

Company Does Gas Pump Restoration

A Cocoa, Fla. company called "Past Gas" specializes in restoring and selling antique gas pumps, among other nostalgic, hard-to-find items.

It was established in 1986 by Walt and Terry Kostrzewa, who explain that their business grew from a hobby.

"Since that time, we've expanded our services to include air stations, neon clocks, traffic lights, barber poles, bumper cars, soda machines and many other bits of American nostalgia," Walt says. "Our customers include private collectors and restoration buffs, as well as restaurants, nightclubs, movie/TV production companies and decorators."

Since their inventory is subject to availability, Past Gas is always in the market for unrestored items.

When available, the Kostrzewas handle "visible pumps," which are typical 20's era gas pumps. Prices on these rare gems range from \$3,500 to \$5,800 each. Pumps from the 1930's to 50's era are usually priced from \$1,995 to \$4,500.

"If you'd prefer to do your own restoration, please request our Gas Pump Restoration Catalog for replacement parts," Walt says.

Restored bumper cars can be special ordered, and prices range from \$3,500 to \$4,200. Motorized versions are available for \$5,800 to \$6,200. The Kostrzewas also have unrestored cars for sale for do-it-yourselfers.

Past Gas also handles "display items," such as nostalgic replicas of oil cans and racks, travel map racks, drive-in speakers, neon clocks (both old original and replicas), and

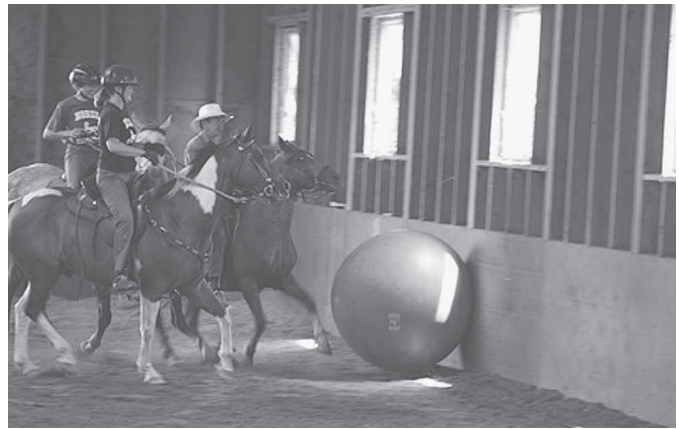


A Florida company specializes in restoring antique gas pumps, as well as other nostalgic, hard-to-find items.

gas company weather vane replicas.

"We're constantly buying restorable items, so please contact us if you have something to sell or trade. However, we don't do appraisals, so we won't answer 'what's this worth' questions," Terry points out. "Call us for a free catalog or, if you're in the area, stop by and visit our showroom. We're one hour east of Orlando, and one hour south of Daytona."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Past Gas, Walt and Terry Kostrzewa, 308 Willard St., Cocoa, Fla. 32922 (ph 321 636-0449 (inquiries and tech questions), 877 727-8427 (orders only); 24-hr. fax 321 636-1006; mail@pastgas.com; www.pastgas.com).



The game of horse soccer is played using a 50-in. rubber ball.

Trainer Discovers Her Horse Loves Soccer

The game of horse soccer was invented two years ago by horse trainer Renee Miller, who was trying to help a skittish horse be less fearful of objects in its path. She walked the horse while rolling a 50-in. rubber ball in front of it. In time, the horse got used to the ball.

She then gently pushed the ball against the animal's legs. To her surprise, the horse kicked the ball. Soon he began whacking it all over the place.

She told her husband, Randy: "Bring the horses. We're going to teach them to play soccer."

It was so much fun the Miller's set up a website to promote the new sport and offer a training kit with a DVD and a horse soccer ball.

They claim any horse can be trained to play

in 15 minutes. The optimum number of players is 4 on a side with three active riders and one goalie.

"If you just go out there and start rolling that ball at your horse, you're going to scare him to death," says Miller. "There's a specific training method you use to get them to kind of hook onto the ball and push it."

Horse soccer can be played by one horse - just for exercise or by full teams. For goals, you can use gates, barrels, cones, etc.

