Despite his huge size, Babe is very mild mannered, says his owner.

**"BABE" WEIGHS 4,500 LBS.**

# World's Largest Living Steer

Weighing in at 4,500 lbs., Babe, a Chianina-Charlois-Brown Swiss crossbred, is believed to be the world's largest living steer.

The largest steer ever was "Old Ben" who lived at the turn of the century and reportedly weighed 4,720 lbs. Three years ago FARM SHOW featured Satan, a 17 year old Brahman-Shorthorn crossbred, who at his heaviest weighed 4,600 lbs. However, Satan died about a year ago.

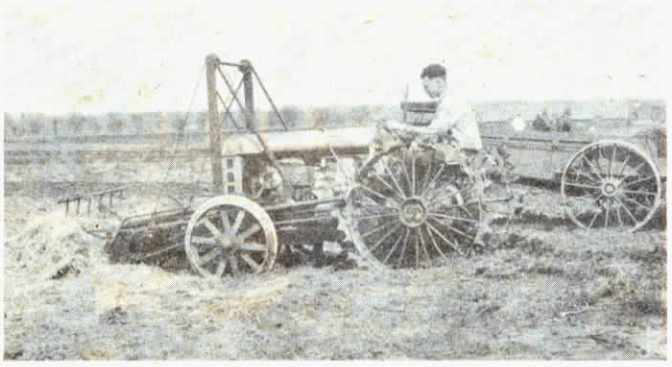
Babe stands 6 ft. 2-in. at the shoulder, and is 12 ft. long. He's owned by Joe Ryan, Beloit, Wis,. who notes that he's had visitors from as far away as Japan stop in to see the gentle giant.

"At birth, seven years ago, he weighed 165 lbs. The vet said it was the largest calf he'd seen born live. After that, Babe gained about 3 1/2 lbs. day," says Ryan, noting that "area truckers are reluctant to haul Babe to the scale as they're afraid he'll break through the floorboards."

Babe gets an ordinary diet of silage and grain. Ryan notes that despite Babe's size, he's very mild mannered. Although not halter-broken, he does stand for a daily curry-combing.

Ryan would like to find someone to buy Babe and take him on tour throughout the country.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Ryan, Rt. 2, Box 253, Beloit, Wis. 53511.



Hamilton used cables and pulleys to raise and lower the front fork.

**IT USED CABLES INSTEAD OF HYDRAULICS TO HOIST LOAD**

# Canadian Farmer Built First Front-End Loader

The world's first front-end loader was built by a young Canadian farmer as part of an engineering class project at Iowa State University, Ames, in 1926.

Clifford Hamilton came to Ames from Cymric, Saskatchewan where he grew up on a grain farm. He attended a college in Saskatchewan before traveling to Iowa to obtain an associated degree. It was in an "agricultural mechanics" course there that he got an idea for a whole new way of forking manure into spreaders and getting hay onto wagons.

The loader built by the young student looked a lot different from loaders today. It used an elaborate system of cables and pulleys to raise and lower the front fork, which pivoted off the tractor's rear axle. Cable ran from the fork up over pulleys at the top of a 7 to 8 ft. high mast, then down to pulleys at the center point of the tractor frame and back to a salvaged truck rear end mounted at the rear of the tractor. To operate the fork, the operator simply used the pto to run the truck rear end in forward or reverse with the pto to raise and lower the fork, using the still-in-place truck brakes for control. Hand levers moved a grapple fork up and down above the loader fork when handling loose hay.

Clifford Hamilton, who went on to work as a soil scientist, died of cancer in 1971. His brother, Lloyd, still farms near Cymric and says that as far as he knows his brother never profited from the idea. Several years after he invented it, in about 1929, farm machinery manufacturers caught on to the idea and started producing commercial units.

In addition to the loader, Clifford also came up with the first pto shield and a special telescoping light.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lloyd Hamilton, Box 12, Cymric, Sask. S0G 0Z0 Canada (ph 306 484-4627).

