

Where to Buy A Horse-Drawn Wagon, Carriage

The ancient trade of wagon-building is alive and well in North America. Despite the current economic downturn, horse-drawn carriage and wagon builders report business is brisk.

Many told us waiting times for new wagon orders run two to three months. If you're looking for a fancy carriage, the wait can be two to six months, depending on the maker and the design.

Norman Wegler, Odon, Indiana, has been building horsedrawn vehicles full time for about 10 years. "We custom build just about any type of vehicle you might want, from doctor's buggies to sleighs," he says. "We make a nice little sleigh that will fit through a 3 ft. door, so you don't need a large building or garage to store it."

Joe Tetz, owner of Tetz Coach and Hearse Company, New Tripoli, Pennsylvania, specializes in hearses and caissons. "I make one style of hearse. It's based on those made in the 1800's, but has been modified to hold the larger caskets we use today," he says. Tetz

says caissons for use in funerals can be delivered in about six weeks. Tetz also makes a variety of other wagons and carriages.

Don Werner, Werner Wagon Works, Horton, Kansas, builds and restores replica wagons, coaches and carriages from the latter half of the 1800's and the early 1900's. His specialty is making new reproduction covered wagons and stagecoaches for a wide variety of clientele, from farmers to museums.

"I use original plans for Conestoga wagons and Prairie Schooners. I've researched farm wagons from that period and make them as authentic as possible," he says. Werner, like many of the full-time wagon builders, is also a wheelwright and does most of his own iron work for wheel rims, trim and reinforcement on the period wagons he builds.

Plans are available from several sources if you'd like to build your own reproduction wagon, sleigh or coach. And we found one wagon dealer to call if you'd like to buy a used wagon.



Dave Shea, Wolcott, Conn., sells new and used wagons.

Horse-Drawn Vehicle Makers

Custom Farm Wagons
5170 Martin Rd.
Kinzers, Penn. 17535
ph 717 768-7566

Werner Wagon Works
1705 Yates Road
Horton, Kansas 66439
ph 785 486-3758
Website: www.rainbowtel.net/~wagons
E-mail: wagons@rainbotel.net

Tetz Coach and Hearse Co.
New Tripoli, Penn.
ph 610 298-3017
Website:
www.horsedrawnfunerals.com
E-mail: jtetz@aol.com

Hansen Wheel and Wagon Shop
40979 245th Street
Letcher, S. Dak. 57359
ph 605 996-8754
Website: www.hansonwheel.com

Wegler's Carriages and Wagons
Rt. 1 33-A
Odon, Ind. 47562
ph 812 636-8015

Nevin Stitzer
4439 Penns Valley Road, Box 272
Spring Mills, Penn. 16875
ph 814 234-1597

Steve Lowe
Trailer-RV Ranch
Box 27
Ionia, Iowa 50645
ph 641 394-3680

Jerald Sulky Company
3050 Wagner Road
Waterloo, Iowa 50703
ph 319 234-6195
Website: www.jeraldsulky.com
E-mail: jeraldmg@aol.com



Werner Wagon Works

Western Wheel & Wagon
Box 10
Wolf Point, Montana 59201
ph 406 653-1609
Website: www.westernwheel-wagon.com

Jerry K. Brown Custom Wagons
15433 Co. Rd. 624
Dexter, Mo. 63841
ph 573 624-4755

Shiloh Wagon Works
Rt. 1, Box 109
Vining, Minn. 56588
ph 218 769-4444

Les Voitures Robert & Fils
715 Haut Petit Rang St. Francois
St-Pie-de-Bagot, QC J0H 1W0
ph 800 438-5221
Website: www.gsig-net.qc.ca/voitrobert
E-mail: voiturobert@gsig-net.qc.ca

Bill Schuil
Pacific Carriage Co.
26272 98th Ave.
Maple Ridge, BC
ph 604 462-7370
Website:
www.pacificcarriage.com

