

# The Roadranger Blog

Trevor Jones of Masterton has created a delightful online blog (the Roadranger Blog) featuring not only his wonderful collection of historic trucks, cars, motorcycles and aircraft, but also contributions from other photographers interested in the same subjects. Trevor has allowed us to share some of his early gems with some great truck photographs from the 1970s and 80s.

Trevor Jones is based in Masterton. He has a lifelong passion for photography and over the years has amassed an outstanding collection of not only truck photographs but also historic images of cars, aircraft and motorcycles from the 1960s.

We let Trevor take up the story.

I have created this blog because I have had a lifelong interest in motor vehicles and over the years I have accumulated a large amount of photographs. So I thought this would be the best way to share them with other interested people.

If it has an engine and it moves under its own power then I am interested, but I do have a special interest in trucks and motorcycles.

My grandfather (Norman) was a wagon driver, the type powered by horses or bullocks, he later progressed to driving traction engines before he bought a dairy farm. In those days milk was delivered directly from the farm and the farm had a number of trucks for deliveries. When the farm was sold my father (Arthur) took over the milk delivery side of the business using the Morris Commercial. The milk was of course in glass bottles in wire crates, with no chilling or protection from the sun, imagine the health authorities allowing that now.

My other grandfather ran a trucking business from his backyard. So I guess trucks and machinery got into my blood. I haven't got many photos of my grandfather's trucks.

My first truck driving job was in this D series Ford for Mi-ere Bacon Co. I had spent the first 15 years of my working life in the motor trade, both as a mechanic and as a partsman. I particularly enjoyed the parts work, but got frustrated at being indoors all day so got myself a truck licence and found this job as their Hutt Valley representative.

After four years the company closed down after being taken over. Fortunately within a month I was working again for Premiere Bacon Co. which started business in the old Mi-ere factory. This led to 20 years of driving a truck to the Hutt Valley every day. It was the best job I ever had, and I can lay claim to having driven over the Rimutakas in excess of 10,000 times.

My first driving job was in this Ford D0910 for Mi-ere Bacon Co which is seen here just over the Rimutaka Summit after a light snowfall



I wanted to photograph trucks even before I owned a camera. As a family, we used to travel to Rotorua to visit relations. I remember well the different models of long nose Internationals. I also remember in Malfroy Road two trucks reversed into a shed, with their fronts facing the road. Can't even remember what one of them was, but the other I thought wore a Leyland badge. It had very low windows in the front corners, and I now wonder if it was actually a Bristol.

Another one I remember was a white or cream coloured Mack articulated tipper which used to park near the intersection of Lake Rd and Fairy Springs/Old Taupo Rd. I think this was probably the first Mack I had ever seen. I remember it had the word 'Thermodyne' sign written on the bonnet side.

In Te Puke I remember a Guy (Invincible?) pulling logs through the Main Street.

In the 1970s I bought a great little view-finder Minolta from a friend. This was a brilliant camera for holiday pictures, but a bit limited if you wanted to take pictures of trucks on the move. Finally I had saved enough to buy my first SLR. With the assistance of a friend in the photography business I purchased a Nikon EM. At last I could take some good photos!



Imagine what this pedal car in this condition would be worth now.



Fearon Logging, for a time, operated this Detroit powered Transtar II. It was previously operated by...



Car Haulways Mack MC with a load, ready for a truck parade in Lower Hutt. When this appeared on my blog I was contacted by the little guy leaning on the bullbar, who was thrilled to see it.



