

This Tractor Is A Work Of Art

South Carolina artist Barbara Yon worked with local school children to glue thousands of pieces of stained glass to a 1943 Deere tractor that's now a tourist attraction in Ridge Spring, S.C.

"I had done a life size horse for another town," says Yon. "Ridge Spring wanted one too, but couldn't afford it, so I decided to work with a tractor instead."

The project was started in early 2005, and the tractor was finished by August. A concrete pad was laid, and the tractor was installed in time for the fall harvest festival.

"The hardest part was to get the curved pieces covered," says Yon. "It took smaller pieces and more cutting and gluing."

To help with the job, Yon enlisted the aid of the local school. Kids were taught to pick and match pieces of colored glass and glue them into place. The glass was then grouted, coated and water proofed.

"The only regular maintenance is a fresh coat of waterproofing every five years," says Yon. "The only problem has been the wooden seat. The grouting there has come loose after absorbing moisture from the wood."

Yon encourages others to try their hand at the unusual art form. "It's very simple to do, and you can get directions from books or off the internet," she says. "Metal, plexi-glas or glass bases are easiest to work with, especially for beginners. Once coated and dry, you're done."

Yon says the newness of the mosaic tractor has long worn off for locals. However, visitors still stop and take pictures. "They want to know more about it, she adds. "It is so unique."

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Working with local school children, artist Barbara Yon glued thousands of pieces of stained glass to a 1943 Deere tractor. It's now a tourist attraction in Ridge Spring, S.C.

1770 Steam-Powered "Car"

"I read with interest the article in the last issue of FARM SHOW about the 1875 Grenville steam carriage. I wanted to let you know that there was a steam-driven car built and driven 105 years earlier than the one you featured," says Ray D. Gottfried, Tampa, Fla.

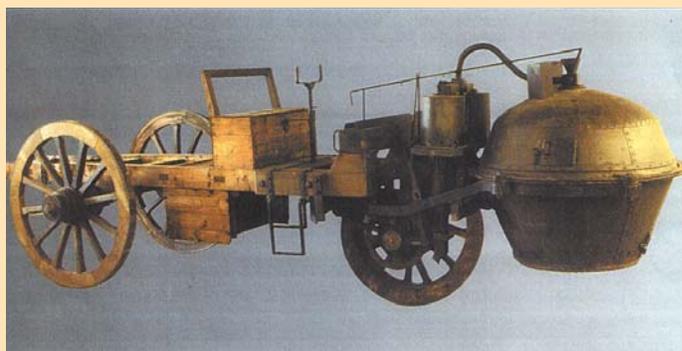
The "Fardier", invented by Nicholas-Joseph Cugnot in 1770 was built under auspices of the French government, designed to carry guns and artillery for the military. During one experiment in 1770, the Fardier pulled a load weighing 5 tons at a rate of 3 mph."

The Fardier didn't get past the prototype stage, due to a lack of funding, and ended up in a French museum - Le Conservatoire de Arts et Metiers - where it still resides today.

There is also an exact replica of the Fardier at the Deutsche Bahn Museum in Nuremberg that was built in 1934 for a movie on steam power. This car ran at the time it was built and was filmed in action. It was recently on display at the Tampa Bay Auto Museum in Florida, where Gottfried saw it.

He also points out that other steam cars were built, one as early as 1805 by Oliver Evans in Philadelphia. In 1833 a steam bus operated back and forth between London and Birmingham, carrying 44 passengers at speeds up to 14 mph.

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The "Fardier" was a steam-driven car built and driven in France back in 1770. It was designed to carry guns and artillery for the military.

Giant V-8 Powered Shopping Cart

Women imagine how many groceries it would hold. Men marvel at the Chevrolet 460 hp 396 V-8 big block engine that powers it. Kids love the loud noise it makes.

This giant 13-ft. tall motorized shopping cart grabs people's attention every time it's used, says Jim Knight, media market manager for the North Carolina agriculture department.

"It generates tremendous interest everywhere we take it," Knight says. "It's a great marketing tool for us, and it's used four days out of five."

The stainless steel unit weighs about 2,500 lbs. and is used to promote everything from foods to cotton to Christmas trees. It shows up at grocery store promotions, business openings, tractor parades, state fairs and farm shows.

With five sponsoring companies advertised on the cart, there is no cost to North Carolina taxpayers to cover the cost of the big cart.

The "Big Cart" is one of eight built by NCC Motorsports. Robert Unnerstall, Sr., initially designed the cart to promote the National Cart Co. In 1986, the first big cart debuted at the grand opening of a Schnucks Market in St. Louis, Mo. All eight carts are leased by various companies throughout the U.S.

The 8-ft. 6-in. by 15-ft. basket holds 1,000 9-in. balloons or 360 grocery bags. Four adults can fit in the baby seat.

While it isn't meant to carry a lot of weight, it delivers a big message. Besides promoting products and businesses, it draws attention for fundraisers. It was parked at recent food drives, for example. A ton of food was donated in four hours during one event and two tons of food were donated at another.

"As loud as it is, and as big as the engine is,

it's not a high performance vehicle," Knight says. "We usually drive it at 5 to 10 mph with a top speed of about 30 mph."

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Giant 13-ft. tall motorized shopping cart is powered by a Chevy 460 hp V-8 engine. Cart shows up at everything from grocery store promotions to tractor parades and farm shows.



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