



Bob Buss built this 24 by 40-ft. replica gas station in the back yard of his Wisconsin home. He parks his restored antique cars around it.

## Antique Car Collection Housed In Gas Station Replica

What better place to park your restored car collection than around a replica of a gas station that you worked at 65 years ago. That was Bob Buss' thinking when he and his two sons and grandson built a 24 by 40-ft. gas station in the back yard of his Chippewa Falls, Wis., home.

"Cities Service Company was a big company back in its day," recalls the 81-year-old, who worked part-time at "Larry's" station in Chippewa Falls from 1953 to 1955. In 1964, Cities Service Company rebranded as CITGO.

Buss spent most of his career working for a tire company. After retirement he started restoring vehicles. Three are parked outside the replica station: a 1937 Chevy truck, a 1939 Plymouth and a 1940 Ford.

Buss had photos of the station where he worked and recreated it with a steel pole shed. To duplicate Cities Service's signature stripes, he had three green strips of metal pop-riveted along the roofline.

The station includes a variety of memorabilia Buss collected over the years, including two restored gas pumps and a "Clean Restroom" sign outside. Inside there are oil cans, signs, a map holder, an old Coke machine, and green gas cans.

"It has an office in a corner, just like the station had," Buss notes, and he displays a lot of his collection there.

Recent additions to the station include a wooden folding chair that sat in the office of the original Larry's Cities Service station, given to Buss by Larry's daughter. She also gave him a photo of herself when she was 4 years old sitting in the office in that chair.

Another woman from Le Sueur, Minn., whose father also had a Cities Service



The station is a replica of the one Buss worked at 65 years ago, and includes a variety of memorabilia he collected over the years.



Station, learned of Buss' collection and sent some unique items she had, thinking it would be a great place to showcase some of her father's items.

Though everyone who's seen it thinks the gas station is great, Buss figures it needs one more thing to complete it.

"I'm building a Cities Service wrecker, a 1950 Ford cabover to fit in with the service station," Buss says.

He's building it on a 1988 Ford chassis so he can drive it on the road if he wants to.

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## You're Never Too Old For Tractor Pulling

Denny Brookins says it's never too late to start a new hobby. When he was a young man in Indiana, he raced cars and rode motorcycles. Now, at 77 in Minnesota, he's gotten into lawn tractor pulling. Instead of riding a motorcycle, he used the engine from a motorcycle to power a tractor that he built himself.

Brookins admits he didn't know anything about pulling until a couple of years ago when he went with a friend who competes.

"There happened to be a stock tractor for sale," Brookins says. He bought it, and entered a few pulling events and took second place at one of them. "I had fun and decided to build one for the 'modified' pulling division."

He built the frame with 6-in. I-beams and 3-in. angle iron, fitting it with the steering system from an old riding mower. For the

back he used a 1995 Ford 3/4-ton pickup rear end.

For power, he found a 100 hp. Goldwing motorcycle engine. Using motorcycle engines is common for lawn tractor pullers, he says, and gives them much more pulling power than stock tractors.

Brookins notes he was "winging it" when he built the tractor last winter and didn't have an opportunity to test it out. Wisely, he went early to a pull in the spring to try it before the event.

"The front end came right up," he says with a laugh. "I was all done before I even started."

He continued to compete with his stock tractor (and also use it to till his garden with a chisel plow he built) while modifying the home-built tractor.

"It was too fast on the takeoff with too high of gears in it, so I put in a jackshaft to gear it

**FARM SHOW**



Old-style hearse was built on a 1925 Ford Model TT cab and chassis, and has decorative moldings on the sides along with an antique fire extinguisher.

## Home-Built "Antique" Hearse Built From Scratch

Ted Hawk built an old-style hearse on a 1925 Ford Model TT cab and chassis. The antique-looking hearse has an ornate box on the rear that is long enough for a casket. Reporter Rachel Wagoner captured the effort recently in an article for Farm and Dairy and shared it and the photos with FARM SHOW.

Hawk built the hearse at the request of an older brother. "My brother said, 'When I go, I want to have a wake in the parlor and be buried in the family cemetery'."

Hawk has held wakes in the 1898 family home and buried 5 siblings and his parents in the family cemetery up the hill. The problem he thought about with his brother is that he lives 90 miles away. Hawk's solution was to build a hearse to bring him home.

Hawk has restored a line up of old Fords from 1912 to 1929. He naturally chose to use the 1-ton truck version of a Model TT for the base. A pickup truck when he bought it, the

Model TT was designed for multiple uses, such as milk truck, van or even a hearse.

As part of the restoration, Hawk and his nephew, Mark Runk, swapped out the original 2-gear transmission for a Rocky Mountain 3-speed. That boosted top speed from 17 to 25 mph.

He built the basic box for the hearse out of wood he cut and milled on his own property. Hawk purchased decorative moldings online to embellish the sides. His daughter created a stained glass window for the front of the box and 2 more for the rear. Four windows line each side, and an antique fire extinguisher is mounted to one side of the box.

When his brother dies, Hawk plans to hold a funeral procession with the hearse and other antique cars owned by the family. The cortege will bring his brother home in a trip expected to take 7 or 8 hrs. on side roads.



Denny Brookins used the 100 hp. engine off a motorcycle to power his home-built pulling tractor.



down. It was light on the front so I've added 100 lbs. of weights," he explains.

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