Freightways Oshkosh peaks out from between the containers at their Napier yard



...B Cronin and was named "Big Jim"



A couple of LK1924 Mercedes Benz of Modern Freighters at their yard in Levin



'Whistlin' Dixie' was for sale on the Kapiti coast when this was taken



NZR Road Services TM Bedford about to unload concrete blocks for the building of the new Firestone Tyre Centre in Masterton



Burling Transport operated a couple of these International 3070s, hauling lime, metal, fertilizer, etc



A narrow cabbed TM Bedford with 6V-71 Detroit delivering Tenderkist products to Masterton



Eight wheeler Nissans, like this example, were the flagships of the Transport Wairarapa fleet in the 80s



A mix of breeds in the Transport Wairarapa fleet

A & J Hill of Palmerston North were strong supporters of the bulldog breed



ASC Flowers did daily trips to the Wairarapa with this brand new R series Mack. It is delivering in Masterton's Queen Street when the main street was one-way



A Detroit powered Kenworth of TD Haulage thundering north on the Desert Road with snow on the verges



Keith Guptill's Ford D series going south on the Desert Road. The high intake and stack normal hidden by aero kit which has been removed



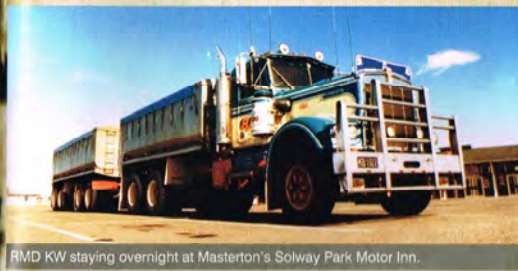
RMD Kenworth W between the boulders at the top of the Kaimais



RFL Fuso and Modern Freighters Mercedes-Benz topping up the tanks at Wairakei



TD Haulage Mack R series with an 8V71 Detroit outside the pub at Mangatainoka



RMD KW staying overnight at Masterton's Solway Park Motor Inn.



NZIG Foden at the Pizza Hut intersection in Hamilton



Cronin S-Line executes a quick U turn next to a grain merchant in Masterton



Burrell Demolition's Atkinson clearing the site of the new Woolworths supermarket in Masterton



In the mid 80s, Wararapa Town Milk delivered milk in glass bottles in wire crates to the towns of the lower Wairarapa valley. Their 1982 Isuzu crosses the centreline near Battersea on a return trip from Martinborough



Ian Easton's R series Mack heads north from Masterton



Freightways ERF in the late afternoon sun in Taupo



Transport Wairarapa Nissan Jumbo with Cesci-steer trailer at Masterton rail yard with driver leaning on the bull bar



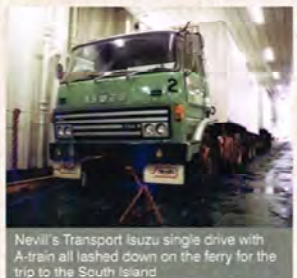
Alan Brownell of Pahiatua made a play on words with his 'ERFmover'



Regan's old, but tidy Pacific seen on the Auckland motorway



Gray Bros of Greytown relocate the Styleline Fashions shop in Masterton with their G58 Volvo.



Nevill's Transport Isuzu single drive with A-train all lashed down on the ferry for the trip to the South Island



Mobil Nissan unloads fuel into the underground tanks at Vic's Garage in Masterton



Northern Southland MAN loads up with concrete blocks in Queenstown



A Mercedes-Benz 2232 on the old Kaimai climb



The highlight of my honeymoon in the far north in 1985 was a ride in Matte Franicovich's Peterbilt, the only example of the breed in NZ at that time

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**

# TRUCK JOURNAL

**KIWI TRUCKERS' FAVOURITE MAGAZINE**

**The PERFECT Gift for the TRUCKER in your life...  
...get it delivered to their door!**

**1 Year Subscription ONLY \$69.00**

Is this a Gift Subscription?  
 Yes  No

Would you like us to send a complimentary card to the recipient?  
 Yes  No

Subscription For...

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Givers Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please start my subscription with the Issue/Month \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT DETAILS**  
One Year's Subscription (11 Issues) Costs \$69.00 inc GST  
(International Rates are available on request)

Payment is by: Cheque  Mastercard  Visa   
(Please make cheques payable to Nile Publishing Ltd t/a TRUCK Journal)

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date:

Security code    (last 3 digits on back of card)

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Post to: Nile Publishing Ltd, PO Box 4116, Hiahfield, Timaru 7942 or Fax 03 684 9522 or FREEPHONE 0800 878 255