

**Ag
World**



Photos courtesy Today's Farmer Magazine.

Refusing to let the loss of his legs slow him down, Buck McKeown gets around without crutches and even flies his own plane.

**A CHEERFUL EXAMPLE TO OTHERS,
HE GETS AROUND BY HIMSELF**

**Buck McKeown Threw
Away His Crutches!**

After recuperating from a pto accident in 1974 that took both his legs and nearly cost him his life, W.E. "Buck" McKeown, of Moberly, Mo., was outfitted with full length artificial legs that he says were cumbersome and required crutches to get around on. Neither hand was free and, if he fell, it was almost impossible to get up alone.

Simple tasks became monumental. One day, a hired hand left a bucket in front of the house that belonged in the barn. "I went out to get the bucket and fell down. I was there two hours trying to get up," McKeown recalls.

Finally, fed up with his lack of mobility, McKeown traded in his full-length artificial legs for what he calls "shorties". With shorties, he can get around without crutches and climbs into his automobile or plane with less difficulty.

Although McKeown turned his far-

row to finish hog operation over to three grandsons after his accident, he remains active. Much of his time is spent visiting accident victims who have lost arms or legs. "If I hear about a fellow in another town who has lost his arms or legs, I'll go see him, to visit with him and hopefully help simplify his problems," says McKeown. "I once visited a man who hadn't been out of his house for over a year. Everybody has a need to get out. I'm there to give them that push."

When he's not sharing experiences with others, McKeown spends much of his time flying his own airplane. He also teaches flight ground school at his home two nights a week.

If you'd like to contact him, he can be reached at: FARM SHOW Followup, W.E. "Buck" McKeown, Moberly, Mo. 65270 (ph 816 263-5225).

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

**Prize Bull Preserved
For Posterity**

You may feel a little sentimental when it comes time to send a favorite bull, cow, steer or other prize animal to the stockyards, or rendering plant. Why not keep a little of the animal's memory right there on the farm by stuffing and mounting its head for display?

That's what cattle breeder Wesley Ervasti did with his prize Hereford bull, Rusticana, when the bull's usefulness for breeding ran out. The carcass went into the usual hamburger, but the head was saved for mounting. For the past year the popular bull has looked out on customers of the First National Bank, of Menahga, Minn., where Ervasti does his banking.

Ervasti displayed the head in the bank of the farming community just for something different. But Rusticana's head has become so familiar, and such a conversation piece, that Ervasti may never get it into his home.

The head of Rusticana was mounted by a taxidermist in nearby Bemidji, Minn. Total cost to Ervasti was about \$350. Taxidermist Wilson Naegeli has mounted a lot of fish, bear, deer and other wildlife over the years, but he'd never been asked to stuff and mount a domestic animal. "It's a great idea. There's no reason why livestock producers shouldn't have the heads of their favorite bulls, cows, horses, or even pigs mounted and displayed," he says.

"I put four days of labor into Ervasti's bull. I had to saw off the horns and bolt them back on, send the leather out for tanning, then do the actual stuffing and mounting," he says. "Besides labor, there was the cost of a head form, glass eyes, and ear liners."



The head of Wesley Ervasti's prize bull, Rusticana, greets customers in the Menahga (Minn.) First National Bank.

Naegeli says that the cost today would probably be about \$400. There's a delay of several months, too, while the hide is cured and tanned. When it comes back, it goes through the same procedure as for mounting a deer or any other wild animal.

Ervasti farms about 800 acres in northern Minnesota where he raises Hereford cattle. His mounted bull head has received wide publicity in newspapers across the nation and was recently featured on Minneapolis television.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wesley Ervasti, Rt. 1, Sebeka, Minn. 56477 (ph 218 564-4212).