

Let's talk about horses

with Jennifer Barr
You've probably been following the progress of the Great Canadian Wagon Train with interest. So have we. However, my interest is tinged with concern for those horses.

We met one of the organizers of the adventure in early March and were impressed, at that time, with the idea. I'm all for adventure, gypsying and just plain "doing" and thought the trek sounded marvellous - with the proper organization, of course.

Mark got so enthusiastic it took a lot of convincing to stop him saddling up and going along for the ride. (It's all right for other people to do their own thing, but not so close to home.)

Instead, I thought the trip would make a good feature and started gathering information. The newspaper coverage was less than positive, a lot of bad publicity was given the group. Stories of people claiming they were ripped off by the organizers made the front pages of the Star. The Humane Society was called in.

I didn't take these stories too seriously. You'll always get a few nuts who yell "animal cruelty" at the drop of a hat. I've had letters protesting the cruelty of jumping poor little horses or the utter nastiness of horse owners who actually put their ponies out in the snow for a winter run.

The people claiming ripoff sounded as if they didn't know their donkey from their elbow, anyway.

Hard to find
Still enthusiastic, a friend, some kids, and I journeyed to the farm headquarters of the Wagon Train recently. I had all the information, knew where they were assembling the wagons and stabling the horses, right? Wrong! After an hour of driving we found the farm near Kleinburg, but no wagon train. No one had even heard of them. Hadn't a clue. So we drove around a bit looking for fields of Conestoga wagons.

Two hours, a lot of dippy-doodling and several cross dogs later, my companion hollered triumphantly as she spotted the poetic sails of six wagons amid garages, buildings, small houses, and mud. We'd found the Great Canadian Wagon Train.

Wading through the mire, my earlier acquaintance was located and we climbed the manure pile to the barn in order to inspect the teams making this 3,000 mile trek.

The newspaper stories were not romanticised or biased. They were all very true. In fact, some of the horses were in worse shape than ANY story had reported. With mounting horror, we viewed thin, dirty, shaggy horses weighing anywhere from 800 to 1100 pounds. Friendly animals they were but not in any shape to handle caravans up and down hills, or even on a flat road. Some teams were adequate although not exactly bursting with health. However, others were really pathetic.

Horses poorly fed
We got angrier and angrier (and I got ruder and ruder). Questions revealed a lack of basic horsemanship knowledge.

According to the fellow we interviewed, the horses were going to be turned loose on arrival at High Level, north of the Peace River, Alberta. He didn't anticipate they'd have any trouble coping with the Arctic type winters or the summer deluge of insects. "There's plenty of food for them and when we want them, we'll just whistle and they'll come running," he tossed off.

It was with relief, we heard of the successful intervention of the police and the Humane Society on the scheduled day of departure.

Ten wagons are now on the road, despite the severe spring storm. We were glad to note the horses were supplied with blankets and were stabled during the worst of the blizzard. I only hope the trackers fed their horses as much as possible and learn to care for them in a suitable manner - soon.

Assembly

April 12 and 13 are important dates for some 100 area residents. The occasion is the semi-annual circuit assembly of Jehovah's witnesses at their new Assembly Hall on Highway 7 in Noval.

Delegates and interested ones will come from the Mississauga, Bramalea, Georgetown and Acton areas. A total attendance of 1,300 is expected.

Spokesman for Acton witnesses, Jack Perry, reports substantially increased attendance at area meetings during the past year. He continues, "in Canada during 1974 Jehovah's witnesses increased by 11 per cent and by almost 300,000 world wide."



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Fencing Hints

Plan your fence and measure accurately.



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Cedar Fencing

Cedar is a superior choice for outdoor use because it naturally resists moisture and insect damage. Quality cedar fencing lumber is available now from Beaver in these typical sizes. (Const. Std. D4S)

1"x4"x8'	1"x6"x8'	2"x4"x8'
10¢ Lin. Ft.	22¢ Lin. Ft.	18¢ Lin. Ft.
2"x6"x8'	4"x4"x8'	
35¢ Lin. Ft.	45¢ Lin. Ft.	

