



Scrap Yard Rebirth – The IconiCruiser (A 2001 MCI 102-D3)

By Jeff Silver

A Diamond in the Rough Shines Down the Highway Once Again!

There are those who look longingly upwards at planes flying overhead, those who gaze at ships heading out to sea, and those who get excited when the newest model bus pulls up to their stop. Whatever motorized passions people have usually stem from a young age and for one reason or another follow us through life.

The aviators fondly remember their first trip as a child on a plane to see grandparents in a far-off city, the mariners who may have spent a few years in the Navy, the man whose uncle spent 42 years working for Greyhound and always enjoyed road stories from behind the steering wheel of a gleaming silver motorcoach. From one generation to the next, passions are ignited and passed on.

Such is the case for me. From a young age I have been drawn to the deep rumblings of a diesel engine, the whine of a jet engine, and an 18-Wheeler passing the family car on the highway – if it had a combustion engine – my interest was perked. Aside from my Dad's Buick, the closest I came as a kid to the driver of anything, was on a bus.

First, the bright orange one stopping in front of my house and then the city bus I began riding in grade three. Anytime I took the bus, however short the ride, if I could snag the first seat to

the right of the driver, I was mesmerized by the changing of gears, the hiss of air brakes, and the size of the large steering wheel. It didn't take much to captivate me as a wide-eyed 8-year-old.

By the time I started college, I had been bitten by the bus bug, and the site of a new bus, be it school, transit, or coach, always captivated me. My interest was only that much more heightened when listening to my great uncle who rose from being a Greyhound bus driver in the mid-1930s to vice president for the company he spent more than four decades working for.

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