

Crowd Appreciation Sets St. Ignace Show Apart From Others, Truckers Say

Trucks: From page 1

Many truckers at the show said what sets the St. Ignace event apart from other shows is the appreciation residents and visitors to the town show for the chance to see the trucks and meet the men and women who drive them.

"I love this town," said Ron Baird of Thorntown, Indiana, who won the Best of Show, non-working, award at the show. "The people here appreciate it so much."

The show was hosted by Ed Reavie of Nostalgia Productions and the National Association of Show Trucks (NAST).

After St. Ignace Mayor Paul Grondin presented the mayor's award during a Sunday, September 20, award ceremony, Bo Trout, NAST president, thanked the city for opening the city to big rigs year after year.

"It's so nice to be up here and be appreciated when we come up," he said. "Thank you for having us. The crowd was fabulous and the weather was great."

Mr. Trout and his son, Jeremy, brought a special truck to the show this year, with murals on the truck and trailer memorializing those who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Along with the murals on the truck are names of first responders who died during the national tragedy. On the opposite side of the trailer from the 9/11 mural is a tribute to all those in the armed services.

Jeremy Trout said the painting is meant to remind those who tend to forget of the sacrifices made by some in service of our country.

"It affects everybody," Mr. Trout said. "People sometimes take for granted the freedom we actually have."

The truck gets reactions wherever they go, he said, and Bo Trout has many stories about veterans and their families approaching him, often in tears, to thank him for



Ike Van of McBain sits on his 1933 Chevrolet truck, which he turned into a replica of the truck used in the "Beverly Hillbillies" television show. Mr. Van brought the truck, which is covered with various antique items ranging from a washboard to a metal urinal, to the St. Ignace truck show this year to make people smile, he said.



Doug Scholten and Jeremy Hassevoort of Holland, Michigan, pose with their families and two trucks, which won Best of Show Working Bobtail and Best of Show Working Combo awards during the Richard Crane Memorial Truck Show. Mr. Scholten's 2010 Peterbilt took the bobtail award and Mr. Hassevoort's 1986 Peterbilt took the combo award, which he also won at the 2008 and 2007 shows. Both trucks are operated for Rabbit River Transport of Zeeland.



St. Ignace Mayor Paul Grondin (from left) truck show guest of honor Alex Debgorski, and show organizer Ed Reavie pose Thursday, September 17, during the trucker reception at Little Bear East Arena.



Burt and Marilyn Phenicie pose with their 1948 Dodge. The truck was originally used to haul coal in Pennsylvania, and Mr. Phenicie, a retired truck driver, bought it in 2002, took it apart piece by piece, and rebuilt it.

helping remind the public of some of the courageous Americans serving their country.

At the far end of the show area, Ike Van of McBain sat slumped on the step of his 1931 Chevrolet, also

gathering crowd attention. Mr. Van found his truck, which was used in Duluth, Minnesota, to transport laborers in and out of coal mines, in a field 25 years ago and has since fixed it up to replicate the vehicle used in the "Beverly Hillbillies" television program.

One couple from Petoskey stopped to chat with him and later decided that their friends needed to come and see the truck, Mr. Van said. They drove back to Petoskey to get their friends and brought them to meet the man and see the truck that made a convincing visual replication of the famous T.V. show.

"People say this takes the whole show," Mr. Van said. "The main thing is to make people laugh."

The rusty-looking relic had a bed full of various antique tools, curiosities, and other treasures.

A reminder of the history of trucking was brought to St. Ignace by George Wacker of Manchester. Mr. Wacker stood by in an old Standard Oil uniform next to the 1931 Ford Model AA gas and oil truck that took him 30 years to put together.

father owned the actual trucks, the tanks were owned by Standard Oil, which scrapped them when they were put out of commission to discourage private competition.

After finding the tank in an advertisement in the "Wheels of Time" magazine, the last piece of the puzzle was in place and Mr. Wacker was able to complete his dream of re-creating the truck he once rode in with his father.

"It's been a 30-year experience," he said. "I enjoy meeting people and telling them about the truck. It draws people's attention and I get a lot of questions."

Parked next to Mr. Wacker at the show, Burt and Marilyn Phenicie showed off their 1948 Dodge, possibly the only one of its kind left in the country, they say. After driving a 1957 Dodge hauling freight for 50 years, Mr. Phenicie bought the older truck in 2002, took it apart piece by piece, and repaired it.

"I'm just a truck driver," he said.

"It's all I've ever done."

The antique truck was once used to haul coal in Pennsylvania, Mr. Phenicie said, and has only 19,000 miles on it. The couple has been to the St. Ignace show three times, and the setting and the people keep them coming back, they said.

"He likes to show off his truck, and it's so beautiful up here," Mrs. Phenicie said. "The parade across the bridge is really cool."

Holland Men Take Both Best of Show Awards

The weekend culminated in a rewarding ending for Doug Scholten and Jeremy Hassevoort of Holland, Michigan, who won Best of Show Working Bobtail and Best of Show Working Combination, respectively.

Both Mr. Scholten's 2010 Peterbilt 389 and Mr. Hassevoort's 1986 Peterbilt 359, which won the same award in 2008 and 2007, are operated for Rabbit River Transport of Zeeland. The two said it was a happy surprise to both take home the top two trophies from the show, and thanked their families and friends, since working on the trucks and running the company is a team effort.

The 2010 Peterbilt driven by Mr. Scholten was built as an anniversary truck for Rabbit River, since it is the 100th truck owned by the company. Mr. Hassevoort said he enjoyed the show and hopes to bring both trucks back for the competition next year.

"There was nice weather and a lot of people," he said.

Turn to page 14: Trucks

Get It Fast!

Subscribe to the Online Edition of The St. Ignace News.

Get the same paper, in PDF format that looks just like the printed version



and in HTML format that can be read and enjoyed, each story at a time.

And the best part - it's usually available to read on Tuesday night, sometimes before the printed version is even on the press.

We'll even let you know via e-mail when it's ready!

Subscribe online 24/7 using your credit card.

Or phone 906-643-9150

Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A great last minute gift, too!

Just \$35 for a whole year.

www.stignacenews.com

Carry your health information everywhere you go!

The newest and fastest way to give your medical history to EMTs, paramedics and Emergency Room personnel!

Only \$34.95!



EMERGENTag is a water-resistant USB flash drive, which can be worn, clipped to a keychain or placed in a wallet. It contains software that allows emergency medical personnel to quickly and easily find out vital information about you, your medications, allergies, emergency contacts and other critical information in a crisis situation.

994 S. Main St. (M-27), Cheboygan

—next to the Dollar Store in Glen's Plaza—

STORE HOURS: M-F: 8:30am-5pm

800-342-7711~ www.vitalcare.org



BELONGA EXCAVATING

Land Clearing ~ Site Preparation
Foundation Excavation

Septic Tanks • Systems • Drain Fields
Water & Sewer Installations

COMMERCIAL SNOWPLOWING

115 Elliott Street • St. Ignace • 906-643-9595

WHEN IT COMES TO BREAST HEALTH

The Digital Difference Is an Important Difference.

4D Breast MRI and Digital Mammography Provide Superior Results.

Northern Michigan REGIONAL HOSPITAL

231.487.4863

CONVENIENCE • SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY • EXCEPTIONAL CARE