Graham Carriage Works
4636 S.E. 30th
Portland, Oregon 97202
ph 503 232-3745
Website: <http://home.pacifier.com/~carriage/>
E-mail: carriage@pacifier.com

Justin Carriage Works
7615 S M-66
Nashville, Mich.
ph 517 852 9743
Website: www.buggy.com
E-mail: herb@buggy.com

John & Sue Greenall
268 Kings Highway
West Windsor, Vermont 5089
ph 802 436-2266
Website: greenall@vermontel.com
E-mail: greenall@vermontel.com

White Mud River Carriage and Wagon Works
Box 98
Climax, Sask. SON ONO
ph 306 293-2031
Website: www.3.telus.net/whitemudcarriage/



Carriage from Wegler Carriages, Odon, Ind.



Wagon built by Shiloh Wagon Works.

Do-It-Yourself Horse-Drawn Vehicle Plans

Wild Horse Books & Art
255 Boulder Road
Deer Lodge, Montana 59722
ph 406 846-3686
Website:
www.ruralheritage.com/plans
E-mail: horsebk@imine.net

Smithsonian Institution/Carriage Drawings
Room 5010
National Museum of American History
Washington, D.C. 20560-0628

Carriage Museum of America
Box 417
Bird-In-Hand, Penn. 17505
ph 717 656-7019

Oregon Historical Society Press
1200 Southwest Park Ave.
Portland, Ore. 97205-2483
Phone Orders: 503 306-5233
Fax: 503 478-3033
Website: <http://www.over-land.com/cccoach.html> or <http://www.over-land.com/coachplans.html>
E-mail: deans@ohs.org

Dealer

Dave Shea
48 Center Street, Rt. 322
Wolcott, Ct. 06716
ph 203 879-3169

Restorations

Ron Grieme
1282 180th Street
Schaller, Iowa 51053
ph 712 275-4431

Garage Door Opener Powers Sliding Door On Machine Shed

After he got tired of manually opening and closing the 15-ft. sliding door on his machine shed, Clifford Brandenburger, Beecher City, Ill., decided to modify a conventional garage door opener to open and close the door automatically.

"I use it a half dozen times a day. It works like a charm," says Brandenburger.

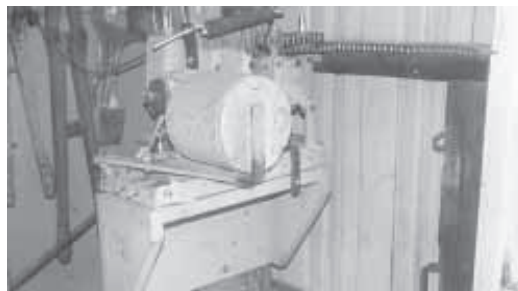
He mounted the entire opener unit on an angle iron tray that bolts onto one side of the door opening, about 4 ft. off the ground. He attached a length of chain horizontally across the width of the door. He mounted a right angle gearbox on the opener to convert the opener's horizontal driveshaft to a vertical shaft.

A 2-in. sprocket chain-drives a 5-in. dia. sprocket that engages the roller chain on the

door. A heavy-duty spring, mounted on a threaded rod and anchored to the door frame, holds the motor tight against the door.

A hand-controlled lever is used to disengage the opener so that the door can be opened manually.

"It really works good," says Brandenburger, who installed the door opener about one year ago. "The extra gearbox provides a double worm gear drive so it has a lot of power. It didn't cost much to build. Someone gave me the door opener and my son gave me the gearbox, which came off a pump. The motor doesn't have an automatic shutoff so I have to stand by the door until it's opened or closed and then shut the motor off. There's a slip clutch on the unit so if I don't get the motor shut off in time it won't



Garage door opener drives a length of roller chain attached to machine shed door.

break anything.

"To attach the roller chain to the top of board on the door I cut the chain into 12-in. long pieces, then removed pins in the chain

links and replaced them with deck screws."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clifford Brandenburger, Rt. 2, Beecher City, Ill. 62414 (ph 618 487-5247).