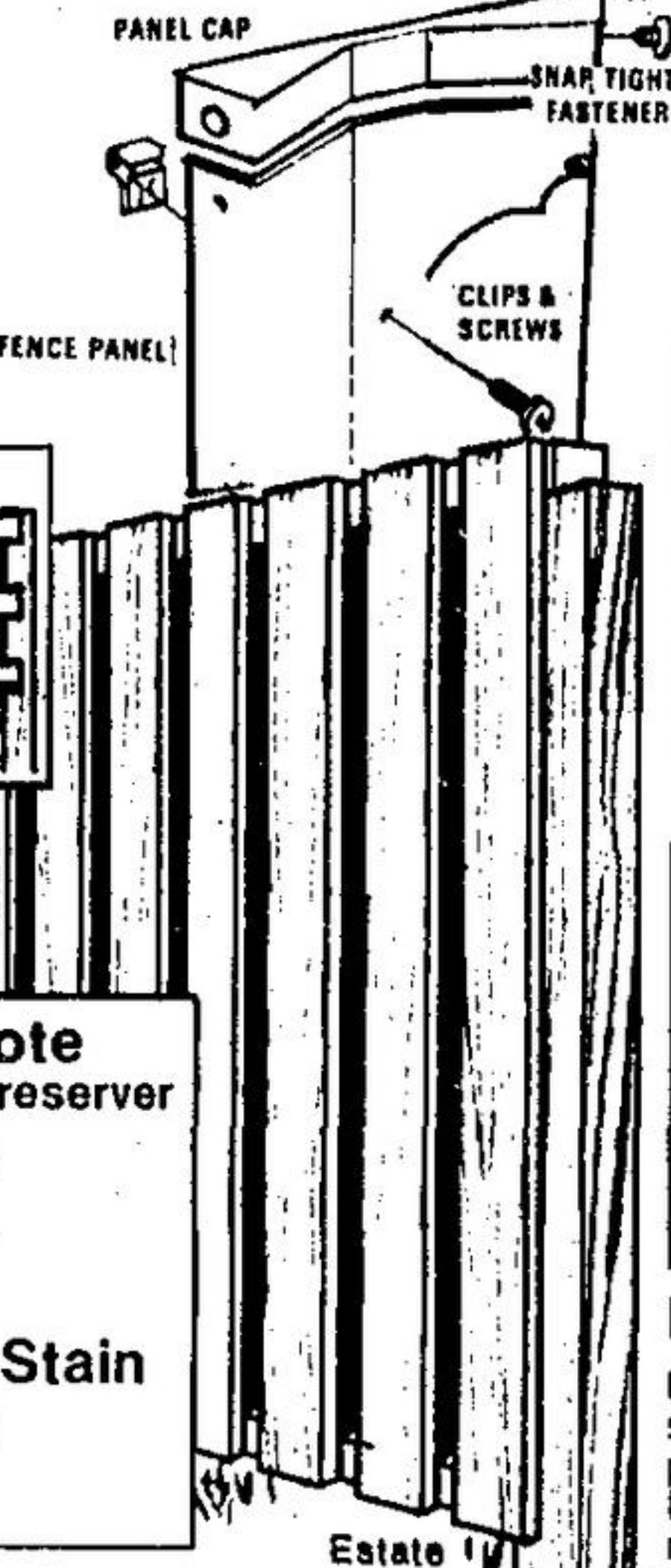
Suburban



Texan Rail



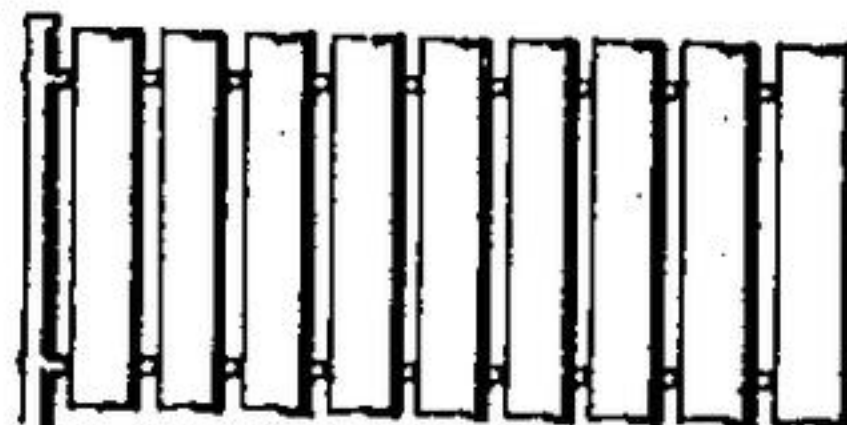
Creosote Wood Preserver 366 Gal.
Rez Wood Stain 999 Gal.



Good Neighbour Steel Fences by Spacemaker

White enameled steel that's maintenance-free. Finish guaranteed for 15 years.

128⁹⁷ Patio Corner (L-Shape) 5'x8'x8'

