

2005 AWARDS COMPETITION WINNER



Best Time Saving Device



Deitz House Moving Engineers, Inc.

Muskegon, Michigan



Daniel Deitz

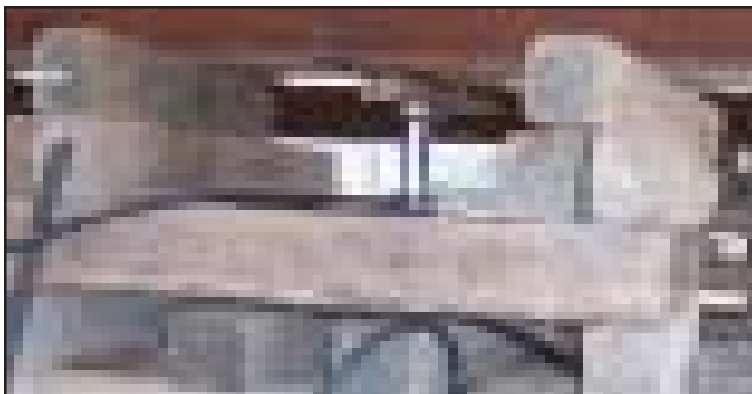
Boomer House

Although the concept of moving loads on **soaped wedges** is not new, this application melded the use of dollies and soaped wedges to create a moving force that solved a unique problem in the placement of the Boomer House, a single story 26' x 80' frame structure.

The move was on a pull truck and two hydraulic dollies on 8:25 x 15" tires. At the receiving site the house needed to make a 90-degree turn off a street and continue into a blind hole. The structure was to set on a basement to be constructed into the side of a hill. Excavation was completed creating a void 100' L x 32' W six feet beneath adjoining land accessible only by one end. 42" footing were placed. A canyon effect was increased due to excavation material being placed on each side of the site.

On the opposite side, parallel with the length of the excavation, the site rolled off into a swamp thick with trees and standing water. Immediately after excavation had been completed heavy rain flooded the site. While attempts by the owner were made to dewater the area the site remained saturated and unworkable. As it happens in many cases the developer wanted the structure removed from its current location and threatened the owner with a daily rental fee past an arbitrary date. The house had to be moved. A move date was set and proper clearances were received.

In preparation, steel plates and wooden mud mats were placed at the receiving site to achieve enough flotation for the loader to access the excavation. Steel plate was laid and left in place from one end of the excavation to the other. The



building was moved onto the site but the crew was unable to position the structure parallel with preset footing. While the front of the structure was "on the mark" the rear was off by over three feet. When the dollies were turned to arc a pulling unit could not be set to swing the rear of the house. The back end of the house had 28' of garage and the dollies were 36' from the other end. The beams and house would bend if pressure were applied to the mains so this was not an option.

After careful consideration the decision was made to use cribs, jacks and soaped wedges to push the dollies. The four cribs used to rotate the dollies were fitted with soaped wedges, pressure was applied and the building moved ever so slowly. As the jacks were moved closer and closer to the edge of the cribs the movement became easier. With one reset of the cribs the building was in position.

