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This fall's featured vehicle is Chris Lenauer's 1972 International Scout II.

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International Scout restored with local auto teams



BY ROXIE MURPHY
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER
 rmurphy@wardpub.com

OWENSVILLE — A great example of a local restoration is Chris Lenauer's 1972 International Harvester Scout II — a vehicle that is highly regarded for being produced in the group of first ever four-wheel-drives on the market.

The brilliant orange and bright white station wagon body style that is sometimes parked at Pioneer Home Center is Chris Lenauer's newest vehicle restoration.

"I bought it in 2018 out of Kansas City and it was in pretty rough shape," Lenauer said. "I started collecting parts and bought another Scout from Mike Miller at Miller Salvage, picked up parts in Kansas City and from Zach Grimes, a Scout guy and Vo-Ag teacher."

The Owensville native has always liked the International Scouts, which are widely revered — and made more sought after by the fact that an updated version was never produced after the 1980s.

"I knew people who had them growing

See **Scout** page 3B

PHOTOS BY DENNIS WARDEN

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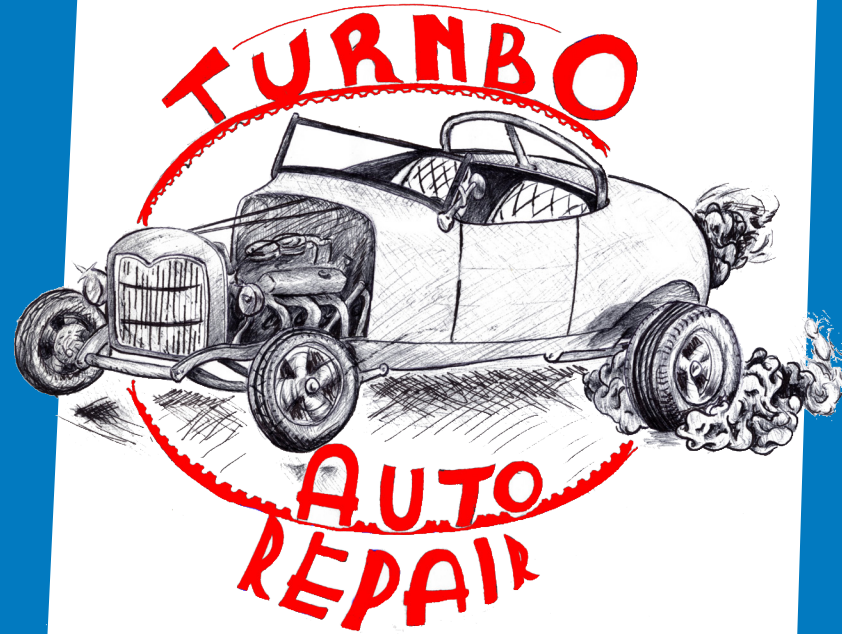
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Scout • From page 2B

up,” he said. “Rob Wacker had one growing up and I liked his as a kid. Kari Bray’s dad Ruben used to deliver the mail and he had a couple and I always liked his Scout.”

Known to most as just “Scout,” the International Harvester Scout II was manufactured between April 1971-1980—nearly 10 years after the original Scout was produced. Potential buyers had to choose between the full-metal travel top, a roadster or a soft top. Lenauer purchased the travel top model. The whole vehicle was going to need work. So he called Roy Belloir of Belloir Auto — Car Repair in Owensville and started with the engine.

“Roy and his brother did all the engine work, rewired, and went through the gauges — pretty extensively,” Lenauer said. “They were great. Roy and his brother Larry.”

The brothers like to keep one bay of their shop open to take on special restoration projects. However they can only do so much at once.

“I had (John Scego Autobody) powder coat some things like the bumper and seat stands,” Lenauer said.

He sent the bodywork to Curtis Rose in Canaan, and also had the seats reupholstered.

“It took 14-16 months to complete the project from beginning to end,” Lenauer

said. “It runs great now with the engine in it.”

The Scout is spotted cruising the streets of Owensville on occasion and runs and drives well. That doesn’t stop Lenauer from upgrades and improvements though.

“I have ordered a retro engine,” he said. “So your vehicle has to be 1993 or older for the R2.8-liter Cummins Turbo Diesel.”

