



Cooper telephone wire  
Skype for cowboys



## BARBED WIRE ENTHUSIAST — Jacky Smith

'I am a bit of a Lone Ranger, being a woman collector in what is mainly a man's world — and being a UK collector in what is largely an American hobby', Jacky says.

Jacky first heard of barbed wire collecting in 2001 when she and her husband were traveling Route 66. They came across the Devil's Rope, McLean, Texas. She was amazed that such a museum existed.

'I was interested but didn't realise at the time that I would become "hooked".'

When she returned to her home in Dorset, she did some research and found the history of barbed wire to be intriguing, especially the way it helped tame the Wild West — inexpensive fencing making it possible for homesteaders to start farms and ranches.

Jacky started purchasing wire, became a barbed wire collector. She prefers fancy, elaborate barbed wire. Favourites are wires with barbs shaped like stars, neckties, pretzels, etc.

She started attending barbed wire conventions, joined the Antique Barbed Wire Society, and became a subscriber and contributor to the society's magazine, *The Barbed Wire Collector*.

Jacky has been on TV and radio shows, exhibited in museums, and given talks to countless organizations.

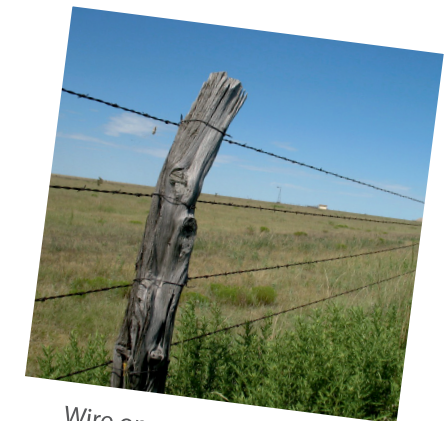
'People often say, "I thought there was only one kind of barbed wire". I prove them wrong!'

Before speaking to retired members of the Royal Engineers Association, they told her they didn't expect her to tell them anything they didn't already know about barbed wire. 'Now they constantly remind me how wrong they were!'

'I'm asked how I can talk about barbed wire for an hour. That's not my problem. My problem is limiting my talk to an hour. I could talk about barbed wire all day!'

'I was recruited for the book *Men and Sheds* a while back, my first name being Jacky, but was dropped when they discovered I was a lady. So I'm pleased to now be in this calendar.

Jacky says she intends to continue educating people about barbed wire for a long time. 'I just wish others in the UK would join me!'



Wire on ranch founded by  
Lancastrian Harry Haythornthwaite  
in 1884, largest ranch in Nebraska



Now it's time  
for a drink