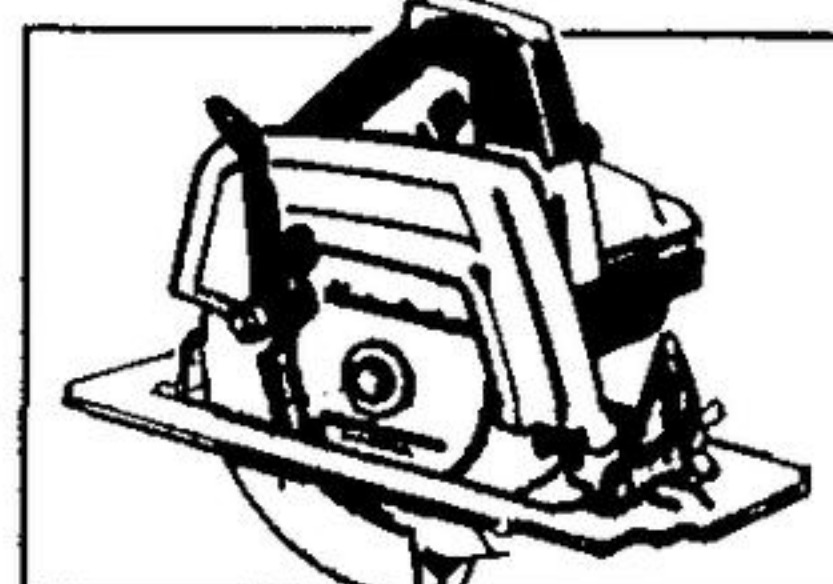


8' Fence Section

One post and all components needed for one 8' section. 48⁹⁷

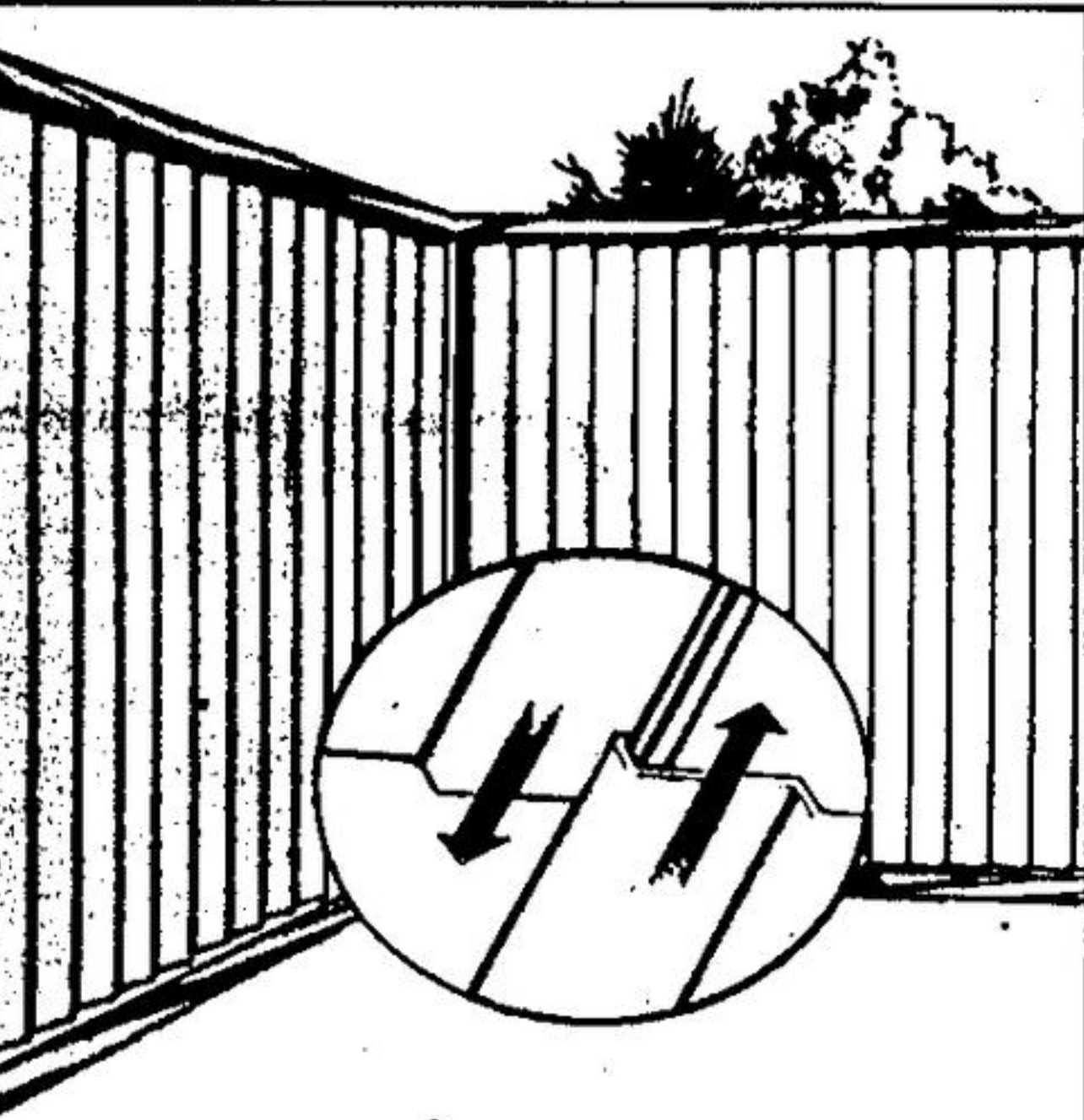
Gate Kit

5-ft. high gate frame. Includes all hardware. Fence panels extra. Not shown. 26⁷⁷



B & D Circular Saw

High-powered 7 1/2" saw chosen by professionals. Burn-out protected motor. 9.5-amp rated. 4700 Rpm. Model 7320. 47⁷⁷



