



Frank Medina has three acres of rusty old windmills on his ranch near Stockton, Calif. **CALIFORNIA RANCHER'S "WONDERFUL WORLD OF WINDMILLS" COVERS 3 ACRES**

## World's Largest Windmill Collection

Drivers passing by Stockton, Calif., often stop to stare at the "world's largest" windmill collection put together by Frank Medina, self-proclaimed "King of Windmills".

The 84-year-old retired rancher has three acres of rusty old Aeromotor windmills on his small ranch along state route 88. Medina calls his ranch "The Wonderful World of Windmills". He repairs, repaints, and sells the vintage rigs to people across the U.S. and Canada as well as from other countries. The "King of Windmills" became so famous that he was even flown to New York to appear on a national television show.

Medina began collecting and restoring windmills 15 years ago when he saw that many old windmills were being cut up for scrap.

"I've loved windmills since I was a little boy so my collection is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream," says Medina. "There was a windmill at my grandmother's house where we'd visit when I was a kid. At night, it would clang and clink and squeak and put me to sleep. Since I started my collection I've bought more than \$100,000 worth of

windmills and now have about 175 models on my ranch. I buy most of my windmills in the Midwest, although I also find some in northern California. I buy only used windmills made between 1874 and 1980 by the Aeromotor Company. For decades it was the biggest windmill manufacturer in the world. The company still manufactures windmills at a plant in St. Angelo, Texas. My oldest and rarest model is a wooden one made in 1874. Another rare model, made in 1888, has an open gearbox that had to be greased constantly. Some of the 50-year-old models work better than the newer ones. The old models are riveted together while the new ones are bolted."

Most of Medina's windmills have 6-ft. dia. blades, although there's one 20-footer, the largest ever made by Aeromotor. Medina sells the restored windmills for \$600 and up. "Buyers rig them up to pump water, generate electricity or just let them blow in the wind."

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## WHEN THEY EAT DINNER, SHE'S IN CANADA AND HE'S IN U.S.

### Canadian Border Runs Through Their Kitchen

Life can get pretty strange in the border town of Estcourt Station, Maine because the U.S.-Canadian border runs right through the remote rural town.

When Edmond Levesque and his wife Gemene sit down at the dinner table, they dine in two different countries. "The border actually slices through our kitchen table," says Levesque, a retired railway worker. "It's great when you can pass the peas from one country to another."

And when they sleep in one of the upstairs bedrooms, their heads and hearts belong to Canada, but their feet are in America.

There's nowhere else on the border where the boundary cuts through people's homes,

according to customs officials. The town was first split in two in 1956 when surveyors drew the official boundary line right through houses on one of the town's main streets. Although most residents laugh about the situation, it does cause problems.

For example, Rolande Trudel's garage is in the U.S. but her house is in Canada. "We have a refrigerator in the garage and we have been told we're not allowed to keep food there and then bring it back into our home in Canada," she says.

Since the town's only hospital is on the Quebec side of the border, all the town's children are born there. But U.S. babies can choose U.S. or Canadian citizenship or both when they become adults.

# FARM SHOW

## Ag World



A 20 by 12-ft. deck stands alongside the 4-ft. deep, 24-ft. dia. pool that Beck made from used Harvestore steel silo panels.

## "IT'S BUILT MUCH STRONGER THAN A CONVENTIONAL SWIMMING POOL"

### "Harvestore Silo" Swimming Pool

"Nearly everyone who sees it says they'd like to build one just like it," says John Beck, Iron Ridge, Wis., who built a 4-ft. deep, 24-ft. dia. swimming pool from used Harvestore steel silo panels.

Beck bought the glass-lined panels from a neighbor who had shortened his silo by 20 ft. The "silo" pool is built from a set of 4 1/2-ft. high panels bolted on top of a set of 2 ft. 3 in. half-size panels which are set in a concrete floor 18 in. below ground. The floor slopes 6 in. toward a center drain where the pool is 4 1/2 ft. deep. A stiffener ring made from 1/4-in. angle iron runs around the rim of the pool. A 20 by 12-ft. deck made from treated lumber attaches to one side of the pool.

"Our farm is up on a hill where we get a lot of wind from every direction. We were worried that a conventional above-ground pool would buckle under the wind when the water was drained out," says Beck, who

built his "silo" swimming pool six years ago. "Our pool cost about the same as a comparable size conventional pool but is built much stronger. We did the work ourselves except for leveling off the concrete floor. We didn't have to use a liner on the pool because we sealed the bolt holes and because we poured concrete over the seam between the top and bottom panels. We used the same sealer Harvestore uses to keep silos airtight."

Beck bolted the panels together first, then dug the foundation out by hand and partially filled it with sand. He put wire reinforcing mesh in the concrete to keep it from cracking. He cut a hole in one of the glass-lined silo panels to mount a skimmer basket and filter.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Beck, N 5677 Hwy. 67, Iron Ridge, Wis. 53035 (ph 414 625-3354).