



Photo courtesy of Farm News, Fort Dodge, Iowa

Mike Bolton recently bought the last IH Scout, which was built in 1980. It has a digital clock, AC, tilt steering, elaborate decals and pinstriping.

Iowa Man Proud To Own Last IH Scout

After Mike Bolton, Gliden, Iowa bought a used IH Scout, he became fascinated by the early model SUV.

When International Harvester Corp. came out with the Scout in 1960, it was the first utility vehicle available in 2 or 4-WD. It became the first popular SUV and prompted Ford to create the Bronco and GM the Blazer.

In 1997, Bolton started looking for another Scout and learned that Stephen Garst, a businessman in Coon Rapids, Minn. owned a very special Scout.

Garst's wife, Mary, served on the IHC board of directors. So the Fort Wayne, Ind., IH assembly plant made the very last International Scout II for her on Oct. 21, 1980. It had a Nissan 6-cyl. turbocharged 198 cu. in. engine.

Accessories included a digital clock, AC, deluxe interior, tilt steering, special rims and elaborate decals and pinstriping. Her husband used it for hunting and fishing.

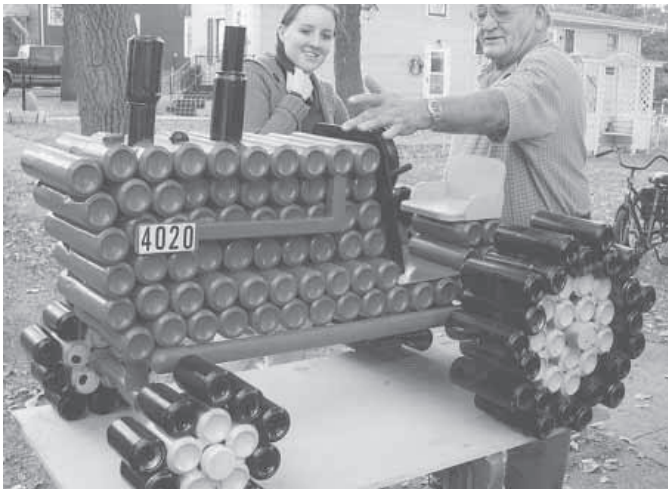
"I wanted that vehicle," Bolton says. "But I knew he wouldn't sell it, so you could say I stalked it for 8 years."

In 2003, Mary called him saying that her husband's health was failing and that the Scout II was for sale. By then it had 52,000 miles on it, along with rust spots, dents and scratches on its exterior. Bolton bought it and now plans to rehab the vehicle properly. "I want to make it look like it did when they presented it to Mary Garst back in 1980."

He says the last Scout II is worth a lot. "To a collector, it's priceless because it represents the end of an era at IH."

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It took Dietz 30 to 50 hrs. to make this 3-ft. high, 2-ft. wide Deere 4020 that weighs about 20 lbs. It's made from about 500 aluminum cans that are glued together with "liquid nail" glue and attached to a frame made out of pvc pipe.

Pop Can Tractors

We've seen this idea before but Don Dietz does such a great job with his pop can tractors we had to show off his work.

He uses about 500 aluminum cans to make each Deere 4020 or IH Quad Track tractor. The cans are glued together with "liquid nail" glue and attached to a frame made out of pvc pipe. The tractors are 3 ft. high, 2 ft. wide, and weigh less than 20 lbs.

"It takes 30 to 50 hrs. to make each tractor, including painting. Each front wheel on the 4020 is made of 5 cans glued together and painted yellow, with 10 cans painted black

to make the tire. The rear tires are two cans wide.

"The tractors get a lot of attention as great lawn ornaments. They're fun to make. I even used cans for the muffler and air cleaner. The seats are made out of wood."

After the tractors went on display, people started asking to buy. So Dietz now makes them to sell.

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Berry uses miles of barbed wire and spends hundreds of hours on each animal sculpture he makes.

Rusty Wire Comes Alive

Old barbed wire never looked so good as it does when Don Berry gets done with it. The Wyoming rancher has turned miles of it into full-size sculptures of American bison and a family of bears.

"I used to do smaller stuff, but when our state centennial came along, I thought it would be fun to do a buffalo out of barbed wire since the buffalo is on our state flag," says Berry. "Ours is a homestead ranch, and barbed wire sort of represents the old West."

Berry's first barbed wire buffalo was realistic enough that it earned a place of honor on display at the state museum for six months. It then toured other museums around the state for a year.

Eventually it ended up on display at the Wyoming Farm Bureau complex in Laramie, Wyo., along with a second buffalo. Berry did a third buffalo that he keeps on display at his home ranch along with two bears and a cub. The bison together used approximately 7.6 miles of wire and averaged about 400 hours each to make over three winters.

"I used everything from around the ranch to make the first one," recalls Berry. "The eyes were insulators from telephone wires, the hooves were chunks of old pipe and the horns were pieces of an old manure spreader axle. On the second two buffalo, I used old split trailer hitch balls for eyes. The bolt looks like the pupil of the eye."

Although he had no formal training in art, Berry did have a mentor. One of his brother-in-laws told him about his grandfather "Buffalo Joe" Curry making a buffalo out of barbed wire. Berry went to visit Curry, a retired blacksmith from Big Springs, Neb. and got some tips from him. Among other things, he learned that the wire couldn't be too brittle or too old. He also found that if he knocked the rust off, it left lighter color rust, ideal for the manes.

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Creating barbed wire sculptures like the grizzly (above and below) comes naturally to Berry who has no formal training in art.

