

Rodman's windmill collection of over 40 full-size windmills includes unique and rare pieces.



Brazil, Mexico, Canada, South Africa and Australia. He wanted one from Spain, but couldn't arrange shipment, so he built a replica from pictures.

Every windmill in Rodman's collection has a working fan that spins in the breeze, some providing the familiar sound of metal scratching metal as pump arms move up and down.

"Some people restore tractors, cars, farm equipment and other things, but I find this more to my liking," Rodman says. It also lets him meet a lot of interesting people because they stop in to see his handiwork firsthand.

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## Retired Blacksmith Built A Working Windmill Farm

Terry Rodman says he went a little overboard when his wife Kris asked him to put up a small windmill for their yard in the 1990's, but he's glad he did. Instead of buying a lawn-size windmill, he used his blacksmith and carpentry skills to build one more than 40 ft. tall. "If we're going to have a windmill, it might as well be full size," Rodman says. That project started his "windmill fever" that's continued for

three decades.

His collection has grown to more than 40 full-size working windmills that are erected around his yard. Another 50 or so are piled across the road, awaiting his refurbishing skills.

Rodman says every one of his windmills holds special meaning, and he's happy to share stories with people who stop in to see them. His collection holds a rare, scooped blade Iron Turbine, an all-metal device built in the early 1900's, that he acquired as a pile of scrap from a fence line on a California farm. After hauling it home he rebuilt it to

like-new condition.

That same treatment went into a wooden model with the brand name Bright and a patent date of 1880 on the tail. Rodman located it on a windmill junk pile in southwest Texas and completely restored it. He believes it's the only one in existence.

While many of his windmills were made in the USA, which at one time had more than 300 manufacturers, his collection has a strong international theme. He imported one model from the Netherlands after seeing it there while he and his wife traveled to her native country. Others are from China, Argentina,



Windmills in the collection date back as far as the 1880's.

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1930's International D-15 M series restored milk truck.



## Vintage Milk Delivery Truck Turns Heads

By Lorn Manthey, Contributing Editor

"As we drive in parades, the people who remember home milk delivery turn and wave and the little kids just wonder what all the excitement is about," says John Larson, who, along with his wife Sharon, enjoys "parading" around in their 82-year-old home delivery milk truck.

Larson says there's probably only one other vehicle like his, and that's in a museum, so their late 1930's International is rare. Larson is a life-long car restorer and restorer who acquired the D-15 M-series milk truck in 2017 from relatives of his wife. While many of their past classic car restoration projects

have been enjoyable and usually done with the idea of selling them to turn a small profit to help with their kids' college expenses, they plan to keep this vehicle.

Much of the truck is original, and Larson hasn't needed to make many repairs. He swapped out the 3-speed manual transmission for an automatic so it's easier to drive. The truck has wooden side and door frames, a wooden inside back panel, and a canvas top with wooden beams. Metal is used on the dashboard, fenders and hood. Larson has learned these were common features with the Internationals at the time.

The truck's floor is metal and there's galvanized cooler space with milk bottle and egg carton storage compartments. The compartments still carry a few of the original empty bottles used when the truck was in service.

The truck has a 250 hp, 6-cyl. engine and a 1-ton suspension. Mechanical steering means it takes some muscle to turn the wheel. Padded leather seats round out the interior.

Larson says he and his wife remember getting milk straight from the farm or having milk delivered by a similar truck, so it's a "good reminder of a simpler time."

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## Tractor Loader Fitted With Two Snow Blowers

When Tony Negen found two walk-behind snow blowers on clearance for only \$460 for the two of them, he decided to mount both blowers on front of his Kubota loader tractor.

The key to the simple fabrication was building a steel framework with tubing at the bottom that slipped over the loader forks. The frame was designed to nest the wheels of the two snow blowers, so they had a solid base. One negative was that they were not identical, so one side was different from the other.

Negen threw a ratchet strap over the two machines to hold them in place. Whenever he needed a walk behind, it was easy to dismount one.

"The only challenge was to make the frame, so the cutting edges of the scoops angled down in front of the forks," recalls Negen. "The only modification of the blowers was to bolt the sides of the scoops together."

Another problem was the lack of snow spout redirection from the tractor seat. Even



Tony Negen used a steel framework with tubing that slipped over loader forks to use two snow blowers bolted together and held down with ratchet straps to create a twin blower.

that wasn't a deal breaker.

"The snow spouts aren't a real problem," says Negen. "I always try to blow with the wind, so I set them when I start the engines."

He used the dual blowers for two years before upgrading to a larger rear mount

blower. "They worked a whole lot better than I thought they would," says Negen.

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