

Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter. JANUARY 1984

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THE NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING - The Munt Magic Lantern Show

Now there's a title to boggle the mind; and never having seen a magic lantern before, I didn't quite know what to expect from this evening. However, it turned out to be a very interesting and comical show, although I am sure it was all a bit more serious in Victorian days, the era from which it came.

Approximately 60 members attended this evening given by Brian Munt. The Magic Lantern was made in 1900 to show glass slides; Brian Munt has made a good collection of these, he first of all started with a short cartoon in colour and with captions. This was all made hilariously funny by the comments from the audience. Then came 'Jack and the Beanstalk' for the children! followed by slides of the Victorian Royal Family. Some very interesting slides of Bristol and the surrounding countryside were next, most of these were lent to Brian by Mike Stokes of Bridgend who came over to our meeting for the evening. He also brought along two very ancient looking cameras which had originally been used for taking these slides, one was 1918, the other approx. 1895; both were still in working order.

Also very good, and cleverly done for their day, was a set of hand printed moving slides; some were very funny to watch or was it the way that Brian worked them?

At 9.15 pm we stopped for a break, to refill the glass and feed the more hungry of our members; during this time the raffle took place. The first ticket out was John Emery's, he chose a bottle of wine (with which to get Diana a bit 'tiddley' I suppose), next came a box of chocolates for Wally Camp, and last but not least, our newest Junior Member who had only joined that evening, Paul Allen, who won a box of apples.

Back to the more serious business, the show continued, another projector was put into action known as the 'Flickering Camera', (which certainly lived up to its name!), this was made in 1915 and was hand wound, not much film was available for this one - just as well as Brian got exhausted enough as it was, winding away to keep the film going. The third and final projector was produced much more recently (1939) and was more mechanised and automatic. It showed a film of our present Queen's marriage to Philip with the caption at the beginning saying 'a very solemn ceremony'. Brian had set this to some contemporary background music which turned out to be 'Roll out the Barrel' and 'Lady of Spain I Adore You'...! The next 5 minutes was drowned in the ensuing laughter. Finally, he showed a comedy film with animals; this time the music was more appropriate...probably more by luck than judgement.

The evening came to a close just after 10.00 pm, enjoyed by all...and not a single Stationary Engine in sight! Chairman Ian thanked everyone for coming, and, not least, Brian for bringing his collection which really needs to be seen to be appreciated. As one member was heard to say on the way out... BRILLIANT!!

Jackie Lambert (Reporter of the Month)

CAR BADGES

These have been under discussion quite frequently at recent Committee meetings, but due to the high initial cost and the fact that the Windscreen Sticker has proved so popular, it has been decided not to place an order for car badges at the present time. However, the Stickers are still available from Brian Munt, price 60p and the lapel badges are available from almost any Committee member, price £1. These represent very good value for money.

LYNNE CASTELL

Lynne Castell's latest popular Stationary Engine print, The Ruston Hornsby 5½ hp Petrol/Paraffin Engine is available as follows:- Black on White Card, 12" x 10", £1 + 50p p&p

Hand Coloured, 12" x 10", £6.50 + 50p p&p.

or send SAE, for new illustrated price list to Lynne Castell, 23 Kensington Road, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

A WINTER'S (CAUTIONARY) TALE - The Recovery of a Campbell Engine PART TWO. A True Story

A cold morning and a very hard frost. The ground was frozen solid; just the day for man-handling freezing lumps of cast-iron. Mark and Ian had co-opted a third member of the team, Pete, to help them get the now dismantled Campbell engine out of the shed and onto my sturdy trailer. Mark and Pete set out in the Land Rover, Ian followed in his Bedford van with all the tools and necessary kit. They drove down the frozen track, this time with no difficulty, and set to work. All the smaller parts were loaded into the van and the trailer positioned to accept the larger units such as the 5'3" dia. flywheel, crankshaft, and the heavy crankcase assembly. The crankcase was dragged along the icy ground on a handy sheet of corrugated iron using the 'pull-lift' attached to the draw bar of the Land Rover. This large lump was then

loaded on the front of the trailer. The flywheel was loaded at the rear and some of the bulkier sundries filled in the centre of the trailer; all were then blocked and roped securely in place. The trio then had a careful check around the site to make sure all items were either in the van or on the trailer. It was decided to leave the drums of TVO behind for a later visit.

