

Bike's Service Station

Arthur (Bike) Coalson, Sr. opened a car repair business in the early 1920s on South Second Street (pictured below) next to Busker's Hardware. In the early 1930s, he built a car repair/service station on South First Street across from the railroad depot. During WWI, Bike was an instructor at Scott Field. He taught the recruits to fly during the week and came home to Livingston on the weekend.

He employed several local men through the years - Art Buehling, Ozzie Pollett, Oliver Vallow, Elton Bloemker and Earl Hetzel. Arthur, Jr. (Gejo) joined his father in partnership after returning from the service in the late 1940s.

They offered a variety of gasoline over the years including Mobil, Texaco, Cities Service, and finally Shell. Those were the days when gas stations provided full service to all customers - free.

In 1987, the business was purchased by Larry Bernardin and closed in 1989. The building has since been torn down.



Pictured above are Arthur (Gejo) Coalson, Jr.; his wife Wilma (Renschof), Bike, his mother Rose (Mitchelar) Bowcott and Bike's wife Josie Zorzi Coalson.



Pictured left is Bike giving one of his customers the personal touch of a local business owner. Bike's Station on South First Street