The factory-built crate motor was created for restoration projects. It is not a direct bolt-in engine replacement for a specific vehicle, according to Cummin’s brochure disclaimer. The owner must consider different options and brands when building the remainder of the engine including the cooling package modifications, air conditioning, appropriate transmission pairing and adaptability, engine mounting, intake and charge air cooler plumbing, and wiring integration. These are just some of the items that will need to be considered among other mechanical and electrical changes that may need to be made to fit the vehicle, according to Cummins. However, Lenauer has the Belloirs looking out for him.

“It is made for retro vehicles like Jeeps, Scouts, or Landrovers and doesn’t need emissions control if it is older than 1993,” Lenauer said. “It has more horsepower and 25 miles to the gallon. I am supposed to have



THIS PHOTO shows the International Scout II before any restoration work.

that engine in January from a company called Quick Draw Brand in Ohio.”

Quick Draw Brands help to match the transmission and transfer case with the engine.

“It will probably take Roy a couple of

weeks to get the new engine installed and we already have another engine and transmission ready,” Lenauer said.

Right now they are just waiting on go. “Without a guy like Roy it is cost-prohibitive to do something like this,” Lenauer said.

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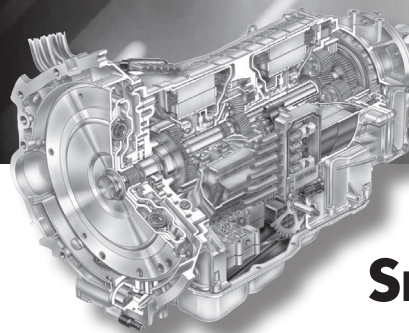


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ALTHOUGH THE odometer (above left) shows only 47,xxx miles, owner Chris Lenauer is not sure if that's accurate. The 345 cubic inch V-8 currently in the engine compartment is slated to be replaced early next year with a R2.8-liter Cummins Turbo Diesel. Originally black, Lenauer had the Scout repainted Dutchmen orange.

PHOTOS BY DENNIS WARDEN

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A short history of the Scout

The International Harvester Scout is an off-road vehicle produced by International Harvester from 1961 to 1980. A precursor of more sophisticated SUVs to come, it was created as a competitor to the Jeep, and it initially featured a fold-down windshield. The Scout and second-generation Scout II were produced in Fort Wayne, Indiana, as two-door trucks with a removable hard top with options of a full-length roof, half-cab pickup, and/or soft top.

The first Scout was introduced in 1960. A concept for its replacement was initiated in 1964 and approved for production in mid-1965. The Scout II was introduced in 1971. The basic sheet metal remained unchanged until production stopped on October 21, 1980. During the 20-year period (1960–1980), 532,674 Scouts were produced. The Scout, introduced as a commercial utility pickup in 1960, set the stage for future four-wheel drive recreational vehicles of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

from Wikipedia



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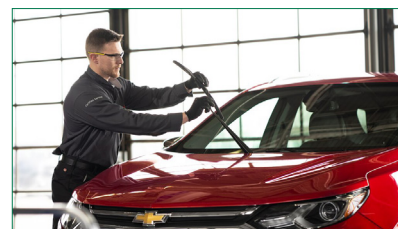
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How to recognize potential brake problems

Maintaining a vehicle is more than just a way to protect one's financial investment. Vehicle maintenance can protect against accidents and make the road safer for drivers and their passengers as well as their fellow motorists.

Fully functioning brakes are an important component of automotive safety. In its 2015 Crash Stats report, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said that brake-related problems accounted for 22 percent of crashes where vehicular failure was cited as the cause of the collision. Bad brakes are particularly notorious for rear-end collisions. Faulty, worn brake lines, antilock brake system malfunctions and worn brake pads and discs are some potential brake problems.

It is important that motorists learn to recognize the first symptoms of brake trouble so they can address issues before they put drivers, their passengers and other motorists at risk of accident or injury.

• **Unusual noises:** Screeching, grinding, rubbing, and high-pitched sounds are common indicators that brake pads, rotors and other parts of the braking system need attention. Worn pads can cause damage to other vehicle parts, resulting in more expensive repairs if

they're not addressed promptly.