On starting the Land Rover it was noticed that the frost was rapidly 'giving out'. Four wheel drive. low ratio was engaged all to no avail, the wheels just spun! The trailer was unhitched, not without some difficulty and the Land Rover just crept forward. After a brief consultation it was decided to drive some distance away, attach the pull-lift to the trailer, again using the Land Rover as an anchorage and repeatedly drag the trailer up to it. This took a very long time but eventually, after about a dozen moves, the trailer was winched up to hard ground.

Ian, meanwhile, was worrying about his Bedford van. This had been left facing along the contour of the hillside and was very heavily laden indeed. After taking his turn on the pull-lift, he tried cautiously to climb the hill by zig-zagging upwards. This only resulted in the van slithering still further down the muddy slope. A gate was spotted at the bottom corner of the field leading onto a deeply rutted farm track where normally only a tractor would venture. The gate was opened wide and with a lot of pushing from Mark and Pete, the van was set into motion, gathering speed slowly, bucking and swaying on its springs, bouncing from rut to rut, side to side, up the track until the distant lane was reached.

Back at work, the engine was displayed to the many interested parties and it was decided to off-load the contents of the van at Ian's flat, put all the tools, etc. in the Land Rover ready for the trip to Kent, and check the trailer over before the journey. It was arranged to go the following weekend.

The appointed day dawned, thermos flasks were filled, and sandwiches to sustain the pair on the journey, were wrapped. A nice dry morning, the fuel tank was filled and Mark and Ian had decided to share the driving. Mark drove as far as Frome at a steady speed and pronounced that all was well. Ian then took over the wheel and they jogged on with little or no traffic to hamper their progress. Cresting the hill just past Amesbury, the road unwound into a long straight bit so Ian sped up the pace a little; 50mph - Maidstone was still a long way off! Mark felt a twinge of anxiety - after all it was his vehicle.

Suddenly - without warning - the Land Rover's normally vague steering just refused to control the directional stability. Quickly reacting, Ian braked heavily which set the vehicle 'snaking' violently. As the Land Rover slowed down, it snaked in ever-increasing arcs of a circle, eventually taking up the whole width of the carriageway, dragging the trailer behind it, rocking from wheel to wheel. Just as it all finally came to rest, the trailer broke free from the Land Rover but remaining upright. The Land Rover itself slowly toppled over onto its side....

(This absolutely true tale will be concluded next month)

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Stationary Engine Magazine on the 10th anniversary of its publication. Ten years has seen many changes, from a 7½x8½" format of 8 pages to the present 11½x8½" size and 22 pages. This makes the gradual rise in the rate of subscription from £1.50 to £4 over 10 years represent very good value indeed; the real enthusiast cannot afford NOT to subscribe. We all look forward to the next 10 years.

DINNER AND DANCE, 3rd December 1983

We may remember 1983 for the many major events that took place. Royal visits to Australia and Kenya, everyone went to the polls, the arrival of the American Space Shuttle on English soil, even the Club Rally was hot and sunny. However, all these events were overshadowed by the social happening of the year, the Wessex Club Annual Dinner & Dance held at the Masonic Hall, Frome on December 3rd. This auspicious occasion attracted people from across many borders, someone even had the courage to cross the Severn Bridge! The evenings entertainment began with a welcoming glass of sherry, followed by a good view of the prize winning carnival float as it passed the hall windows. Before long everyone was sitting down to a splendid dinner which must have suited every gourmet's taste buds with one exception, the horseradish sauce was not as good as last year! After the loyal toast, Tom Randall gave his speech, his professional style showed us why he was chosen as our Club President. Chairman, Ian Skuse, toasted the ladies of the Club and then delivered his words of wisdom. At the end we wondered whether our stomachs were hurting from laughter or from eating too much. Bouquet of flowers were presented to Ester Randall, our unsung heroine of a Secretary, Diana Emery and birthday girl, Jean Donnelly. The raffle was in the capable hands of Herbie Gane who was aided and abetted by the incorrigible Brian Munt and after the spot prize of a bottle of Somerset wine was won by Nigel Goodesmith, a plethora of other prizes were waiting to be won. Bill Foster won a cake for his lucky ticket number. Julie Munt won some chocolates while Mary Verrall won some biscuits. Ian Skuse won an atlas to find his way home while Carol can enjoy a whole bottle of Whiskey to herself. Kevin Doel won a crossword for

