



After his father died a year ago, Larry Kahl decided to honor him by making this life-sized cattle drive sculpture that stretches 1,200 ft. along a hilltop near Mandan, N. Dak. It stands just north of the late Buddy Kahl's ranch, in a spot where travelers on a nearby highway can get a great view.

By Janis Schole,  
Contributing Editor

## Huge Landscape Sculpture A Labor Of Love

A life-sized cattle drive sculpture that stretches 1,200 ft. along a hilltop near Mandan, N. Dak., is a heartfelt tribute from a son to his father.

The magnificent sculpture stands just north of the late Buddy Kahl's ranch, in a spot where travelers on a nearby highway can get a great view. Buddy's son, Larry, made the 32-piece display. He plans to add 15 to 20 more pieces this year. Kahl died of a brain hemorrhage in March, 2003 at the age of 77.

Heading west into the sunset, the display overlooks the Heart River. The procession of metal figures begins with a horse and rider "leading" a riderless horse, which, as is often the case at cowboy funerals, signifies the deceased rider. Next, is a team of horses pulling a chuck wagon with Buddy's "Flying K" brand on the side, followed by a herd of 10 cows-calf pairs with two more horses and riders spaced amongst them. Behind the last rider is a 20-ft. high by 31-ft. wide silhouetted "ranch style" sign that says, "In Memory of Buddy Kahl."

After a 300-ft. gap, a 9-ft. tall stallion, with head held high proudly, faces east - gazing at

five mares who are running up the hill.

Larry says the cattle drive scene is a great reminder his dad's presence will always be felt in the area.

"Cattle ranching and horses was all that Dad knew. It was his life. I figured that was something that should live on," he says. "The location was ideal. You can't find a better ridge - it was perfect for a project of this size."

Kahl gets 6 by 17-ft. sheets of 3/16-in. used steel from a paper mill in Minnesota where his brother-in-law works.

"I can't draw a stick man," Kahl says. "So I use my computer to put pictures onto transparencies for an overhead projector, and that's how I get the outline onto the sheets of metal."

He cuts out the shapes with a plasma cutter and leaves them unpainted.

Each figure is welded onto 1 1/2-in. pipe and the bigger ones are concreted into pre-drilled holes in the ground. The holes for smaller pieces are packed with gravel.

"Dad was well known and well liked in this area. This was my way to recognize and



About 300 ft. behind the main cattle drive scene, there's a 9-ft. tall stallion, with head held high, gazing down at five mares who are running up a hill.

remember my dad," says Kahl, who admits that the project also helps him work through his own grief. "It's a tribute to the cowboy way of life, too. So many people tell me they enjoy it and relate it to their own dads. I've had people tell me that when they're driving by on the highway, they actually think it's

the real thing. They think the figures are moving, because the vehicle is moving."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Kahl, 2224 Sunny Rd., Mandan, N. Dak. 58554 (ph 701 663-3993; cell 701 226-1009; fax 701 663-1804; email: heartriver1@bis.midco.net).

## Animal-Shaped Barbeques

Barbequeing is just a bit more fun with this pig-shaped grill that was on exhibit at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky.

The grill is painted pink and has a curly tail, floppy ears, long eyelashes, and a nose with two slots in it. A pail hanging under its neck collects drippings.

A black grill shaped like a longhorn steer is also available.

"They're both just dressed-up Traeger grills, which we think are the best on the market," says David Eftink, Double D Tractor Parts, Inc., Sikeston, Mo. "Traeger grills are designed to burn wood pellets so they're fully automatic with the convenience of gas and the flavor of wood. What's more, by flipping a switch you can change from normal grilling to slow cooking or smoking. On the smoke setting, the grill delivers an even smoke to your food without having to tend the fire.

"Each unit is equipped with a dial-up thermostat that lets you cook at any temperature. There's no way to burn your food."

Here's how the Traeger grill works. When you push the "on" switch, a hot rod activates for about four minutes, igniting the wood pellets in the firepot. An auger automatically feeds pellets from the hopper to the firepot where convection air is added, acting like a miniature forge. Heat and wood smoke surround the food. Drippings are channeled out of the cooking chamber into the external bucket for easy disposal.

The pig grill and longhorn steer grill both sell for \$1,499 apiece.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Double D Tractor Parts, Inc., Hwy. 62 East, P.O. Box

1767, Sikeston, Mo. 63801 (ph 573 471-2727 or 573 380-5118; fax 573 471-2288; email: deftink@doubledtractor.com; website: www.doubledbbq.com).

Novelty pig-shaped grill is a real conversation starter. It has a curly tail, floppy ears, long eyelashes, and a nose with two slots in it. A pail hanging under its neck collects drippings.



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