



Tom Few and his dad Carl (right) did wheelies with their powered "trikes" last year at an antique tractor show.

Grandpa Builds A Powered "Trike"

When you think of three wheeling, you usually picture a teenager, but that's not always true. Sometimes the older "kids" want to play too.

Carl Few of Lodi, Ohio created "Grandpa's Toy" from lawn mower rear ends and a 3 hp motor. The rest of his parts came mostly from recycled bicycle parts. Carl says, "Each bike has three speeds ahead and reverse. The handle bars are from junk bicycles. The 10-speed controls are also from bicycles."

The seat, though, is not from a bike, but is built from construction equipment. These three-wheel vehicles can perform like a bike and do a wheelie any 10-year-old would envy. Carl says, "The hand controls are for gas feed, clutch and brake controls. The 5-in. wheels on back are for poppin' wheelies."

The idea for the powered bikes originally came from Carl's son, Tom. After Carl saw Tom's idea, he decided he wanted one of his own. The father and son team built them together.

They made the toys within a month and the twosome were ready to hit the road. "They each took two to three weeks to build in the evenings. Both were built in 1998. We ride them around at tractor shows. They are two attention getters."

Although both father and son wanted toys alike, they had different opinions on the color schemes. Tom wanted his bike to be John Deere green while Carl opted for Ford blue.

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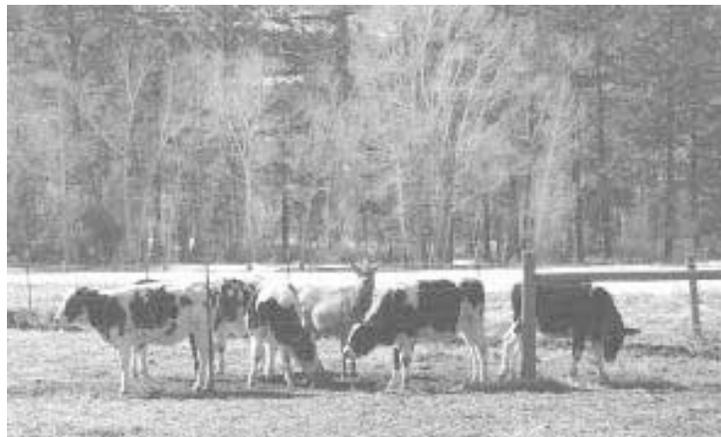


Photo courtesy David Mullings, Ouray County Plaindealer

Abandoned by his herd, "Isabulla" the elk decided to join this group of cows as they grazed in their pasture. He soon became the talk of the town around Ouray, Colo.

"ISABULLA" ACTS LIKE ONE OF THE HERD

Young Elk Finds Home With Holsteins

After he was abandoned by his herd, a confused young elk took up residence with a group of Holstein cows and quickly became the talk of residents of Ouray, Colo.

It happened a year ago last fall when other animals in his herd jumped a pasture fence. The young elk had earlier got tangled in the fence and refused to jump it, leaving him stranded with the cattle. He grazed in the pasture by himself along U.S. Highway 550, often looking toward the mountains where the herd had disappeared. The herd would occasionally come back to the pasture, but the young elk's mother had dried up and refused to let her calf nurse her. When rancher Jeff Woolston began trucking in hay to feed his cattle, the elk decided to join the cattle.

"For a while he was all stressed out, but he stuck right with the cows and became one of the crowd," says Woolston.

The animal was soon the talk of the town and became known as "Isabulla". If they couldn't see Isabulla from the highway, people in town would start calling the Woolstons wanting to know where he was.

The local newspaper started keeping track of Isabulla's fate. A cartoon showed him with a "moo" coming out of his mouth, and his photo was used in advertisements bearing the message "stand out in the crowd."

Then last April the Colorado state department of wildlife ear-tagged Isabulla and relocated him to a wilderness area. "Everyone



Young elk got tangled in a fence leaving him stranded with the cattle. Later he didn't want to go.

was upset when they moved him and they still miss him a lot," says Jackie Wagner.

And how did Isabulla get his name? Jackie explains. "For the first few days we thought it was a female elk. Then one day while he was eating hay we saw the elk peeing, and that's when we decided to call him Isabulla."

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"Bug Squasher" uses 24 by 12-in. tractor tire inner tubes fitted to the rims of a 26-in. bicycle frame. "An experienced rider can mash a lot of hoppers with it," jokes Jaegli.

BIG ATTRACTION AT PARADES

"Bug Squasher" Leaves 'Em Laughing

A few years ago we featured a story about metal corn stalks in Tabor, Alberta, "The Corn Capital Of Canada" (Vol. 19, No 2).

Designer and builder of the 33-ft. stalks was George Jaegli, better known by many as "George The Genius" for the many off-beat creations he's come up with over the years.

He recently showed us his "Bug Squasher", which has been a favorite at parades in Saskatchewan for years.

"I build a lot of things to get laughs in parades and this is just one of them," Jaegli says. "It's particularly popular in dry years when we have a lot of grasshoppers."

The squasher is built around a 26-in. older-style bicycle frame. Its chains and sprockets

had to be repositioned and the front and rear forks widened to accommodate the 24 by 12-in. tractor tire inner tubes fitted to the rims.

To mount the tires, Jaegli bent 1/4 by 3/4-in. flat stock into quarter circles and welded them to the rims. He then placed the deflated inner tubes on the rims and blew them up with a pound or two of air, enough to hold them securely in place.

"It's a real spongy ride. Not everybody can do it. But an experienced rider can certainly mash a lot of 'hoppers during an average parade," Jaegli jokes.

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