



With assistance from a couple of younger helpers, 88-year-old Bob Anderson is still restoring popcorn wagons and trucks. Photo above shows a restored original popcorn wagon from Florida.



Recently the three men started work on two popcorn trucks made from frames of 1928 and 1930 Model AA Fords.

They Love Restoring Old Popcorn Trucks

Since our original report about 88-year-old Bob Anderson's popcorn wagons and trucks appeared in FARM SHOW (Vol. 32, Issue 6), we've heard about a couple of new projects that he took on with the help of a couple of younger helpers, who plan to continue his work.

"Once you meet Bob you can't get out of there," says Denny May, a neighbor who often joins Anderson and another neighbor, Doug Erickson, in the workshop. "We like working the trucks and people like them. Some have them in museums. Another is in an air show where they sell popcorn."

The finished units look just like the popcorn vending machines powered by steam, built by Creators, a Chicago-based company. They started out as hand-pulled carts in 1893 and developed into horse-drawn models and eventually trucks.

The trio finds the trucks the most challenging and appealing.

"We made two (recently), from the frames of 1928 and 1930 Model AA Fords. The only difference is a little heavier suspension in the 1930 and different rims on the two. We built these from scratch to all the Creators specs," May says.

May admits the 1930 version isn't leaving the shop. The trio made one like it before, and he regretted that they sold it. This one is his.

The style was from a light production run, so not many were made. The modern version has a stainless steel popper area and runs on electricity "with an electrified toasty, roasty man." They hired master craftsmen to complete some of the details - the plating and striping and glue chip glass and blue flash glass, for example. There are no decals; everything is quality craftsmanship.

Another project they completed recently was a restoration of an original popcorn wagon from Florida.

"They are just so cool to look at," May says. Collectors, museum owners and vendors who use them for various venues think so too, so the popcorn units don't stick around long.

Currently, the trio is trying something a little different, building popcorn "cars" on frames of two Model A cars. They should be completed early next year, May says, and will be the perfect conversation piece for the guy who has everything — and likes popcorn.

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"They're just so cool to look at," says Denny May.

Trailer Helps Ailing Dog Keep Doing His Job

"I've been confined to a wheelchair for 7 years. My dog Jake was abandoned as a puppy on the road in front of our farm about a week before I got my wheelchair. Since then he's gone everywhere with me and does a lot of little chores for me, like picking up things I drop," says Mike Reedy, Powell, Tenn.

"Unfortunately, Jake has hip dysplasia and can't keep up with the golf cart I use to get around the farm. Sometimes he would arrive home 30 min. after me because he couldn't keep up.

"After seeing Jake suffer, my dad and I fabricated a one-wheeled trailer that's easy for Jake to hop into. After about a week of encouragement, Jake now rides with me everywhere I go. He even sleeps in the trailer while I'm working in my shop.

"The trailer's tongue is hinged on both sides, allowing the trailer to swivel from side to side. Its caster wheel is also hinged, allowing the trailer to ride smoothly up and down over bumps. The caster wheel causes the trailer to follow directly behind the golf cart as I back up," says Reedy.

He bought the caster wheel from Northern Tool and Equipment. "Everything else that I used came from my scrap pile or hardware cabinet," notes Reedy.

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Mike Reedy made this one-wheeled trailer for his dog Jake so he could easily accompany Reedy around the farm.

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