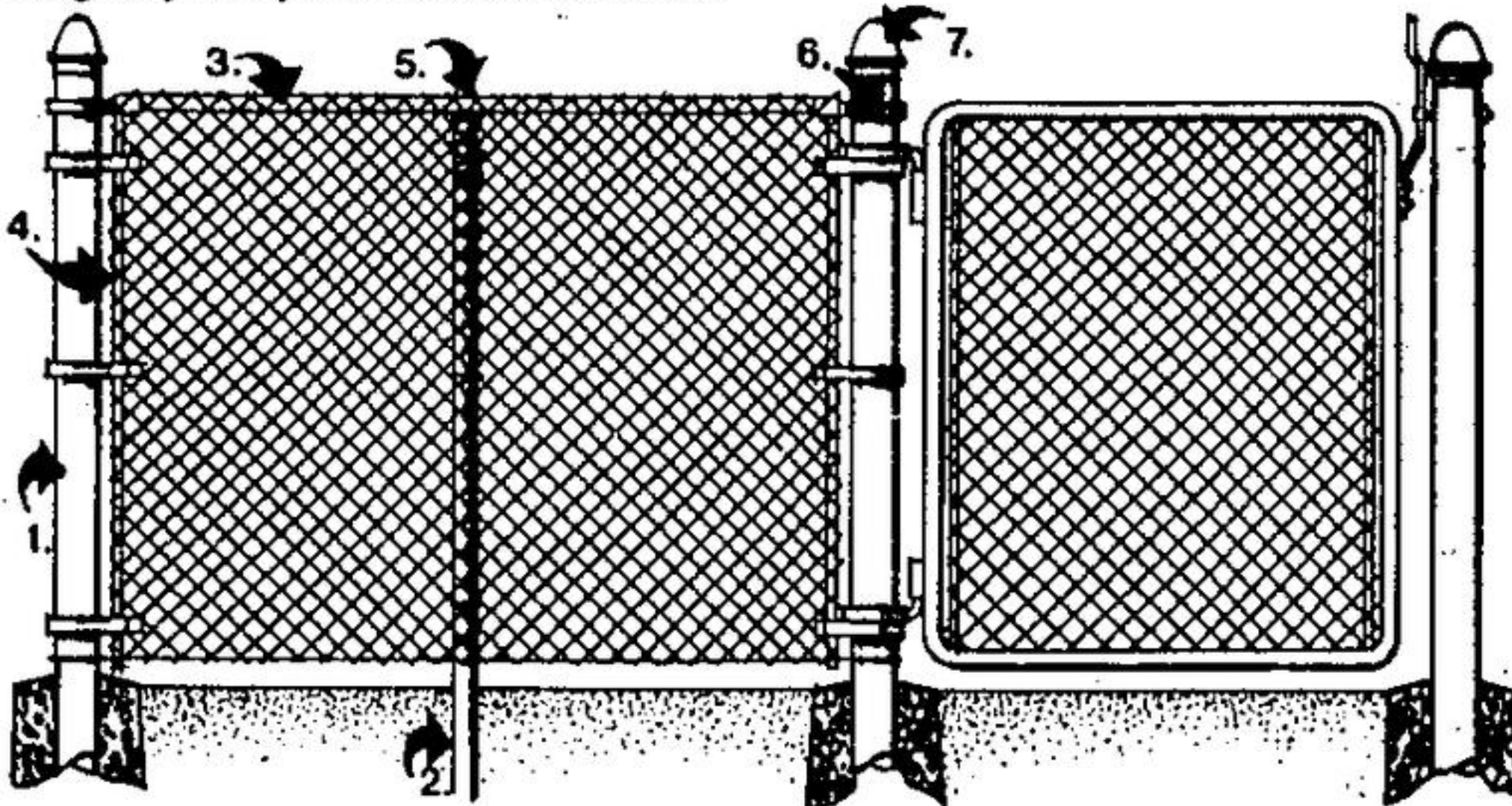
Aluminum Fence Panels

The latest thing in fencing! Quality-made of lightweight, non-rusting aluminum. Prefinished with Duracron enamel in white, green or brown. Panels slide-lock together for strength and rigidity. 12"W x 4'H.

198 Each

Chain Link Fencing

Beaver has everything you need to build a handsome chain-link fence. Bring in your yard measurements!



