



One of a kind custom “tractor hearse” was built on a Thieman tractor frame.

Tractor-Powered Hearse Carries Special Memories

Harold Boquist built a tractor-powered hearse using a 1930's Thieman frame that he bought at a junk yard.

“My wife asked me why I’d build something this unusual, and I replied, ‘why not’”, says Boquist. “We’ve watched old westerns for years and many times we’ve seen a hearse on a wagon pulled by a horse. I thought why not update the concept?”

Boquist had been a Thieman tractor collector for years, so he knew a Thieman chassis was the ideal setup for a tractor hearse. “I started by lengthening the pipe chassis a few feet so I could mate a second transmission to the first one,” Boquist says. Doing that gave him lower gearing so he could inch his way onto a car hauler to attend shows, fairs and parades.

Boquist replaced the tractor’s narrow front end with wide set wheels to stabilize it during turns and give it more curb appeal. He overhauled the Ford Model A motor, built a new operator platform and double-wide bench closer to the engine, and shortened the steering shaft. He fabricated a solid oak coffin and placed it inside a steel frame

mounted behind the bench seat between the rear wheels. Hinged French doors on the back reveal the coffin inside.

Boquist meticulously painted every piece of metal, including the special cutout emblems for the coffin frame. He says the shiny gloss finish on the solid oak coffin provided even more eye-popping crowd appeal, especially for kids.

“Building it was really fun, almost a year-long project,” Boquist says, “but even more enjoyable is taking it to events and seeing the smiles as we drive by.”

Boquist sold the tractor hearse this past July. “It was tough to part with the vehicle, but we had 10 years of fun, and it was time to let someone else take over,” Boquist says. “The money I received probably paid me just a small hourly wage for the year I spent building it, but making money wasn’t the point. It brought us a lot of happiness, and that’s priceless.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Boquist, 602 O St. Apt. 500, Saint Paul, Neb. 68873.

Brokerage Sells Dogs Raised By USDA-Approved Breeders

Nathan Wagler is on a mission to renew faith in dog breeders and help dog lovers find their perfect pets. Four years ago, he started his online marketing and brokerage business, Lovable Gold Star Puppies LLC. Based in Indiana, he works with breeders in 5 states in the region. Many of them are Amish.

As an English bulldog breeder, Wagler understands the challenges dog breeders face after news stories in past years about puppy mills. By visiting every kennel, he knows how breeders operate and that they are following USDA and state and local regulations in providing clean facilities and quality care.

“Breeders use our service because selling takes a long time,” Wagler explains. “We visit all the kennels, and a photographer takes photos at 4-weeks-old and we have a team that does health checks.”

Buyers can see videos of the kennels on the Lovable Gold Star Puppies website and Wagler offers customers health guarantees on the dogs, such as 2-years against genetic issues.

In addition to vetting the breeders, Wagler checks out buyers. For example, if a potential buyer has never had a pet, the buyer needs to find a veterinarian who will vouch for them.

For individuals looking for a pet, he suggests going to www.puppygram.com to find a puppy or dog in most breeds. There are photos and details about each dog.

“We deal with just about every breed including cross breeds and designer breeds,”



Indiana dog brokerage sells dogs online from breeders who have all been vetted and held to USDA guidelines.

he says. Puppies that aren’t sold to individuals are sold wholesale to pet stores.

The price listed on the Puppygram website includes Wagler’s flat rate marketing fee, but not extra transportation costs outside of Indiana. Wagler works with third party transportation companies that can ship dogs anywhere in the U.S.

Wagler is open to adding quality breeders in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nathan Wagler, 300 East Main St., Odon, Ind. 47562 (ph 812 787-2530; lovablegoldstarbooking@gmail.com; www.puppygram.com).

FARM SHOW



He Makes Custom Fishing Spears

Lyle Edwards enjoys spear fishing, so he decided to make his own spears. They turned out well, so he gave a couple to a nephew. Word spread and soon others were asking for them. Five years later, Edwards sells a variety of spears he makes on his Adrian, N.D. farm through his business Poseidon Spears.

“Mine are more robust with bigger tines than ones on the market. I weld on the barbs and they are all stainless steel. We can also do powder-coating if a customer wants,” Edwards says. The tines are 5/16-in. steel and the shaft is 1/2-in. stainless steel.

He can customize the number of tines on each spear - from one to nine tines. And customers can choose from oak, walnut or exotic wood handles or choose ornate metal handles with brass accents.

Edwards sells full-length spears, typically between 5 1/2-ft. and 6-ft. long. Spears with shafts that have 2 pieces are also popular as they can be shipped and transported more easily and safely stored in a poly case. The shaft sections connect securely with a set screw.

Each spear comes with 20-ft. of paracord and a snug-fitting oak sleeve that protects the points of the tines. Prices range from \$275 to \$475, plus shipping.

Edwards enjoys the challenge of customizing the spears with the accents and



Large tine fishing spears with stainless steel welded barbs, tines and shaft are custom made by Lyle Edwards.

details customer’s request. Examples can be found on his Facebook page.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lyle Edwards, 8438 59th St. SE, Adrian, N. Dak. 58472 (ph 701 320-0197; ndkingsnow@yahoo.com; Facebook: Poseidon Spears).



Bob Keldsen and his wife created art in the form of a “ladder farm” in a field near their home.

They Love To Look At Old Wooden Ladders

“I’m not sure how we got started or even why we like them so much. It just happened,” says Bob Keldsen, Grant, Minn., about the “ladder farm” he and his wife, Monette, have in a field near their house.

“Friends and neighbors know about it so now when they see an old wooden ladder at a sale or auction, they drop it off at our place. Each ladder is staked in place so it can’t fall

over. My wife is an interior designer and she says there’s just something about them that she likes. When people come over, it’s a lot of fun to talk about.

“We also moved a couple of wire corn cribs into that field. They look good in the background.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Keldsen, Grant, Minn.