



Curt Fisher and his IH Model 101, which he believes is the only one surviving.

ONLY 27 WERE EVER BUILT

Rare IH Truck May Be The Last One Left

Curt Fisher can't say for certain that his antique IH truck is the only one of its kind left in existence. But there's a good possibility that the 1921 IH Model 101, which still has its original Indiana license plate, is the lone survivor because the company built only 27 of them.

"If there is another one somewhere, I'd certainly be happy to find out about it," says Fisher. "I had no idea it was so rare when I bought it. It's really exciting."

Fisher first got interested in the truck when he saw it in an estate auction flyer in an antique machinery magazine, *Engineer and Engines*. The flyer included a small photo of the truck, which made it appear the 5-ton truck was much smaller than it really is.

"When I went to see it in New Ross, Ind., I was surprised to find out it was so big," notes Fisher. "It's 8 ft. tall from the ground to the top of the cab."

The truck had been completely restored 25 years earlier but still needed a little work.

"We had to sand down and re-varnish the wood in the cab, box and wheel spokes. We also refabricated some of the sheet metal on the fenders," he says. "Mechanically, everything was sound."

The restoration was completed in time for antique power shows last spring. Since then, the truck has been creating a sensation wherever Fisher takes it.

The Model 101 was an upgrade of an older,

4-ton Model L. It featured improvements in ignition and gear ratio. It's powered by a 283 cu. in., 29 hp 4-cyl. engine and Brown-Lipe 4-speed transmission with pto. It has a 160-in. wheelbase and a thermo-siphon system for cooling the engine. It features a radiator mounted behind the engine which allowed a down-sloped cowl design. A gravity-fed carburetor fuels it. At the time, the frame was the largest in International's line-up, measuring 8 in. deep, with seven crossmembers. Top speed in high gear is 14 mph.

"The most important improvement over previous models was probably in price," notes an historical account of International trucks. "Where the earlier Model L had cost as much as \$4,500, the new 101 listed in the spring of 1922 at \$3,600."

According to company production records, only 27 of the trucks were produced between 1921 when it was first identified and 1924 when it was discontinued in favor of other models.

One mystery is why the governor on the engine runs backward. "I've been told that's because the bracket is on backward," Fisher says. "But I'm really interested to know exactly why it runs backward and how to fix it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Curt Fisher, R.R. 2, Box 272B, Mankato, Minn. 56001 (ph 507 625-4715; fax 388-3941).

Custom-Built "Yard Art" Provides Christmas Cheer

Ed and Mary Ann Mosley of Llano, Texas, have an unusual business: they design and custom build lighted "yard art" showing whatever scene the customer wants.

The designs are generally 3 to 6 ft. high. All of them are shaped from 3/8-in. coated rebar that's wired with virtually maintenance free Duralight solid colored ropes of lights. Some of the scenes are animated.

"Each piece is handmade and shipped by a freight company to the customer," says Mary Ann. "We do a lot of Santa Claus scenes. One of our most popular shows Santa driving a tractor and pulling Rudolph on a wagon. Another shows Santa in a personal watercraft pulling Rudolph, who's

skiing. Other designs include an animated Santa in a covered wagon that's pulled by a mule; an animated Santa in a train that's complete with a car and caboose, and railroad crossing. We even have a 'Ho Ho Y' All' sign inside the state of Texas, and a 'Merry Texas' sign."

The scene showing Santa Claus driving a tractor sells for \$450; the wagon sells for \$350.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ed's Lighted Yard Art, Ed and Mary Ann Mosley, HCO7, Box 221A, Llano, Texas 78643 (ph 800 549-1003 or 915 247-2162; fax 4314; website: <http://www.edslightedart.com>).

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Wood coupled a golf cart front end and Deere lawn mower rear end with a powered it with a government surplus jet engine.

"LITERALLY A SHOW STOPPER"

Lawn Mower Powered By Big Jet Engine

This jet-powered riding mower was inspired by a jet-powered mower we featured seven years ago (Vol. 17, No. 3), after that unusual rig appeared on TV's "Home Improvement" show.

"I like things that are unusual and this is a one-of-a-kind sort of thing," says Norm Wood of Norman, Okla. "It's literally a show stopper because you can't hear a thing other than the engine when you fire it up."

The mower's powered by a 1969 Airesearch GTCP-85 jet engine, which is commonly used as a multi-purpose ground power unit. He used a golf cart front end and suspension system and a hydrostatic rear end out of an old Deere 455 lawn tractor. He built a frame out of angle iron and 2 in. sq. tubing

to couple the golf cart front end and garden tractor rear end. The machine is about 8 ft. long and 4 ft. wide.

A 3 to 1 gear reduction from the alternator drive shaft back to the hydrostat consists of a 1 in. belt drive.

Although Wood has driven the machine in parades, it's still mostly a conversation piece, he says.

"I built it for show and the noise attraction," he says.

He isn't saying how much it cost to build, but he would be willing to sell it for \$18,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Norm Wood, 10300 East Imhoff Rd., Norman, Okla. 73026 (ph 405 321-7626).



Santa driving a tractor pulling Rudolph in a wagon is one of the most popular items.