



PHOTO: IRON DIRECTO

One man's landmark is another's headache — just ask John Gilmour Jr.

## Bye-Bye Bob-Cat

Want to buy a piece of genuine Americana? Or, if your taste runs towards the practical, how about a piece of prime development real estate? You can have both with a little parcel at 300 S. Colorado Blvd. Bob's Place, of course. Howdy!

Looking lonely and out of place, smack-dab in the middle of honky-tonkish Glendale, the little gas station has been a Denver landmark for decades. In recent years, it's served as a kind of reminder of what was, of gentler times when men gathered 'round a stove nights to smoke and tell stories. And they did just that at Bob's.

"A lot of people think we should keep it, that it's a landmark. But you know, we just can't let it sit there and pay taxes on it," laments John R. Gilmour Jr., who, with his mother and brother, owns the gas station and the little white house beside it with green trim.

Gilmour was born in the now empty house in 1932. His dad had the gas station built in 1929, a year after he lost his arm in a railroad accident. "Pop," as he was called, ran the gas station up until 1977 when he closed it. He continued to live in the house until he died there in 1983.

Gilmour Jr. prefers not to publicize the asking price, but it should suffice to say the approximately 20,000 square feet on the southeast corner of South Colorado Boulevard and East Alameda Avenue

won't go cheaply. We're talking prime location, here. As Gilmour says, "There's not much property left for sale along Colorado Boulevard." No indeed.

"I've had a lot of people who want to preserve some of it," says Freda Silcott, a Denver real estate agent with L.C. Fulenwider who's working for Gilmour. "They love the signs."

On top of the roof of the gas station is a "Howdy Folks!" sign; "A Bob-Cat For Service" faces the boulevard. And who can resist the bobcat dressed up in a tuxedo, with a top hat and cane.

Gilmour Sr. really did greet people with a "howdy"; in fact, he registered "Howdy Folks" and "A Bob-Cat For Service" as trademarks, says his son.

The property has been for sale for three years and almost sold twice. While others may mourn its passing, John Gilmour takes a realistic view.

"We have no use for it today. We just want to get this headache off of our backs.

"It'll take some time... Somebody's gonna do something with it."

—Suzanne Costas

## Show and Tell

To some people, Denver, with its troubled economy and even worse air pollution, may be gasping for dear life. But Charles Whitley, publisher of *Denver Today*, thinks they should hold off writing an obituary.

Denver is an exciting, alive town that

offers a unique variety of high-quality shopping, dining, recreation and entertainment options for every lifestyle, he says. More than 300 of those options are featured, complete with photographs and descriptions, in Whitley's 356-page directory, which he calls a "Selective Guide to Good Living in the Denver Metropolitan Area." Included are over 80 restaurants — both casual and expensive; book, clothing, sporting goods and antique stores; art galleries; performing arts centers and companies; athletic clubs and museums.

The \$7.95 book, which took nine months to complete, lists businesses and services that longtime Denver residents may never have heard of, and that newcomers would take years to find, Whitley says. He adds that those in the book were thoroughly screened.

"We looked for people who were No. 1 in their fields, who had an excellent reputation in the area, had staying power and were going to be around for the duration," he says.

They also had to be willing to pay for their listing. "A project of this scope couldn't have been tackled without some support," Whitley says, adding that it cost well into six figures to produce 20,000 copies.

Whitley believes they got their money's worth. He thinks the key to the publication is that someone can browse through it and, because of the pictures, get a good idea of what the places have to offer. He says that people will use the book — repeatedly. "Nobody thumbs through the book and throws it away."

Whitley also has gotten his money's worth — more than 10,000 copies of *Denver Today* have been sold.

—David Zuber

## LETTERS

Editor:

As I read Margie Sloan's article "Boulder: Fostering Growth and Expansion" (March 1987), I noticed an error in a quote attributed to myself.

In reference to the University of Colorado Research Park, I believe I told her that the park would provide 5,000 jobs over the next 20 years. The article states that the park would provide 20,000 over the next 20 years. While the prospect of an additional 15,000 jobs sounds great, that figure grossly overstates the impact of the park.

Dave Hauser  
General Manager

Editor's Response:

Denver Business regrets the error.