



The "Stabbur", constructed entirely with hand tools, is 8 ft. sq. on the bottom level, 12 ft. sq. on the top level, and 22 ft. tall (to the top of the weather vane above bell tower).

## TWO-LEVEL STOREHOUSE WITH SOD ROOF Norwegian "Stabbur" Graces Minnesota Farm

Visit the Donald Peterson farm near Milan, Minn., and you'll find a little bit of old Norway - a traditional Norwegian "stabbur," an ornately decorated storehouse made of white pine logs and topped with a sod roof, bell housing and weathervane.

The "stabbur," a gift from a Norwegian friend, has attracted more than 500 visitors since it was erected last year.

"Stabbur", which are designed to be mouse proof, stand on 4 concrete pillars. They have been used for centuries to store dried meat, vegetables, flat bread, off-season clothing and bedding. In the summer, youngsters would often sleep in the upper story.

In Norway, where some "stabburs" are 500 years old, their use has declined. However, they're now making a comeback as reminders of the past, according to the Petersons.

The Petersons' "stabbur" was designed and given to them by Halvard Pettersen of Vinstra, Norway. Pettersen is a taxi cab driver and cafe owner who enjoys designing the decorative storehouses as a hobby.

The Petersons met Pettersen at a funeral in Moorhead, where the Norwegian man has relatives. They invited him to visit their home, and he did so several times.

He built the "stabbur" for the Petersons as a sign of thanks for gifts his family had received from the Americans after World War II, and for the hospitality and friendship shown him by Americans during visits

back and forth across the ocean.

Materials for the "stabbur" were assembled in a large crate in Fron, Norway, and shipped from Oslo last October in a Russian ship. They came to Montreal, Quebec, and were sent in the original crate by rail to St. Paul, Minn. From there, the materials were trucked to the Peterson farm, where they arrived last November.

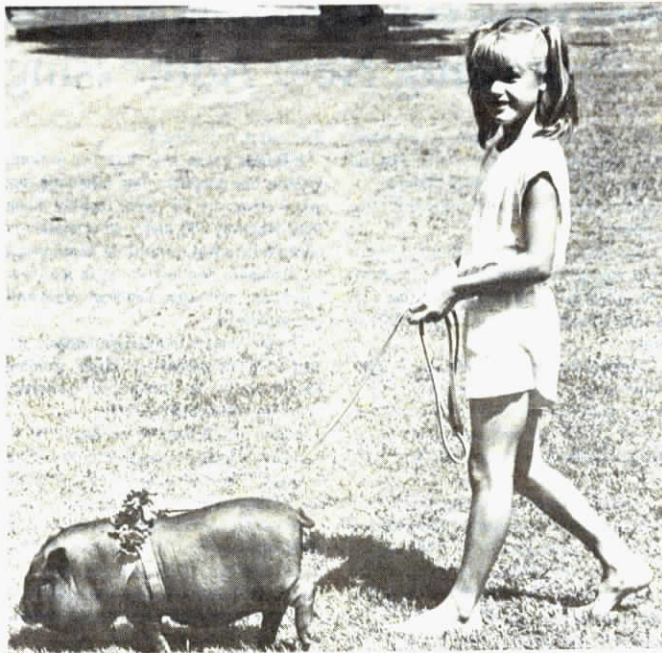
Peterson says he's using the "stabbur" mainly as a showcase, not as a storehouse. Its sod roof is constructed in 7 layers with boards, plastic, dirt and sod. Grasses and pasture flowers will grow there this summer.

The door hinges and the lock are made of black wrought iron. A heavy, 9-in. long key is used to open it.

Inside, visitors are welcomed by a blond, blue-eyed mannikin wearing a colorful Norwegian dress and seated in a chair. The 2 levels of the "stabbur" are connected by a unique stairway - footsized notches are carved into each step, one for the left foot and one for the right foot.

The building is wired for electricity. Other than the mannikin, an ornate Norwegian trunk is the only furnishing inside. Donald's wife, Alta, hopes to eventually have 2 bunk beds, made from a Norwegian pattern, installed.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Peterson, Rt. 1, Box 175, Milan, Minn. 66262 (ph 612 734-4891).



Chinese pigs adapt easily to a leash and can be taught to sit, roll over, climb stairs or go whizzing down a slide.

## "HAPPY, HUGGABLE HOGLETS" Pot-Bellied Porkers Make Great House Pets

You may think having a pig for a pet is hogwash, but don't tell that to Kayla Mull, Los Angeles, Calif. She's importing a miniature "pot bellied" breed from China and selling the pigs as house pets.

The pint-sized porkers stand about 16 in. tall and weigh about 60 lbs. when full-grown. Most are black in color, although a few have tiny splotches of white on their feet or foreheads.

Mull raises the "happy, huggable hoglets" pigs in her home. She parts with them at about 8 weeks old, when they can wait up to about eight hours before going to the bathroom outside.

"They're strange little pigs, but they make great house pets," says Mull, a microbiologist and part-time entrepreneur who sells the pigs through her company, Creatures of Comfort. Mull, who has contacts with zoo importers, receives the miniature pigs as wild animals through an intermediary zoo in Ontario, Canada. She's been house training the pigs for the past 2 years, and claims to be the first person in the U.S. to market the "mini porkers" as pets.

She sells barrows for \$1,500, while females go for \$5,000 and up. "There's tremendous demand for runts," she says.

Mull says her pigs love human contact. Throughout her day of tending various animals, she often has a tiny piglet nestled in her lap, where it drinks from a bottle. "Most of the pigs enjoy being petted, scratched and held. They like to sit in your lap and watch television. In addition, they can be taught to sit up, roll over, climb stairs or go whizzing down a slide. They also can be walked on a harness and leash, and will even "sit" on command.

Unlike dogs, the miniature pigs sleep all night long, says Mull. "They don't bark in the middle of the night, and they never chew on furniture."

Housebreaking is easy, says Mull, be-



One day old piglet is not much bigger than a tennis ball.

cause pigs are naturally neat. "They'll pace back and forth when they want to go out and growl at the door when they want to come back in."

The miniature pigs respond instantly to an owner's whistle, says Mull, who loads her own pet pigs into her Honda CRX by opening a door and whistling. "The pigs trail nose to tail from the house to the car like a line of elephants."

What do the pigs eat? Mull says she's had luck with only one food, Purina High Octane baby pig feed. "Any other kind of feed seems to cause dry skin problems."

Unlike domestic pigs, the miniature pigs don't cry for food at feeding time.

As they get older, both males and females grow tusks, which can be filed off by a veterinarian.

The miniature pigs are part of a growing market for exotic animal pets, says Mull. "Many people would love to own something different, like a lion, tiger, wolf or llama. And these pigs are exotic, because more people actually have touched an elephant than have touched a pig. Zoos offer elephant rides. It's not as easy to touch a pig."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kayla Mull, Creatures of Comfort, 2832 Hamner Ave., No. 208, Norco, Cal. 91760 (ph 714 735-8336).