

Grady, the Silo Cow

The story of Grady, the Silo Cow, is a true story that happened in Yukon, Oklahoma, on February 22, 1949.

On February 22, 1949, Bill Mach's cow, Grady, gave birth to a stillborn calf. Grady was six years old. Since she was having trouble with the birth, Mach called a veterinarian, D. L. Crumb, to help.

Dr. Crumb tied Grady to a post so she would hold still. When he was finished taking care of her, he told Bill Mach to untie her.

Grady was very upset. When Bill Mach untied her, she whirled around and started chasing him. He jumped on a pile of cottonseed sacks to get away from her.

They were in a small shed next to a silo. The only light was from the small opening to the silo.

Grady dove for the light in the opening.

"Where'd she go?" Dr. Crumb asked Mach.

Mach and Crumb looked toward the silo opening and saw a few red hairs clinging to the edge of the heavy steel silo door. Grady was in the silo. Grady weighed 1200 pounds. The silo door was only 17 inches wide and 25 inches high. How did she get through there? How would they ever get her out?

They couldn't tear down the silo. It was too valuable. They couldn't make the opening wider because it was encased in steel.

Bill Mach asked for help through his local newspaper. The response was overwhelming. People all over the country started calling and sending telegrams and letters with suggestions. Curious people started showing up in cars and even planes.

All over the United States people were trying to find a solution to the problem. Grady was even featured in *Life* magazine, and newspapers all over the country carried the story.

One person suggested tunneling under the silo. Another suggested bringing an attractive bull to the opening to lure her out. An Air Force officer said he knew of a helicopter that would lift 1,200 pounds, but it was in San Marcos, Texas.

Three days after Grady's leap, Bill Mach got a call from Ralph Partridge, the farm editor of *The Denver Post*. He told Mach he was coming to Yukon to get Grady out of the silo.

Partridge supervised while a ramp was built from the floor of the silo to the door. The door edges were coated with axle grease. Grady was then outfitted with two heavy halters coated with axle grease. Dr. Crumb gave her two shots to make her relax. While men outside the silo pulled on ropes attached to her halters, Partridge and J.O. Dicky Jr., a Yukon vocational agriculture teacher, pushed.

She slid right through the door with only a couple of scratches along her back. Once she was out, Mach shut the silo door.

Grady went on to become a mother several times, and she was such a tourist attraction that Mach put up a small sign on Route 66 noting her home. He kept Grady in a special pen by the road.

Grady, the cow, died in July, 1961.