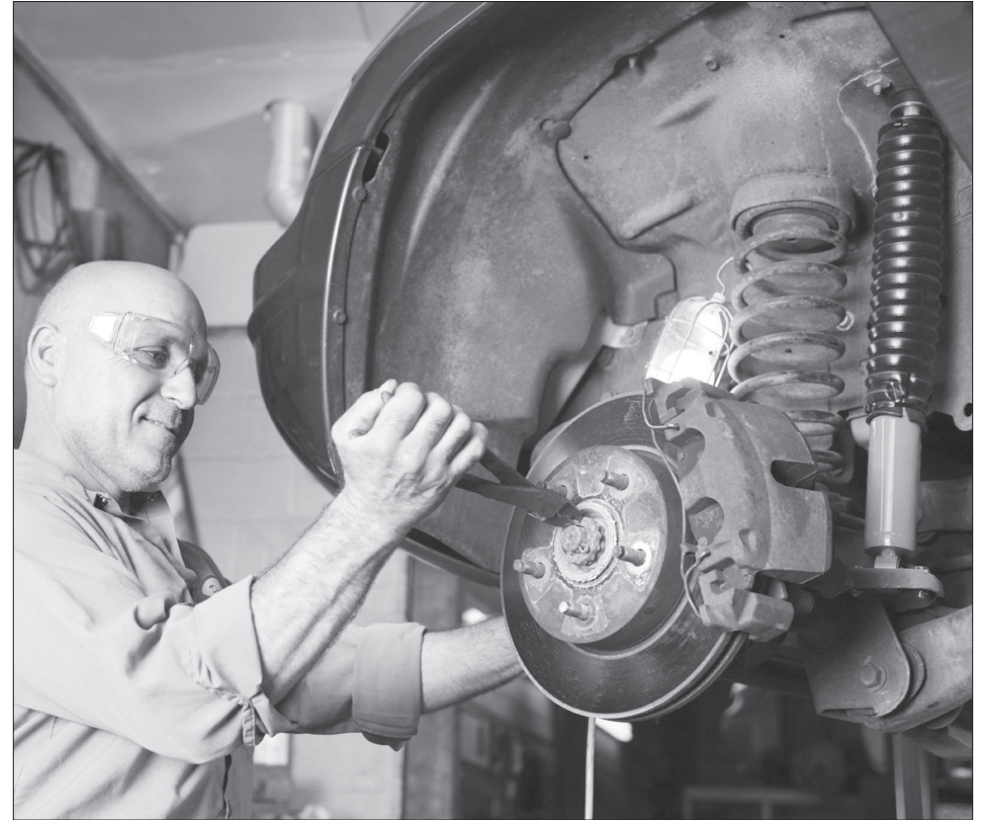
• **Pulling:** If the car pulls to one side when applying the brakes, this may indicate brake pad linings are wearing down unevenly. A brake adjustment may be necessary. Pulling also may be indicative of an object or debris caught in the brake fluid.

• **Less responsive:** If when pressing on the brake pedal the brakes just do not seem to be as effective as they once were, or it is necessary to press the pedal harder for the brakes to engage, there may be a brake fluid leak or an air leak. Check under the vehicle to see if any fluids are pooling.

• **Pungent odors:** Firestone Tire Company says a burning smell may be indicative of worn out brake pads and friction on the tires. Each of these issues require immediate attention.

• **Vibrations:** Certain vibrations may indicate brake issues. Rotors can become warped from metal-on-metal rubbing, potentially leading to a failure of the vehicle to brake properly. Vibrations also may indicate tires are misaligned. These problems can be properly assessed by a trained mechanic.

Do not let potential brake problems go unchecked. Keeping brakes in good working order helps drivers stop more readily and avoid collisions.



DRIVERS MUST address symptoms of a faulty braking system early on to reduce their risk of accidents.

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How drivers can handle suddenly unsafe driving conditions



The chance to take in idyllic landscapes and sun-soaked views is a big part of what makes road trips so appealing. When traveling during certain times of year, such as spring and fall, seasonal landscapes dotted with vivid colors can be especially stunning.

Prior to embarking on a road trip, travelers can't be blamed for getting caught up in the sights they're on the cusp of seeing. But it's equally important that drivers take steps to prepare for unsafe driving conditions. Even if the forecast is nothing but sunny skies, driving conditions can suddenly take a turn for the worse. The following are a handful of unsafe conditions drivers may encounter on the road, and what they can do to make it through such situations safe and sound.

