Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter.

THE CLUB MESTING, 28th. September, 1981.

A record crowd of about 60 members met at the Old Down Inn, Emborough, to see a first-class slide show by Bill Appleby and Rob Lambert, The meeting was opened by Vice Chairman, Ian Skuse, whose humourous comments delighted the audience all through the show. To a selection of suitable background music, Robin showed a miscellany of slides, mostly of stationary engines at numerous rallies over the past few years. Members were captivated by the many candid shots of themselves and their friends - sometimes taken in situations not entirely connected with stationary engines !!

Most memorable was a shot of an overalled Tony Jones, resplendent in a Civil Defence helmet, riding accross s field on an ancient bicycle. This slide would have made a great advert for a "Dad's Army" film! We were also treated to a shot of an unusually pensive Brian Munt, a barbecue scene featuring Chris Rogers, Rod & Marg Dring, whose ruddy complexions were not, I think, entirely due to the reflection from the glowing charcoal! Also seen were Jane Cannon, who featured in many odd poses, Bill Lane, Bill Foster, John Kyte, Don Rogers and Wally Hull, to name but a few.

Punctuating the engine shots were Savage's Steam Gallopers, many tractors, a Fowler Gyrotiller, a rather nice Marshall portable and the inevitable Stourpaine mud:

After the interval, when Herb Gane once more exhorted us all to turn out our pockets for the raffle, Robin quickly ran through the early part of the programme again, especially for the late-comers, and they were equally enjoyable the second time around, but two major questions still remained unanswered; what was Jeremy Dring doing in the waste skip?, and what was Ian Skuse toasting against Rod's steamer?

After the show, Herb drew the raffle, the prizes being as follows:-

First prize, a box of Fudge - Tony Andrews. Second prize, a pot of Fudge - Mike Hodgson. Third prize, a bottle of Fudge - Don Rogers.

There was a marked reluctance to leave the meeting, the few remaining stragglers were left to pick up the glasses and return the chairs after a most enjoyable evening.

Emerson Brantingham.

RUMOUR HAS IT that a certain Membership Secretary & Treasurer of a Club not exactly unknown to all of us, will be exhibiting a brand new "Little Pet" next season. ("As found" - under a gooseberry bush: Ed.) Could this be the reason for and the inevitable consequence of his somewhat tardy appearances at events this summer?????? We note that the vintage cot, seen for sale at the Yatton Rally has quickly found a new home and is undergoing rapid restoration in time for next year's great event!

CANCER and LEUKAEMIA IN CHILDHOOD TRUST.

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to the collection that we have been making during the Rally Season for the Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood Trust.

A special Thank-You must go to Roy and Ivor Cox who organised the Crank-Up at the Full Quart which raised £100.50, and to Jim Ammerson, who collects for us at various other shows. Altogether we have collected £420 which you can be sure will all be put to good use in the Cancer Unit of Bristol Children's Hospital.

Thank you.

Derek, Eileen & Mark Maybee.

BACKWELL HILL PLOUGHING MATCH.

I arrived at this event at 10.30a.m. only to find that it did not open to the public until 2.00p.m.! However, it gave me plenty of time to set up. By lunchtime there were about 15 engines, numerous tractors, a pair of steam engines and several vintage & classic motorbikes. The sun had also arrived and thankfully decided to stay for the duration.

Sunday was to be the ploughing day, so to keep the customers amused, a demonstration of trials riding was held on the Saturday, the course consisting of a selection of obstacles similar to those seen on the T.V. programme, Kickstart. The ages of the riders were between 10 and 15, very skilfull too. Full marks to the organisers for putting on something different. A pig was roasted for the Sturday evening social which was very successful, due, I think, to

the person who stood up and gave an impromptu comedy turn.

Sunday was taken up by the ploughing match. of which I know absolutely nothing! At the end of the day awards were given to ploughmen and engines, Phil Harris getting a first for his very original, unrestored Bedford lorry, although I have a sneaking feeling that the immaculate

Backwell Hill Ploughing Match. Cont'd.

Blackstone mounted on the bed gained him a few points! Mr. Crane, from Failand, was second with his hard working Witte dragsaw. Gerald Harris was third with his Lister 32 h.p. and chaff cutter.

A very enjoyable weekend indeed.

Stewart Turner.

ERRATA Page One.

In the list of raffle prizes, second prize should read, 'pot of bulbs' and third prize should read, 'bottle of wine.

Well, some of us rather like fudge! Ed.