The ball and instructional DVD sell for \$59.95 plus S&H. The ball alone sells for \$45.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Horse Soccer, Inc., 7111 W. 151st St., Stall no. 311, Overland Park, Kansas 66223 (ph 877 984-6773; www.horsesoccer.com).

Pat Prom built this 1/2-scale Deere 5010 diesel tractor. "It took about two years to build, but I'm happy how it turned out," he says.



1/2-Scale Deere 5010

"It's built to look as real as possible and even has authentic controls for the driver, including the throttle, shift lever, and hydraulic lever," says Pat Prom, Eden Prairie, Minn., about the 1/2-scale Deere 5010 diesel tractor he built.

The tractor is equipped with an 18 hp Yanmar 3-cyl. engine and the hydrostatic transmission and rear transaxle off a Deere 300 garden tractor. The rear wheels are off the back of a combine. They had a 6-bolt pattern, while the garden tractor's hydrostatic rear axle had a 5-bolt pattern. So Prom made an adapter plate and bolted it to the center of the hub to mesh the two wheels together. "It makes the wheels look just like the cast iron wheels on a real 5010," says Prom.

He used channel iron to build the frame and bent sheet metal to form the body. A round fuel tank mounts in front of the radiator. To make the radiator grill, he bought a section of screen and then made a tool to bend it back and forth to produce the ripples in the screen. The hood was made by splicing together the hoods from two smaller Deere 110

garden tractors.

"To make the headlights I went to Menards and bought some pvc cups, then inserted plastic lenses - normally used as ceiling grid lights. I also bought clearance lights at NAPA, removed the rubber rings around them, and mounted the rings between the lenses and the pvc cups as a cushion," says Prom.

The seat looks just like the original one and is made from vinyl over a metal frame. The steering wheel is off the Deere 300 garden tractor. He made the exhaust muffler by squeezing 4-in. dia. pipe until it was oval.

The front wheels are off a Japanese-made tractor and weren't as wide as what he wanted, so he cut the rims and widened them and then made a 6-bolt design. He used rectangular tubing to build the front axle.

"It took about two years to build. I had to figure out a lot of different things, but I'm happy how it turned out," notes Prom.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pat Prom, 12661 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55347 (ph 952 944-9266).



"People come from miles around to see them," says Larry Parker, who mounted about 250 bowling balls on stakes in a meadow near his farm house.

Bowling Ball "Art"

Larry Parker mounted about 250 bowling balls on stakes on a 3-acre meadow near his farm house. He calls it "art".

The balls, in all colors of the rainbow, are simply stuck on top of poles driven into the ground. The balls are set at different heights - some up to 5 ft. off the ground - and spaced randomly.

"The idea started out 10 years ago as a joke on my grandkids, but since then it has taken on a life of its own. People come from miles around to see them," says Parker, of Freeman, Mo. "It's so stupid that it's magnificent."

To fool his grandkids, he put two bowling balls in a big nest made out of an old Christmas wreath. "I told them there was a big bird on my property and they should go look for any eggs it might have laid. Of course, after a few years the kids realized they were just bowling balls. By this time, I had collected eight or nine bowling balls and I started sticking them on old tent poles. Passersby would stop and ask about them."

He gets most of his bowling balls at garage sales and auctions. "Anytime I find a bowling ball for 50 cents, I would buy it. I already had more than 100 bowling balls

when a Kansas City newspaper did a story on them. One day a lady who had read the story came out with a pickup full of bowling balls - about 120 in all - and asked if I wanted any. Her sister had recently closed a bowling alley and dumped the balls on her farm, so she dumped them on me. That doubled my production immediately."

Parker says he isn't fussy about the kind of bowling balls he uses. "I'll take anything I can find that has finger holes."

To mount the balls, he uses everything from tent poles to electric fence poles. "I've got more money invested in poles than I do in bowling balls," he says.

Not all of the balls he owns are in the field yet. He says anyone who comes by his place has to put a ball in the field. "That makes them an accessory to the crime, so they can't call me crazy."

A disproportionate number of the balls are located close to his house. "Apparently there are a lot of wimps who don't want to carry a ball very far before they place it," he jokes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Parker, 7208 E. Pony Creek Rd., Freeman, Mo. 64746 (ph 816 899-2905; mokancomm.net).