

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 1985

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***** LE CRANK-UP D'AUTOMNE - 2nd November 1985

My original notes for this rally are not as clear as they were on the day of the event because a strawberry flavoured jelly - unset, naturally! - ran over them, over my phone bill, and over my egg sandwich!

The day dawned bright; we had our lay-in (certainly better than a mere lie-in - Ed...) and left Trowbridge about 10.45a.m. complete with engine, dog and 2 children, Claire was away with the Guides. On arrival we noted that we were not first; it seems that among the first were Ray and Angela Hicks with their Petter-M powered generator, all the way from Exeter. (You didn't get your Sunday lie-in, did you?). Welcome to Dave, David, Dominic and Doreen (3 D I can cope with but.....!) Stickland complete with Wolseley and Pullen pump - and push along tractor trailer. although I don't think the last item was really vintage. I hope you enjoyed your first rally and that we will see you all on the rally field again next year.

Members present were more or less as follows, but if I get your name or engine wrong then I'm sorry but I only know which engines I like by the sound they make. Petter apple-tops are my favourite - the bigger the better! On with the Crank-Up...Derek Maybee was present with Amanco and pump, Brian and Mary Verrall with their Wallace Glasgow, the International Eric Brain, Dave and Shirley Clack with a working Lister Junior, Andy Gale took along his Lister Junior which did a naughty thing with its timing gear but I dare not ask what damage it did - but at least it will give him something to do this winter. Mary, Reg and Stephen Butler had a Wolseley and JAP engine on show next to Roy Cox who had a Petter with a Villiers engined pump on the grass verge. Jeremy and Simon Adams had an early Lister Junior and a JAP generator, Derek Watts exhibited a Coventry Victor, Don Rogers and Fairbanks Bulldog, Bob, Gill and Granny Hallam, a Ruston Hornsby, while Robin and Jackie Lambert with Bill Appleby brought their Ruston which is on a rather larger scale.

Who else? Well, there was Ivor Cox's Wolseley, John and Diana Emery's 'chief Barker - Sir!' and Herb Gane's Bates & Edmunds Fairbanks Bulldog, out for a day's exercise. Eric, Maureen and Cath Gay with their Ruston, Bill and Eric Coombs with their 3 hp Amanco driving a Burnurd pump, John Wheelwright and his Lister Junior Generator and finally Phil Harris' Detroit in as-found condition. Not a Lister D in sight.

Funny story? Well it was told to me twice so it must appeal to the rest of the Club. Everyone knows of Brian Munt's dislike of Petter M-types. Dirty smelly creatures! Because it was Sunday and he too had had a lie-in .. or a lay-in!...he arrived at the Crank-Up with his newly obtained steam engine with no paraffin to fire it up. Brian was forced to scrounge some off a Petter owner, Mr. Cox. This steamer was irreverently described as a steam coffee percolator by Don Rogers - and the issuing acrid vapour made every Petter M resemble 'Fairy Snow'. Reminds me, what a lot of ways there are to spell paraffin, parafin, parraffin, paraphin...no wonder our Editor always refers to it as kerosene!

By the time we had eaten lunch, and what bliss - no washing up, the sun was sinking and it got cold. Laura and Chris had a lovely time as the farmer in the farm adjoining the pub took them around his farm and showed them cows, chickens, geese, a donkey...they were very impressed; he even offered them some old string...cor!

At 3 p.m. the raffle was drawn. Roy Cox plonked for a bottle of plonk; Eric Gay won a pen to write Newsletter articles with; Bill Coombs won a set of sundae dishes for his wife's Xmas present; Eric Gay won again....and again, must have bought a lot of tickets. Thank you Eric for returning the tickets, it enabled Brian Munt to win his wife a cyclamen plant.

Nothing left but to load 'em up, roll 'em out, and take 'em home. Only four or five more months now to decide which ones to bring out next year.

PS. The jelly is now set and is about to be demolished in spite of the inky streaks!

Happy Christmas. Shirley Gale

A few seasonal words from (censored)

With 1985 almost behind us now, I wonder what 1986 will have in store? Lots of new engine projects will surely spring to light during the winter months and the results proudly shown off from Easter onwards. However, one thing will never change - the ever echoing words of nearly every enginewife 'Don't you men ever CHAT!' You spend every weekend jawing, you beat women hands down when it come to chattering'. Yes, fellows, you have all heard it but they don't understand it do they? It's all part of an enjoyable weekend. How else would we all learn about our beloved hobby if we didn't communicate? Of course, the odd pint in the beer tent comes in handy to lubricate our throats while the enginewife keeps and eye on the engine's lubricator and gives the greaser an occasional twist.

