

The New Old Truck

Jennifer Somervell, author

Margery Fern, illustrator

The New Old Truck is a magnificent children's book about a real truck on a real farm in New Zealand in the 1960's. Written by two sisters who grew up on the farm, "The New Old Truck" tells the story of an amazing 1921 Republic Model 10 truck that was repurposed as Old Truck on a farm in New Zealand. After many years of faithful, if flawed, service, Old Truck was retired and replaced by the dairy farmer, over the objections of his many children. Old Truck was hidden away, covered with spider webs, rust and dust. One day John, the farmer's son, decided he would restore Old Truck and make it as good as new. All the family celebrated this difficult, challenging project. With many people from far-away places helping supply ancient engine parts and other resources, Old Truck was finally restored and became New Old Truck, the only restored truck of his kind left in the world. A big celebration at the Vintage Rally ensured New Old Truck would be remembered and honored as the last Republic 1921 model 10 in the world.

The authors and family did extensive research about the background history of *New Old Truck*, and discovered that it came originally from Alma, Michigan, where the Republic Motor Truck Company flourished between 1913 and 1918. Historical background of the New Old Truck is presented with color photographs at the end of the book, and the latest edition of *The New Old Truck* will celebrate its US re-release on June 7, 2014, in Alma, Michigan, the home of Republic Trucks, with the assistance of the Alma Public Library. Written and creatively illustrated by a team of sisters, Jennifer and Margery, daughters of the New Zealand farmer/owner of the Old Truck, this award winning collaboration combines family history with international travels and times. A handy glossary defines special terms used to tell the story of the New Old Truck.

Children's Bookwatch: July 2014

Midwest Book Review

James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief

Diane Donovan, Editor

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