



Goliath, a 12-year-old Percheron draft horse, went into the Guinness Book of World Records in 2003 as the tallest living horse.

World's Tallest Horse?

According to the 2005 Guinness Book of World Records, a 12-year-old Percheron draft horse in Texas named Goliath is now the world's tallest living horse.

Goliath is part of a team of promotional draft horses called the Texas Thunder owned by Priefert Ranch Equipment.

He went into the Guinness World Record book in 2003 for standing 19.1 hands (6 ft. 5 in. at the withers). With neck outstretched, he measures 8 ft. 2 in. to the top of his head.

Percheron Draft Horses generally stand from 17 to 19 hands and weigh around 2,000

lbs.

To maintain his approx. 2,400 lbs., Goliath eats about 18 lbs. of grain, 40 lbs. of hay, and drinks 20 gal. of water each day.

Although originally the wheel horse for Texas Thunder, Goliath is also a solo act. "He keeps his own schedule as a one-horse show," says Tracie Neal, a company spokesperson.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Priefert Ranch Equipment, P.O. Box 1540, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75456 (ph 800 527-8616 or 903 572-1741; website: www.priefert.com).



Three-wheeled, hand-cranked wooden wheelbarrow gives mobility to maimed and disabled poor people who would otherwise have no way to get around.

Hand-Cranked Wheelchairs

If you're looking for a good cause to support, give Mel West a call in Columbia, Mo.

Mel has changed thousands of lives around the world with his simple 3-wheeled, hand-cranked wheelchair that gives mobility to maimed and disabled poor people who would otherwise have no way to get around.

We heard about Mel's PET (Personal Energy Transportation) project from a FARM SHOW reader who told us the wooden wheelchairs have the power to save lives. That's because if someone can't walk in a poor Third World country, there often are no resources to help them. With a PET they can get around on their own power, going to school, shopping or getting a job.

A PET weighs about 83 lbs., has sturdy wheelbarrow wheels and non-puncture tires, and a simple front wheel brake with a wood-wedge parking brake on a rear wheel. They cost about \$250 to build. Each part is outsourced to a volunteer who makes them in farm shops and ships them to one of five centralized locations where volunteers put the

pieces together.

The Gift of Mobility, the nonprofit organization supervising the work, buys some pieces, including wheels, chains and other small parts.

West began the project in about 1996 in his garage. He'd been sending typewriters, sewing machines and other things to a friend in Zaire (now known as the Congo). The friend mentioned needing a simple wheelchair for people who were maimed by landmines or polio or other calamities. West and a product designer friend designed four prototypes before hitting on the pattern used today.

The PET Project needs more volunteers to build parts, which can be done anywhere in your own shop. It also needs donations.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The PET Project, 1914 Heriford Drive, Columbia, Mo. 65202 (ph 573 886-7877; email: petproject@giftofmobility.org; website: www.giftofmobility.org).

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Irlbeck turned this WC Allis-Chalmers into a giant weather vane by mounting it 10 ft. off the ground on a pole.

This WC Turns Into The Wind

Merlyn Irlbeck's WC Allis-Chalmers will only turn into the wind. That's thanks in part to the large wind vane mounted on its rear end. Mostly it's a result of the way he has it mounted 10 ft. off the ground on a home-built Lazy Susan.

"My kids had seen one in northern Iowa that was 3 feet off the ground, so we decided to put ours at 10 feet," explains Irlbeck. "On top of the pedestal is a final drive from a John Deere 4400 combine. The WC pivots where the wheel would have been mounted."

The toughest part of the project, he recalls, was finding the balance point of the tractor. By this point, he had already stripped out the engine and crankshaft to reduce weight. He also replaced the old WC tractor wheels with lighter weight steel wheels from a manure spreader.

"When the tractor was complete, we used trial and error to find the balance point, by putting a hydraulic jack under it and lifting it off the floor," says Irlbeck. "We just kept lifting it and pushing up and down on the tractor until we found it."

The tractor wind crane stands on a base made out of a 6-ft. length of 5-ft. dia. road

culvert which Irlbeck stood on end in a hole in the ground. He filled it half full of sand and then filled the last three feet with concrete. Four bolts that project out of the concrete serve to anchor the upright tower of heavy walled steel tubing. They also work as levelers.

Irlbeck used a crane to lift the 2,500-lb. tractor into place. "It always swings into the wind, so there isn't much resistance," says Irlbeck. "One night it handled winds up to 80 or 85 mph."

At Christmas, the Irlbeck family puts lights on the WC weathervane. While they have to chain it down for installation, it is then released to blow with the wind, joining a 600-ft. Christmas display of 25,000 to 30,000 lights. Part of the display is an old train consisting of 8-ft. long and 6-ft. high cars.

"The train is 128 ft. long with two cars added each year," reports Irlbeck. "Like the weathervane, the display involves the whole family."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Merlyn Irlbeck, 1205 East St., Manning, Iowa 51455 (ph 712 653-3029; email: mirlbeck@IowaTelecom.net).

Rotary Hoe "Art" Graces Front Yard

Some people see beauty in other people's junk. That's the case with a farm machinery "sculptor" who turned some cast-off rotary hoe wheels into an attractive lawn ornament.

Russell Ishmael, Nokomis, Ill., bought the yard ornament at an auction. It consists of four rotary hoe spider wheels mounted into bands of steel and attached to a metal stand. Ishmael mounted the yard art on the back of a wooden planter box.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Russell Ishmael, 745 Sanford, Nokomis, Ill. 62075 (ph 217 563-2295).



Russell Ishmael turned cast-off rotary hoe wheels into this attractive lawn ornament.