those long winter evenings while Julie Doel can enjoy a bottle of wine. Tony Jones will be able to 'grind down' a Christmas Pudding, while sister Mary will be able to keep out winter winds with frilly panties (did they fit Mary?). Bob Hallam will now find out what elbow grease is with a tin of Brasso while Shirley Gale, Don Rogers, Gerals Esain, Ivor Cox, Jill Hallam and even the Barman will all be having a boozey Christmas. Herbie's mother won a tin of biscuits and Gerald Atherton should smell much nicer now, while Roy Cox can pedal home on his toy bike. Torches were won by Margaret Dring and Gerald Esain, Gill Goodesmith and Stuart Ashman won 'T' shirts, and Jackie Lambert won some whiskey glasses. Finally, Audrey Harris won some stuffing, which she said she enjoyed(!) but upon closer inspection discovered she had won the turkey to go with it! For the remainder of the evening we were entertained by John Forward's 'Farmer John' Disco who catered for everyone with his humour and 'participating' dances - even those with delicate eardrums were smiling.

A superb evening, possibly the best yet, I don't think even the most hard-hearted of moaners could find much to grumble about at the 1983 Annual Dinner and Dance. Roll on 1984.

Jane Cannon

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the Committee for their very kind thought in presenting me with a selection of plants in a pot. This was a pleasant surprise especially as it was given to me by a very handsome gentleman (our Treasurer) who insisted on kissing me in front of an audience at work - I hope you didn't catch my cold Stuart.

Sylvia Yeo

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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| February 27th | Annual General Meeting, where YOU will be welcome to come along, perhaps join the Committee if you feel like a share of the work running this Club, or merely to let off steam and air your views. Just come along and help vote on next year's committee. |
| March 24th | Jumble Sale to help swell the Club's funds which are always at their most depleted at this time of the year. St. Peter's Church Hall, Westfield, Norton Radstock, Nr. Bath. Doors open 2 p.m. Help on the day or items to sell, especially bric-a-brac would be greatly appreciated. |
| March 26th | Michael Cannon with an illustrated talk on The Narrow Gauge Railways of North Wales. |
| April 30th | A film show donated by the Shell Oil Company with many items of engine-related interest. |
| May 12/13th | Bristol Docks Rally, we hope soon to have some entry forms for this popular event...and last year's plaques!! (Eddy May...!). |
| May 21st | (NOTE this is not the last Monday in the month due to the Spring Bank Holiday) Car Boot Sale at the Old Down Inn. |
| June 25th | Annual Evening Crank-Up, bring along an engine and run it all evening with a pint in your other hand! A mini-rally on a nice summer's evening. |

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE, 3rd December 1983 (2)

This popular event was held again this year at the Masonic Hall, Frome and it was nice to see so many new members enjoying themselves, plus a party of guests from Wales and some folk up from Devon. By all accounts, some members were held up by Frome's Carnival Float and had a 20 minute wait behind the procession.

Once inside the Hall, we were greeted with a welcome glass of sherry and Herb Gane's cheerful face selling raffle tickets. The Hall soon filled up, so we all sat down to a most enjoyable meal of roast beef with all the trimmings, followed by an excellent sweet, plus cheese and biscuits and coffee. After dinner speeches were given by the new president of the Club who remarked on how easy his new job was...well, if that be true, he certainly deserves it. The Chairman's speech had it's usual humorous content which soon had us all laughing. Flowers were presented to the President's wife, Ester Randall, Diane Emery, our irreplaceable Secretary, and a lady member from Devon who was celebrating her birthday. The purists amongst us will be pleased to note that the Queen, the ladies of the Club and even the gents were toasted this year! (What about 'absent Friends'...Ed.).

The music for the evening was supplied by 'Farmer' John Disco, who really looked the part in his smock with clay pipe and shepherd's crook. We were given a good cross-section of music with the sounds of the sixties proving very popular among members...as was the 'Kiss Dance' (a bit chauvinistic perhaps, as the gents were kissed twice as often as the ladies) not that I'm complaining! When it came to prize time, there was no-one more surprised than me to find that white drawing pin under the leg of my chair. The raffle was run by Herb Gane and Brian Munt, whose innovation in wrapping up prizes added a new and enjoyable twist to the event, as winners had to unwrap their bounty before returning to their seats (how embarrassing for some!). I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did. One final word, I would like to thank all the Committee for the work they do for us throughout the year.

