

"BURMA SHAVE" SIGNS CATCH MOTORISTS' EYES

"Burma Shave" Signs Combat Highway Litter

Tough state anti-littering laws haven't been enough to halt highway littering along farmers' fields in Oklahoma so the state Farm Bureau has come up with its own program to combat the problem.

The Bureau placed 300 sets of six signs each along major highways throughout the state on members' property. The signs are reminiscent of the old Burma Shave advertising signs that used to line highways between 1925 and 1963. There are six different signs, each carrying part of a slogan designed to catch the attention of motorists.

The reflector signs are made with high-quality materials by a company that also makes highway traffic signs. Members pay a minimal fee of \$50 for each set of six signs and erect them as

close as possible to the roadside but just inside the fenceline on their land.

"We have placed them on all the major highways running into and out of Oklahoma so the large portion of motorists in Oklahoma see them. Some motorists traveling through the state will see two or three different slogans," says Robert Peeler, the Farm Bureau spokesman.

Each sign is about 8 in. high and 36 in. long. Peeler says the signs should have been slightly larger, maybe 12 to 15 in. high, particularly for use along freeways where they are often positioned far from the edge of the road. The signs are spaced 30 to 40 yards apart, depending on the particular stretch of road and how fast the cars might be traveling.

In addition to the Burma Shave



Farmers report that there's been less trash in their fields since the anti-litter campaign began.

type slogan signs, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau has also developed a reward program. Members post individual signs which offer \$100 reward for arrest and conviction of litterers, to be paid by the Bureau.

"Many members say they've noticed a reduction in the amount of cans, bottles, and other litter thrown on their fields since we started the

program," says Peeler, noting that they'll have a better idea of the program's success after their second full year of operation.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 53332 Capitol Station, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 (ph 405 525-5441).

SUDDEN NOISE SCARES THEM

Ever Heard Of Fainting Goats?

It's feeding time for the goats at Jack Hick's farm near Payne, Ohio. All of a sudden, a doe falls over in a dead faint. Thirty seconds later, she gets up and calmly walks over to eat her feed.

This unusual activity is a common characteristic of the "fainting goat" breed that Hicks first saw four years ago while in Michigan to buy a pony. The lady who had the pony also had several "fainting goats". Hicks bought one and later came back to buy the rest of her herd.

The goats are black and white with spots, and grow to be about 24 in. tall. "One of the toughest things about raising these goats is convincing people that they really do faint. A stranger, a quick movement or a drop of the feed pail can be enough to cause them to collapse.

They usually stay down for about half a minute, then get right up," says Hicks, who now has a herd of 12 goats. He sells some of the goats and reports, "they're good-natured and a lot of fun. But they're also a lot of work, especially when they're having kids. The new-borns are usually quite weak."

He adds, "The kids don't seem to start fainting until they're about two months old. If you crossbreed the goats the offspring don't faint. Besides fainting, they don't run very well. Their legs tend to stiffen up if they try to move too fast."

Hicks says there isn't any apparent benefit to their fainting. Scientists say it's a hereditary muscle disease, and have studied the animals to try to learn more about human muscle diseases.



Photo courtesy Cathie Shaffer, Farmland News

Hicks says the goats don't start fainting until they're two months old.

The goats' history is somewhat vague. Scientific journals attribute the goats' U.S. origin to a stranger who, back in about 1880, brought four of the goats with him to a small Tennessee town. He worked for an area farmer for nearly a year before he left, leaving the goats behind. From there, the goats slowly spread throughout the rest of the country.

Some historians speculate that fainting goats were used by shepherds who put them in with their flocks of sheep. That way, if a predator — such as a wolf or a dog — would chase the sheep, the excitement would cause the goat to faint. The predator would then attack the goat rather than the sheep.

Giant Turtle Built From Old Auto Wheels

A giant green turtle, built from more than 3,000 "tireless" auto wheels, marks the intersection of U.S. 281 and North Dakota highways 3 and 5 in Dunseith, the southern edge of the state's Turtle Mountains.

Setting on a mound just northwest of the intersection, the turtle was created by George Gottbrecht. Its head moves up and down to bid visitors welcome, and to point the way to the International Peace Garden, lo-

cated at the north end of U.S. 281 near the Canadian border. The head, counterbalanced with more than 2,000 lbs. of concrete, is moved with a 1½ hp electric motor through a series of pulleys and a pump jack mechanism.

Gottbrecht collected the wheels and welded them together to form the eye-catching display which measures 40 ft. long, 8 ft. wide and 15 ft. high.

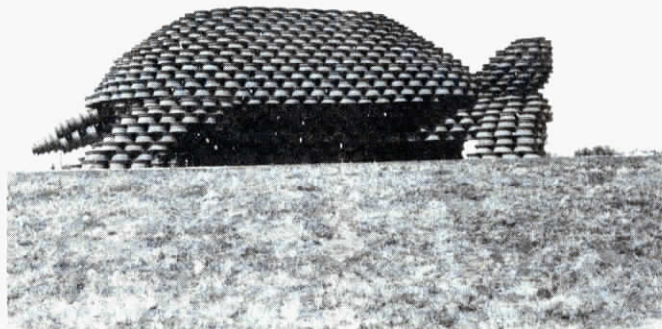


Photo courtesy Alice and Robert Tupper

Turtle's head moves up and down to welcome visitors.