FOR SALE/WANTED/FOR SALE/WANTED/FOR SALE/WANTED/FOR SALE/WANTED/FOR SALE/WANTED/FOR SALE

Richmond & Chandler chaff cutter, £35.) Contact: - Martyn Denham, 35, The Butts, FOR SALE Pulley for early Petter 1½ h.p. M Type.) Frome. Tel:- Frome 62715. WANTED

Rocker Arm for Lister D Type. Mike Hodgson, 3, Lilac Court, Keynsham. K'shm 2696. WANTED

Air Vessel for Lister H2 or H3 series water pump. Part No. 42. Contact Gerald Atherton, Mill Farm, Flax Bourton, Bristol. Tel:- Flax Bourton 2393. WANTED

Pair of Rockers, shaft & push rods for Bamford EV type, 1½h.p. Tom Randall. Tel; WANTED

Midsomer Norton 418926.

RUSTON HORNSBY engine, radiator cooled, single flywheel, mounted on an iron frame (This looks like a 1940's vertical diesel from the photo.Ed)Offers please. FOR SALE Contact R.J. Thorne, 24, Tregelles Close, Highbridge, Somerset.

PALMER SNELL AUCTION. September 23rd.

We arrived at the Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, at about 10.15a.m. and were surprised to find that the sale was to be held indoors. After looking around about three times and fortifying ourselves with sandwiches & coffee, we were ready for the shock.

The 'miscellanea' came up first. (You will se what I mean about the 'shock' later.) Lot 3 was a Lister Model C oilcake breaker in nice condition and it fetched £4, but I think it was bought back by its owner! After the small stuff came the engines and as everyone made their way towards them, I heard someone remark, "This will sort the men from the boys!" How trueit was! Here is the whole lot with prices:-

1929 Petter apple-top, 3h.p. restored - £260. Amanco $2\frac{1}{2}h_{\bullet}p_{\bullet}$ Hired Man, restored, on trolley, £220. Villiers Mar-vil air cooled 2 stroke, £50.

Villiers $1\frac{1}{2}h_{\bullet}p_{\bullet}$ tank cooled, £40. Hopper cooled, £65.

AMANCO 21 H.P. "HIRED MAN" LOT 102.

Lister 5h.p. reverse rotation, on skids, £155. Amanco 3h.p. Chore Boy, as found, L.T.mag. £275. International Harvester 3h.p., £175 Lister Junior, single flywheel, £70. Lister D, as found, £20. Petter M Type, 4h.p. £100. Bamford EV1 12h.p., £65. Lister D, £5. Lister Juior on trolley, £45. Amanco 22h.p., £265. Lister 2½h.p., £55. Scammell engine & pump, £40. Petter A, 1½h.p., £12. Petter 3h.p., aircooled, £9. Ruston Hornsby 3h.p., £65. Lister Junior,£46. Lister D with dynamo, £10. Lister D, £6. Wolseley W.D.8, £7. Wolseley 12h.p., £7. Lister D,£12. J.A.P.,£10. Petter A, £6. B.S.A. engine and pump, £23.

The tractor section included: - 0.T.A., 3-wheeled tractor, (Oak Tree Appliance Co., Coventry), £195. Oliver 80 Standard, fully restored, £1050. Fordson Standard Model N roadless crawler, £400. McCormick W4, £600. McCormick W6, £700. Allis Chalmers B, £190.

Martyn Denham.

RALLY ROUND-UP. For the mini-rally held at Trouble House Inn, Tetbury, on August 16th., we had the usual nice, warm weather, making everyone strip off to the bare essentials! There were about 15 engines, including a Lister made about 1914. It was coupled to a pump which pumped water first go after not being run for 16 years. There were 10 tractors, including a Titan, 2 steam rollers and Berni Gunningham's Garner and organ.

Reading in the newsletter about fuels reminded me of an engine at Ross-on-Wye Rally which was solar powered. The hotter the sun, the faster it ran. When the sun isn't out, it is heated by

a gas burner! At Semington sale, engines were being sold at give-away prices, 2 Petter A's for £5, 2 Lister D's, £4.50, Lister A, 3h.p.,£9. All were complete, as found. Since I wrote about non-members having to pay for plaques at Sodbury Vale raily, this has

been squashed and exhibitors will get a cheaper plaque:

It was nice to see our Chairman, Rod, and Secretary, Diana, together with a lot more Wessex members at Stonehouse Rally this year. As it is always sunny and warm, more members should

try to come, even if only to get bronzed!

