

Making of a Chemical Storage Building

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Crown Golf Property

Here I was, in charge of the construction and growing-in of a 27-hole golf course. I also was responsible for equipping and building a new maintenance building. Purchasing turf equipment along with tee and green supplies was a real headache; and to top it off, the money was running dry.

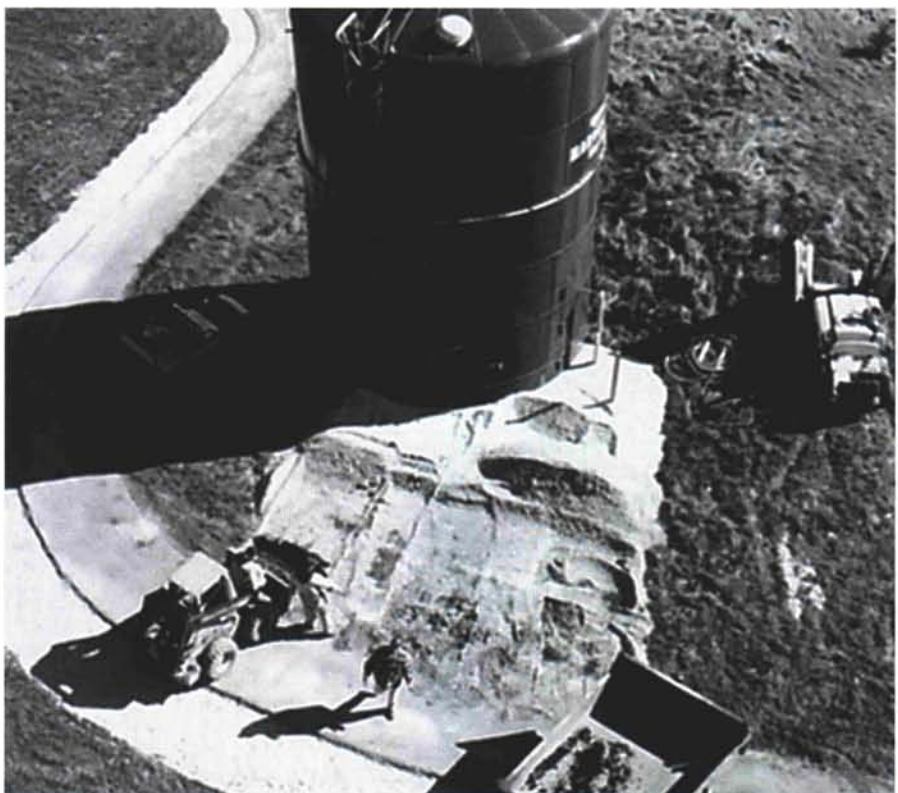
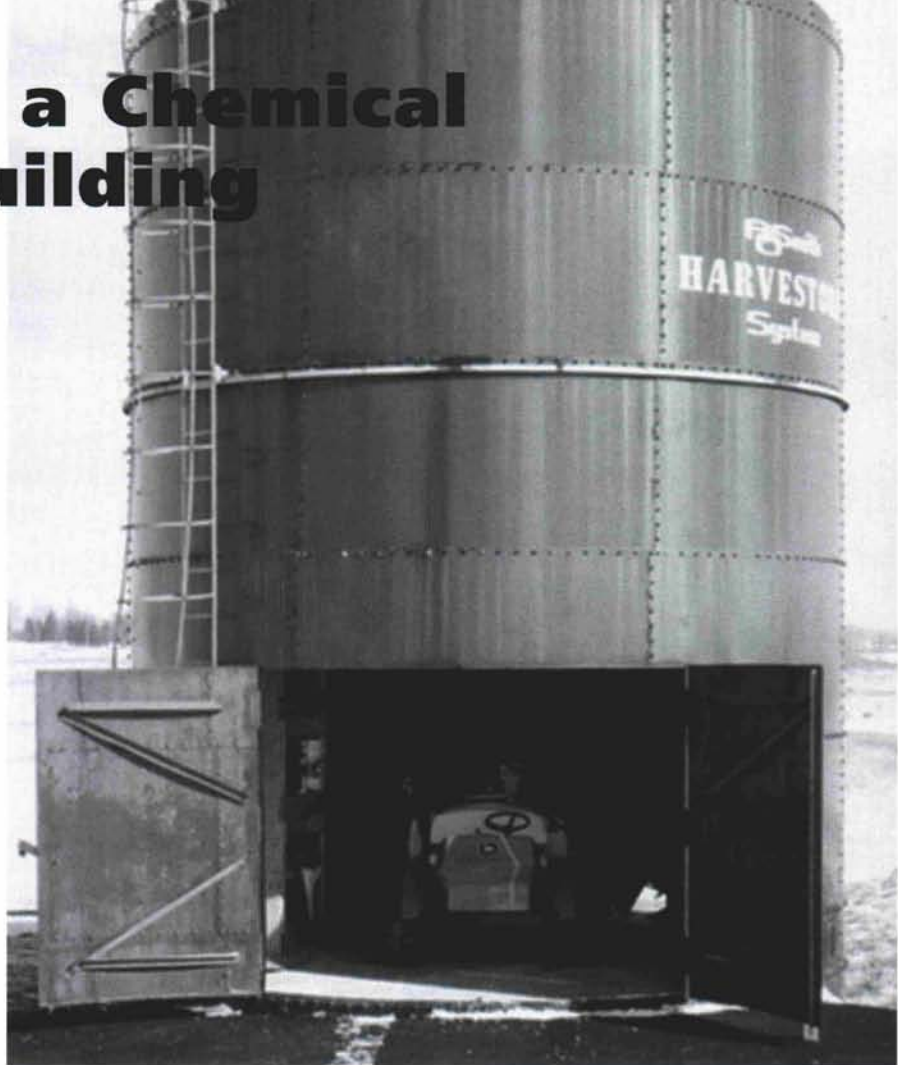
On one rare day, everything seemed to be going great! I was working in my "office," an old wire spool parked under a shade tree, and I was thinking how awesome I was. The juggling act had been perfected and all the wheels were in motion. I was actually pulling this off.

