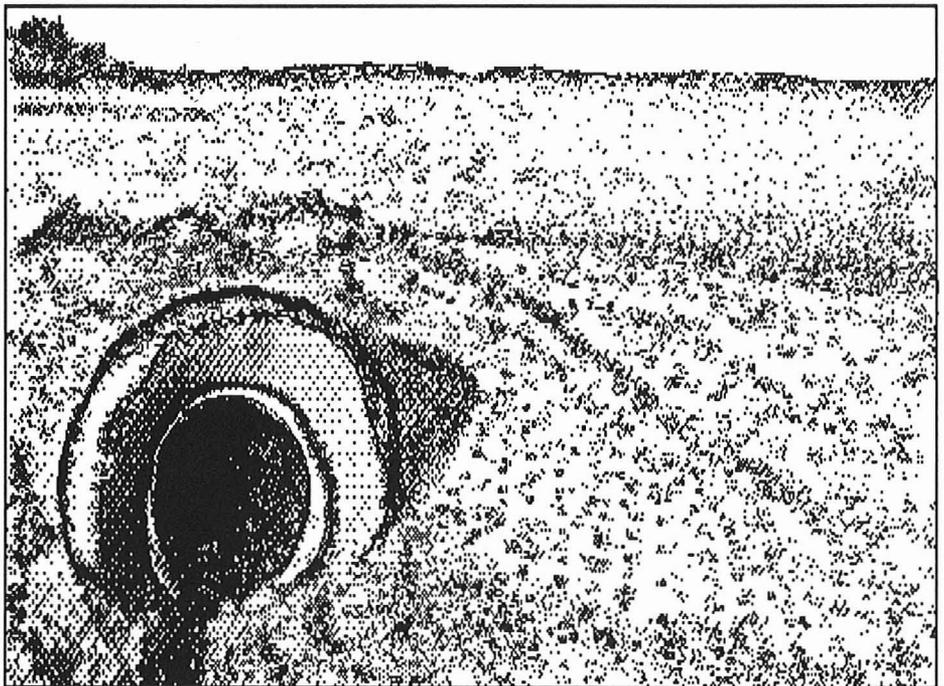
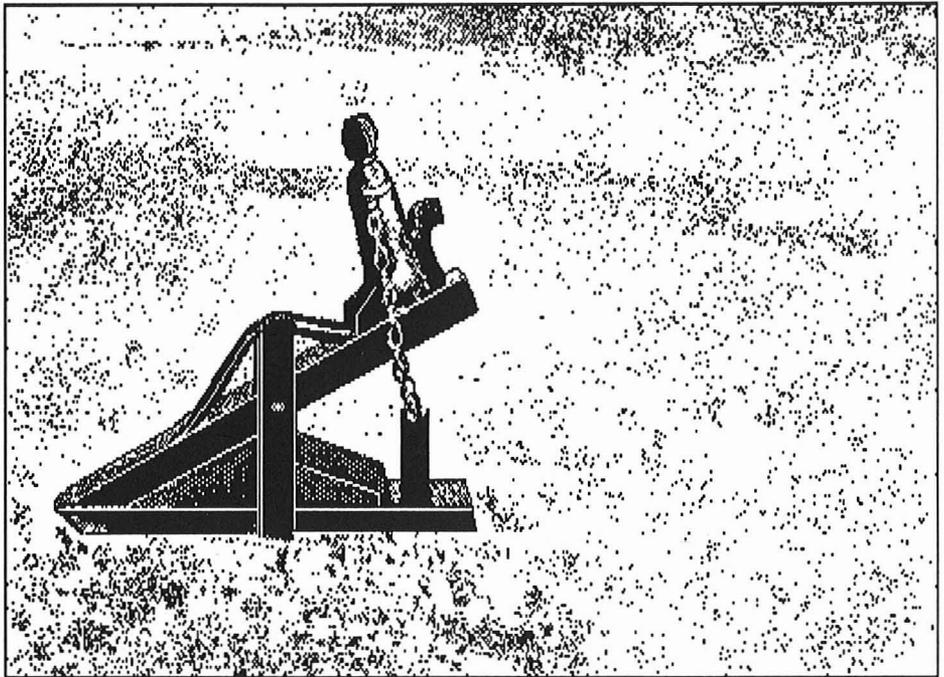
The opener is made of two pieces of three inch channel iron, three feet long. The top piece is hinged with a 5/8 inch bolt on two nine inch verticals. Strap iron and reinforcing rod over the top strengthens it. Two chains hook the portable jack to hitches bolted to the bottom channel iron.

Once small culvert ends are spread, Runde has found that a used 15-inch tire can be fitted on the end to protect it and hold the soil in place. "I cut the inside bead of the tire about three times to get it on easier," says Runde. He says he tries to avoid cutting the outside bead so it will stay in place better.

After it is in place he cuts a slot on the top of the tire and fills it with gravel or concrete. Don't use a radial tire, he says, or you won't be able to cut the bead.

**For more information contact Virgil Runde, (608)854-2401**

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## Why Not Re-Tire?

*Ask your tire dealer about the "rolling resistance" and the milage performance of tires you may consider buying*

Every two weeks, Americans wear almost 50 million pounds of rubber off their tires. That's enough to make 3 1/4 million new tires from scratch!

Here is some background for you to think about... Tires have a bigger impact on the environment than you might expect. By maintaining them properly, you help conserve the energy and resources that would go into making new ones, prevent the pollution generated by tire production, save gasoline, and reduce the problems created when we throw them away (they are bulky, do not decompose, and provide places for

mosquitoes to breed).

As far as radial tires are concerned, they really do improve gas milage. Steel-belted tires are generally the most efficient. In fact, if all cars in the U.S. were equipped with the most efficient tires possible, the fuel savings would equal 400,000 barrels of oil per day. Something to reflect on during this Gulf Crisis!

Make a decision about what you buy next and use some of these tips when doing so. Buy the longest-lasting, most fuel effi-

cient tires possible. Ask your tire dealer about the "rolling resistance" and the milage performance of tires you may consider buying. Make sure your tires are properly inflated, balanced and (every 6-8,000 miles) rotated. Support local and regional efforts to recycle tires, to use more recycled rubber in tires, and to convert discarded tires into energy.

**Source: Tire Industry Safety Council, Washington, DC; and Earthworks Press, Berkeley, CA. ■**