

# IHCC NYS Chapter 35 Bus Trip Back in Time to Old IH Dealership

By Gene Preston

If you would like to feel the excitement of walking into an International Harvester Farm Machinery Dealership 50 or 60 years ago, then you cannot deprive yourself of joining us October 21, 2017 on a fun bus trip to Millville, Pennsylvania. This all original old prototype International Harvester Frank Bartlow Dealership building owned by Central Pennsylvania Chapter 17 is now being preserved as a museum. In my opinion it is the grandest piece of IH history anyone can visit and spend a few hours seeing and smelling and hearing the sounds of a wonderful time in our country's agricultural history. Indeed, this is hallowed ground.

Frank Bartlow already had an established IH dealership in Millville, PA since 1939, and opened this facility in 1946. Although a trademark IH prototype design, it was modified slightly to have a basement storage area because of the sloped lot. Everything else, interior design of the showroom and parts department down to signage placement and color were standardized to meet specifications set by IH under guidance of their chief architect. And oh yes, all had the trademark red pilon with its large IH logo as part of the front of the building. See a couple of my photos below from one of my previous visits.

Standing inside one can just imagine the business activity within the showroom, parts department, service area, and offices. The tractor and machinery deals providing farmers with the very best equipment to conduct successful farming. Don't forget the "Pancake Days" IH dealers offered the public each spring as they proudly showed the new line of Farmall tractors. My dad always took my brothers and me to these fun times and we came home with a new red toy tractor under our arm too. Gosh I wish I had that today.

In addition to farm machinery, this dealership sold IH home appliances, Cub Cadet lawn and garden equipment, and Farmall toys. All this extended to the year 1972 when sales were ended and only service was done for several more years. Today the entire facility houses a growing collection of IH equipment and memorabilia.

This bus trip to Chapter 17 on October 21, 2017 is going to be the grand finale to the 2017 season. Here is the plan:

- We will meet at the LeRoy Park and Ride on the Leroy Rt. 90 Entrance at 8:00am on October 21, 2017.
- The bus will stop approximately half way to Millville PA (about 1.5 hours from Leroy) for breakfast.
- We plan on arriving around 1:00pm-2:00pm in Millville, PA.
- Everyone can enjoy the Festival until 7:00pm (closing time) at which time we will board the bus to take us back to the Leroy Park and Ride.
- We will not be stopping on the way home so fill up on Festival food and goodies while you are there.
- We will arrive back at the Park and Ride around 10:30pm-11:00pm.

So please mark the date on your calendar and call or email Gene Preston at 585-225-7218/[mailto:geneff79@gmail.com?subject=I am going!!](mailto:geneff79@gmail.com?subject=I%20am%20going!!) or Dave Meacham at 716-573-5313/[mailto:membership@ihcc35ny.com?subject=I am going!!](mailto:membership@ihcc35ny.com?subject=I%20am%20going!!) and get registered for a day of fun, good food and IH tour you will talk about forever. Cost of the bus will be covered by our chapter. You only need to purchase your meals and any gifts at the festival.