

## Dutch Contractor Builds Replica Of Noah's Ark

Planning a trip to the Netherlands? Here's a must-see site to add to your itinerary.

Johan Huiber built a replica of Noah's ark to help tell a familiar Bible story.

"In 1992, I had a dream where I dreamt that Holland disappeared in enormous masses of water, something like the Tsunami in Southeast Asia," says Huibers, a contractor from Schagen, Holland. After years of thinking about it, he started building the ark in 2005.

"I want to let visitors visualize what the ark looked like to bring the account closer to those who believe, but also to those who don't," he says.

He built the ark on a barge so that it can be moved by tugboat to various sites in Holland and eventually to other countries. The three-story vessel is made of cedar and pine and is 230 ft. long, 31 ft. wide and nearly 46 ft. tall.

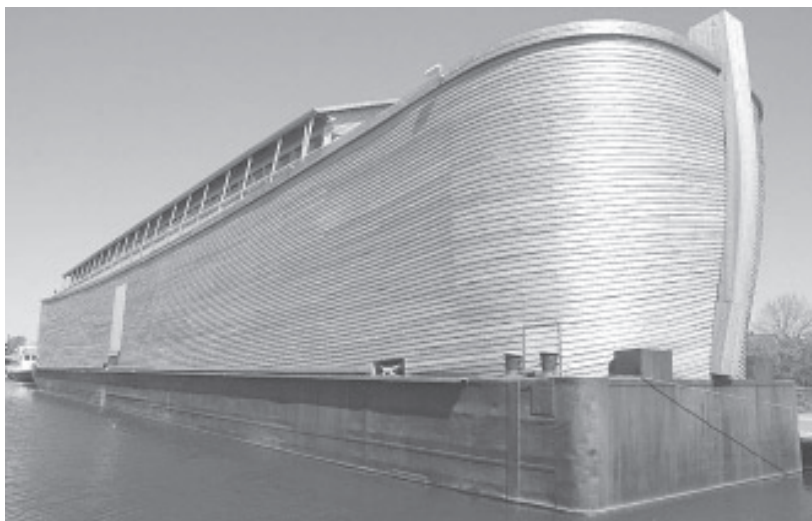
Life-size polyester elephants and zebras peek over rails, while giraffes reach into the rafters. Other assorted animals are scattered throughout the ark. The third level includes a display of ancient tools and old-fashioned barrels and a wax model of Noah reclining on a bed.

More than 300,000 visitors have toured the ark since it opened in April, 2007. Schools are encouraged to bring students who can take a quiz and follow elephant tracks throughout the ark. There are restrooms, a snack bar, and it's wheelchair accessible.

The cost of the project is estimated to be just under \$1.2 million.

Anyone planning a trip to Holland, should check out Huibers' website to find where the ark will be docked.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, www.arkvannoach.com (Photos can also be found at www.pbbase.com/paulthedane/noahs\_ark).



Johan Huiber built this replica of Noah's ark to help tell the Bible story. The 3-story vessel is 230 ft. long, 31 ft. wide, and 46 ft. tall.



Life-size polyester elephants peek over rails (right), and there are other assorted animals scattered throughout the ark in cages (above). Huiber built the ark on a barge so that it can be moved by tugboat to various sites in Holland and eventually to other countries.



## VW Bugs Make Cozy Lovebug Seats

Instead of seeing old VW "bugs" crushed, baby boomer Gary Paavola prefers to transform them into furniture. The experienced Wadena, Minn., auto body man cuts off the front of the car and fashions the front trunk space into a cozy "Lovebug" seat.

"It's a combination of wood, metal and fiberglass work," Paavola says, pointing to the tricky angles on back of the seat. He removes the hood and everything inside and builds an iron and wood frame to support the seat.

He fixes or buys fenders and body parts, depending on the car's condition, and spends hours grinding and painting. The only thing he contracts out is the upholstery work.

Cup holders are hidden under the turn signal lights. The dash is complete with lights

and a new radio that works by plugging the seat into a 110-volt plug and turning on the ignition key. Invisible ghost flames accent the fenders of a bright orange seat, while a peace sign shows on the seat.

"You can go as wild as you want," Paavola says. "That's what's fun about this. I like to have themes."

Currently he is working on a pink Lovebug seat, with a breast cancer awareness theme in honor of his mother, who died from the disease. He's spending extra time on the backside - painting dashboard knobs and accessories pink.

The seats weigh less than 250 lbs. and can be easily moved around. They'd be great for a business with a 50's or 60's theme or for any VW fan, Paavola says. He's asking



Gary Paavola turns old VW "bugs" into furniture. He cuts off the front of the car and fashions the front trunk space into a cozy "Lovebug" seat.

\$1,800 for the VW seats and \$3,500 for 50's Chevy rear ends made into seats.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary

Paavola, 206 Bryant Ave. S.W., Wadena, Minn. 56482 (ph 218 632-3466; garpaavola@yahoo.com).

## 'Trike Bike' Keeps 84-Year-Old Rolling

Thomas Parris likes to ride bikes but, at age 84, health problems made that difficult. Dizzy spills made him afraid to ride his regular bike, so he decided to make a new bike with added stability.

"I call it my Old Man's Tricycle," says Parris.

When he stopped by a local bike shop and told them what he wanted to do, they donated two old bikes to the cause. Parris cut the frame behind the steering posts and removed the handlebars on both. At the same time he removed the front wheel from his bike. He also removed the wedge from the handlebar connection to the frame so it "free wheeled."

"I bolted a piece of strap iron to all three bike front ends to hold one to either side of my original bike, which no longer has a front wheel," says Parris. "Then I attached a piece of conduit between my handlebars and the steering posts of the bikes to either side." The conduit acts like a tie rod, so when he turns his bike's handlebars, the two wheels turn.

"I need to exercise, and this lets me combine exercise with errands," says Parris. "It works fine."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Thomas Parris, 615 North C St., Arkansas City, Kansas 67005 (ph 620 442-6105).



AT 84 years young, Thomas Parris made this "trike bike" so he'd have more stability when getting his exercise.