



“The odds of a true white buffalo are about one in a billion,” says Dan Shirek, owner of the true albino buffalo shown above. Its name is White Cloud.

White Buffalo Now Stands Alone

There have been several reports of white buffalo calves born over the past few years, but only one was a true albino that stayed white into adulthood, according to Felicia Sargeant at the National Buffalo Museum, Jamestown, North Dakota. That albino buffalo is named White Cloud and it's the star attraction at the museum.

“People just want to get a look at her,” says Sargeant. “For many Native Americans, it's a spiritual experience.”

Some Native Americans see the birth of White Cloud as a sign of great change in the world, while others see it as a sign of peace, prosperity, unity and hope.

White Cloud is part of a herd of 50 buffalo. Dan Shirek, original owner of White Cloud, recalls how the other buffalo seemed to gather around her the day she was born.

Today the Shireks manage a 200-head buffalo herd near Michigan, North Dakota. Al-

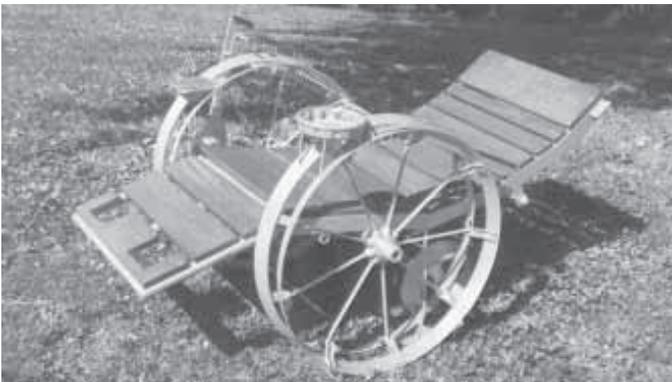
though White Cloud's dam is still with the herd and calves each year, they have not had any more albinos. That isn't surprising, as the odds of a true albino are only one in a billion. The last known albino bison died in 1959. Other white buffalo calves have been born, but change color as they get older. A true albino is rare.

“There was one more that same year, but it died,” recalls Dan Shirek.

White Cloud herself has had two calves, neither of them albino, although like her dam, they carry the albino gene. Unfortunately for the bison industry, non-albinos aren't in as much demand.

“The whole buffalo industry is at a low point right now,” says Sargeant.

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Wooden reclining lawn chair has a curved backrest and a separate footrest. They're raised and lowered by a spring-loaded lever.

Reclining Chair Made From Old Machinery Parts

“It's nice to sit in, and the wind won't blow it away,” says Joe Brautigam, West Chester, Penn., about the wooden reclining lawn chair he made from planter wheels, hay rake lift levers, and IH sprockets used as cup holders.

The reclining chair is made from treated lumber that has been stained and urethaned. It has a curved backrest and a separate footrest with a pair of notches in it. A spring-loaded lever (off a hay rake) on one side of the chair is used to raise and lower the footrest. The backrest is notched and can be set at any angle.

A pair of small disc harrow wheels on the back side of the backrest keep it stable in the reclining position. The wheels also allow the chair to be moved anywhere in the reclining position.

“I call the chair a piece of ‘antique implement art.’ It's a real conversation piece,” says Brautigam.



Chair rides on old planter wheels, with sprockets serving as cup holders.

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“When it fires it sounds almost like a shotgun going off,” says Jack Deschene, who built this go-cart that's powered by an old 3 hp Deere E “hit and miss” gas engine.

“Hit & Miss” Go-Cart

Jack Deschene doesn't go anywhere very fast in his go-cart but wherever he goes, people always notice. That's because it's powered by an old 3 hp Deere E “hit and miss” gas engine.

“When it fires it sounds almost like a shotgun going off. It really gets peoples' attention. Sometimes rings of smoke will even shoot out of the exhaust,” says Deschene, noting that the engine is hooked up to a 4-in. dia. chrome exhaust stack.

The two-seat cart measures 4 ft. wide by 8 ft. long and is painted Deere green and yellow, with Deere decals on both sides. It rides on 14-in. high wheels on back and 12-in. high wheels on front.

“It's a lot of fun to drive in parades. I get a lot of ‘thumbs up’ signs,” says Deschene, who flies a Deere flag behind the go-cart. “The only tools I used to build it was a hacksaw, welder and drill. How often the engine fires depends on the load it's under. When I'm

going downhill, the engine doesn't fire at all.

“I bought the wheels, differential, steering apparatus, drum brakes, and seats from Northern Hydraulics. I used square tubing to build the frame.”

Because of the way the engine is mounted, it rotates in the opposite direction as the main driveshaft. To compensate for that, Deschene uses a chain and sprockets to drive the main driveshaft. “I use two different-size V-belts on an intermediate shaft to deliver power to the main driveshaft. The belt that mounts on the big pulley controls the go-cart's high speeds, and the one that mounts on the small pulley controls the slower speeds. I use separate tighteners to engage the belts. The tightener handles mount between the seats.”

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Engine rotates in the opposite direction as go-cart's main driveshaft. Deschene used a couple of belt pulleys and shafts to reverse the drive.