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CASKET HAULED TO CEMETERY ON HAY WAGON

Farmer Makes Final Trip With Favorite Old Tractor

A Minnesota farmer who died recently took his final trip behind his beloved 1941 Minneapolis Moline GT tractor thanks to his family who knew he wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Instead of a hearse, the casket carrying the body of J. Stanley Larson, Owatonna, was transported to the graveyard on July

14th on a hay wagon pulled by the tractor. Larson's son Jeff drove.

Larson originally bought the tractor new and used it on the farm from 1941 to 1969, when he retired. After spending years in a shed, the tractor was rebuilt from the ground up in 1984 by Larson and his son Jeff.

RETIRED FARMER MAKES SCULPTURES FROM OLD FARM EQUIPMENT

He Makes His Living Creating "Scrap Animals"

If you ever drive by Robert Cumpston's farmyard near Colfax, Ill., you'll get an idea of what Noah's ark must have looked like. At first glance it looks like just about every animal on earth is represented in the collection of life-size animals in his yard. And every one is made out of scrapped farm machinery parts.

Cumpston retired from farming in 1981 to spend full time on his hobby-turned-profession. He's made reindeer, llamas, pigs, chickens, sheep, giraffes, tropical birds and many more - even including rare species like the "sparse-haired aardvark". He makes both life-sized animals and miniatures.

The 62-year-old farm artist started tink-

ering with scrap metal in 1967. When his creations started selling briskly at local art shows, he began spending more time on them until he finally ran out of time to farm.

Cumpston buys scrapped farm machinery by the truckload, turning anhydrous knives into legs of sheep; coil springs into wool; corn planter skid plates into bills on birds; grain rakes into eyelashes; lag screws into feet; cup nuts into eyes; and cultivator sweeps into pig ears. All parts are neatly separated into like parts and stacked to await selection for the next creation.

By 1981, Cumpston's work was being featured at art shows from coast to coast, selling at prices from \$25 to \$6,000. That's when he decided to devote full time to it



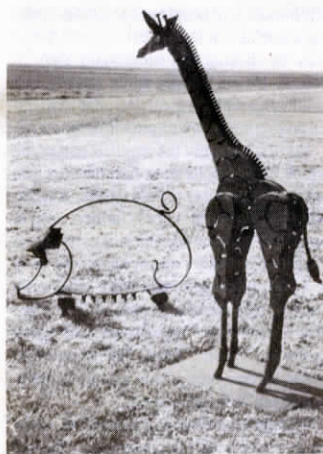
To make sheep Cumpston turns coil springs into wool and anhydrous knives into legs. Cultivator sweeps form pig ears (right) - baby giraffe is 9 ft. tall.

with his wife Donna handling the business aspects, such as bookkeeping and submitting applications to art shows.

Today, the ex-farmer's animal art is sold both at shows and at 10 art galleries throughout the Midwest.

Cumpston is probably one of only a few artists who needs fork lifts to move his huge masterpieces when they're complete. A shaggy-wooled sheep weighs 220 lbs. and a baby giraffe, which stands about 9 ft., weighs 330 lbs. A life-size giraffe, which stands 16 ft. from hoof to crown, can weigh a ton or more.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Cumpston, Colfax, Ill. 61728.



Dandy Directory Of Farm Shows

Where can I get a directory of major farms shows throughout the U.S. and Canada? Many readers ask us that question and we've got the answer. Century Communications puts out a directory and it's a dandy. What's more, a limited number of copies are available on a "first come, first serve" basis.

The recently-published directory for 1992-93 gives a rundown on some 200 different farm and agriculture trade shows, expositions and fairs. For each, it lists the date, location and contact address, and the number of exhibitors and visitors at "last year's" show.

If you'd like a copy, send your check for \$5.00 to: FARM SHOW Followup, c/o Century Communications, 6201 Howard St., Niles, Ill. 60714 (ph 1 800 322-5510, ext. 331; or 708 647-1200). Make your check payable to Century Communications and ask for the 1992-93 Farm Show Directory.

Here, excerpted from the directory, are some of the major farms shows to be held in 1992-93:

Big Iron Farm Show, Sept. 15-17 (1992), West Fargo, N. Dak.; California Farm Equipment Show, Feb. 9-11,

Tulare, Cal.; Canadian International Farm Equipment Show, Jan. 19-22, Toronto (Mississauga), Ont.; Canadian Western Agribition, Nov. 28-Dec. 4, Regina, Sask.; Dakota Farm Show, Jan. 5-7, Vermillion, S. Dak.; Electric Power & Farm Equipment Show, Mar. 17-19, Madison, Wis.; Empire Farm Days, Aug. 10-12, Seneca Falls, N.Y.; Farm Progress Show, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Columbus, Ind.; Farmfest, Aug. 3-5, Austin, Minn.; Farmer-Stockman Show, Oct. 12-14, Lubbock, Texas; Husker Harvest Days, Sept. 15-17 (1992), Grand Island, Neb.; Indiana-Illinois Farm Equipment Show, Dec. 8-10, Indianapolis, Ind.; International Plowing Match & Farm Machinery Show, Sept. 15-19 (1992), Lindsay, Ont.; Iowa Pork Congress, Jan. 26-28, Des Moines, Iowa; Michigan Ag Expo, July 13-15, East Lansing, Mich.

Montana Agri-Trade Exposition, Feb. 18-20, Billings, Mont.; National Farm Machinery Show, Feb. 11-14, Louisville, Ky.; National Western Stock Show, Jan. 11-24, Denver, Col.; New York Farm Show, Feb. 25-27, Syracuse, N.Y.; North American Farm & Power Winter Show, Dec. 2-4, Minneapolis, Minn.; North American

Farm & Power Summer Show, Aug. 10-12, Worthington, Minn.; Northwest Agricultural Show, Jan. 26-28, Portland, Ore.; Ohio Farm Science Review, Sept. 22-24, London, Ohio; Oklahoma Farm Show, Apr. 16-18, Oklahoma City, Okl.; Penn State Ag Progress Days, Aug. 17-19, Pennsylvania Furnace, Penn.; Pennsylvania Farm Show, Jan. 8-13, Harrisburg, Penn.; Peoria Farm Show, Dec. 1-3, Peoria, Ill.; Power Show, Jan. 29-31, Columbus, Ohio; Southern Farm Show, Feb. 3-5, Raleigh, N.C.; Spokane Ag Expo, Jan. 13-15, Spokane, Wash.; Stockton Ag Expo, Jan. 19-21, Stockton, Cal.; Sunbelt Ag Expo, Oct. 13-15, Moultrie, Ga.; 3-I Show, April 22-24, Garden City, Kan.; Triumph of Agriculture, Mar. 8-10, Omaha, Neb.; Western Canada Farm Progress Show, June 16-19, Regina, Sask.; Western Fair Farm Show, Mar. 3-6, London, Ont.; Western Farm Show, Feb. 21-23, Kansas City, Mo.; Wisconsin Farm Progress Days, July 20-22, Hilbert, Wis.; World Dairy Expo, Sept. 30-Oct. 4, Madison, Wis.; World Pork Expo, June 11-13, Des Moines, Iowa.