• **Aggressive drivers:** Aggressive driving or road rage is a significant issue, more so than some drivers may recognize. A 2016 survey from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that nearly 80 percent of drivers expressed significant anger, aggression or road rage behind the wheel at least once in the previous 12 months. The insurance experts at Geico® recommend that motorists who encounter aggressive drivers do their best to stay away from them. Consider safely

changing lanes, gradually slowing down or even exiting the highway. Geico® advises against stopping, as that can lead to potentially dangerous confrontations.

• **Bad weather:** Bad weather can include anything from snowfall to driving rain to thick fog. Though it's wise for drivers to consult the weather forecast prior to hitting the road, no forecast is 100 percent accurate, which underscores the importance of knowing what to do when conditions suddenly take a turn for the worse. If inclement weather appears unexpectedly, slow down and be sure to leave extra room between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.

The automotive analytics firm J.D. Power notes that many experts recommend drivers double the cushion between their vehicles and the ones in front of them when driving in rain, snow, sleet, and other adverse weather conditions. Doing so can help to offset the slower brake time that occurs when driving in bad weather.

• **Debris:** Road debris can include anything from materials that get blown away from roadside work sites to falling rock to tire treads to items that fall off of other vehicles. The suddenness of and the potentially serious consequences of being hit by or hitting debris is why a proactive approach is ideal.

Avoid tailgating so you have ample room to maneuver should anything fall into the road. It's also important to leave room on the side of your vehicle so you can swerve out of the way. On especially long road trips, share driving duties so whoever is behind the wheel is fresh and alert. Alertness improves reaction time, making it much more likely drivers can avoid debris.

The open road has its hazards. But drivers who plan ahead and know what to do when encountering adverse conditions can ensure road trips are memorable for all the right reasons.

Did you know?

Modern cars are technological marvels, and it turns out drivers may value tech over all else, including their choice of automaker. A 2017 study from Autotrader asked 1,000 participants an assortment of questions about technology and car buying. Roughly 60 percent of millennial car shoppers and more than 40 percent of baby boomers indicated they would switch vehicle brands just to get the technology features they want. Drivers are even willing to pay extra for their preferred tech. The Autotrader study found that the average shopper would pay an extra \$2,276 to get the right tech features.

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What to do in the immediate aftermath of a car accident

Car accidents happen every day. Though the World Health Organization reports that approximately 1.35 million people die each year as a result of road traffic crashes, many more people walk away from such accidents relatively unscathed. In such instances, knowing what to do in the immediate aftermath of an accident can help drivers and passengers stay safe and start on their road to physical and financial recovery.

No two car accidents are the same, but the Insurance Information Institute rec-
See **Accident** page 9B

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Accident • From page 9B

ommends anyone involved in a car accident take the following steps to make the most informed decisions in what is often a difficult situation.

- Assess your physical condition. The III recommends people involved in accidents check themselves for injuries in the immediate aftermath of an accident. Call 911 if you are hurt. If you're seriously injured, try to remain still and only move with the assistance of emergency response personnel.

- Assess passengers' physical condition. Drivers who are not too hurt to move can check on their passengers after assessing their own condition. Before moving a passenger who is injured, speak with an emergency response professional. This person can assess the situation and determine if it's safe to move an injured passenger or if it's best to wait for first responders to arrive on the scene.

- Get to a safe place. If possible, move to the side of the road or a sidewalk. If it's safe to move a vehicle and the vehicle is in a hazardous position, such as in the middle of the road, pull it to the side of the road. If the vehicle won't start or you suspect it could be dangerous to move it, leave the car where it is and get yourself and any passengers who can move to the side of the road or a sidewalk.

- Call 911. If you have not already done so, call 911 once you have gotten to a safe place. The III notes that no accident is too minor to involve the police, and some local laws even mandate that all traffic accidents be immediately reported. Be sure to fill out an accident report, which can be vital for drivers who intend to file claims with their insurance providers.

- Turn the vehicle off. If the vehicle is still running, turn it off. Turn on the vehicle's hazard lights and, if you can physically do so and it's safe to do so, place road flares around the car to warn fellow motorists.

- Exchange information. Exchange contact and insurance information with the other driver once everyone has determined that they are not injured. The III recommends exchanging full names and contact information. Specific information like insurance companies and policy numbers, driver's license numbers and license plate numbers, the exact location of the accident, and the type, color and model of the other driver's vehicle also should be exchanged and noted.