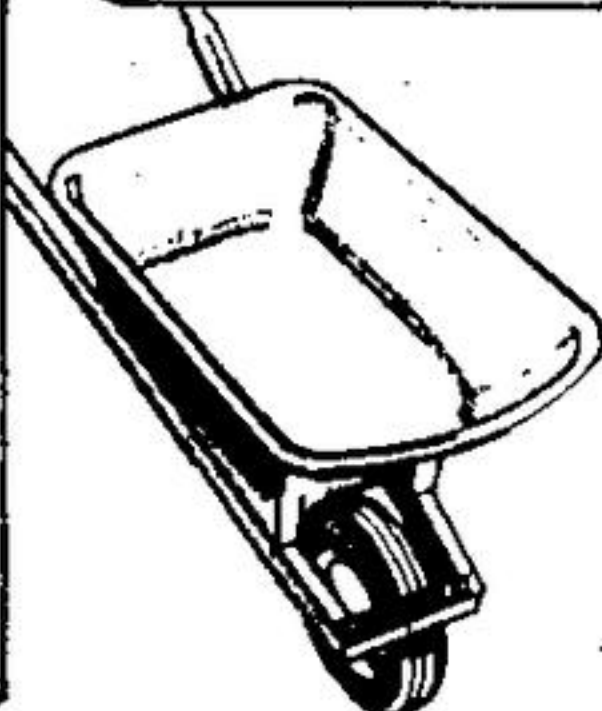
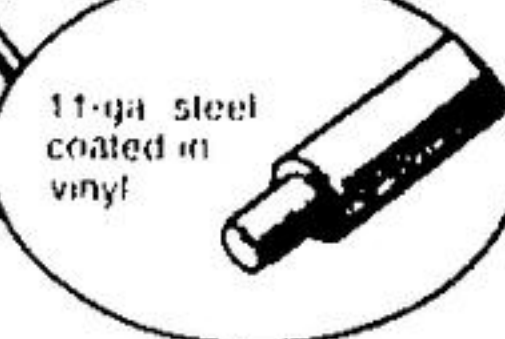
1. Main Post	4.67	5. Line Post Cap	.87
2. Line Post	3.97	6. Rail End Assembly	1.37
3. Top Rail	4.97	7. Main Post Cap	.87
4. Tension Bar 42"H	1.67		

See Beaver's full selection of fence components

Green Vinyl Chain-Link Fencing

Vinyl-coated, 11-gauge.

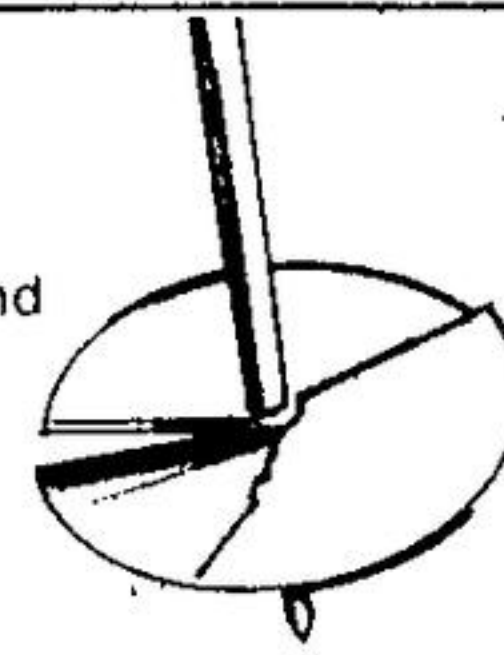
42"H x 50' 2" Mesh	31 ⁹⁷
48"H x 50' 2" Mesh	35 ⁹⁷
48"H x 50' 1 1/2" Mesh	51 ⁹⁷



4-cu. ft. Wheelbarrow

Comes in handy around your garden. Sturdy steel construction.

25⁸⁸



Post Hole Auger

This tool will save time and effort in fence building. 7" size.

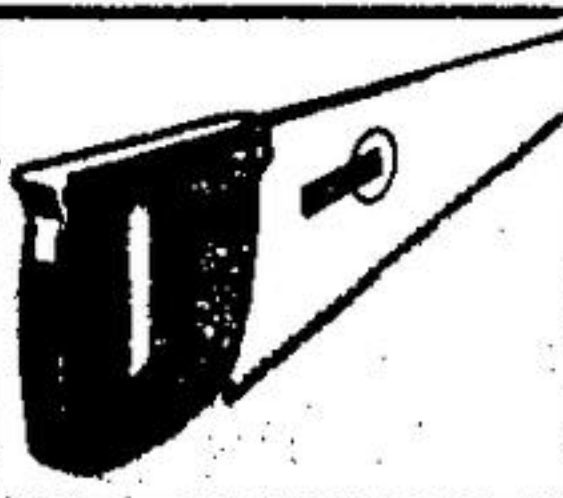
7⁷⁷ 8" Size 8⁸⁸



Garden Shovel

Round-point forged steel. Long hardwood handle.

