



Dennis Stork adopted this pair of Wyoming wild stallions and hitched them up together to a road wagon. "They're the smartest pair of horses I ever broke," says Stork.

HE GOT THE HORSES FREE AND NOW WORKS THEM ON HIS FARM

By Wally Schulz

Dairy Farmer Tamed Wild Horses With Love

Four years ago, Dennis Stork traveled to Wyoming to fulfill his dream of owning a pair of wild mustangs. He "adopted" two wild stallions from the U.S. Government and took them home to live and work on his Ft. Atkinson, Wis., dairy farm.

"I traveled with my horse trailer to pick up the pair. They had been rounded up running wild in the mountain ranges of Wyoming. There isn't enough feed for them all so the government captures and gives them away," says Stork.

When he got a look at the herd of available horses, Stork selected two good-looking stallions he named Bill and Buddy. At the time of the adoption, the horses were two and three years of age and weighed 900 and 1,000 lbs. He paid \$125 for each, which merely paid for veterinary expenses.

"When I loaded them on the horse trailer, they turned into wild, rearing, kicking beasts," says Stork. "I almost decided to leave them behind and I wondered how I'd ever break them."

But when Stork got them home he set about to break them with love and affection. "For the first week they were afraid of me and wouldn't let me pet them, but I finally proved I wouldn't hurt them. After a month, I was riding Bud around the farm yard."

They liked the rich alfalfa hay he fed them but the oats, which they'd never had, was the key to winning their confidence.

"I hitched them with a 17-year old horse called Barney that I've used to break many

other horses. I drove them with him separately for about a week and then hitched the two mustangs up together. Within a short time, I had them pulling well."

In the morning, Buddy is used to haul barn manure to fields. In the evening, Bill hauls a load out. "They're the smartest pair of horses I ever broke," says Stork. "They caught on so fast that I now use them to do a lot of work in the fields."

That first year he hitched them to a road wagon and took them to a horse show. The audience loved them and they've since gone on to win many ribbons at shows in the cart class. Since then Buddy has learned how to bow to the audience. He mastered the trick in just 3 days.

Amazingly, although the team of wild stallions still have not been gelded, they're well-mannered even when mares are brought near them at shows. "I plan to breed them to mares in the future. It's good to introduce wild mustang blood into domestic animal bloodlines." Last year Stork, who doubles as a horse trainer, broke 30 other horses with his mustang team. He says they're the gentlest team he's ever own. He took them back to their home state for the Wyoming Cattle Drive festival and says the pair were constantly surrounded by admirers. "It was a great honor to show people in their home state what a pair of wild mustangs can do."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Stork, Rt. 1, Ft. Atkinson, Wis. 53538 (414 563-2588).



Turkey Cart Goes To Market - This young lad looks like he's ready to handle his "wild" team of turkeys pulling a load of produce to market. The photo was actually taken in 1910 by an unknown photographer who must have spent a lot of time setting it up. The photo is contained in a 1990 calendar published by the Wisconsin State Historical Society (816 State Street, Madison, Wis. 53706).



The working replica is just big enough for a small child to squeeze into the cab.

1/4 SCALE REPLICA

"World's Smallest Bobcat"

"As far as I know it's the world's smallest working skid steer loader," says Joe Gross, an Aberdeen, S. Dak., a skid steer service technician who spent 2 1/2 years building his 1/4-scale skidsteer loader.

The 4-WD unit is patterned after the Bobcat model 743. It stands 35 1/2 in. high, 44 1/2 in. long, and 26 1/2 in. wide. It's just big enough for a small child to squeeze into the cab. Power is supplied by a 12-volt electric marine battery, with a pair of electric motors driving the four wheels which are fitted with 10-in. dia. tubeless tires.

"It does everything a real Bobcat can do," says Gross, who constructed the unit mostly from scrap parts. "I built it because I've worked on skid steer loaders for 15 years and I wanted to build a small one. Others have built miniature steam engine tractors, but the newer generation of kids doesn't understand steam engine tractors. They do understand skidsteer loaders. The steering levers and foot pedals on this loader work just like they do on full-sized models. It's equipped with an adjustable seat, seat belt and seat bar, quick attach bucket and a tip-

up operator cab. All components are pinned together just like they are on the full-sized Bobcat. It even has grease zerks in all of the right spots. Gear reduction drive limits the unit's top speed to a safe 1 mph and with 4-WD it can push a 50-gal. barrel full of oil. It weighs 450 to 500 lbs."

The muffler pipe is actually a reservoir tank for hydraulic fluid and is equipped with a dipstick. Full throttle turns the hydraulic pump on and idle turns it off. The electric motors that drive the wheels formerly drove the power windows on a 1966 Ford Thunderbird. Gross used the side grille from a Deere 4020 tractor for the loader's back engine access door. He used the front grille from a Minneapolis Moline tractor for the top of the cab.

Gross spent about \$850 to build the unit. He's currently starting up a "1/4 scale home-built farm toy club" and plans to organize an annual show for it.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J. Gross Equipment Sales & Service, 4600 N.W. 30, Aberdeen, S. Dak. 57401 (ph 605 229-4037).