



Dairyman Dennis Rand built this fiberglass memorial to Inga, a cow to whom he owes much of his dairying success.

## TRIBUTE TO GREATNESS

# Dairy Farmer Salutes Cow With Sculpture

Dennis Rand, a dairy farmer from Melrose, Wis., recently bought a cow for \$1,100 that can't moo and can't milk a drop. And he's delighted with her.

Rand's cow is a fiberglass tribute to Inga, a cow to whom he owes much of his dairying success. "Inga was our first registered Holstein. She produced 167,215 lbs. of milk and 7,420 lbs. of fat in her lifetime. Although she died in 1972, 79 of our 110 cows can still be traced one way or another to her," Rand told FARM SHOW.

"Some of Inga's offspring, and semen from her male offspring, have been sold throughout the world. One granddaughter was sold to a breeder in Japan for \$15,000. So, you can understand why we wanted to do something to perpetuate her memory," says Rand.

"We pondered for a long time how to memorialize Inga. We didn't want her to leave our farm. So, when she died, we just dumped a load of sand on her until spring because we couldn't dig a grave in January. This preserved her almost perfectly," Rand explains. "We buried her the following spring on a bluff overlooking the entire farm so she could watch the other cows."

Earlier this year, Rand learned that Creative Displays, of Sparta, Wis., could make a nearly life-sized replica of Inga. They painted the sculpture exactly like Inga, based on pictures from when she was still alive. The sculpture cost \$1,100.

The fiberglass memorial stands adjacent to the barn on a concrete base. A neighbor, Robert Zeman, is preparing to landscape around the base with white rock, redwood chips and flowers.

He still has nothing but praise for Inga. "If it weren't for her, there's no telling where we'd be now. That cow was really something. I'll tell you."

Creative Displays, who sculpted Inga, uses reinforced fiberglass to make standard life-size replicas of cattle, hogs and horses, and will custom make unusual figures. "We've sculpted figures up to 100 ft. tall or larger," notes manager Darwin Jones.

For more details, including a free brochure showing three dozen fiberglass displays of animals, people and other subjects, contact: Creative Displays, Box 456, 431 Holston St., Sparta, Wis. 54656 (ph 608 269-6771).



This is Rand holding Inga when she was alive and in the prime of her life. This photo was used as a guide to paint the replica built as a tribute to her.



Photos courtesy John Danicic, Jr., Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

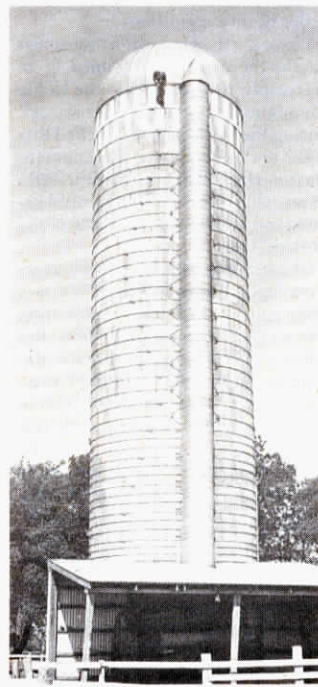
When two raccoons climbed to the top of Robert Ode's silo, it was the first time he had ever seen raccoons on his farm.

## WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

# Climbing Raccoons Make "Tall" Story

When Robert Ode, of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., went out to do his chores one morning early this summer, he discovered two raccoons that had climbed to the top of his 60 ft. silo. Ode first noticed them about 7:00 a.m. They stayed up there all day. Early that evening, however, one of the raccoons fell and crashed onto the metal roof of the feed room below. Mrs. Ode heard the crash and ran out to see if the raccoon was, as she suspected, dead. It didn't move. Suddenly, though, it regained its senses, jumped off the roof and proceeded to climb right back up the silo. This time, however, it took a safer, easier route, climbing up through the adjoining chute.

The Ode's went to bed about 11:00 p.m. and listened to the raccoons crying on top of the silo — one on the outside and the other on the inside. Sometime during the night, the coons managed to crawl down and disappeared when the Odes came out to start chores the next morning. "We don't have the slightest idea why they crawled up on the silo. This was the first time we'd even seen a coon on the place, much less on top of our silo," says Mrs. Ode. "They were either sent from heaven or were climbing to it."



The two raccoons managed to hang on the top of the silo for about 12 hours.