



Russ Darnell moved this 1920's gas station 20 miles to his home near Hutchinson, Minn., where he restored it, complete with a pair of gas pumps.

## Man Moved Antique Gas Station To His Home

Russ Darnell is an avid collector of gas station antiques. So when he learned that a local 1920's gas station was about to be torn down, he got permission to move it 20 miles to his home near Hutchinson, Minn.

He put the building on dolly wheels, and pulled it home with a 1-ton, 4-WD pickup.

"There was more to the moving job than I thought there would be. But I'm glad I did it," says Darnell, who has gathered gas station memorabilia from all over the country.

The tiny gas station was one of the first of its kind. It consists of a 12 by 20-ft. stucco house with a 22-ft. high roof.

The original structure opened as a Standard Oil gas station in the 1920's. In the 1940's, it was called Eastside Oil. Most recently, the tall and narrow building had been painted yellow with bright pink trim and was used as a take-out fried chicken shack. When Darnell got the building, the outdoor gas pumps had long since been removed.

It took a full year of dealing with red tape before he was able to get permission to move

the structure.

It took him two years to restore the station to what it looks like today. During the renovation process, he found hidden treasures in the attic such as old newspapers, checks made out to Eastside Oil from the 1940's, and a metal sign which had never been taken out of its box. That sign now hangs over the door and is the only original decoration amidst many other gas station antiques.

Outside, he installed a pair of Sinclair gas pumps - ones from a later era, around 1934. "The original gas pumps were called 'visibles' because you the level of gas through glass panes," says Darnell. Between the two pumps he installed a signpost that he got from another Sinclair gas station.

He now uses the antique gas station as storage for his collectibles. All the signs and pumps are removed for winter storage inside and then reinstalled during the summer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Russ Darnell, 20502 Hwy. 15 N., Hutchinson, Minn. 55350 (ph 320 587-6495).



Stuart Judd of Queensland, Australia, built this "rolling barbeque" to look like a Massey Ferguson tractor.

## Farmer Creates Massey Barbeque

Stuart Judd of Queensland, Australia, really likes Massey Ferguson tractors. He also likes to barbeque. One day he got the idea of combining both interests by making a Massey Ferguson barbeque.

He built a frame to hold a barbeque grill and then fitted it with garden tractor wheels, a steering wheel, seat, and an up-front radiator with MF decals. There's no engine but the tractor grill rolls around easily when pushed.

A tractor hood fits over the grill for en-

closed cooking and storage, and he painted it in MF colors.

"In all, it took about two weeks to build. It gets used regularly in the summer, as Australians love to cook on the barbeque and drink heaps of cold beer!"

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stuart Judd, Judd Bros. Silage Contractors, Swanfels Rd., Yangan, Queensland, Australia 4371 (ph 011 617 4664-8329; fax 011 617-4664-8008; email: juddbros@flexi.net.au).

**FARM  
SHOW®**



This IH Cub Cadet, owned by Paul Bell, is one of a reported 10 original prototypes.

## Cub Cadet Prototype A Collector's Jewel

"Rare," and "historically important," are two terms that have been used to describe Paul Bell's International Harvester Cub Cadet prototype number 409, one of a reported 10 prototypes ever built.

The Cub Cadet is one of the most popular garden tractors ever built and early models are coveted by many collectors today.

According to "Farm Collector" magazine, Bell's prototype machine provides "a unique historic and engineering perspective into the styling as well as mechanics of the first line of Cub Cadet tractors introduced in 1961."

Bell stumbled onto the prototype through an IH Cub Cadet internet forum he belongs to. Another user said he had an unusual unit that had been his father's, and that he was interested in selling it. First he wanted to know what it was.

"Of those of us on the forum, I was the closest to him geographically, so I said I'd drive up and take a look at it," Bell says. "Eventually, I made him an offer, he accepted it, and I took possession of it in May of this year."

Louisville, Kentucky, where Bell lives, was also the home of IH's Cub Cadet factory. They were produced there from 1961 until 1981.

Majer's dad worked as an electrical engineer at the IH test center in Hindsdale, Illinois, which was how he came into the pos-

session of the Cub Cadet 409. In fact, the senior Majer kept copies of his own test reports, which Bell now has, so he knows that Majer had put 71 hours of use on the tractor with the mowing deck during the testing process.

IH had used the 400 series numbers in the past on prototype and experimental equipment. "IH Tractor Committee Reports" state there were 10 prototype Cub Cadets built between Oct. 5 and Oct. 14, 1960. Six of them went for testing to the engineering test center in Hindsdale, according to Bell. His 409 was assigned the engineering test number "QFE1911," according to the paper trail, but the tractor's data plate that would have corresponded to this was lost when tractor's frame broke and was replaced.

During pre-production, IH built 25 Cub Cadet test units with serial numbers that started with 501.

"I think, but can't verify, that the 401 to the 403 were experimental tractors, and the 404 to 413 were prototypes. I've only heard of one other prototype still around - number 411," he says.

Bell's tractor is equipped with an hour meter, which read 1,547.3 hours when he purchased it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Bell, 247 Eldorado Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40218 (ph 502 491-8876).

## Have You Renewed Your Subscription?

Don't miss our next issue! Check your mailing label on front of this issue to see when your subscription expires.

To renew, use the order envelope enclosed with this issue, or the order coupon on page 44.

Or call us toll-free at 1-800-834-9665.