

That's My Line



Gerry Garms

Service station

owner

..Gerry Garms has leased and then owned a service station in Midland for eight years. He works six days a week and employs three full-time and two part-time workers.

At the time I decided to operate a service station I didn't want anything big. I wanted to be the only boss, not be in partnership with anyone. I wanted to make the decisions.

We specialize in mechanical repairs. Two licenced mechanics and myself, too, are on duty, to deal with general repairs. The station also sells gasoline and tires.

I have been running every day for the last three years. I try to make the time, about three-quarters of an hour. It works out quite well; it takes me out of the station for a while. One of the mechanics and I run.

I don't think it necessarily has to be running, but some type of exercise. You can't do push-ups in a service station.

As soon as I get into my running uniform I get out of the station because there are always customers coming in.

I feel 100 per cent better because of my running. People see the Participation advertisements on television and they say "That's a good idea - for someone else!" I won't quit, unless I am forced to.

Business at this service station is

pretty steady through the year. In spring and fall people bring their cars to be prepared for summer and winter driving. We change tires, from snow tires to summer tires in the spring, and summer tires to snow tires in the fall.

A customer will come in and say, 'take this thing off here and put it there.' I will try to figure out why, but they won't tell you. When you deal with people every day, there is no pattern. Every person different: that's what makes the business interesting, and nerve-wracking too, I guess.

I have a staff which is like a family, which makes work go easy. If you go superformal with your employees, sir and so on, it makes it hard.

When you work with cars every day you grow with them, and you don't notice if they are becoming more complicated. When you do a certain thing every day you don't catch on if it gets worse or better or what.

In the old days 100,000 miles on one car was really something. It does happen now: the same with tires. Rust though was unheard of in the old days.

Running a service station is a challenge. A customer may drive me nuts and I go home at night, thinking: This is part of why you're doing what you're doing.

I guess I like to work on cars too.



Last days can be improved, speaker says

Wavne Cox, a pharmacist with the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie, Wednesday called for doctors and other hospital staff, and the families of the dying, to help make the last days of the dying as pleasant as possible. In an address to the Midland

District Rotary Club, Cox was critical of the conspiracy of silence that surrounds the dying, on the part of the family and doctors who won't talk about it, and on the part of the dying, who won't admit they know.

\$9,000 of equipment stolen

Television sets, stereo sets, cassette recorders, radios, and cabinets worth \$9,000 were stolen Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning from Tilson TV and Stereo in the A.E. LePage Mall on Highway 27, the Midland OPP says.

Entry was gained through a rear service door. Two television sets were among the stolen items.

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