



Don and Vi Godwin carry hay and grain for "Barney" and "Brother" on the back of their pickup camper which is mounted in reverse on the running gear.

"A DREAM COME TRUE"

They're Traveling In A Horse-Drawn Camper

By Linda Heppe

Traveling to Florida with two Belgian Draft horses pulling your camper is probably not the way most people would prefer to take a vacation. Don and Vi Godwin, of Belle Plains, Kan., think it's a dream come true.

The trip they're taking isn't totally for pleasure — it's really a business trip. When people see how much fun Don and Vi have though, it just doesn't seem like business.

"We sell tools, toys and tidbits" says the sign on the side of their camper. After stopping for the day that's exactly what they do plus a little bit more. The couple usually starts out by singing a song or two with Don playing the mandolin and Vi playing the guitar. After a few kind words and jokes to the audience, they bring out their goods to sell to the crowd that has gathered.

"We just love this," says Don of the way they sell. "The people we meet are so nice and you see the best side of them. Not only do they speak to you, which they probably wouldn't do to someone selling things from a car, but they speak to you with kindness."

"It's been a lifetime idea for us, this trip," says Don. "Fourteen years ago we decided we would take off across the country. My idea was to go in a covered wagon. My wife's idea was to have a microwave to take along. We compromised."

What they compromised on was a camper set on a dolly which the horses pull. The camper is a bit nicer than most covered wagons, but it doesn't have a microwave. It does have a stove, refrigerator, air conditioner and toilet. On the outside is a shower hookup and two feeders from which the horses get water and grain. There's also room behind the camper for hay to be stored.

Barney and Brother are the horses which pull the Godwin's rig. Don broke both of them himself to work and lead. Their harness was made by 83-year-old Perry Pollock of Altam-



The Godwins logged 18 to 25 miles a day on their trek from Kansas to Florida.

ont, Kan. He made it a year and a half ago and the Godwins tested it on a trial run to Oklahoma City last March.

When the couple left home October 3, two hundred people showed up to see them off. Traveling 18-25 miles a day, they expect to reach Florida in mid-January.

Before leaving Belle Plains, the Godwins sold their home and real estate business. "What didn't fit into the coach got sold," says Don.

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FARM SHOW

Ag World

Editor's Note: Most of what goes into Ag World stems from story ideas sent to us by readers. This special section of FARM SHOW touches on the lighter side of farming and ranching — everything from human interest stories, to unusual hobbies, to unique things farm families are doing for fun or profit.

If you've read or heard a good Ag World type story you'd like to share with others, send it to: FARM SHOW, Box 704, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.



Classic inherited his famous horns from his mother whose 58 in. horn spread stands as the longest on record for a cow.

SPORTS 61 IN. HORN SPREAD

World's Longest-Horned Texas Longhorn Bull

Classic, the longest-horned Texas Longhorn bull in the world, with a horn spread of 61 in., was recently "syndicated" to a group of purchasers for \$1,000,000, making it one of the highest dollar animals ever sold in the United States.

Peggy McDonald of the Dickinson Ranch, Calhan, Colo., which owns part of the rights to Classic, told FARM SHOW that Classic's horn spread of 61 in. at 8 years of age is remarkable since Longhorn bulls normally sport horns in the range of 40 to 45 in. in width. She notes that

while 61 in. is very wide, horns on steers often range up as high as 60 to 70 in. "Horn length is a very hereditary trait so that a bull with wide horns becomes extremely valuable. Classic should be able to pass his long horns on to his offspring," says McDonald.

Classic was sold to 20 owners who paid \$50,000 apiece. Semen is available for about \$500 per ampule.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dickinson Ranch, Calhan, Colo. 80808 (ph 303 683-2655).