

10 projects from this summer

I can't believe over half of this new year has passed me by already. I haven't had time to notice! One of my high school friends said to me some time ago, "the older one gets, the faster time goes."

In just a few short months, the big Five-O will be upon me. It's time to stop and slow down, celebrate, and be thankful for all the blessings I have—my family and the many great sign-related

fun times I have experienced through the years. Sometimes it's hard to believe one can last in this business and maintain a normal family life, their sanity, and keep all of the above in perspective.

Now that our children are grown, my wife and I have been able to spend more time together. Some of the fun hobbies I did when I was a child have been rekindled. It's a blast to build model cars and model railroads. For me, anything that can be painted is relaxing. I call it therapy.

Well, this summer of 2000 has come to a close and it's time to take off and go north and bum around. Enjoying some early cool breezes, doing some photography, and getting lost in the woods will help me get a much-needed break from the hectic life here in Chicago.

Here are a few shots of some simple, commercial sign work I've done this summer. I hope you are keeping your lives in perspective and doing some of the "therapeutic" things that help keep you going. □

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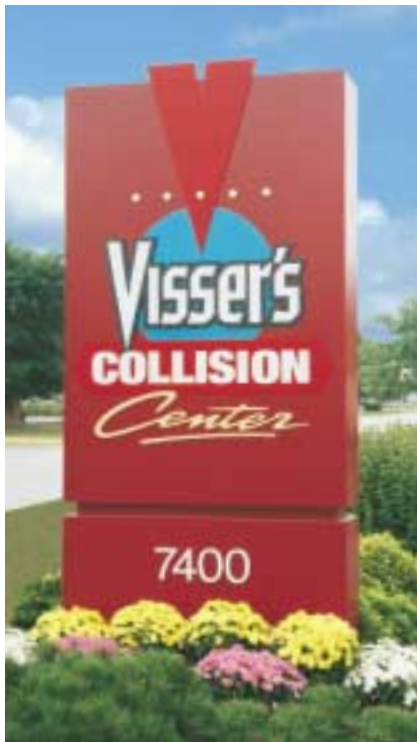


Bob Behounek is a sign artist/designer at Van Bruggen Signs in Orland Park, Illinois. His book, Trucks, is available from SignCraft.

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This sign is an aluminum fabricated structure, 5 feet wide and just over 10 feet tall. The graphics were cut from multiple layers of Komatex PVC board [Kommerling USA Inc., 256-851-4099]. Visser's and Collision are both faced with 3M Scotchlite reflective film. The aluminum and PVC were painted with Matthews Nuance acrylic polyurethane paints [Matthews Paint Company, 414-947-0700, www.signpaint.com].





When a customer is in a hurry like this one was, we scan the hand lettering, then cut a mask. When the truck comes in, we clean it, apply the mask, and then brush on lettering enamel thinned with Penetrol and turps. I put about one ounce of paint in an unwaxed paper cup, then pour in a layer of Penetrol and add five or six drops of turpentine. The paint flows out beautifully in one coat, and dries hard and glossy. It looks like it was sprayed.