



Ivan Trantham has almost 400 cast iron implement seats in his collection, and no two are alike.

ALMOST 400 SEATS FROM THE 1800'S

He Collects Old Cast Iron Implement Seats

Back in the mid 1800's, horse-drawn farm implements such as corn planters, hay rakes, mowers and cultivators were all equipped with cast iron seats. Collecting them is a passion for some rural people, including Ivan Trantham of Millerton, Pa. He has almost 400 seats in his collection and no two are alike.

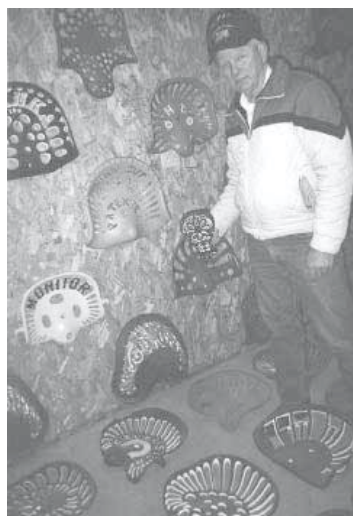
Trantham keeps the seats inside his three-car garage. The seats are displayed on all four walls and also lined up in rows on the floor.

"It's amazing how many different shapes and sizes these seats come in," says Trantham. "All of them have their own beauty. Back in the 1800's there was quite an art to casting implement seats. They didn't have the design boundaries that manufacturers have today, so the workmanship and artwork on these seats is very interesting. They stopped making cast iron seats at the turn of the century when tractors came out and the tractor manufacturers switched to pressed steel seats. Cast iron seats were built much heavier and stronger than the ones made from steel.

"Many people have larger collections than mine. One man who recently died had about 1,800 seats in his collection. All the seats ended up being sold off at three different auctions. I don't have a favorite seat in my collection – I like them all."

Trantham buys the seats at local auctions and from other collectors. After buying the seats he sandblasts and paints most of them. "When I get them they're all rusty. In most cases no one knows what the original seat colors were so I just use colors that I like.

"Cast iron seats are more comfortable than you might think, especially if you put an old



"It's amazing how many different shapes and sizes these seats come in," says Trantham. "All have their own beauty."

feed bag over them," says Trantham. "I think they're more comfortable than today's leather tractor seats, which get hot and sweaty."

He belongs to the Cast Iron Seat Association, a worldwide club with about 1,500 members that meets three times a year (Charlotte Traxler, RFD 2, Box 38, Le Center, Minn. 56057 ph 507 357-6142; Website: www.castironseat.org).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ivan Trantham, RD 2, Box 152, Millerton, Pa. 16936 (ph 570 549-5343).



Trantham buys the seats at local auctions and from other collectors.



After buying the seats, he sandblasts and paints most of them.



Ruth Klossner has been accumulating cow items in her home since 1978.

HAS 7,516 ITEMS ON DISPLAY

Collector Proud Of Her "Udderly Mooving Mooseum"

By Janis Schole

Ruth Klossner lives by herself but she's not alone. She's got more than 7,000 cows to keep her company... in the house!

Her "coe-llection" is thought to be the largest in the world.

Klossner lives in Bernadotte, Minnesota, and has been accumulating cows in her 1,700 square-foot home since 1978. At last count, she had 7,516 bovines of every description.

While her humble abode could be described as small and cozy – well, okay, "cowzy" – the little beasts are tastefully arranged, and efficiently fill each nook and cranny without appearing gauche. She calls her home the "Cow Collector's Mooseum."

Klossner's affection for cows began when she was a young child, growing up on a Minnesota dairy farm.

The majority of items in her collection are of the Holstein persuasion, not because she consciously chose them, but because there are more of them in the marketplace than anything else. Personally, she doesn't discriminate within cattle breeds, pointing out that, "if it's bovine, it's fine." However, Klossner does let her personal taste guide her purchases.

"I have to like it. Just because it's a cow doesn't mean I'm going to buy it. Some of the things out there are just ugly," she says.

Possibly, her most unusual item is a handmade fabric cow, adorned with beads and made by a South African Zulu tribe member.

Among her favorite pieces are a Holstein with three small pigs gathered around her, and an item that combines a Jersey, a milking Shorthorn, a boy, a girl and a dog. Both pieces were made by the artist Lowell Davis.

To illustrate the broad spectrum of cow items Klossner has amassed, the following is only a partial listing of knick-knacks that are either shaped like cows or have cows on them: wooden wall hangings, a telephone that moos when it "rings," rugs, floor mats (one that moos when stepped on), clocks, watches, chocolate "cowpies," and other cow candies, a "Troll cow" (an unusual find), tins, beautiful art prints, cow-shaped Christmas lights, ornaments, stuffed animals, computer screen saver, a lighted, miniature barn vil-



Klossner has tastefully arranged her collection to fill every nook and cranny of her 1,700 sq. ft. home.

lage (more than a dozen different barns), blow-up cows, musical cows, embroidered cows, a 16-pound cast iron cow from Japan, in bathroom – a bottle of Udderly Smooth lotion and a bar of COW beauty soap that's common in Japan, an album with cow greeting cards, rubber stamps, candles, piggy banks, baskets, jewelry, nativity figurines, a cow carved from dried manure, beanie babies, pencils, ties, belt buckles, caps, and she has deemed her spare bedroom the "shirt shack." Out in her yard, Klossner's wooden and concrete cows "graze" near a Holstein-print mailbox.

Klossner says anyone who wants to see the collection can call for an appointment. She has already toured at least 1,900 people over the past six years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ruth Klossner, R.R.#1, Box 123 B, Lafayette, Minn. 56054 (ph 507 228-8573 (home), 507-228-8985 (work), 507-228-8779 (work fax).