

## Family Affair

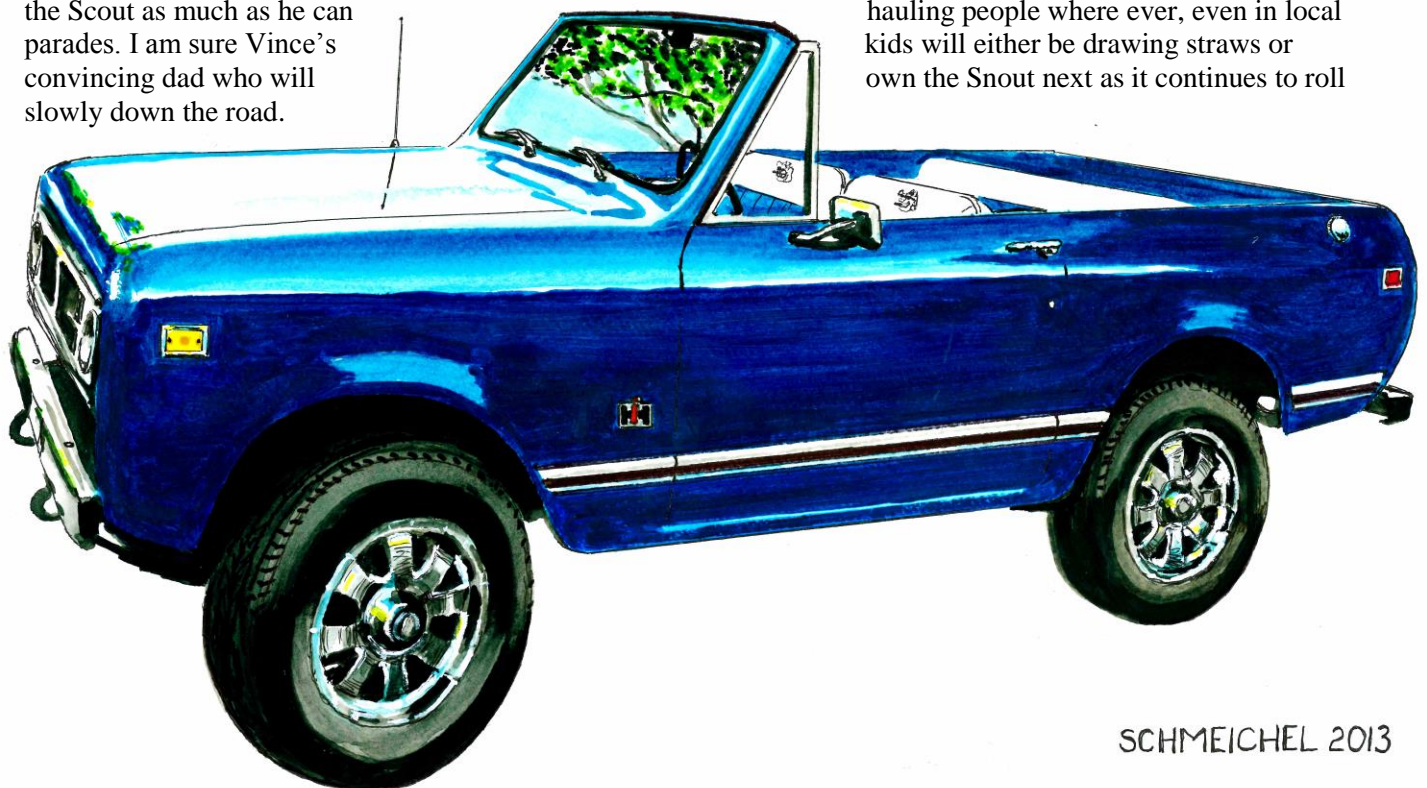
By Bob Schmeichel

Vince Jones's father had a Dodge dealership in Huron, South Dakota, for quite a few years. During those times a lot of vehicles were bought or traded off for something newer. In 1980, one of the vehicles his father took in was a 1973 International Scout that a local farmer used to pull his horse trailer. Although it had 160,000 miles on, it still ran great and had a rust-free body. His father liked it enough to keep it and use it as a hunting vehicle at their cabin in the Black Hills. Once there, it stayed there for the next 28 years being used briefly three or four times a year to get people out into the hills to hunt. Vince noted that he and Ken Levene used it many times over the years. Each time they were pleasantly surprised that it started after sitting for nine months, then ran all day long without a problem taking them places they didn't think it could go. Many happy memories and times happened by all who used the Scout in one way or another.

Towards the end of that 28-year time span Vince's father passed away and the Scout was not used as frequently for hunting but was used for fun by Vince's kids when they were out there just to drive around with. Because the paint was fading on the Scout, Vince had thoughts of selling it only to have his kids say, "You can't sell Grandpa's car!!"

So in 2008, Vince brought the Scout home and decided to restore it. After all the fun it had given to everyone over the years, it needed to continue to have purpose or meaning. So, Vince took it to Jerry's Auto Body at Lennox and let them do their magic. The body was pulled off the frame and everything stripped of paint. The original two-tone body color was replaced with one color off a newer car at the time. The engine was rebuilt and suspension gone through to get everything fresh again. A Flow Master exhaust was added to let Vince know it was running after all was back together again. After that Vince pulled the hardtop off and replaced it with a white soft top. Next on the agenda was getting the interior redone in a 50's style of white with matching blue inserts. The last thing he did was to raise the suspension and add larger wheels and tires for ground clearance, although I don't think he will use it to go hunting with any more, at least not out in the boonies.

The nick name Vince gave the Scout years ago stuck to it enough to put it on the license plate, which reads "73 SNOUT." Vince said the reason for the name was that it ate gas like a pig getting only 10 mpg while going no place fast. Even though it lives up to its name today, Vince thoroughly enjoys hauling people where ever, even in local parades. I am sure Vince's convincing dad who will own the Snout next as it continues to roll slowly down the road.



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