

OLD TOY TRUCK QUARTERLY

April 2008

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Featured Toy

Tru Scale Parts & Service Truck

One of my all time favorite trucks is the IHC Parts & Service trucks made by Carter Tru-Scale of Rockford, Illinois. Produced between 1956 and 1965 and were made in series that directly correlated with changes to the actual IHC line of trucks being

produced. The early trucks were the "S" series with the rubber ring headlights and were offered in solid orange and orange with



white and possibly other colors as well. Production years were 1956 and 57. The next variation was the "A" series which is by far the hardest to find of the variations. These were produced in 1957 and 58. They too have the rubber ring headlights but sport the newer front end style with a more streamline look in the front fenders. The "B" series came next between 1959 and 1963. These sported the same streamlined front fenders but new grill insert and metal headlights were added. These trucks are primarily green and white but there are some limited red and white versions with IH door decals that were only offered at IH dealerships. These are the most sought after of all of the variations.

Finally the "C" series was the last of all the trucks produced and went from 1963 to 1965. These have a more squared off cab as well as full



windshield and one piece grill/headlight insert. I've seen these in both orange and white and green and white.

While Tru Scale continued manufacturing farm toys until 1971 when they were acquired by Ertl, the truck line ceased in 1965 due to increasing production costs. This also was when many of the

larger competitors such as Tonka and Nylint were unveiling a much lower priced line of toy trucks. Tru Scale did however continue to manufacture their IHC Scout's and smaller diecast trucks up until the end.

The Parts & Service trucks seem to be getting harder and harder to find every year and with scarcity comes increased prices. In the past it was not unusual to see at least 10 or 12 of these at the National Farm Toy Show in Dyersville, Iowa. Now over the past few years you'll be lucky to see only 2 or 3. If you're into pressed steel and enjoy nicely detailed toys, I highly recommend checking out not only the Parts & Service line but also the rest of the trucks such as the pickups, dump trucks, and semi trucks/trailers.

Show Calendar

Upcoming Toy Shows – Please contact us if you'd like to have a show added to our calendar.

- April 27 – Chicago Toy Show – Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL (773) 736-5140
- May 4 – Northland Toy Show – Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN (763) 560-4290
- May 17 – Circus Maximus Toy & Pedal Car Show - Kalamazoo, MI (616) 361-9887
- June 6 & 7 – Summer Farm Toy Show – National Farm Toy Museum, Dyersville, IA (563) 875-2727
- October 4 – Timber Dan Toy Show – Larimer County Fairgrounds, Loveland, CO (763) 972-6726
- October 26 - Chicago Toy Show – Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, IL (773) 736-5140
- November 7-9 – National Farm Toy Show, Dyersville, IA (701) 883-5206
- November 29 - Circus Maximus Toy & Pedal Car Show - Kalamazoo, MI (616) 361-9887

Show Me The Money!!

Recent prices realized for select toys

Toy	Site/Venue	Price
Buddy L Paragon Tanker, C-9.5 in box	Ebay	\$1,237
Doepke Jaeger Mixer, C9	Ebay	\$365
Keystone Water Tower, C5.5	Ebay	\$615
Kingsbury Golden Arrow Racer, C8.5	Ebay	\$536
Nylint COE Ford Hiway Wrecker, C10 sealed box	Ebay	\$610
Smith Miller GMC PIE Semi, C-8	Ebay	\$275
Smith Miller MIC Wrecker, C-7.5	Ebay	\$340
Sturditoy Wrecker, C7.5	Bertoia Auctions	\$2700
Tonka 63 Ramp Hoist, C8	Ebay	\$257
Wyandotte Ambulance, C7	Arneson Auctions	\$170

Toydecals.com News

After about 18 months of hard work, we've managed to have over half of our 900+ decal offerings now being screen printed. These have the same top quality artwork that you've come to expect from us and in addition, all screen printed decals are made with color sandwiched between two layers of clear film. This extra film makes them much more durable during installation to prevent tearing. We'll continue to plug along until we have every one of our available decals being produced this way.

