

TRUCKS!..... VINTAGE, CLASSIC, EXTREME, OR PIMPED



TruckSure By Trevor Toohill

Sometime during the mid 1940's Bill Cole arrived in the town of Horopito – well it wasn't even a town really but it is a place on the map and it does have international recognition.

Located in the middle of almost nowhere, between Raetihi and National Park, is Australasia's largest dismantling yard of vehicles dating from the era of the 1920's through 1970's. Although you may have never been near the place you would recognize it from the starring role played as the site for the 1981 film 'Smash Palace'. On Bill's arrival in 'town' he established the motor garage and repair shop in what was originally a sawmill. He milled existing trees off the property with his own sawmill, which still stands and has been recently restored, built the family home and later the large sheds to house the ever growing collection of cars and trucks.

I first met Bill back in the early 70's as a client and used to pop in to see him on my area trips to have the monthly cuppa and a chat – what a character. You see, we had something in common – old cars as a passion. Although I was at this stage driving the 'company car' – nice new Austin 1300 recently repaired from the cross country sheep encounter, my real passion was the first two cars I had owned and restored by the age of 16. I was bitten early by the bug and my pride and joy was the 1939 Chevy coupe lovingly stripped, sanded, painted and polished while I was in my last couple of years at school.

Anyway, enough of my reminiscences. Unfortunately Bill died in 1987 but his daughter Barbara and her husband still operate the business. The last time I passed the yard it was still stacked full but I particularly noticed there were a couple of old Dennis fire trucks jammed up against the fence – I bet they are not still there.

This little intro story is actually taking us somewhere. I am sure that I am not the first to notice that Truckers have a love affair

with big, noisy, smelly, throbbing old girls that have passed their retirement days in the back farm paddock or truck yard. There is an almost irresistible urge to seek these old girls out and breathe a bit of life back into them. Have a look at the YouTube clip - Scammell Constructor (old engine start)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVGP-cz7kyM&NR=1&feature=fvwp>

A comment

"I love it when, after sitting for years, a vehicle turns out to be a runner. I remember seeing an old White Super Power get started, and moved 4 miles under its own power, after sitting in one spot for around 30 years."

Owner operators take the pride in their working units and it is not uncommon for them to throw forty or fifty thousand dollars of bling on them to pimp up their pride and joy. Small fleet owners and hobbyists probably show the greatest passion in seeking out these old redundant units and sooner or later they have their project on a flat deck headed for home.

Talking with Craig Morris at Pukekohe HiAb a few months back he was excited because his mate Tony had spotted an old 1972 Aussie cab Atkinson out the back of Mangatawhiri. No sooner on the truck and back to Auckland than Atkinson number two was located out at Mohaka. A bit of a parts swap and I am sure in time we will see their pride and joy at a truck show or two. This is just how it works.

Even our illustrious Truck Journal editor is not exempt from getting the bug, and a phone call from Simon last night insured his new toy – a 1976 Mack R685T. I have a panelbeater client with a similar vehicle and when I asked him to describe the vehicle use, his response 'oh just to go to and from work a couple of times a month'. Then of course there are the collectors and the operators who just can't get rid their sentimental attachments.

Mainfreight, in amongst their substantial fleet is the first truck they ever purchased - a Bedford, and they still have their first Mack. Then of course at the other extreme there is the collection of the late Bill Richardson. Located in Invercargill at the Bill Richardson Truck Museum – www.hwr.co.nz Last I heard there were 210 trucks, various tractors and 120 petrol bowlers. This collection all started with the restoration of Bill's grandfathers 1933 International!

Over the last couple of years I have had large a number of approaches from clients wanting specific cover for vintage, classic, extreme and modified trucks. Having a personal interest in these old trucks and my TruckSure involvement led me to research how best to protect these assets in terms of coverage and premium cost. Classic and vintage cars were well placed for Classic Cover but nothing out there with any of the insurer's specifically for trucks.

Of main concern to collectors and hobbyists were:

- Agreed value policy.
- Premium pricing for non working units.
- Excess levels.
- Insurer with trucking speciality.

In addition there was a need to understand the insurance implications for extreme modified or 'pimped' working units.

TruckSure has now been successful in negotiating specific coverage with its insurers for these trucks and covering the concerns most often regarded previously as a problem. If you have a single truck, restored or original or a collection. If you have extensively modified a working unit or a toy. If you are looking for an agreed value policy. If you are just wanting a premium comparison. Then you need to contact TruckSure www.trucksure.co.nz ☎



MultiSure



0800 287 287

www.trucksure.co.nz



TruckSure

'You sit behind the wheel – we stand behind the truck'