- Avoid discussing fault with the other driver. Drivers will not determine who's at fault. Such decisions are made by insurance adjusters. Discussing fault with the other driver in the immediate aftermath of an accident can lead to difficult, potentially heated exchanges.

- Document the accident. The III recommends motorists involved in accidents identify the responding police officers and ask them how to obtain copies of the official accident report. Take pictures and speak with any witnesses, jotting down their names and contact information if possible.

- Notify your insurance provider. Notify your insurance provider as soon as possible. You can even do so from the scene of the accident if you're capable of doing so. This can jump-start the claims process.

Knowing what to do in the immediate aftermath of a car accident can calm drivers' nerves and get them on the road to recovery that much sooner.

When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.

— Henry Ford

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Classic car restoration for beginners

They're eye-catching, often exotic and always call to mind a bygone era. Classic cars are undeniably unique and their unrivaled automotive appeal has inspired legions of fans. That appeal also has compelled many to try their hand at classic car restoration.

Restoring a classic car can be a rewarding hobby, particularly the first time a vehicle emerges from its owner's garage and hits the open road. Car buffs interested in restoring a classic car of their own can consider various factors before they lift the hood on this challenging yet rewarding hobby.

Time and Money

It's hard to know if a classic car restoration will cost owners more time or money, but restoration novices should expect to spend a lot of both as they work to restore a ride to its former glory. CarsDirect.com estimates that a restoration done by a professional shop can cost anywhere from \$40,000 to \$60,000, and that does not necessarily include the cost of the vehicle. If the financial commitment raises an eyebrow, perhaps would-be car guys and gals should look away from the estimated time it takes to restore a classic car. CarsDirect notes that it can take around 1,000 hours for DIYers to restore a classic car. The excitement of restoring a classic car can quickly wear off if owners don't have enough time and/or money to keep the project going at a steady pace.

The Car

Some car buffs may already envision which type of car they want to restore. Some may want to restore a classic Ford Mustang like the one they drove in high school, while others with a flare for automotive history might want to restore a 1930s classic. Whatever your preference, make sure you find a

car that won't bust your budget. Even the initial cost to purchase the car from a local salvage yard can be deceiving. Some cars might only be affordable because they've experienced such extensive damage that the cost to restore them will be especially high. It's good to know what you're looking for as you begin to scour newspaper classified ads or visit local salvage yards. But allow yourself some room for flexibility in regard to the type of car you're willing to restore. That can ensure you aren't breaking your budget right away or overcommitting yourself to a project that may prove beyond your range of abilities. Online car forums can be great places to get some insight into restoration, especially for beginners.

The Project

In addition to determining which car to get and how much time and money you can realistically devote to the restoration project, car enthusiasts must determine which tools they'll need, where they're going to work on the project and the availability of discounted parts. Discounted parts can help offset considerable restoration costs, so access to a local seller or salvage yard can be a significant advantage. The internet has made finding parts easier, as resources like CheapAutoParts.com can be invaluable. A place to work also is a must-have, so garages may need to be outfitted to make projects more enjoyable. Tools also can be costly, though CarsDirect notes that different steps in the process require different tools. That can make it easier to spread out the cost of buying new tools.

Classic car restoration can be an engaging hobby. Novices are urged to learn as much about restoration as possible before they decide to fully commit to this potentially rewarding endeavor.



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Four apps that can make driving safer

Technology has changed the world in ways too numerous to count. Many of those changes have made the world a safer place, but a growing dependence on smartphones, particularly when behind the wheel, continues to put the safety of drivers, their passengers, fellow motorists, and pedestrians in jeopardy.

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicates that distracted driving was responsible for the deaths of more than 3,100 people in the United States in 2019. The threat of distracted driving is just as significant beyond U.S. borders as well. That includes Canada, where estimates from Transport Canada's National Collision Database indicate 21 percent of the country's fatal collisions involved distracted drivers.

Though smartphones are not the lone distraction drivers face, they do pose a significant threat. But smartphones also can help drivers be safer behind the wheel. The following are four apps that drivers can install on their smartphones that were designed to make modern driving safer.

SafeDrive

The SafeDrive app can block all the textual apps in a phone, removing a major threat to drivers' ability to concentrate behind the wheel. Drivers who utilize SafeDrive can still make phone calls, but they won't

be able to receive or send messages.