Nigel Goodesmith

ODDS AND ENDS

WELL DONE...Tony Jones, whose splendid effort, cutting through the red tape of petty-minded officialdom and local government bureaucracy, to display the Fairground Organ in Trowbridge Town Centre, resulting in a sum of £226 (at the last count) being raised for CLIC. The Organ was sponsored by the Wessex Stationary Engine Club and we would like to thank those faithful few who braved the Christmas shoppers and the weather, to make this collection the success it undoubtedly was.

WELL DONE...Phil Harris, whose beautifully restored Blackstone has been chosen to represent the Stationary Engines on the 1984 South Somerset Agricultural Preservation Society's calendar

WSEC MEMBERS who have not yet paid their 1984 subscriptions are respectfully reminded that they are due and that this will be the last Newsletter. The annual subscription is the same as last year: £5 for Husband & Wife, £4 for a single, and £1 for a junior member under 16yrs.

NEWSLETTER....The mailing of this monthly offering is, commencing with this issue, being dealt with by Claude Lowther, Garthside, Wells Road, Hallatrow, Nr. Bristol. Please help Claude all you can by taking Newsletters from any of your near neighbours whom you KNOW are WSEC members and who have not attended the monthly meeting. This also saves the Club a lot of cash in postage, thus helping the peg the annual subscription rate. Many thanks to all those who have helped us in this was in the past.

THANK YOU...to all those people who have responded to all my impassioned pleas and arm-twisting for material for this Newsletter. I can assure you that EVERYTHING which is sent is used sooner or later (yes, Marion Camp, I will be using your Trailer Regulations soon, as an 'epitaph' to the Crossley story). Now then, what about all you members who have not yet contributed....?).

REMINDER

Jumble Sale, March 24th at St.Peter's Church Hall, Westfield, Radstock. Doors Open at 2 p.m. Helpers welcome around noon to get the tables up and price the goods, etc....

SALES AND WANTSFOR SALE

Amanco No.1. water pump, as found, needs a new piston, £15 ono. Large collection of books and other printed material on mining, caving and mountaineering. Send SAE for list (many rare items). Petter A1 about 1947, as found, 90% complete, no offer refused. Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cottage, West Road, Welton, Midsomer Norton, Nr.Bath. Tel. M/N 418926.

Crossley open-crank engine with integral air compressor, about 4 hp, single flywheel, complete except float chamber missing. Also Stuart-Turner P4 ex GPO, direct coupled to 50 volt generator, all complete and on original bedplate. Also Lister D and Wolseley WD. Offers to Stuart Ashman, Moorledge Farm Cott., Knowle Hill, Chew Magna, Nr.Bristol (Stuart will be pleased to get your 1984 subs.at the same time....) Chew Magna 2655.

Large winch, complete with cable and guide rollers, £25 ono. Mike Cannon, 19 Eagle Road, Batheaston, Bath, Somt. Tel. 859536.

Two Villiers four-stroke engines; one small BSA/Villiers four-stroke engine, as new; Hobbies fret-saw machine, treadle operated; Power-Pak 50cc bicycle engine; Compressors; Vacuum Pumps; Rope block & tackle; Blow lamps of various descriptions; Clinton 3 hp outboard engine; Honda 50cc Express moped, 1200 miles on clock, V reg. but no MOT, c/w Helmet & suit; Book Press, 10x12x3"; Electric motors, 220/240 v, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ hp; Various pumps incl.domestic heating circulating, etc.etc. Offers for all the above (except the Mo-ped @ £150) to G. Hendy, 21 Wick Crescent, Brislington. Tel 773716

Transit 15 cwt van 1977, MOT & Taxed till May., almost complete re-spray. Good Rally vehicle. £650 ono. Ivor Yeo, Tel. West Harptree 604.

WANTED

Giles Cartoon Annuals, Nos. 1 to 15, 18,22,31 & 35. Also a set of 4 cast-iron wheels 8" or 9" in dia. Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr.Bristol (This is also the address to post your article for this Newsletter...!). Tel.Temple Cloud (0761)52633.

Front tyre and tube for Grey Ferguson Tractor. Dave Cleaver Tel.Devizes (0380)4435.

STOP PRESS

The Wilts Group of the NVTEC cordially invite Wessex members to a slide show by George Hyde of the Heddington & Stockley Rally at Atworth Village Institute, Nr.Melksham, Wilts on February 15th. Start at 8 p.m. promptly.