

# A Visit To Scott Schearer's Fire Truck Restoration Farm

By Bill Wurzell, Editor

During our travel time to and from membership and board meetings, Nick Prevas has been keeping Dan Materazzi, Ed Allen and me apprised of the exploits of Nick's friend and neighbor, Scott Schearer. Mr. Schearer is a heavy truck mechanic, farmer and fire truck enthusiast and restores them at his Hi-Land Farm in Howard County. Mr. Schearer is also Chesapeake Region President Gary Wilmer's nephew. Recently, Howard County Planning and Zoning officials have been nipping at Scott's heels regarding compliance and what is taking place on his property. The property was once a dairy farm with several out buildings. Mr. Schearer has done nothing but improve the property since he's owned it. Scott has lots of support from his friends and neighbors, including Nick and Linda. This is a very nice facility and its nearly impossible to see from Highland Road, regardless if the fence gate is open or not. On September 12, 2014, the judge agreed and ruled in Scott's favor, the fire trucks can stay at his farm. A big relief for Scott his friends and supporters.

Scott designated his property a 'museum.' This is a perfectly legal option. To comply with this designation, the museum must be available to

## Bob Lynch, Jr., Reminiscences...

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an auction at the dealership, sold the property and closed the business in February of 1981.

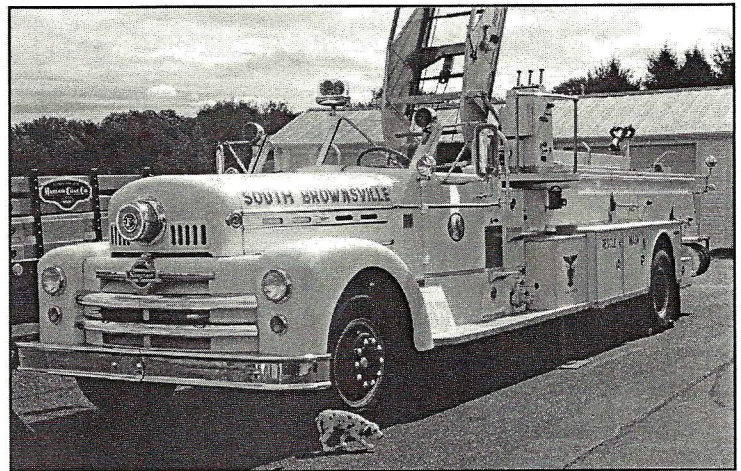
In 1981, International-Harvester's finances were at their lowest point due to a strike, the economy and corporate internal problems. In 1984, International Harvester Corporation, following long negotiations, agreed to sell its agricultural products division to Tenneco, Inc., in November of 1984. Tenneco's subsidiary, J. I. Case, manufactured farm tractors but lacked a full line of farm implements that I.H. produced. Following this merger, I.H. factories in Illinois and Tennessee were closed. However, the truck and engine divisions remained and in 1986 Harvester changed the corporate name to 'Navistar International Corporation' and continues to manufacture medium and heavy duty trucks, school buses and engines under the International brand name.

Mike Lynch took his share of the proceeds of the sale of C. R. Lynch Company and opened a lawn and garden business featuring Cub Cadet tractors. The business was successful; Mike sold the business in 1985; it continues in operation today under different ownership.

Bob Lynch, Jr., went to work for other well known companies and successfully sold golf course maintenance equipment in Maryland and Delaware for fifteen years. Bob retired in 1995 and still has fond memories of his dealings with International Harvester Corporation in spite of heavy handed treatment on occasion.

### Craig & Mary Lynch Whitcraft

Small World, indeed, Bob Lynch's younger sister is Mary Lynch Whitcraft, wife of Craig Whitcraft, both dedicated members of Chesapeake Region. Craig Whitcraft purchased the property in Reisterstown that housed C. R. Lynch, Co. and turned it into a successful automatic transmission repair business. Mary Whitcraft is chairing Chesapeake Region's Sixtieth Anniversary Yearbook Committee. It was Bob Lynch that gave Craig Whitcraft a membership to Chesapeake Region for his birthday! *EDITOR'S NOTE: Many thanks to Bob Lynch for his inspiration and assistance with this article; thanks also to Mary Whitcraft for providing photos.*



Scott Shearer's favorite 'white elephant' a 1954 Seagrave model 900 ladder truck. This unit is equipped with an 85 foot ladder along with a 906 cubic inch V-12 gas engine. Scott has others.

the public at least one day per year. Scott made the day, October 4th; in conjunction with the local 'Highland Days' Celebration. Nick sent me an email requesting I bring my antique car to the show and help support Scott Schearer and Highland Days.

Of course, there were fire trucks and related equipment on display. You get a sense of what it must be like to restore a firetruck. Restoring a car or pickup truck is probably kid's stuff compared to firetruck restoration. Just the sheer size of the components would be enough to scare me off. There was a diesel motor standing vertically next to one of the garages. You could see the pistons were the size of wastebaskets! Wheel lug nuts the size of your hand. There were about a dozen or so cars on hand including Dan Materazzi's 1956 Corvette and an eclectic group of other vehicles.

One unusual car was a 'fake' Ferrari roadster. This car has the distinction of being one of the three cars used in the very popular 1986 motion picture: 'Ferris Bueller's Day Off.' It's made up of an 'MG' trunk lid, VW taillights and a host of other parts that make it look like a Ferrari including the logo. For this reason, the builder of the cars (there were three) was sued by Ferrari for copyright infringement and went out of business. Ferrari also sued the movie producer. This particular vehicle was used as the 'stunt' car and all the movie scenes of the actors were filmed in this car. Greg Wildby, an automobile restorer, was showing the car for his client, the car's owner.



The vehicle above. 'stunt' car in the movie 'Ferris Bueller's Day Off'