



**"It works great in my scrap metal business,"** says Edwell Cartwright, who uses a remodeled 1975 Chevy school bus to haul his cargo.

## Farm Family's Recycling Business Uses Remodeled Bus

By Janis Schole

Edwell Cartwright gets a lot of funny looks when he drives around in his modified school bus loaded down with 5 1/2 tons of scrap metal. In fact, he was once stopped by the police but it turned out the amused officer just wanted to take a picture of the rig because he had never seen anything like it.

The recycled 1975 Chevy C-60 perfectly compliments Cartwright's business - Raven Hill Scrap Metal. He's been in the scrap metal business for eight years near Pickardville, Alberta. The operation is truly a family business, with Cartwright's seven children, ages 8 to 19, pitching in to help.

The roof of the bus was cut off, and the side and back walls removed so that only an 18-in. perimeter remains above the floor, forming a "box" for cargo. A closed-in cab was created by installing a wall with a window directly behind the front seat. The cab roof and back wall are made from plywood, insulation and aluminum.

The bottom part of the back emergency door was left intact for easier loading, and it can be locked closed with a hinged padlock system.

The low profile of the bus works well for using a Caterpillar with a bucket to load and unload it.

The Cartwrights have signed agreements with local waste dumps and they offer free pickup service to numerous automotive garages, gas plants, farms and the local recycling depot's tin bin. The family saves their local municipal government thousands of dollars in trucking fees by hauling discarded materials.

They purchase old catalytic converters, radiators, transmissions and other cores from garages because it is profitable to take them apart and sell the valuable metals contained inside. All metals are separated so that the final sale is of a specific metal rather than mixed metals.

The Cartwrights use a truck with stock racks to pick up the materials at one or two stations and garages each evening, and the items are later unloaded at home for "processing." Before it is ready to load on the bus for marketing, much of the scrap metal must be dis-assembled. Household appliances must be taken apart so that the various types of metals they contain can be separated. Edwell uses a portable chop saw to separate the materials and a Cat crawler to condense them for more efficient transportation. Items such as aluminum lawn chairs must be painstakingly dis-assembled

by hand, removing the nylon webbing and screws.

The Cartwrights say there is also a market for car and truck bodies, but they've got so much to do already, they simply don't have the time to travel around to farms and acreages, collecting them.

The most profitable materials are steel, aluminum and catalytic converters, but steel is the best because it's easier to get a high volume and there's usually less dis-assembly required," says Edwell's wife, Sherry. "The scrap metal market fluctuates quite a bit. We were getting \$97/ton for steel but last fall the price dropped to \$40. The price always seems to drop in the fall. Aluminum is currently bringing about 55 cents a pound."

When prices are low on certain commodities, the Cartwrights try to stockpile them. Items such as starter cores, wiper motors and heater cores take longer to accumulate a load, so the family sells these only twice a year.

Each week, the Cartwrights haul one or two loads of steel (regular and stainless), cast iron, lead and magnesium to a nearby recycling company. Every six weeks, they deliver zinc, copper, three types of aluminum and brass to a different recycler. On the way there, Edwell stops for pick-ups at various garages and on the way back he takes advantage of the added seasonal opportunity to haul fresh fruit back from orchards and market gardens.

I'm always looking for more suppliers in British Columbia and Alberta of non-magnetic metals such as aluminum, copper, zinc and brass, as well as more catalytic converters," Edwell points out.

When the Cartwrights deliver a school bus load of metal to one of the recycling plants, it is unloaded by a large crane magnet.

Edwell used to operate a roofing business, but a fall from a ladder eight years ago sent the family in the direction of the scrap metal business.

Roofing is so weather-related and seasonal that after 10 years in the business, we were \$11,000 in debt. Scrap metal is something we can do year-round and it's good for the environment. We'll probably never get rich doing this, but recycling is a good thing and we have been able to make a living at it," Sherry concludes.

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Fred Lally's two-headed pet collection includes this two-headed turtle. Both heads on the turtle eat although they sometimes fight over food.

## Two-Headed Pet Collection One Of The Last Great Side Shows

Fred Lally has a one-of-a-kind collection that gives "one-of-a-kind" a whole new meaning.

Everyone's heard that two heads are better than one, but Lally, of West Fork, Ark., has turned that saying into a money-making enterprise. He has the world's most unusual collection of two-headed animals.

He turned the rare pets into a thriving business, but Lally is also sincerely attached to the little oddities. He lovingly hand-feeds them, calling them by name.

"I'm proud to be one of the last of a dying breed - an independent sideshow operator. My old-style traveling oddities show is the kind of thing that used to be part of every county fair, years ago," Lally explains. He quickly points out that what sets him apart from his predecessors is that his exhibit is based on the honest portrayal of real-life flukes of nature, as opposed to deception.

For the first 30 years of his career, Lally followed the county and state fair circuit with a snake show called the Oklahoma Rattlesnake Roundup. Occasionally, he would include an additional exhibit with such things as a 450-lb. live albino alligator. In 1995, he purchased a month-old two-headed rattlesnake. The tremendous interest that resulted led Lally to develop an extensive two-headed animal exhibit, featuring a freakish gallery of stars with genetic abnormalities.

Lally's collection now includes the two-headed rattlesnake, six two-headed turtles, and a mounted collection of two-headed animals he purchased from other people. These stuffed animals are authentic (not man made) and include a two-headed monkey that died in Columbia in 1937, a two-headed calf, a four-eyed, four-eared, two-snouted pig, and a stuffed one-headed, eight-legged pig.

Lally's six turtles are "red-eared sliders" that he paid an average of \$500 each for. He describes two of them as being like sets of "Siamese" twins, with six legs, and shells merged together in a heart-shape. The other four turtles are what he calls "standard" two-headed turtles.

According to Lally, both heads on the turtles do eat although they sometimes fight over food. Lally says he sometimes notices one turtle head sleeping while the other is awake.

Lally first acquired D.T. the snake after hearing about it on the radio. He had previously tried to buy another two-headed snake of a different species, but was outbid by the San Diego zoo, which paid \$3,500 for it. Lally was able to purchase D.T. from a northern Alabama junkyard owner for \$850.

"Two-headed calves are a dime-a-dozen but a two-headed rattlesnake is a rarity, comparatively speaking. I've heard of four other 2-head rattlers, but none have been kept



Two-headed rattlesnake. "It draws people to my show the best of anything I've had," says Lally.



This two-headed monkey died in Columbia in 1937.



Here's a photo of Lolly's two-headed calf before it was stuffed and mounted.

alive in captivity. However, I've heard about or seen pictures of at least one two-headed calf in almost every town I've traveled to," Lally says.

He charges \$1 per person to see his show and travels the country from March until September to make his living. He tours the southern U.S. and also hits some fairs in Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan and Texas.

"The rattler draws people to my show the best of anything I've ever had. There's something about the innate fear evoked by venomous snakes, combined with the freakishness of two-headedness that really pulls people in."

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