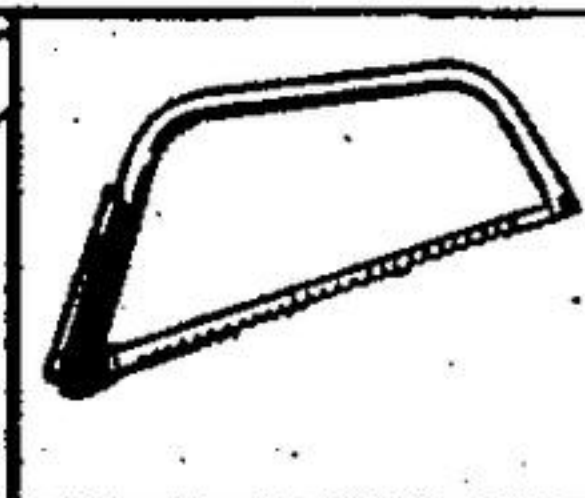
4²⁹



Sandvik Hand Saw

Swedish tempered steel. 22" blade. 8-point.

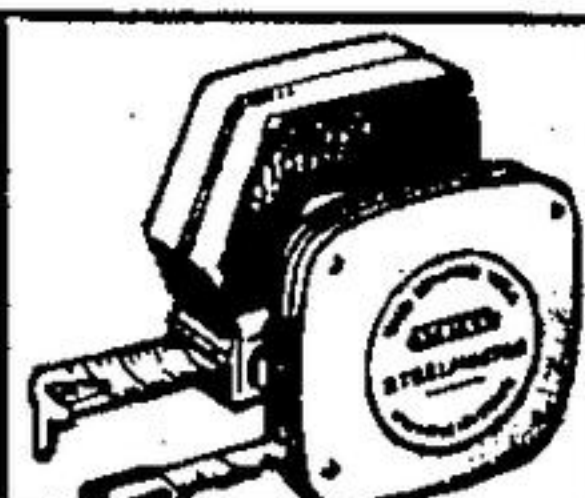
9⁹⁷



Lightweight Bow Saw

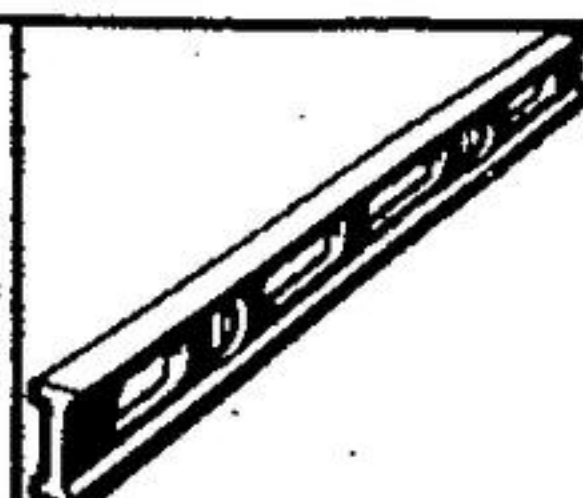
21" blade. Ideal for tree pruning.

