



Bob Anderson's 1913 Model 18-35 Titan tractor brought \$375,000 at a Canadian auction last summer.

## Century-Old Tractor Sells For A Fortune

When Bob Anderson brought three loads of parts and the skeleton of a Titan tractor to his MacGregor, Man., farm in 1978, he had no idea the antique tractor would be worth \$375,000 at an auction 33 years later. The August 1<sup>st</sup> sale at a Canadian auction may be the highest in history for a single tractor.

It's rather ironic since the 1913 Model 18-35 Titan was something of a dud. According to history Anderson has read, the model was manufactured in Chicago from 1912 to 1916. The plan was to make 259 of them, but there were so many complaints from buyers that the company's board of directors voted to stop making them after the 119th.

The 18-35 hp Titan had twin cylinders and a twin crank. A variable speed governor gave the operator a choice of 120 or 425 rpm's. It had a centrifugal water pump and large water tank, and was started on gasoline and then switched to kerosene after it warmed up. It had a sliding gear-type transmission with friction clutch.

Most were scrapped during WW II so that Anderson's is one of only two running models known to exist. The other one is in North Dakota.

The tractor was purchased new in 1915 by Joseph Bowes in High Bluff, Man. There is no record of what it cost. The Titan was used for threshing and one time to plow 50 acres. In 1926, Stan Bowes purchased it for \$350 at a family estate sale and used it for threshing until he parked it in 1927. Later, he tore it apart with the plan to restore it. But the tractor remained in pieces. Anderson, who farmed and collected International Harvester tractors, learned about it and visited Bowes in July of 1978. That fall, in the midst of harvest he got a 5 a.m. call: "If you still want it, come get it."

Though the tractor was free, he paid plenty in labor to put it back together.

"At that time there was no other tractor like it to go by. It was just a big jigsaw puzzle," Anderson recalls. "Some days half a dozen parts would match and fit, and the next day I couldn't get any to fit."

Anderson pulled the skeleton Titan into his shop with four 300-watt yard lights and a wood stove. He worked on it over the winter between caring for beef cattle and his other

chores. He completed it by the following summer. All the parts were there except for the cast iron exhaust. Anderson used cast iron water pipes to replace it. When it was assembled, he used another tractor to help crank the flywheel to start it along with the ignition that Stan Bowes had cobbled together.

"It's a two-man job to start it – one strong man to roll it over and a guy in the cab. Once it starts to fire, away it will go," Anderson says.

He kept the Titan stored inside and took it to area shows along with other tractors in his collection. After a close call with colon cancer, the 85-year-old decided to sell his IH collection so his wife, Arlene, wouldn't have to deal with it later.

Murray Rankin Auctions and Ross Taylor Auction Service teamed up to promote and organize the auction.

"I started to work on it 11 months before the auction," Murray Rankin says. It was advertised in U.S. magazines and on the internet. With calls coming from all over the world, Anderson and the auction companies expected the Titan would bring in a good price.

"It's a rare model you just can't find. This year it will be 100 – and it's running. You can't get more of a collectible than that," Rankin says.

Dudley Diebold of Roxbury, Conn., was determined to purchase the Titan, and he made the successful bid through an agent present at the auction. The auction, which drew 800 bidders, also included another 50 or so IH tractors from Anderson's collection. "I miss it," Anderson admits regarding the Titan. "I hated to see it leave the yard, but it was the right thing to do at the time."

Now, at 86, he's turned his attention to his other collectibles including steam engines – one with a boiler built Dec. 20, 1912.

And though his doctor has warned him to take it easy because of health issues, he admits he loves to spend time in his shop.

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Nell Riccatone bought a dilapidated outhouse to use as a potting shed in her yard, and that led to an outhouse collection that has turned into a local tourist attraction.

## Pottytown Gives Old Outhouses New Life

When Nell Riccatone bought a dilapidated outhouse to use as a potting shed in her yard near Glenwood, Minn., she had no idea it would lead to a dozen such "large lawn ornaments" dubbed Pottytown by her neighbors. The outhouse collection has turned into a local tourist attraction.

"Outhouses are not as easy to find as you would think. The bottom line is they are being torn down or destroyed and will disappear," Riccatone says. "My friend Gary and I just want to keep these little pieces of history alive. Their contribution should be recorded in some way."

Gary Hoover is a semi-retired farmer and auctioneer. He transports the old buildings by tipping them onto a snowmobile trailer covered with tires. He repairs the old buildings on his farm.

The oldest building in the collection is more than a century old. The biggest is a 12-ft. long, his-and-hers toilet from a church. Riccatone, Hoover and neighborhood volunteers decorate each outhouse by theme using cheap materials they pick up at garage sales.

Riccatone and Hoover invite visitors to wander through their growing outhouse village for free.

The "potting shed" turned into "Summer" the first of the four season-themed sheds. They were followed by a Huntin' Fishin' Shack, the Wild, Wild West and the popular Throne Room where guests love to have their photos taken.

Riccatone and Hoover enjoy Pottytown potlucks with their neighbors, who have taken on roles such as "mayor" and "inspector". Neighbors are pleased to have their photos on Most Wanted posters in the Wild, Wild West building.

The buildings – including the seats – are kept intact as much as possible. As a retired



Her friend Gary Hoover repairs the old buildings on his farm and transports them to Nell's home.



Neighborhood volunteers decorate each outhouse by theme, using cheap materials they pick up at garage sales.

special education teacher, Riccatone uses Pottytown to teach lessons on history and recycling. One outhouse is a Trading Post where people can leave an item and take another. She's seen everything from skates to a new George Foreman grill.

New projects include posting its history and building a mini jail cell using iron bars from Glenwood's jail built in the late 1800's.

Guests are welcome anytime from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

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