Enginewives never seem to understand why we come home late to meals, having just been waylaid by a crowd gathered around someone's engine, all eager to add advice. Or perhaps you were waiting to nod your head at the auctioneer in an attempt to purchase that elusive part which you have been seeking for years. Its so easy to lose track of time when you are enjoying yourself. Let's propose an enginewives resolution for 1986 - just to be a little bit more understanding to help the engine movement. (that should also include not moaning about the noise of the typewriter every month.....!Ed.).

Well, perhaps I'd not better put my name to this, in case of sanctions, withdrawal of rights, and other sinister repercussions, so all that remains is for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 1986.

Erithacus Rubecula Lambertii and all the Wessex Committee

....AND ON THE SUBJECT OF 'the ladies' of our Club - as it is the month of Eat, Drink and be Merry; we have been given a recipe which I can certainly recommend. It has been suggested that I rename it 'Petter Cake', but that sounds too much like the start of a nusery rhyme (Petter Cake, Petter Cake, Baker's Man!)...anyway... **PARADISE CAKE.**

8 oz. cooking chocolate, 2 oz. chopped cherries, 2 oz chopped walnuts, 2 large eggs, 2 oz plain flour, 1 cup coconut, 1 cup sugar. Gas mark 5; 350F; 180C. Melt chocolate and line a swiss-roll tin (grease the tin well). Allow to cool. Beat together flour, sugar, coconut and eggs. Fold in walnuts and cherries. If mixture seems stiff, add a little milk. Spread on top of chocolate base and cook in middle of oven for 30-40 mins. until firm and golden brown. Allow to cool and then cut into fingers or squares. Now make some more because it won't last long.

Thank you, Angela Hicks of Exeter for this mouthwatering contribution.

CLUB INSURANCE SCHEME

In the October issue of this Newsletter we advised that the Committee were investigating improvements to our existing insurance policy. This came about because we realised that this year our membership had risen dramatically and thus our premium would have to be increased commensurately. In addition, there is to be an increase in premiums generally and we wanted to ensure that each insured member is getting the best Third Party Liability cover available for the Club's money.

The policy, for the benefit of the many new members and those who have forgotten anyway, is readily available for any member's inspection. Just ask Jackie Lambert or Jane Cannon or, indeed, any Committee member. Details are as in your certificate; Phoenix Public Liability Policy No.6D21/8643478. The policy indemnifies any fully paid-up Club member but does not cover members of other Clubs at our events who should be covered anyway by their own Club's policy. If one of our members had insurance protection by virtue of being a member of several clubs, then the respective Insurers would contribute proportionately in the event of any claim. The cover gives indemnity up to £500,000 in respect of compensation for injury to third parties or damage to their property arising from the use of stationary engines and machinery driven by them at rallies and similar events; but limited to the UK only. It does not cover pressure vessels, steam boilers, compressor cylinders, etc. It must be remembered that cover for loss or damage to engines is not included in our policy; our insurers would be willing to give preferential terms for this and personal accident insurance for members and families on a personal voluntary basis.

After recent negotiations with our insurers, we feel confident that our members are getting superb value with this cover but must stress that responsibility for the safety of our engine lies with YOU, the member. It has often been said but it is germane to mention here once again, that the most dangerous activities are (1) loading and unloading, (2) the danger of fire, and (3) uncontrolled member's children scampering about amongst the running exhibits.

The Club and Phoenix Insurance Co wish you all Happy and Safe Rallying in 1986!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Now the bad news - well, in terms of value for money, it could be good news too! Due partly to the now extensive insurance cover for our members, but mainly to the general increase to insurances generally for 1986, we have had to increase the annual membership by a small amount.

From the 1st January 1986 the new rates will be as follows: Family member (husband & wife, fiancée, girlfriend, or whatever) £6 p.a.: Single member of 18 years or over - £5 p.a.: Junior member under 18 years - £1 p.a. (this does not include insurance; but in order that Junior members can rally we suggest that they are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who **MUST** be a **FULLY PAID-UP** WSEC member).

Please send your remittance (cheque or PO to Wessex Stationary Engine Club please) to Mrs. J. Lambert, 15 Beechwood Ave., Frome, Somerset, stating which type of membership you require. You will receive a 1986 Insurance Certificate and a simplified version of the policy.