4⁷⁷



Quality Tape Measures

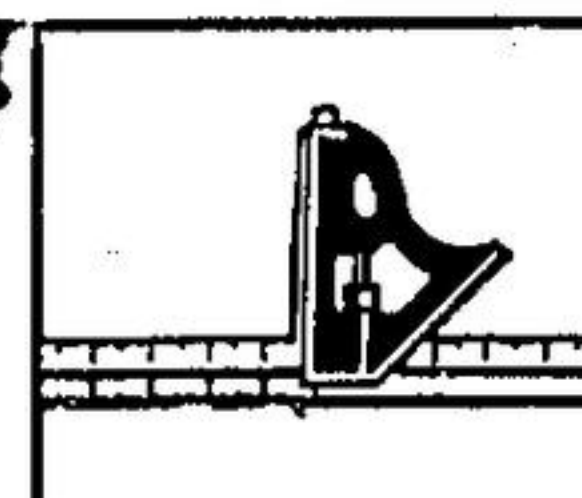
Lufkin 12' . . . 5.77
Stanley 50' . 10.99
Stanley 100' 14.99



Stanley Level

2 vials, plumb and level. Aluminum. 24"

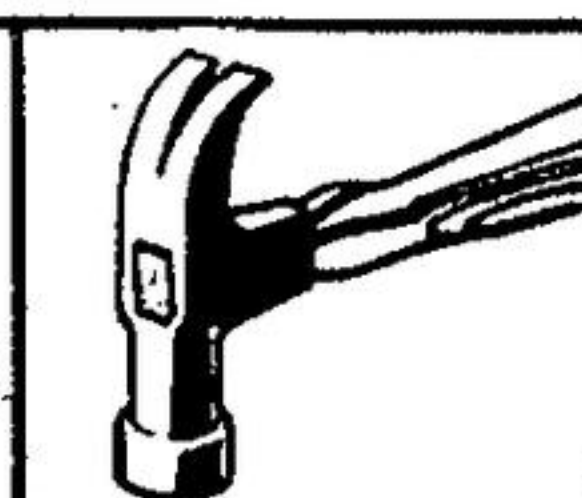
5⁹⁹



Stanley 12" Square

Combination type. With level glass and awl.

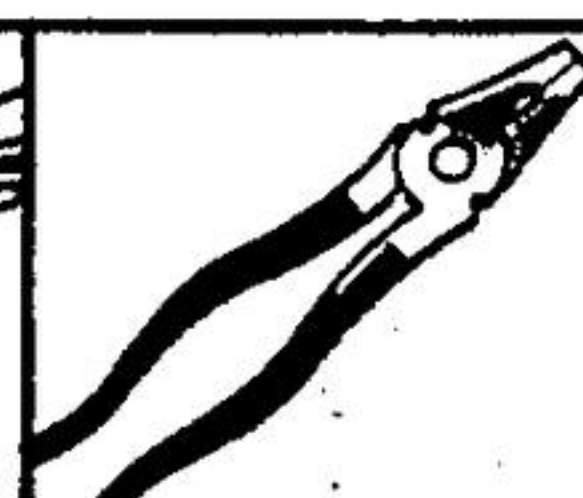
3⁹⁹



Beaver Hammer

16-oz. claw hammer. Drop-forged head.

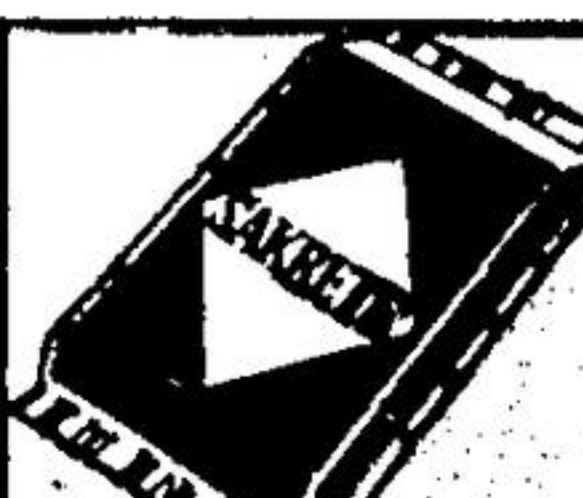
1⁸⁸



Fence Pliers

Flat-nose with wire cutter. 10" long.

5⁹⁹



Sakrete Mix

Ready-to-use concrete mix. 90-lb. bag.

1⁹⁹



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