"Hey," I heard someone shout from down the lane. It was my friendly chemical salesman. I stood to shake his hand; and suddenly, it felt as if I had been hit between the eyes. What was I thinking? . . . Or not thinking . . . Where on earth was I going to store all my chemicals?

The maintenance building was only large enough for equipment and office space. The pump house was too small and too wet. The old farmhouse basement would work, but who would want to carry 50 lb. bags up and down a steep set of stairs? Last time I checked, Arnold was not on my payroll (Arnold Schwarzenegger, who else).

I tried not to act panicked so I would not scare off the poor salesman. I remember saying something like "Shoot" as I darted off to check the budget! The unique filing system in my truck paid off, and I located a copy right

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away (yeah, right). Yes, \$32,000 allotted for chemical storage! Unfortunately, further calculation left me with \$3,000, just 6 percent of the original amount.

The solution was a 32-ft. high A.O. Smith Harvestore System silo, which sat nicely between the maintenance building and the pump house. The only minor problem was trying to get into the silo and leave it looking "natural." A regular door would not work—too little of an opening. An overhead door would not work because the expense of installing it would be too great. The final conclusion was to cut the outer shell of the building to create a 9 ft. by 10 ft. opening. The fabrication of the doors took place by first welding hinges to the silo's outer wall, then using a cutoff saw and cutting out the doors' patterns. To aid in strengthening and keeping the doors'

shape, reinforcement was added to the inside of the door. This took approximately three days to do.

Once inside the building, three more things needed to be considered: ventilation, electricity, and chemical spillage containment. The chemical spillage containment was easy, because the silo was a sealed unit only with an opening for a silage auger feed and an inspection door. The auger system was removed, and a floor drain was put in its place along with a section of 4-in. PVC pipe, with a threaded plug at the end for draining.

The ventilation and electrical system installation were together. The silo inside heats up in midsummer, and the smell can get bad. For ventilation, a wind-driven turbine vent along with a powered roof vent was installed. The power vent is automatically controlled by temperature and humidity setting and also has manual controls outside the silo.

The electrical supply for the silo comes from the maintenance building from a separate circuit breaker. The getting of the power to the silo took awhile via two irrigation pipes, one cart path undermining, and several electrical splices that had to be made to make the trip successful. Inside lighting was added to the silo for early morning or late night spraying situations.

The total cost of the building:

Door	\$1,200
Ventilation250
Misc. electrical supplies500
Asphalt to building600
Building shelves200
Misc. supplies150
Total	\$2,900

The building, or silo, has a dual purpose. One is for the storage of all dry products, including fertilizers, seed, and dry chemicals. It also serves as a place to store fertilization and spraying equipment. ■

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SAFETY BULLETIN

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FROM A U. S. AIR FORCE SAFETY BULLETIN:

Pickup Trucks with Bed Liners: Persons have been burned when they were filling gas cans in the bed of pickups which had bed liners in them. The gasoline spontaneously ignited, burning the people in the process. The investigation determined that this was caused by static electricity buildup from the bed liner. This is not uncommon; there are two technical bulletins out on this. One is from the Ford Motor Company, and the other is from Standard Oil Company. The recommendations from both are that you should never fill a gas can in the bed of the truck with a bed liner. Place the container on the ground to fill it.