

IDEA CAME TO ENTREPRENEUR IN A DREAM

Bible Cookies Offer Crumbs Of Wisdom

The way to the soul is through the stomach. So it seems to Bill Heiland of Minneapolis, Minn., who tucks Bible verses into fortune cookies.

He calls them "Scripture Cookies" and he expects to sell about 600,000 this year. He says God gave him the idea in a dream.

"I'm not called to preach," says the 58-year-old Catholic. "This is how I evangelize."

Heiland will soon launch his second product - suckers with Bible verses on the sticks.

"We expect they'll be really popular next Halloween," says Heiland.

He had no experience in the food industry, but he stepped down from his job to work on the new business.

"I love doing this - it's in my blood," says Heiland, who attends mass every day. "It's a good way to spread God's word without forcing religion on people."

Heiland's cookies are baked in the Minneapolis ovens of Sunny Kwan, a Chinese Buddhist who makes fortune cookies for a living. Heiland enlisted nuns to sort and pray over the verses. "It makes us feel close to God," says Sister Rose Alice Althoff.

Heiland's cookies are packaged in the same bubble wrap as fortune cookies and generally sell for 25 cents. Inside the sweet

treats, Bible verses are printed on small slips of paper.

Jan Morford, manager of Osterhus Gift & Book Store in Robbinsdale, Minn., says customers buy the cookies for weddings, Christmas stocking stuffers, Sunday School classes and mother-daughter teas. "It's a great novelty item," says Morford. "People are interested in what the verse has to say."

Says Heiland: "When I started out, I'd give cookies to taxi drivers and stewardesses and say, 'Here's a good word for you.' It's a nice, non-threatening way to share God's word."

Heiland has a folder stuffed with letters from people around the country attesting to his cookies' value. One woman said she gives them out at prayer meetings. A parent wrote that the cookies were the only way to get her son to read the Scriptures. Another woman asked him to send the cookie recipe and discount coupons.

A bag of 50 cookies sells for \$13.50 including S&H; 100 cookies sell for \$21 including S&H. There's a money-back guarantee if you don't like them.

For more information on Scripture Cookies, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Evangelistic Foods, Box 16410, Minneapolis, Minn. 55416 (ph 800 743-0142 or 612 915-1014).



The African lynx, or "caracal", is about 2 1/2 ft. long with a 10-in. tail and weighs 25 to 40 lbs.

"LOOKS LIKE A MINIATURE COUGAR BUT HAS TUFTED EARS LIKE A LYNX"

Rare Caracal Cats

If you like cats, you'll love Caracals, say Donald and Joan Howard of Salem, Ore., who are two of a handful of people in the U.S. and Canada that own the rare animals.

There are only about 10 breeders of Caracals in the U.S. Also known as the African lynx or desert lynx, the Caracal looks somewhat like a miniature cougar but has tufted ears. It's about 2 1/2 ft. long with a 10-in. tail, stands up to 18 in. high at the shoulder, and weighs 25 to 40 lbs. The coat is short-haired and thick and colored reddish fawn to blackish, with faint spots on the legs and lighter underparts. The ears are blackish and the ear tufts are black, while the face has white markings and a black stripe between the eye and nose and a black spot on the side of the muzzle.

The Caracal is native to the semi-desert of Africa, Arabia, Afghanistan, and India. It likes open, mountainous or sparsely-brushed country but keeps away from forests.

"They're very pretty and also very affectionate," says Donald. "We got our male and female from the Salt Lake City zoo and we had kittens last fall. Caracals have been handled by people for centuries and were even used in Pharaoh's time to hunt game animals and birds. They're very fast - second only to the cheetah.

"Caracals adapt easily to living with a family and will seek people out, following them from room to room. They're relatively

safe for people who are used to handling them, but they may not be the safest animal for people they don't know. You can't bring them in your house and leave them or they'll tear things up. We keep our animals in a separate house outside and have a running area for them. They don't require a lot of space.

"We feed our animals canned and dry food. They require more calcium and protein and a different blend of vitamins and minerals than is found in domestic cat food.

"Caracals usually hunt at night but will occasionally hunt during the day if it's cloudy and cool. They're the most powerful of the smaller cats of Africa and can kill an animal twice its size. In the wild they prey on small antelopes, monkeys, hares, rodents, lizards and birds. They can jump 10 to 12 ft. high from a standing position and strike so swiftly they can kill several birds before the flock gets off the ground, then leap into the air and grab still another. They have an unusual hunting habit where they go behind a log and chirp like a bird, then leap into the air and grab still another. The bird sees only the tufted ears sticking up above the log and is drawn by the chirping to them."

Weaned kittens sell for \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dr. Donald & Joan Howard, 5700 Gaffin Rd. S.E., Salem, Ore. 97301 (ph 503 585-6701).



Stensrud's "mini" Ford 8N is powered by a 4-cyl. gas engine and 4-speed transmission out of a Ford Fiesta car.

REPLICA OF 1950'S FORD 8N

Home-Built Half-Size Ford 8N Tractor

Retired farmer and mechanic Willard Stensrud, Stewartville, Minn., built a half-scale 1950's Ford 8N tractor that's an exact replica of the real thing.

The "mini" tractor is powered by a 4-cyl. gas engine out of an old Ford Fiesta front wheel drive car and has the car's 4-speed transmission. The rear axle is out of a 1980 Ford station wagon. The tractor was built as close as possible in every detail to the real thing, complete with fenders, lights, curved hood, and a tube grille on front. The seat and steering wheel are from an old Wheel Horse garden tractor. The emblem from a Ford Escort car mounts on front. The 30-in. high rear tires are off an old Deere corn planter and the 16-in. high front tires

were bought new. On back is a home-built 3-pt. hitch equipped with a 44-in. wide, 16-in. high scraper blade.

"It has been in several parades where it always gets a lot of attention," says Stensrud. "I call it my 4N because it's about half the size of an 8N. It isn't much bigger than my Allis-Chalmers 716 garden tractor. I farmed with 8N's and also worked on them a lot when I worked as a mechanic for a local Ford dealer.

"The engine has about 40 hp. I turned it parallel with the wheels and welded the spider gears solid. The driveshaft chain-drives the rear axle. I bolted a small sprocket onto the driveshaft and mounted a bigger sprocket onto the rear axle in order to slow

it down. It goes so slow that I once entered a slow tractor race and won. I think it would be a great tractor for mowing. It has a top speed of about 15 mph. To adapt the car's rear end I had to cut 1 ft. off each side and weld it back together.

"A lot of people ask me how I made the hood. I used the hood from a 1973 Ford pickup and cut 8 in. off each side, then moved the sections in and welded them back together. The hood can be removed with four bolts for easy access to the engine. To make the grille I got help from a friend who had an iron stamping machine. We used a die for it to stamp out steel bars and welded them upright over an opening in the front of the tractor.

"The 3-pt. is raised or lowered by a hydraulic power steering pump that's belt-driven off the engine. I can change the angle of the blade by changing the position of a pin."

Stensrud used 2-in. angle iron to build the tractor's frame. He used 1/2 by 2-in. flat steel plate to make the lower lift arms and a length of steel pipe to make the upper lift arm. The tractor's brakes are off the Ford station wagon.

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