

# 1

## CAT® TRUCK ENGINES FEATURED MILLION MILER

### JERRY SCHEIDT

**WE HEARD THE ROAR OF A DIESEL ENGINE** as we started to walk into the Caterpillar Lafayette Welcome Center. We knew it had to be our guests, but it turned out not to be the big rig we were hoping to see. Instead, it was an SUV driven by Mrs. Bonnie Scheidt. Her husband Jerry, the man of honor, was riding shotgun. It seemed a bit odd that this man who had put more than 3 million miles on his Cat® engine wasn't driving. When questioned about this, Jerry simply says, "I can't drive that thing." Guess it isn't the same as his 1989 model, 3406B-powered Freightliner.



**THIS IS THE STORY OF JERRY SCHEIDT**, a former Air Force aircraft mechanic, husband, stepfather, grandfather, proud truck driver for the past 33 years, huge fan of Cat dealer Cleveland Brothers and quite possibly the most enthusiastic customer ever to walk the tour path.

It's not every day a request comes into the Million Miler Club from a dealer for a driver with more than 3 million miles on his Cat engine. That number is special enough on its own, but what makes Jerry's situation unique is the relationship he has with Cleveland Brothers Branch Service Manager Clay Callahan. The two have known each other for more than 20 years, but when you ask them how long it's been, they laugh and say, "1.5 million miles ago." That was when Jerry came to Clay for his first overhaul. Amazingly, his engine has only required two overhauls. It still has the original crank, lifters and camshaft, and the front covers have never been off! Jerry says, "Cat is dependable. All it needs is air and fuel."

Clay and his team do such a great job keeping Jerry on the road that he won't go anywhere else if any major work is needed. He tells us that Cat dealer support is wonderful. Being on the road, he has to stop at other places from time to time, but always goes to Cat dealers or TEPS dealers for minor service. A mechanic himself, he performs small jobs on his own but only buys genuine Cat parts. He religiously changes his oil once a month.

When Jerry purchased his truck on September 15, 1988, he never thought that he would one day be sitting in Lafayette, Indiana, with his wife Bonnie, his favorite Service Manager Clay, Clay's wife Kallie and several Cat representatives—all there to thank him for his many years of dedication to the Cat brand and for being a loyal customer. Jerry had mentioned to Clay that as an engine enthusiast, he'd always wanted to tour the factory—a simple wish to grant. His mind must have been exceeding the speed limit as he raced to ask question after question.

Jerry is an owner-operator who has driven for many companies. He currently drives for Overbye Transportation out of Minnesota. Before driving his Cat powered truck, he owned a unit with a Cummins engine, which had to be overhauled four times in four years. He has hauled all types of cargo, including meat, heavy equipment, wood, general freight and now mostly Polaris parts and products. Jerry had a funny story to tell about a day when his dispatcher called him to pick up an unusual load. It was the Volvo of a fellow Overbye driver that had only 56 miles on it when it broke down. The oldest truck in the fleet had to haul back the youngest truck in the fleet.

When asked when he plans to retire, Jerry answers, "Never." When asked if he would come back and see us when he hits the 4 million mile mark, he says, "Yes, if I am still alive." Bonnie then shares, "He wants to be buried in his truck with the stacks sticking out the ground instead of a tombstone." Here's wishing Jerry many more happy, healthy miles on the road!