The 2nd Annual Toy Restoration contest has been scheduled for this summer/fall. It will kick off July 30 and run until October 31. Details are available on the website. www.toydecals.com Be sure to get going on all of those projects as there'll be \$500 in prizes again awarded.



Ebay News

Many people may not be aware of the upcoming changes that the internet auction site Ebay is making. Recently they've announced that their fee structure will be changing which will mean many of your favorite sellers will now be paying much more in fees to sell their wares. In addition, sellers will no longer be able to leave negative feedback for buyers (even if they refuse to pay) yet the buyer can still leave a negative feedback for the seller. The integrity of Ebay was built on the feedback system and this has severely flawed that system.

Yet another recent development is that in addition to the standard feedback, each seller can now be rated on a scale of 1 to 5 for four separate parts of every transaction.

These are called Detailed Seller Ratings. While I have no problem with this the scale is again flawed

Detailed Seller Ratings (since May 2007)			
Criteria	Average Rating	Number of ratings	
Item as described	★★★★★	1367	
Communication	★★★★★	1366	
Shipping time	★★★★★	1366	
Shipping and handling charges	★★★★★	1367	

against the seller. Based on the wording of the scale, to a buyer a 4 out of 5 means the seller did a good job. Yet, the seller must maintain minimum average ratings of 4.6 or higher to retain some of the benefits offered by Ebay. The buyer, without even realizing it, could actually be penalizing a good seller by posting what they perceive to be a good rating of a 4.

What does all of this mean to you? Well, if you do any amount of selling you need to be sure to do your absolute best on every transaction or it could come back to haunt you down the road. If you do any buying, please be sure to reward the sellers that perform well with the best possible feedback ratings you can to insure they will be able to continue to offer you the toys you are looking for.

Show Reports

Dyersville National Farm Toy Show, November 2-4, 2007.

Beautiful but brisk weather greeted all those who attended this past years toy show in Dyersville, Iowa. Absolutely one of the best and largest toy shows around and while you won't find any of those Lehmann tin windups or other early 1900's toys, there is always an excellent selection of pressed steel to go along with the droves of farm toys. This year I noticed a hard to find Buddy L Trench Digger in about C-6 as well as a nicely restored Buddy L Insurance Patrol. Trucks from the 50's to 70's were plentiful and could be found in rough to pristine condition.

The show offers sales in 6 different main locations and there are other individuals spread out throughout the entire city area. The indoor show consists of the high school, Toy Farmer museum, Commercial Club Park building, and finally the Scale Model factory. Two main outdoor sites are outside the Toy Farmer museum and in the local CO-OP parking lot. As has been the norm for myself, most of my purchases this year were from the outside vendors before the show even started. The outside dealers always seem eager to deal and move inventory. They also have less of the newer farm toys and more of the older pressed steel and other toys.

Plan for a full day or even weekend when attending the National as you'll never run out of things to see. One other tip I just must mention. If looking for an excellent lunch, try the Dyersville Family Restaurant on Main street in the downtown district. They have the absolute best home cooked lunch buffet that I've ever had and the prices are unbelievably low. I haven't ever found anyone that walked away hungry from their buffet!

I'd really like to have help with reports from shows I unfortunately won't be able to attend. If anyone would be able to let me know about the St. Louis Toy Show and the Kalamazoo Toy Show (or any others between March and June) I'd be very grateful. If able, I'd really like to have some photos submitted as well that I can publish in the next issue. All authors and pictures will be credited accordingly.

Product Review

Do you have a toy part, tool, restoration supply or anything else that you'd like to promote? We'd like to see it and help you out!! Send us your item and we'll gladly take a look. If it is well done we'll be sure to give it the props it deserves.

Future Plans

In addition to some of the articles in this issue, I'm planning on adding restoration tips and tricks, collector profiles, and anything else that any of you would like to see. At present time I plan on offering this only via email and not in a print form. Issues will be in January, April, July, and October.

Anyone that would like to add any stories, comments, or other contributions to this project can email me at zboy10@aol.com