LifeSaver

The LifeSaver app runs silently in the background and then wakes up and locks the phone when a driver begins driving. Parents of young drivers should know that the app's "Family View" feature can enable them to track their children's driving and even see when kids are behind the wheel so parents won't contact them. The app also can alert loved ones when drivers arrive at their destination.

TextDrive

This app sends auto response messages to people who try to call or text drivers while they're behind the wheel. Drivers can reply to messages using voice commands as well.

DriveWell

Drivers who want some insight into their driving habits should consider the DriveWell app. The app is designed to provide drivers with feedback about their driving habits. Drivers can access trip summaries, details on their maneuvers and even track their speeds.

Drivers interested in utilizing technology to become safer drivers can try various apps designed to reduce driver distractions.

Drivers delaying vehicle maintenance

Many drivers recognize the importance of vehicle maintenance, but a significant percentage of drivers are putting off taking timely care of their cars and trucks. IMR Inc. surveys 25,000 households each quarter, asking participants how they have serviced and maintained their vehicles. In the first quarter of 2020, much of which occurred prior to the declaration of a global pandemic, nearly 18 percent of respondents indicated they had delayed vehicle repairs or maintenance. IMR classified "delayed maintenance" as repairs and maintenance that vehicle owners intentionally put off despite knowing the vehicles needed them. That conscious decision to delay maintenance and repairs could prove costly in the long run, as adhering to a routine maintenance schedule is a great way to ensure cars stay on the road longer. In addition, adhering to manufacturer-recommended maintenance schedules is a great way to discover minor issues before they escalate into larger, more costly concerns.



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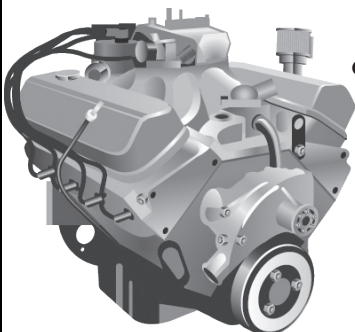


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Creepy, the clown hearse now in Owensville

Mike Reifer of Owensville recently purchased a 1934 S&S Olympian hearse from an individual in Wiloughby, Ohio. The creepy addition to his collection attracted visitors at Owensville's Trunk-Or-Treat this year when Reifer's grandson Tucker Sassmann dressed as the clown Pennywise with the hearse as his backdrop.

"There is only two in the world and that is one of them," Reifer said. "There were six built and two left."

Reifer first discovered the hearse on eBay but it didn't sell.

"(The owner) bought it from one of the original Shriners in Muskogee, Ohio," Reifer said. "I have got pictures of it at the 1963 Shriners Parade in Chicago."

Reifer said it has most likely been a Shriners' vehicle longer than it has been a hearse.

"They got it from a funeral home in the late 1930s, early 1940s in Muscatine, Iowa," he said.

When the item didn't sell on eBay, Reifer contacted the owner and worked out a deal.

"It's Creepy," was his first thought, and that is what the car is now named. "It is a

rarity and there isn't anything like that."

The curtain, right down to the swag, is all carved wood.

"It's neat though. The handwork on it, all the carving," Reifer said. "It's in great shape and runs like a champ. Only has 20,000 miles on it."

The car that was built by Sayers and Scovill Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, has a mysterious past for only having a few owners. While Reifer knows it comes from a funeral home and even has a picture of the hearse while it was still being used for its original purpose, he can't find the name of the funeral home.

"They are black and white photographs," Reifer said, adding that he thinks the name of the funeral home is on the door but he can't make it out. "There is a registration receipt from back in the 1940s that I found."

He speculates that the Shrine Organization was a very prominent group in the late 1930s and 1940s so the funeral home probably gave them the hearse. The Shriners turned the hearse into a wagon for their Shrine Clown that used to visit children in the hospital.

"The clown on the side is kind of morbid



MIKE REIFER (center photo above) explains "Creepy" to local business owner Paul Farris at Owensville's annual Trunk or Treat, October 29 where the former hearse was introduced to Owensville. Reifer's grandson, Tucker Sassmann (lower right next page) dressed up as a clown to pass out candy at the event. **PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER**

being on a hearse," Reifer said. "We were going to turn it back into a hearse but couldn't do it. Too much history, a unique piece."



