

# Brenner barn reconstruction is nearing completion

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Rockwood Miller

Don Brenner doesn't dwell on the negative. If he falls off a horse, he gets back on it, no excuses made.

Just like on the morning of July 4, the day after fire ripped through the 56-year-old's three-barn struc-

ture, Freedom Run Acres I, killing one of 16 horses and causing close to \$300,000 in damages.

Before the sun came up that morning, Brenner was already mapping out plans for Freedom Run Acres II on the 45-acre site on Hwy. 7 just east of Rockwood.

"I already had an idea what I was going to do. I guess I roll with the punches," shrugged the horseman recently, while standing in the newly-constructed horse barn.

"I'm not much of a church-goer, but the good Lord was looking after me and said 'wake up Don;

it's time for a change.'

"I hated to see the one horse go (valued at \$40,000), but nobody was hurt, just our pride."

While Freedom Run Acres II — being built by Rockwood's Norm Patterson Construction, with a Dec. 1 completion date — rivals its predecessor, there will be some noticeable changes.

The new structure will be U-shaped, instead of the old three-barn side-by-side setup. Ample space between the main barn, hay storage and horse barn will allow for safer fire protection.

"If one was to catch fire we would probably save the rest," Brenner said.

Also, the main barn will now be single-storey for easier access, and Brenner will experiment with a new water-pumping system in the stalls. But the floor plans have

remained the same.

Brenner, who also drives school buses for Eramosa Township, said things would have been different had he lost his star harness racing colt, Oklahoma Boy, in the blaze.

"Losing him would have been pretty ugly, but he was outside (at the time of the fire)," Brenner explained of the 3-year-old, who six weeks after the fire went on to go a mile in 1:58.3 at Mohawk.

While Freedom Run Acres II will have the look of "today's technology," Brenner stated he loved the barn he made 15 years ago and noted he had no plans to upgrade its look prior to the fire.

"The good Lord acts in mysterious ways. The old barn was a lifetime dream that came true at the time, but I guess you could say this is another dream and we had the opportunity to take it."

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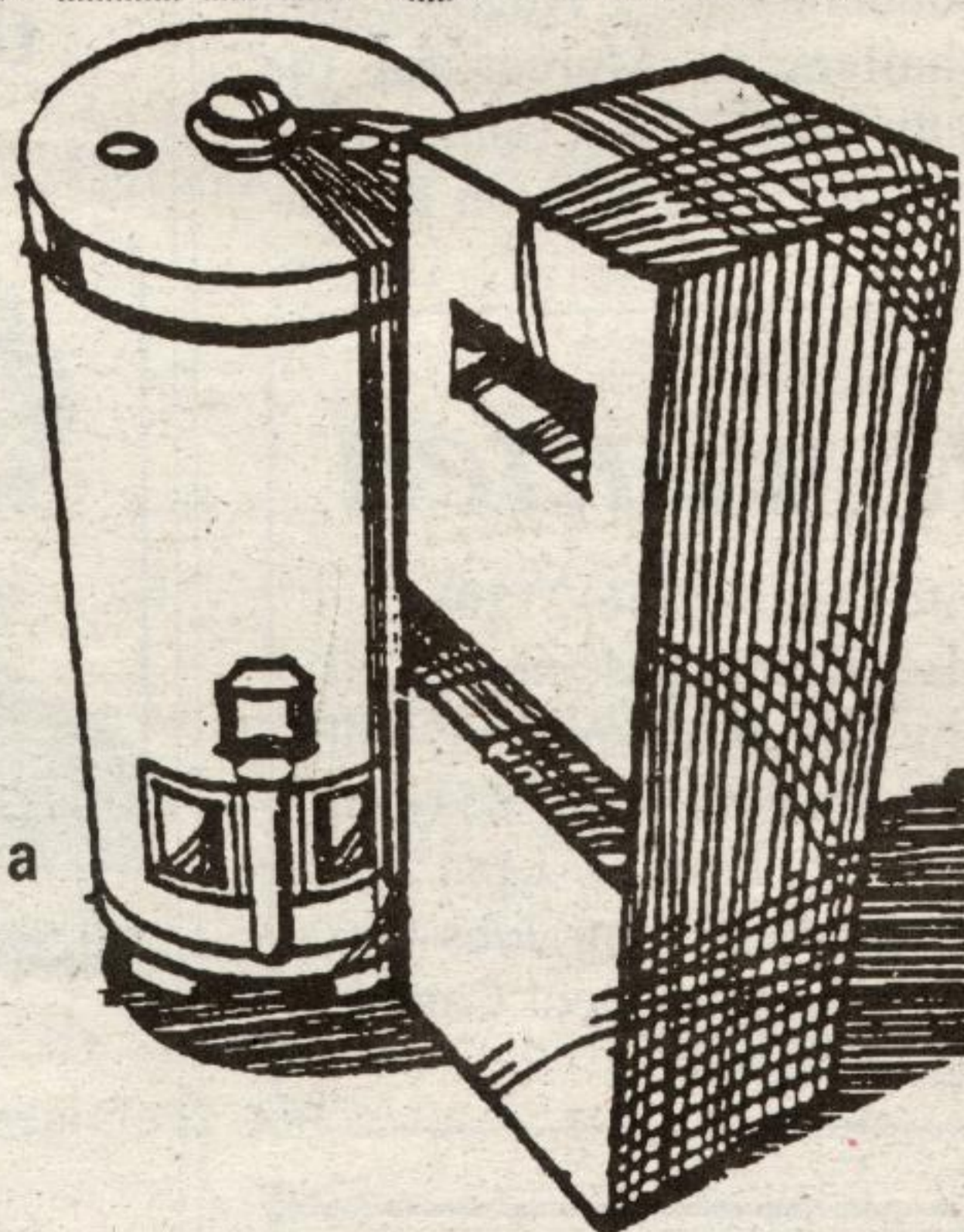
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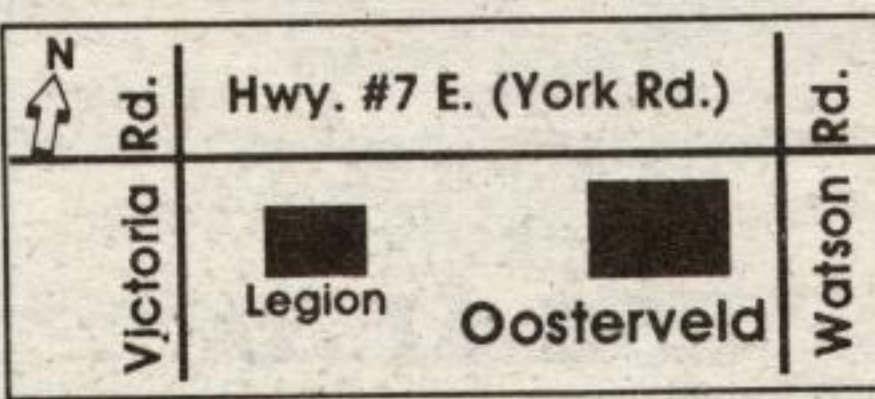
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