



A wide variety of vintage metal signs are available from Winfield Consumer Products. Some of the signs are modern, original designs meant to entertain, such as "The Busted Knuckle Garage - Repair and Despair Under One Roof".

## They Sell Signs Of The Past

With over 100 vintage metal signs in their product line, a Winfield, Kansas company has something for everyone.

Winfield Consumer Products makes a wide variety of signs licensed from GM, Texaco, Phillips 66, Gulf Oil, Sinclair Oil, Goodyear, and many others, including aviation fuel and oils, raceways/drag strips, collector model vehicles, Route 66 and "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas, Nevada".

In addition, some of the products are modern, original designs meant to entertain, such as "The Busted Knuckle Garage - Repair and Despair Under One Roof".

Every sign has a story behind it, whether rooted in history or fantasy, so each one comes with a short synopsis. For example, the Indian Motorcycles sign is described this way: "Indian Motorcycles were manufactured from 1901 to 1954. This 'laughing Indian' drawing was used on a patch which Indian riders sewed to the seats of their britches. They would then pass Harley riders and el-

evate their behinds in salute. The 50-year war between the two motorcycle giants even produced poetry: 'You'll never wear out the Indian Scout, or its brother the Indian Chief. They're built like rocks to take hard knocks. It's the Harleys that cause the grief.'"

SignPast's one-sided signs are made from 18-ga. steel with 1/8-in. mounting holes. Round and shield signs are 25 1/2-in. dia. The company also sells red, white, blue, yellow and green "neon bases" which fit all SignPast round signs.

Most of the basic signs are priced in the \$100 range (plus S&H), but the bigger neon signs go all the way up to \$4,000. Neon bases cost \$358.45 each (plus S&H).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Winfield Consumer Products, Inc., Box 839, Winfield, Kansas 67156 (ph 800 344-8759 or 620 221-2268; fax 620 221-7442; husky@huskyliners.com; www.huskyliners.com).



**Ralph Tucker welded racehorse shoes together to make this full-size horse. He uses racehorse shoes because they're all similar in size and estimates there are about 450 horseshoes in the sculpture.**

## Horses Built From Racehorse "Shoes"

If old horseshoes were more plentiful, Ralph Tucker might have a full-time job welding horse statues. Three racehorse owners have seen the full-size Appaloosa at his home near Lincoln, Delaware, and asked if he could make them one.

"I started building it for the fun of it," says Tucker, a retired carpenter. "I've been around horses since I was big enough to lead one."

He lives near a large racetrack and when a friend brought over a pile of horseshoes, Tucker started welding. At first, he made a small version with a young boy riding it.

To get started with his full-size version, he drew the horse on plywood. He cleaned the horseshoes well, washing them in acid, then wire brushed them so the welds will be strong. Racehorse shoes are the easiest to work with, he says, because they're all simi-

lar in size. He estimates there are about 450 horseshoes in the sculpture. He painted the horse with black and white spray paint and welded it to two iron posts in his front yard and built a wooden cart behind it with an aluminum bottom for his wife, Hazel, to plant flowers.

He's added horseshoe men riding and standing by the cart and built benches and other yard ornaments. This winter he worked on an express wagon with a little boy pulling it.

"I've had more people stop here and take pictures," Tucker says. People have wanted to buy the Appaloosa, but he's not interested in selling.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ralph Tucker, 8473 Shawnee Rd., Lincoln, Delaware 19960 (ph 302 422-9298).



**Dale Luttig and his wife have traveled to more than 20 countries to add to their license plate collection, which totals more than 80,000 plates.**

## License Plate Collection Tops 80,000

Dale Luttig's license plate collection has grown from a handful of plates kept by his mother to more than 80,000 plates from about 75 countries. He and his wife Carol have traveled to more than 20 countries, in part to add to the license plate collection. The rest have come in trades or purchases.

"I've gone as far south as Tasmania and as far north as Barrow, Alaska looking for license plates," says Luttig. "I have plates from every province in Canada and every state in Mexico, Australia and the U.S."

His Kansas plates are at the heart of the collection. Not only does he have plates from all 25 counties in the state, he has one or more from every year in every county from 1913 on. That doesn't count the 23 additional sets of all 25 counties in Kansas for many years.

Another set he has been putting together consists of consecutively numbered plates. He is now six plates short of having 6,700 in a row.

"I have 11,000 plates on display on the walls in my storage buildings," says Luttig, who claims to have no good reason for collecting them. "I don't know why I started collecting, except that my mother had a bunch from local counties, and I wanted a complete set."

Luttig buys and sells plates, sometimes in large amounts. His biggest purchase was 64,000 plates from one collector, but more common are the individual purchases and sales.

"I figure I have averaged about 10¢ per plate that I have bought," says Luttig. "I had an offer of \$100,000 for my complete collection, but I said no. What would I do if I



**Dale and his wife, Carol, with a display of their family's customized Kansas license plates.**

While he doesn't want to sell out yet, he does sell parts of the collection or individual plates. Sales can surprise even the long time collector. One 1913 Kansas plate that was thrown in on a small collection Luttig purchased brought \$572 on the internet. Another internet sale brought \$2,800 for a leather license plate he stumbled across while having some work done on his car. Leather plates were issued by Kansas municipalities prior to statewide licensing. Luttig reports paying only \$50 for it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Luttig, 9565 Hwy. 63, Emmett, Kansas 66422 (ph 785 535-2610).

## Engine Mailbox Holds Lots of Mail

You can't miss Nova Inc. It's the business with a mailbox made out of a Chevy small block engine. Actually the engine isn't real - though it managed to fool a few racers when it was first welded out of 1/8-in. plate steel and painted up in James Nova's LaPorte, Ind., shop.

"The turning point came when I realized I didn't need to use a real engine block," Nova says. His fake engine reduced the potential weight of the box from 1,000 lbs. to about 300 lbs., Nova says, and that includes real engine accessories.

With a shop full of stock car racing parts, his mailbox has a variety of first class accessories bolted and welded on to make it look real.

Nova's mailbox held up well through its first winter, though paint touchups may be necessary on parts affected by road salt. Nova built the mailbox to regulation height and added flags. Amagnet holds the door securely and a grid floor inside the box ensures a dry place for mail.

"It's a high capacity mailbox," says Nova, who recently built a second engine mailbox



**"Fake engine" was welded out of 1/8-in. steel plate. A variety of accessories are bolted and welded on to make it look real.**

to auction off at fundraisers. He hopes it'll bring as much as \$4,000.

He says he comes up with automotive artistry "if you give me a year to think about it."

He also credits his good mechanic and fabricator, Max Mangold, who tweaks and refines his ideas for the final artistic result.

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