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Ten gifts for automotive enthusiasts

The roar of the engine and the feeling of the wind in your hair is part of the magic of taking to the open road behind the wheel of a beloved vehicle. Whether a person is the ultimate gear head who needs to have the latest aftermarket accessory or someone who simply appreciates a pristine ride, auto enthusiasts come in all shapes and sizes. Luckily, there are all types of automotive gifts that can make it easy to impress car guys and gals this holiday season.

1. Dashboard cell phone holder: Using a mobile phone while driving is not a good idea. However, many people use their phones as GPS devices. Holding a phone while navigating is dangerous, but a phone mount near the dash can keep the phone visible without compromising the safety of drivers and their passengers.

2. Customized floor mats: Know an auto fanatic who's also a sports fan? Offer a gift that mixes the two passions, such as floor mats featuring a favorite sports team's logo.

3. Cleansing wipes: When drivers are short on time, a full car wash and wax may not be possible. Drop Wipes are a product made from a neutralizing acid that destabilizes stains or bird droppings for an easy cleaning.

4. Magazine subscription: A wide selection of publications are geared to auto enthusiasts. They provide plenty of pertinent information, and some car lovers like to collect and display certain issues. Yearly subscriptions are affordable and can make ideal stocking stuffers.

5. Racing experience gift certificate: Research racing car schools and experiences where you live. Chances are you can find an opportunity for an automotive enthusiast to get behind the wheel of a race car with professional drivers offering tips for navigating the course at high speeds.

6. Car cleaning kit: Taking care of a ride means making sure it is clean inside and out.



A quality car cleaning kit can ensure the job is done effectively and the car or truck always looks its best.

7. Personalized leather keychain: Ensure that a person can drive and keep their keys handy in style with leather keychains engraved with a driver's name or initials.

8. Racing video games: A love for the open road may not end when cars pull into the driveway. Modern racing games and consoles produce incredibly realistic graphics and action that mimics real life.

9. Automotive cufflinks: As a nod to a love of driving, find quirky cufflinks that are shaped like everything from gear shifters to speedometers to steering wheels.

10. Roof or car racks: When a love of driving merges with the call of the great outdoors, drivers may need something to help haul their stuff. Various racks have

been designed for toting around bicycles, kayaks, luggage, and more.

When gifting automotive enthusiasts,

look no further than their favorite hobby for inspiration.

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Tips before buying new tires

Though vehicles can't function without them, tires are something few drivers think about until something goes wrong. A roadside flat tire or a tire rotation recommendation from a mechanic during a routine oil change appointment may be the only time many drivers give much thought to their tires. That no doubt leads to some confusion about what to do when tires inevitably need to be replaced.

The automotive resource Kelley Blue Book notes that the life expectancy of most tires falls between 25,000 and 50,000 miles. That's a big gap, and car owners can check their vehicle manuals to see if their vehicle manufacturer recommends a more specific replacement interval. It's worth noting that mileage is not the only barometer drivers should use to determine if they need to buy new tires. The following tips can help drivers determine if now is the time to outfit their vehicle with new tires.

- Measure the tread. KBB notes that a tire assessment should always include measuring the amount of remaining tread. Drivers can do this on their own in various ways. One method involves looking at the tread wear bars, which are little bridges in the grooves between the ridges. If the bars are even with the tread pattern, then the tire has very little tread remaining and must be replaced. The penny or quarter test is a popular way to determine if tires must be replaced. Insert a penny or quarter into the center of the tread between two ridges with Lincoln's or Washington's head facing you. If you can see the very top of the head or the space above the head, the tire must be replaced. If only a little bit of hair is visible, then the tire is nearing its end. The tire has sufficient remaining tread if the some of the forehead is concealed.

- Check for other signs of wear and tear. Little remaining tread is not the only sign tires must be replaced. Tires with cracked sidewalls, discoloration and/or bulging need to be replaced.

- Confirm a larger issue isn't lurking. Uneven wear on tires is typically a byproduct of a larger issue. Though tires that have worn unevenly will need to be replaced, replacing them without correcting the larger issue will only lead to more uneven wear on the new tires. That's a costly mistake. KBB notes that poor wheel alignment or suspension issues are typically to blame for uneven wear. This issue can be fixed and should be addressed prior to purchasing a new set of tires.

Tires sometimes exhibit telltale signs that they need to be replaced. Before buying replacement tires, drivers can inspect their existing ones and ask their mechanic to confirm that a larger issue isn't affecting their performance.

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