



My Experience with Highway Post Office Buses (Part 1 of 3)



By Fran and LaMarr Anderson

Editors Note: This is Part 1 of a three-part series about HPO (Highway Post Office) buses. These buses make great conversions as you will be able to tell by reading this series of articles. We even have one listed for sale now in our Classified Ad section. Fran and LaMarr tell stories, sometimes quite fascinating on how they got several of these buses home.

In May of 1971, while working for International Displays out of Culver City, California, I drove one of their five Freightliner trucks with a 40' enclosed trailer to Chicago, Illinois for the Consumer Electronics Show at McCormick Place. While there, I saw my first Highway Post Office bus, commonly known as an HPO, and had to find out more about them.

It was in service at the time and the driver had stopped, so I approached him and asked, "Where did this bus come from?" He said, "This particular bus was based in Des Moines, Iowa." He gave me the name of the company and their phone number, and that started the wheels turning in my head. I had to go to Des Moines to see how I could get one for myself. This was the beginning of my eventually acquiring a total of thirty-nine Highway Post Office buses through the years.

Since I was driving the company truck, I had no way of getting one of those HPOs to California on this trip if I were to buy one. That is unless I

could find someone to drive it out for me. Fortunately, I had previously called my wife, Fran, and asked her to join me in Chicago so we could have some time together, and then ride back with me in the company truck. There was my driver!

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