



At 18 years old the spotted cow was turned out to pasture to enjoy retirement.

UNUSUAL BLACK AND WHITE MARKINGS MADE "PEPPER" A STAR

Spotted Cow Became Major Local Attraction

By Chris Schwenk

"No cow in the world ever had more pictures taken of her," says Vic Steffes, St. Joe, Wis., about his 18-year-old spotted cow "Pepper" which for years has been a major local attraction.

"After our daughter Lisa came home one day, she came running into the house and said I had to come and see the calf that had been born," says Steffes.

The heifer calf was raised and treated like the rest of Steffe's herd. After five lactations and several unsuccessful attempts to get her pregnant, the cow simply became a pet in the herd. Her last lactation lasted 500 days, and then she was turned out to pasture to enjoy retirement.

During the cold Wisconsin winters, Pepper was kept in a box stall in the barn where her everyday needs were met. Farmers from all over the region and from around the country would frequently stop in to see the

unusually colored cow.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. Pepper developed arthritis recently and other frailties that come with old age. The Steffes family finally had to put their uniquely marked pet to sleep. The owner of a local meat market took Pepper to his shop to be butchered, being careful to skin the animal so that the hide could be used as a wall hanging in the Steffes' lake cottage. The meat was ground into hamburger.

"It was hard to put her to sleep, but what can you do?" says Vic. "It was just a coincidence that she was born with those markings. We tried using all different kinds of bulls to breed for them, but nothing ever happened."

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Home-Built "Mini" Wood Silo

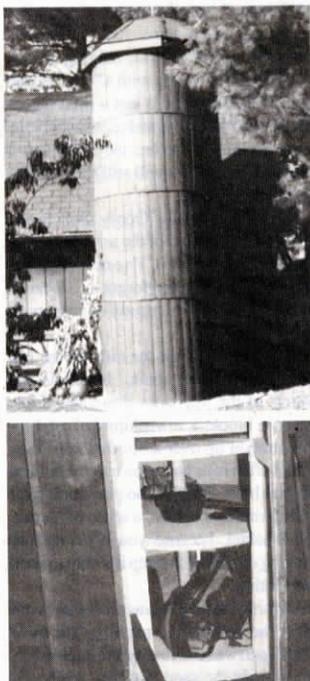
"I built a 32 by 22-ft. storage barn a few years ago and I wanted a silo to go alongside it that would be in the right proportion. I got the idea of using 6 and 7-ft. dia. wooden wire spools to do the job," says Carl Park, Hobart, Ind.

"I got the spools for free from local phone and electric companies. I took them apart because I wanted to use spool ends to form the inside of silo and curved boards off inner drums to nail to the outside.

"I used eight 6-ft. spool ends for the inner structure and I took the center drum boards off six 7-ft. spools. I built the silo in sections on the ground, running pipe up through the center of the spool ends. I put doors on the back of the silo so I can store tools and other equipment inside the silo. I made 'Lazy Susan' turntables inside the silo to make it easy to get at equipment stored inside.

"Because the curved boards that went around the outside of the silo were not tongue and groove, I had to put 90 lb. black felt over the inside of the walls so the cracks between boards wouldn't show. To simulate rods running around the silo, I ran heavy black electrical cable over the cracks between silo sections."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carl Park, 1310 East 6th St., Hobart, Ind. 46342 (ph 219 942-3644).



Park used 6 and 7-ft. dia. wire wooden spools to build the silo.



Miniature church sits on a hill on McNeilus's property overlooking a river.

4-SEAT CHURCH BUILT FROM LIMESTONE

World's Smallest Church

"As far as I know it's the smallest church in the world. People have to stoop over to get into it," says James McNeilus, Marble Rock, Iowa, who built a tiny 4-seat church that sits on a hill on his property overlooking a river.

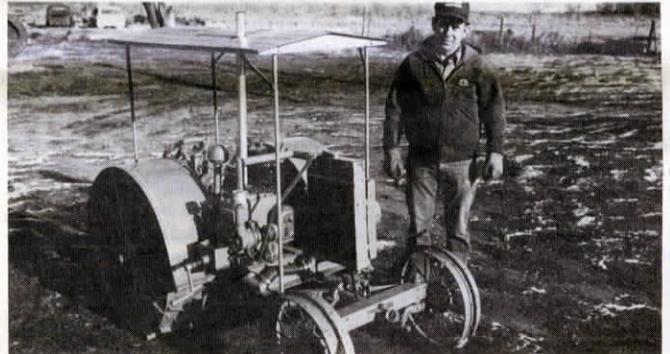
The miniature church is built from native limestone. Bright ruby red marbles are recessed into the cross, roof, and floor of the church. A rock with a red cross painted on it sits next to the church. It symbolizes the rock that was rolled away from the tomb of Christ.

McNeilus says he built the church because he wasn't able to find a church that suited him. He says his 4-seat church can hold all the Christians found in most churches.

The small church has no collection plate, no altar and no pastor. The ceiling is so low that people have to bend down when they sit on the 100-year-old chairs. Pamphlets with some of McNeilus's writings are on the chairs. "It's just a nice place where people can go in, sit down and concentrate on their own," says McNeilus.

Someone visits the church almost every day. Some just look from their cars. Others get out and take pictures of their children by the church.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James McNeilus, 202 7 Sacred Carp St., Marble Rock, Iowa 50653 (ph 515 397-4471). (Excerpted from Agri News, Rochester, Minn.)



Ebright used photos and other information to build his authentic replica.

EXACT IN EVERY DETAIL

Home-Built Replica Of 1919 "Grain Belt" Tractor

By Alice & Robert Tupper

Although Wayne Ebright, Worthing, S. Dak., has never seen an authentic 18-36 Grain Belt tractor in person, he had photos of one of the machines which was built in Fargo, N. Dak., in 1919. He talked to a former owner and to a collector of antique tractor manuals and managed to pull together enough information to build a nearly exact half-scale model.

He made the drive wheel rims out of flat sheet steel cut and rolled into a circle by a local steel fabricator. The hubs are made of 3/4-in. steel plate cut and drilled for the rod spokes. He made the lugs out of short lengths of angle iron set into a herringbone pattern and bolted to the 9-in. wide rear tractor rims. The rib on the front wheel was hand formed in place by welding the end of a strip of flat

iron to the flat rim, then heating it to bend it around the rim. Front wheels are 20 in. dia. and rear wheels are 31 in.

The engine is a Hercules ZXB with a 2 5/8-in. bore and 3-in. stroke. The transmission and differential are made up of modified John Deere B gears. "It doesn't have enough power to pull a tillage tool but we use it to pull a small hammer mill at antique tractor shows and threshing meets."

It weighs 1,400 lbs. and is 77 in. long, 45 in. wide and 40 in. high, not including canopy. The replica took Ebright 1,200 hrs. to build.

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