

HOUSTON HOG IS NATIONAL HERO

Priscilla The Pig Saves Drowning Boy

Priscilla the pig has become a national hero for saving an 11-year-old boy from drowning. Priscilla's owner, Victoria Herberta, Houston, Tex., explains what happened.:

"Every weekend in the summer, I'd take Priscilla to an area lake or river to go swimming with my friends. She loves to swim.

"While swimming, we'd always keep a harness and leash on Priscilla so she'd stay in range. One of my friends was swimming with Priscilla, holding the leash. My friend's 11-year-old, mentally-retarded son was supposed to stay on shore but wandered into the water and stepped into a drop-off which was about 6 ft. deep. He yelled for help, getting his mother's and Priscilla's attention. His mother let go of the leash and Priscilla swam to the boy who grabbed onto her harness.

"Both the boy and Priscilla went under two times, but the second time Priscilla came up she was able to swim to shore with the boy."

For her feat, Priscilla received the Stijlman Award from the American Humane Association for heroism — the first time a pig's received the award since its inception in 1928. Since receiving the award, Priscilla has been on TV shows and in People magazine.

At the time of the near-drowning, Priscilla, a Yorkshire-Duroc-Hampshire cross, was 3 months old and weighed 22 lbs. She now weighs 100 lbs.

Herberta says teaching Priscilla to swim wasn't too difficult. "I took her down to the lake and would hold her on top of the water so she'd pedal her legs. She didn't like the water much at first. The sixth time I took her out I just let go of her and she learned to swim on her own," says Herberta.

Where do you keep a pig in Houston?

Why, in the house of course. Priscilla is house-trained and has her own bed and run of the house.



Photos by Dennis Grundman

Sprawling 200-ft. long building is modeled after similar structures in Europe.

"A DREAM COME TRUE"

House, Garage, Barn All Under One Roof

By Jolene Daib

A 16-month tour of duty in France and Austria from 1951 to 1953 gave Francis Tewell of Polk, Neb., the idea to build a house solely for practicality. The house itself is not unusual. What is unusual is that the barn, machine shop and garage are all attached to the house.

Francis and Delores Tewell are dairy farmers. Twice each day they milk a 20-head herd of Holsteins. Throughout the year, winter or summer, rain or shine, accomplishing this does not present any particular difficulty to the Tewells.

Since the Tewell's animals are enclosed under the same roof that protects the Tewells from the elements, a heavy winter storm doesn't mean fighting snow drifts to milk the cows and do other chores. Francis can step out his back door and walk through the garage and machine shop to the stalls where his cows bed down each night and where they stay when a storm is threatening.

The structure (38 ft. wide and 200 ft. long) represents a dream come true for Francis Tewell, recalling memories of farms he saw while stationed in Europe.

Tewell was in France from 1951 to 1953 working as a driver for the United States Army. Every morning he drove four miles out into the country to pick up a chaplain who lived off base on a farm with a European family. "The homes were 300 to 400 years old and a lot of them had barns attached," Francis recalls. He received the idea for his present home in 1953 and began building it in 1974. In 1980 the couple moved in after completing most of the work on the home themselves.

"I'm satisfied with it," Francis notes. "I probably won't be here forever but it's functional and useful. There can be a pretty violent storm out there but it's nice in here."

"It's a dream come true for him," says Delores.

The home sits on 160 acres of rolling farmland. Forty acres are used as pasture land and the rest is farmed in corn, milo and alfalfa to feed the dairy herd.

At 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. the couple milks the herd. A milking machine is used and three cows are milked at one time. "I've been milking off and on for 15 years," Francis explains. The couple's youngest son, Richard, helps his parents with the milking most of the time. Their son's assistance enables the Tewells to take vacations, a luxury many dairy farmers can't have because of the demands of their occupation.

Odor from the barn drifting into the house has not been a problem. The Tewells can close the windows, turn on the air conditioning and forget the barn is attached to the house. "If we were to leave the windows open on a summer night, we would have a terrible smell," Delores points out. Dividing walls between the garage and the barn help keep the living quarters separate from the barn.

Francis says insurance on the structure was no more expensive than if the buildings were separate, and the benefits the place offers in the winter far outweigh any disadvantages it has.

"Any type of livestock operation must be handy to take care of," Francis said. The Tewell dairy farm goes one step beyond qualifying what one normally thinks of as handy.

For more information contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Francis and Delores Tewell, Rt. 1, Polk, Neb. 68654.

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IT'S 30 FT. TALL AND LIT UP SO PASSERSBY CAN SEE IT AT NIGHT

Rancher Turns Windmill Into A Giant Icicle

Is it the world's largest icicle? It's hard to say, but the 30-ft. tall icicle "built" by Montana rancher Jim Jensen, of Levina, certainly qualifies as one of the most unusual ice sculptures ever created.

"I'd been thinking about doing something like this for the past couple of years. I bought an old windmill for \$25, set it up near a pressurized water pipeline, and welded legs on it so it now stands about 30-ft. high," says Jensen.

"I hung woven wire from the windmill crossbars and parked three old horse-drawn plows and a mower at the base of the mill. When the weather got cold enough, I started running water up to the tower through a hose hooked to a hydrant. A sprinkler head at the end of the hose dispersed the water down the sides of the mill and over the equipment."

Jensen says it took about a week and a half for the ice sculpture to form. To add to the beauty, Jensen put two 500 watt lights, powered off a generator, inside the icicle.

How could he do that?

Easy, since the ice formed around the outside of the windmill frame and left the inside hollow. The lights shine through the ice and create a beautiful sight at night for passersby



A windmill and lights are hidden under this 30-ft. tall pile of ice.

on the adjacent highway.

What if the weight of the ice collapses the tower? "No problem," says Jensen, "It'll just give it more character."

He plans on making a 50 ft. icicle next year by adding 20 ft. of pipe to the top of the windmill.