

World's Biggest Farm Cap Collection Needs A New Home

After 44 years of collecting caps and two Guinness Book of World records, Buckley Legried became famous for his 100,000-plus cap collection (featured several times in FARM SHOW). The Frost, Minn., collector died Sept. 29 from complications after a 2 1/2-year battle with cancer. But his memory and dream lives on through his son, Scott, Buckley's farming partner and caregiver.

"His next goal was getting his collection into a museum. We talked about different ideas," Scott Legried says. "I'm going to continue on and try to honor his wishes."

It's not a simple task. Buckley did the math and figured what it would take to display his huge collection.

"My dad always said it would take a 10-ft. high wall of 4-in. shelves, half a mile long to display them all," Legried says.

Right now, the hats are at the farm Legried shared with his dad. About 1,000 of them are on garage walls. Another 500 to 600 caps (mostly Deere, including dealership caps from every state) line the basement walls. The rest are in three semi-trailer vans in specially-made boxes.

Legried continues to add caps to the collection, which has been well-documented by his father. All have some kind of patch or logo, many of them ag-related. One of Buckley's favorites is full of "bling". It was handmade in Africa with a colorful beaded



Photo shows a small selection of Buckley Legried's 100,000-plus cap collection.

bird.

The caps remind Legried of good times with his father and how Buckley used to share them with people in nursing homes. He played his concertina and linked Ole and Lena jokes in a long story while changing one silly cap after another.

Legried says he would like to have the collection in a museum nearby, but realizes

that it needs to be close to a high traffic area to draw visitors.

He plans on following up on leads and is open to offers to set up a lease option with anyone interested in displaying them.

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Huge Collection Of Antique Hand-Cranked Bench Grinders

One of the more unusual shop equipment collections you'll ever see are the hand-cranked bench grinders owned by Walt Haeussinger of Fountain City, Wis. He keeps the grinders in an 18-ft. long, tandem axle trailer equipped with a 10-ft. wide, 6-ft. high swing-out door on one side that flips up to display the grinders inside. He pulls the trailer behind his pickup to local antique tractor shows.

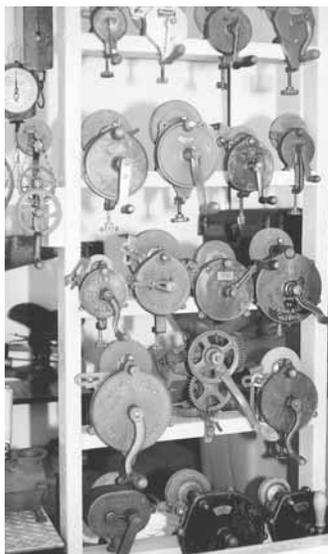
The trailer contains about 80 different hand-cranked bench grinders built from the late 1800's up to the 1950's, some of them quite rare. The grinders are designed to bolt onto a bench and were used to sharpen everything from kitchen knives to shop tools. Some models were designed to sharpen scythes and hand sickles. A few industrial models were designed for use in factories.

"Many older people remember using these hand-operated grinders as kids. They often tell me they never knew there were so many different kinds," says Haeussinger. "The trailer provides a great way to show off the collection."

Haeussinger says he finds grinders at flea markets, garage sales, auctions and also gets them from friends. "My grandfather had a couple of bench grinders when I was a little kid, and that's what sparked my interest in collecting them."

According to Haeussinger, hand-operated bench grinders were widely used in the 1800's and early 1900's. However, they lost popularity in the 1940's and 1950's after electricity took over.

A couple of Haeussinger's grinders were used strictly for sharpening sickles on horse-drawn mowers. One model chain-drives a stone that's used to sharpen drill bits and

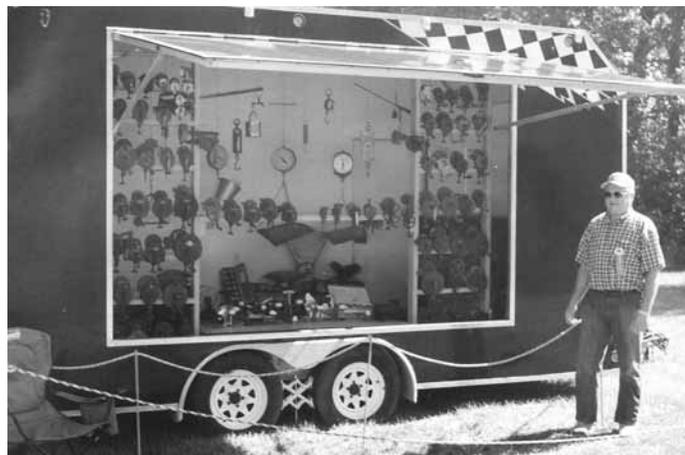


Haeussinger keeps his collection of hand-cranked bench grinders in a tandem axle trailer with a swing-out door on one side. It flips up to display the grinders inside.

chisels. Another unusual grinder is equipped with a big wheel and has an exposed internal gear drive.

"On some models you can rotate the head left or right or up or down for different angles or positions," notes Haeussinger.

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Trailer contains about 80 different grinders built from the late 1800's up to the 1950's. Some of them are quite rare.



A 15-ton, 50-ft. long metal "dragon gate" greets visitors to Paul Cassidy's home.

"Dragon Gate" Built From Scrap Iron Parts

Paul Cassidy may have the most interesting driveway gate we've ever seen. A 15-ton, 50-ft. long metal dragon opens and closes its manure hose reel wings with a solar-powered 12-volt DC motor operated actuator.

"I wanted to have a gate that nobody had ever seen before. The wings bifold - like a marker arm on a large planter - and you can open the gate with a keypad," Cassidy says. It took some planning. He made a 1/40th-scale model and used counterbalance and springs from an old combine to make it work since the actuator can only handle 50 lbs.

The dragon is a creative blend of scrap from tiling machines, heavy equipment and farm equipment parts that the Eyota, Minn., excavator has accumulated.

"The legs are tracks off a tile machine that are upside down. That took some doing because they are not meant to bend that way," Cassidy says. "The head and snout is a traffic light; the crosswalk button is on the left side. Eyebrows are rotary hoe wheels from a farm implement. The teeth are excavator teeth. The claws are subsoiler teeth. Wings are made out of hose reels for manure hose. The web of the wings is an old hay rake. The tail is part of a tiling machine with added pieces of chain."

Cassidy got into metal sculpture when he decided to teach his son, Anthony, to weld. One project led to another and soon Cassidy was creating metal and granite furniture for

his home and the dragon, his first sculpture, about 4 years ago. The dragon sat in a field for a while, until Cassidy decided to update it for a driveway gate.

His second sculpture was a bee with 20-lb. propane tank eyes and a head and tail made out of pressure tanks. The body came from overflow tanks used for underground fuel storage and the wings are expanded steel.

"Besides excavating, I scrap things out and clean up farms. That's where I get scrap iron. I scrapped a farm where the guy had five styles of tiling machines we scrapped out. I kept the iron because it was so odd."

As his excavating work has slowed down, Cassidy has been doing more sculpting. A lady expressed interest in a fish, so he's currently working on a 16-ft. jumping fish. It has a hook in its mouth with a lure that can be used as a swing.

"I'm using old gold-colored, galvanized sheet steel that has an iridescent look from old computer cabinets to form the body. All the material I use is destined for the melting pot. I don't use anything new. Even the bolts are salvage," Cassidy says.

He has plenty of project ideas and is open to other people's ideas for commissioned work.

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Dragon's wings are opened and closed by a solar-powered, motor-operated actuator. A keypad is used to operate gate.