I survived the Stourpaine mud, which I think is the worst that I have ever seen. It seems that if you want a good tent or caravan site you must get there at least a week before! Bill and Rod got there by Wednesday and were some distance from their engines. On the Friday & Saturday evenings, the entertainment in one of the beer tents included Penny Rigden and her Can-Can Girls. As I had a front-row seat, I was tormented by Brian Munt, but he left as soon as the act was over. Pam & Ray Saunders also showed a keen interest in the Can-Can! On the Saturday night, Doc Romanes brought his little traction engine into the tent just as the Can-Can started. It all helped to cheer us upas it was still raining and the mud was about 6" deep! On walking round some of the rallies, I find that the tractors are more or less static, thus no fuel costs, and the steamers get coal provided whilst the stationary engines are kept running at their owners expense in order to be invited back next time! On the Sunday, people were still coming into Stourpaine at 4p.m. Sam Blackwell told us that people expect to see engines running. Well, they must have been disappointed as the steamers and organs were on their way long before the engines!

Chippenham & District Preservation Society held their rally at Paul Weaver's farm near Lacock on October 4th. Although it was damp, it was nice to walk about on hard ground. Several Wessex members were there, but Graham Escott was the hardest working one, helping on the steam driven

rack saw.

On Sunday 11th. October I went to the vintage ploughing match at Easton Royal. After the heavy rain & gales on the Friday & Saturday, I expected to find a lot of mud, but although it was a bit sticky at first, it soon dried out. Several Wessex members were there. John Moore of Cherhill took a prize with his Ruston Hornsby. Out of the 56 engines on show there were 30 Listers including 20 D Types. The reainder included only 1 Amanco and a non-running Ailsa Craig. There were no Eagles this year, I think they are all at Pat Malin's!

At Semington sale on October 7th., a well restored Lister D Type was sold for £64 and an unusual $2\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. air cooled Petter, also restored, fetched £94, the bidding starting at £50 in both cases.

The same person bought both. The seller told me later that he expected about £45 each!

HARRY CHAMPION.

SCIENCE MUSEUM OPEN DAY, WROUGHTON AIRFIELD, September 13th.

Sunday morning dawned with the sun shining down over the huge airfield. On looking out of the caravanette window the whole place looked deserted, exept for a couple of exhibits and we began to wonder if we had come on the right weekend!

About 9.30 a.m. we drove across to our engines. Ithink this was the farthest that we have ever parked from our exhibits. The vehicles in the exhibitors area looked like Dinky toys from the

camping area.

In the Stationary Engine Section, most of the Wessex members had arrived and had set up their engines. Present were Rob Lambert, Bill Appleby, Eric Brain, Pete Steele, Derek Maybee, Tom Randall, the Cox brothers and Brian "Sausage Machine" Munt, still looking glum after losing his sausage machine's drive cog-wheel en-route to Wroughton. Luckily, this was found later near his home - I bet that brought back his broad grin!

The open day is well worth a visit. The exhibits cover most areas of the preservation movement, with many working demonstrations of all kinds. Tosee an 1870 horse-drawn bus full of passengers alongside the world's most modern articulated bus was enough to whet anybody's appetite. It made you wonder what you were going to see next. The vast array of items in the huge hangars made exciting browsing, ranging from an ancient horse-drawn hearse to the engine out of a Saturn V rocket.

We had a couple of showers of rain, one rather heavy, but still the public came in their thousands. The only snag was there was no beer tent to go and shelter in!

FULL QUART INN CRANK-UP, September 20th.

We would like to thank all the exhibitors and all the people who helped out or donated towards the Crank-Up. The Landlord sends his thanks too and hopes that we will do it again next year. The money collected for C.L.I.C. amounted to £100.50.

The Cox Families.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES.

MAY 29 - 31, 1982.

FROCESTER MANOR RALLY. Entry forms from Mrs. N. Haines. 11, Picked Acres, Bulley Lane, Churcham, Gloucester. Entries close April 30th. 1982. CAMERTON RALLY. Same site as 1981.

JUNE 12/13, 1982. MAY 1/2

HAWKCHURCH RALLY. Wally Hull, undeterred by the weather, does his thing!

THE first seed-drill was invented by a musician and lawyer, Jethro Tull.

Harry Champion sent in this newspaper cutting. I showed it to our own Jethro Tool who tells me that he is descended from the Irish side of the family, his ancestors having invented the Irish Potato Lifter, or Hand as they called it for short!

YESTERDAY'S FARMING. Taunton Racecourse, Sept.5th. & 6th.

