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16 FT. IN DIAMETER

## North Dakotans "Build" World's Largest Burger

Concerned cattlemen in Towner, N. Dak., recently made the world's largest hamburger — a whopping 16 ft. in dia. — to dramatize the point that beef is a good buy. The big 3,000 lb. patty was broken down into 3-oz. patties that sold for 30 cents.

Two crews began making the giant beef patty at 10:00 p.m. the evening before the event and most of the night was spent grinding and patting down the meat. Workers finished the task at

4:00 a.m., then froze the burger with liquid nitrogen in anticipation of the next day's festivities. After the ceremonies, North Dakota Governor Allan Olson served up the first burgers.

According to the Guinness Book of Records, the 3,000 lb. hamburger will be 141 lbs. larger than the previous record-holder, a big burger cooked up in Perth, Australia in 1975.

## CALIFORNIA GOLD MINER BURIED IT THERE MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO

### Farmer Strikes Gold In His Own Back Yard

When Bill Collin's septic tank caved in behind his farm house, it seemed like the last straw after a year of ruined crops and hard times. But in replacing the tank last fall, he found what most people only dream of — buried treasure!

Bill and his wife Doris, of Albion, Ill., had decided to dig out around the old tank themselves to save money on installation of a new tank. Collins was digging just below the surface, in a spot only 20 ft. behind his back door, when he found the treasure. Seventy-five \$20 gold coins originally valued at more than \$1.5 million.

The coins were dated from 1850 to 1860, leading nearly everyone in Albion to conclude that the money had been buried there by a miner called "Applegate" who had "struck it rich" in the California Gold Rush of 1849, and later settled on what is now the Collins place. Applegate had told townspeople when his house burned that he wasn't worried about losing his money because it "was buried".



One of the 1860 gold coins shown alongside a 50 cent piece.

Unfortunately, he died, and without telling anyone where it was buried. Every since, treasure hunters have scoured the area digging for the hidden gold.

When the story first broke, a Chicago coin dealer was quoted as saying the coins were valued at between \$2,600 and \$20,000 apiece. It turns out they were worth considerably less. In fact, the Collins family sold the first 25 coins for \$16,000, an average of \$640 each. With the money, they put in a new septic system and used the balance to make a "hefty" payment on their farm mortgage.

## PROFESSIONAL BULL WASHER

### He Gets Paid For Giving Bulls a Bath

Montana businessman Jim Seibert, of Billings, has developed a profitable sideline washing bulls.

A sleek, clean bull brings more money than a dirty one. But it isn't always easy for a cattleman to get his bulls cleaned up before a sale. That's where Seibert comes into the picture.

His mobile bull-washing business, called Fleet Wash, consists of a boiler, generator, high pressure (1,000 lb.) pump, and a 300-gal. hot water tank mounted on a truck.

A full tank of water will last for 1½ hours of washing. Seibert charges \$2-\$10 per head, depending on how fast he can put the cattle through a wash. He usually works above and around the sides of a pen of bulls, and occasionally he puts one in a squeeze chute.

With the help of such common detergents as Amway "LOC" or "Basic H" the hot water and pressure do an excellent cleanup job.

"Washing an animal is only part of the job," says Seibert. "Sometimes, I team up with a cattle fitter who trims the long hair and grooms the entire animal. A washed and fitted animal

can bring \$100 more than a dirty one."

Seibert says his business could be expanded to horses, pigs and other kinds of show and sale animals. Currently, he washes a lot of other things besides livestock. "People have hired me to wash buildings, trucks and road equipment. I'm portable, so I can go to the job if they can't bring the job to me," he points out. "I'll go most anywhere if the job is big enough to justify the mileage expense, and the time spent behind the wheel."

For the young man who might aspire to being a bull washer, Seibert thinks there is lots of opportunity. His basic equipment cost about \$6,500. He advises, however, that a washer get teamed up with a cattle fitting service.

"It's a part-time business for me," he says, "but it would really be good for a man who goes into it full-time and stays on the road, working with a cattle fitting service."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Seibert, Fleet Wash, 1615 Blarney St., Billings, Mont. 59101 (ph 406 245-5565).

## YOU BUY 'EM, THEY'LL FEED 'EM

### Custom Hog Operation

Wisconsin hog producers Dave and Judy Dvorak, of Whitelaw, feed out and market about 4,000 pigs a year, but the pigs all belong to other people. They furnish the housing and management for investors hoping to make some money in the hog market.

The Dvoraks buy the pigs for their investors, charge them a housing fee, send them a feed bill, market the finished hogs, then send them a check for the profit. Some of the investors are hog farmers themselves; others are non-farmers. In a good year, the hogs turn an 18 to 20% profit for the investor, says Dave.

The Dvorak's investment in the operation is their management skill, and housing for the pigs. Their main hog house, dubbed the "Hog Hilton", has 24 pens that hold 30 pigs each. The barn measures 192 by 36 ft. A barn on another farm holds about 600 pigs at a time. Three crops of pigs a year are turned over in each facility.

The Dvoraks rent out their "Hog Hilton" at the rate of 6¢ per pig per day. "This is a relatively low rate, but it has helped ensure that our facility will be at full capacity the entire year," Dave points out.

The Dvorak's are close to a dependable source of feeder pigs, the American Feeder Pig Co-op at Francis Creek, Wis., and they also buy some feeder pigs from local breeders.

When new pigs come to the farm — usually in lots of 30 — they get the full veterinary treatment to protect against diseases and ailments. Because of the low death loss — only ½ of 1% — the Dvorak's have a standing offer to replace any pigs that die.

They started custom-feeding hogs for investors three years ago and, so far as they know, it's the only such operation in Wisconsin.

The cost of feed purchased at a local feed mill is passed straight on "at cost" to investors. "With feeder pigs coming in at \$40, plus about \$40 for feed and about \$5.40 for three months of room rent at the Hog Hilton, investors — depending on the current market — can generally make \$20 to \$25 a pig every three months," Dave points out.

For the hog farmer who might want to get into custom feeding, Dave and Judy advise: "Do a lot of investigation before you start, and advertise it well when you decide to get into it." The Dvorak's both have university degrees in agriculture and had 10 years experience in hog management before they started their custom-feeding operation.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave and Judy Dvorak, D-J Farms, Rt. 1, Whitelaw, Wis. 54247 (ph 414 755-4395).