**EXACT REPLICA OF A 1937 MODEL B**

# Miniature Tractor "Runs Like A Deere"

By Bill Vossler

Gus Larson's amazing miniature tractor "runs like a Deere." That's because it is a Deere — an exact, operating 1:14 scale model replica of a 1937 John Deere Model B.

Over a two year period in the mid-thirties, Larson, now retired and living near Carlos, Minn., made every one of the 728 parts in his model tractor which measures 14.5 in. high, 30 in. long and weighs 56 lbs. Today, 40 years later, the first and only tractor of its kind in the world, so far as Larson knows, still "runs like a Deere." He notes that the Model B tractor he copied had 732 total parts: "I didn't put on the four bolts to hold the cultivator so my replica is four parts short."

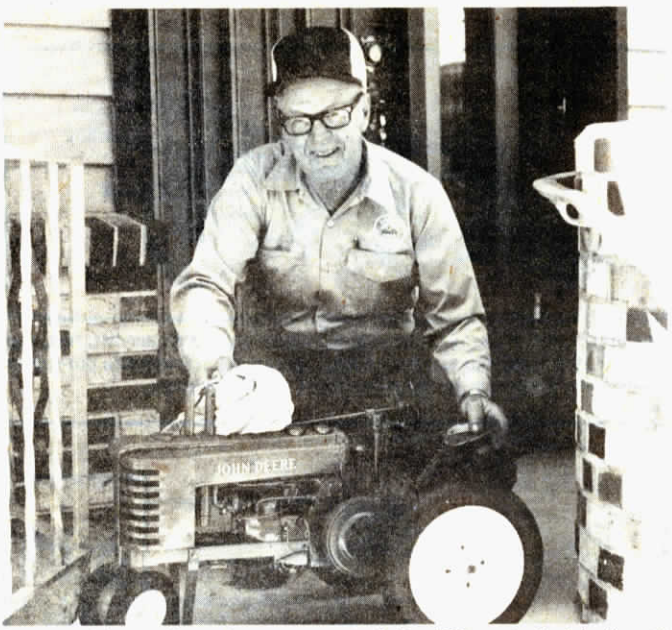
"I was working for Campbell Implement Co., a John Deere dealership at Montevideo, Minn., back in 1935 when I heard Deere was coming out with a new model tractor. This was going to be a new, streamlined model so I drew up my own blueprints and decided to build an 'exact replica' scaled-down model. Everything in that tractor I machined and made myself from scratch, working week nights, Saturdays and sometimes Sundays. I'd finish my regular work shift at 6 p.m, then work on my dream tractor until 10:00 or 11:00 at night."

Two years later, in 1937, Larson finished his amazing tractor. After assembly, the only trouble he had was with the spark plugs. A Champion serviceman heard about his project and had special plugs built for the miniature tractor, which burns aviation fuel.

Complete with front and rear rubber tires, Larson's model tractor is an exact replica of the "real thing" except for the sparkplugs, and the ignition system which uses six flashlight batteries instead of a magneto. The spring seat is adjustable backward and forward. It also contains a gear shift (three speeds forward, one in reverse) clutch, brake, and operating belt pulley, just like the big tractor. It starts via an authentic finger-notched flywheel and is equipped with the optional pto cover, optional wheel weight hookup, and adjustable width rear wheels.

The model tractor, which runs as fast in road gear on its two cylinders as a human walks, was the center of attraction at the Minnesota State Fair from 1949 through 1953. "I used to display it at other fairs and events but stopped showing it publicly about 25 years ago," says Larson, content to keep it home "where I can look at it. I just recently had it. It still runs perfectly after all these years. I've had many offers to sell it but it's not for sale. I'm saving it as a keepsake for my Grandchilden to enjoy."

Contact: Gus Larson, Rt. 2, Box 224, Carlos, Minn. 56319 (612 852-7348).



Larson (pictured) made every one of the 728 parts in his "exact replica" working scale model of a John Deere model B tractor.