By way of a welcome break from house decorating, we set off on a bright Sunday morning in the 'Yellow Peril!' On the way, Ann questioned my choice of route, she thought we were going to the Bath & West Showground as last year, and had wondered why we had to leave so early. Arriving at Taunton Racecourse, we soon followed our ears to the array of stationary engines. Among the exhibitors were quite a few Wessex members, for example, Messrs. I. and R. Cox with their much rallied Amanco, Lister D, Wolseley and the impeccable Lister A pumping set, which took the R.A. Lister Award. Also, nearby were Mr.J. Rowlands and Mr. Pinnock who displayed a nice Petter 5h.p. Victory Model and an early Lister L Type. Cyril Meecham & Geoff Bryant (& Rex!) were rallying their latest restoration project, a most impressive Ingeco 6h.p., restored to their usual high standard, but it was the much admired red Petter 5h.p. M Type which won the

cup that Geoff was brandishing with éclat! Our latest regular contributor to this newsletter, Brian Munt, would-be purveyor and manufacturer of the to-be-famous "Wessex Wurst", was powering his sausage machine by a Ruston Hornsby 3PB, the faithfull Lister A having suffered a mechanical derangement last time out! On up the line were Pete Holloway with a nice Petter pumping set, and the oldest 'Hired Man' owner, Wally Hull, had the ladies admiring his autobiographical T-shirt. Not many rallies can boast two of the only three McKay Sunshine Harvester engines in Britain, the latest import, a 25h.p. model manufactured in 1905, being owned by the South Somerset Club, the promoters of this show.

Equally rare were the two Acme engines, almost identical.

Although, admittedly, not over safety concious myself, I was horrified to see a Blackstone engine, superbly restored, which was running with a spectator leaning on the rope so heavily that the rope was almost touching the flywheel. A child would have been too small to see the rope at this point and the side-shaft was less than an arms length away. Apart from this, the

field was well laid out for safety and space. Many other examples of varying makes were on show; Ruston Hornsby IP & AP, International, Detroit, Fairbanks Morse, Emerson Brantingham and Victoria to name but a few. W.S.E.C. member

Phil Harris' Blackstone was running well and drawing a large crowd.

For the tractor enthusiast there was ahuge collection including two Lister tractors and a nice early Marshall.

A thoroughly enjoyable day out! We did not want to leave.

Ann & Eric Brain.

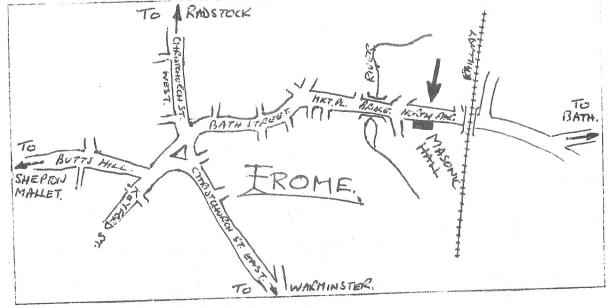
CLUB EVENTS.

NOVEMBER 21st.

NOVEMBER 30th.

DECEMBER 5th.

ANNUAL JUMBLE SALE to be held in St. Peter's Church Hall, Westfield, Radstock, on the A367 Wells Road. Hall open from 11.00a.m. to receive jumble & set up the stalls. Please come and help if you can. Members unable to come can pass jumble to any Committee Member. Sale starts at 2.15 p.m. Give us your support. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1981 LONGLEAT RALLY. A SLIDE SHOW, presented by Eric Brain. (This is to make up for not mentioning it in the Club Newsletter and thereby totally destroying our chances of winning the S.E. Mag's Club Newsletter Award again. Exit Editor, head hung low with shame, to shouts of "Resign!") CLUB DINNER & DANCE at the Masonic Hall, Frome. Tickets £5 per head for which you will get a glass of sherry, a full four course Christmas Dinner, a Guest Speaker, Roy Matthews from Westbury, an engineeer with an infectious sense of humour, free draw ticket for a host of prizes including a turkey, a decorated cake and abottle of Scotch (prize donations welcomed) and, the one and only Captain Hippo Disco. The closing date for tickets is NOVEMBER 14th. Send your payment to Mrs.D.Emery, "Odstax", Wells Road, Hallatrow, Bristol.



JANUARY 25th.

THE ASHMAN-RANDALL VINTAGE PICTURE SHOW. Flaming engines, a sequel to Blazing Saddles!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. FEBRUARY 22nd. (All newsletter contributions to Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cott., West Rd., Midsomer Nortan, Bath.)