CLUB NEWS

Exhibitors at Market Lavington & Easterton Spring Fayre were invited to a social evening at the Village Hall on Saturday, 16th November. It was, as always, a well attended gathering consisting of engine owners, stall holders, and many others involved with this popular annual event. An entertaining disco played a good selection of music, old and new, for those who wished to dance and a very nice supper was laid on for everyone. One of their Committee members thanked everyone for supporting the show and said they looked forward to meeting them all next year.

The recently re-formed Selwood Steam and Vintage Club are hoping to organise a trip to Lister's of Dursley sometime in the new year; any Wessex members who would like to join them will be made welcome. Details of time, date and method of transport will be published when available.

I have to hand, a Newsletter from a preservation club who held a rally this year. The entry is briefly as follows:- 1189 stationary engines under 9 hp; 37 over 10 hp; 56 tractors; 588 models; 34 generators; 70 vintage cars; 19 home-made tractors; 50 model aircraft; model steam launch; collections of sparkplugs, antique washing machines, kitchen utensils, tools, soldering irons, etc., etc. The attendance over **FOUR** days was 260,000! Not surprising as the temperature was in the 80's. There were 489 flea market spaces and 40 hours of solid entertainment in a marquee 60' by 120' seating 1,000 with two stages. Also a kind of 'Sealed Knot' society doing a Civil War skirmish - not forgetting the Heavy Horse displays, a Beauty Pageant (now, Robin - there's an idea....Ed!), a rodeo and a 200 unit military parade....shall I go on?....! Did I say where? Well where else but...! Yes, it was in a former British Colony now known merely as U.S.A. The Florida Flywheelers Pioneer Park Rally 1985.

FOR SALE

Ruston Hornsby 2VWA diesel twin. Absolutely brand new. Air cooled, 26.5 bhp at 2100 rpm. Drastic Xmas reduction to clear. £200. Ian Marsh, Woolfson laboratory, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath. Tel. Bath 61244, xtn.675.

Gearbox to fit Cortina or Corsair 1500cc, rec.crank unused (5-bearing) for same £15 the lot. Dave Barker, University of Bath, as above. Tel. Bath 61244, xtn.576.

Morris Ambulance suitable for conversion to Rally Caravanette. Good winter project. £250. Brian Palmer 0634 821.

Single phase generator 5.6 KVA, 230 volt AC, 24 amp run at 1500 rpm and is powered by a 4-cylinder Ford side-valve engine. All complete and running on a metal frame. Offers please around £150 to Hillman's Garage (Beckington Motors), Beckington, near Frome. Tel.830238 (day) and 830604 (evenings) and ask for Chris.

ENGINE BOOKS FOR SALE

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| Heat Engines by S.H. Moorfield & H.H.Winstanley dated 1947 | £2 |
| Heat Engines by H.A. Garratt dated March 1912 | £2 |
| Heat Engines by A.C. Walshaw dated 1956 | £2 |
| The Internal Combustion Engine, vol.2. by D.R.Pye dated 1934 (about aircraft engines) | £1.25 |
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| The Theory of Heat Engines by W. Inchley dated 1920 | £1 |
| The Theory and Practice of Heat Engines by R.H. Grundy dated 1942 including steam generators, reciprocating steam engines, steam turbines and internal combustion engines | £1.25 |
| Engine Tests and Boiler Efficiencies by J. Buchetti dated 1903 printed by the Selwood Printing Works of Frome | £1.75 |
| The Testing of Motive Power Engines by R.Royds dated 1911 | £1.25 |
| Diesel Engine Operation by E.Molloy dated 1941 | £3.50 |
| Testing Engineer's Handbook by E. Molloy dated 1941 | £2 |

Available from Michael Cannon, Bath 859536, 19 Eagle Road, Northend, Batheaston, near Bath, BA1 7HL - 24 hour answering.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS.....!

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A year, due to problems of a domestic nature, when I have entered fewer rallies than ever before, but visited even more as a spectator. Not being on the Committee I feel more free to give an unbiased opinion and consider our own rally at Longleat and the Full Quart Crank-Up to have been of a very high standard indeed. The first for its excellent site and the siting of the camping well away from the engines, the second for its atmosphere, a friendly gathering of a great variety of makes and types.

It was a year of fund-raising success too. It costs a great deal of money to run a large club such as ours; functions such as the Jumble Sale, poorly supported in the main by our members; the Car Boot Sale which exceeded all expectations as a fund raiser, but was poorly supported by the majority of the Club; and, of course the efforts of Herb Gane, master of turning pence into pounds, all helped keep us solvent in 1985.

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That was 1985 - Merry Christmas one and all, and a Happy and Crankingly-Good New Year

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