Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter. January 1982.

THE NOVEMBER '81 CLUB MEETING.

This meeting was opened by Rod Dring at the "new" Old Down Inn at Emborough, where extensive alterations have been carried out on our meeting room. Eric has often said that our Club could bring the house down and it has finally achieved it, well. the ceiling anyway!

A capacity crowd, even spilling into the hall, came to listen to Eric Brain who presented a slide show on the Highlights of the 1981 Longleat Rally. Eric spoke with confidence on the wide and interesting range of engines at what must have been the rally of the year. Although beautifully illustrated with his thoughtfully taken slides, it was Eric's knowledge and feeling for his subject that people came to hear, in particular on Victoria and Emerson Brantingham engines. It is a fact that Eric not only knows the history of the manufacturer, but often the history of many individual engines, some of which he has restored himself. Photographs of the rows of engines brought fond memories of the summer flooding back to the people in the room. The sun really did shine at Longleat on everything from the small model Petter 'Handyman' to the largest of Blackstones, and even on - could it be? - the very first jet engine to be rallied, the 1956 60 h.p. Rover gas turbine!

The new lights came on for the interval when Herb Gane quietly and efficiently moved about the room extracting money from us all for raffle tickets! He always does it so pleasantly! In the second half of the evening, Eric mingled some of Adrian Stride's slides in with his own and the Longleat atmosphere once more filled the room. Eric's slide box also included some pictures from the Club's visit to Eastwood Manor Farm last May, and a few other rallies, including Camerton, where we saw the first outing of our Chairman's engine, which runs on

hot water, or something!

We also saw some nice slides of Eric's own Petter collection, including his black Petter which someone suggested had painted itself!

The new lights were tested once again and Herb drew the raffle.

First prize, a bottle of wine - Roy Cox.

Second prize, a box of Christmas Crackers - Mrs. Sweet.

Third prize, a box of chocolates - Alan Burdge.

It was a most enjoyable meeting and was closed by Rod, who wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

"Everso Rantingham."

CLUB DINNER & DANCE, MASONIC HALL, FROME. December 5th.

Unintentionally, we were amongst the last to arrive at the gaily decorated hall where our President waited to greet us. Then a glass of sherry, and we took our seats. We had time before the soup was served to have a chat with some of our friends, a few of whom we had not seen since Fairford.

After the main course and the sweet, etc., came the speeches, but not before a certain member had enjoyed mashed banana with brown sugar!! Not me, I hasten say, although I did enjoy two portions of Christmas Pudding, one of which was donated by a member of the police force Thankyou Sid:

Our Chairman, Rod Dring, made the opening speech and was followed by our President who then introduced his guest, whom some of us thought rather resembled the comedian Norman Collier,

don't you agree? He certainly made us laugh! After the tables had been cleared and some moved aside to make room for Captain Hippo, we retreated! Sorry, but the music was much too loud for our sensitive ears! Still, we thoroughly enjoyed our evening and after making our 'farewells' we left for home, arriving by 1.30a.m.

May we wish all our friends a very happy New Year, 1982.

Len & Rene Fry.

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CLUB DINNER & DANCE, FURTHER COMMENT.

Apart from the excessively loud music, which upset some to the point of their fleeing the building for fear of permanent ear damage, and the old jokes, which provided several others with the perfect excuse for a post-prandial forty winks, I think that most of us really did enjoy our night out. The meal and service were certainly good, nay, excellent value for money and the helpings were more than generous. A certain person who wishes to remain nameless (but whose mother, Mrs. Goodesmith, decided to call Nigel!) thought that he would play a prank on our waitress by placing a rather revolting looking plastic fly in his soup. However, one apparently has to get up pretty early to get the better of that breed, for she promptly went and called for the Head Waiter, who returned with a gigantic black spider on the end of a length of elastic, and proceeded to dunk it several times in an attempt to capture the offending bluebottle! There's no flies on some people. Ho! Ho! The discussions at one table were

centred on Victoria engines and Eddy May's wife was eventually heard to ask, "What's a Victoria?"

DINNER & DANCE. (cont'd.)

Eddy, gallant to the last, dashed across to the President's book stall, bought a copy of 'Stationary Engines for the Enthusiast', and rushed back to his table saying, "I'll show you a picture of one." Good try, Eddy. Better luck next time! On asking the whereabouts of one member who absented himself from the 'musical' proceedings fairly early on, his wife replied, "Captain Hippo's got on top of him!" What a fate, especially after those jokes! Anyway, on to the really serious business of the evening. No, not the speeches, or the food, or even the dancing - although the Tweets certainly have alot to answer for - yes, you've guessed, the fabulous free raffle!!

The Spot Prize (determined by the discovery of a drawing pin under: a dining chair) was won by Paula Cox and was a choice between a bottle of wine or a day on page three of the Sun! The raffle prizes went as follows: Turkey, to guest speaker Roy Matthews; Wessex 'Wabbit', to Eric Brain; Bot. whisky, Tony Jones; Bot. sherry, Terry Heath; Foot Stool, Nigel Goodesmith; Decorated cake, Alison Dring; Box 'Milk Tray', Christine Rogers; Lyn Castell print of an Amanco, Adrian Stride; Bot. Wine, Eddy May; Box of Chc. Eclairs, Sylvia Yeo; Box chocs, Carol Skuse; Tin of sweets, Mrs. Bruce; Set of wine glasses, Rob Lambert; Bot. wine, George Poucher; Frying pan, Mrs. Roy Matthews (fried turkey for Christmas then, Roy?); Tin of Shortbread, Ester Randall; Preserves, Mrs. Alan Tucker; Ash Tray, Ivor Yeo; Tin of Biscuits, Brian Munt; Drinking Mugs, David Edgington; Bot. Champagne, Ian Cradock; Cans of Lager, Marion Wilson; Talc & Bath Salts, Roy Cox; Towel, Marg Dring; Christmas pudding, Mandy Cox; Engine Tee-shirt, Herb Gane; Club Tee-shirt, Stuart Ashman; Talc & Soap, Len Fry; Mug & Coaster Set, Jenny Pearce; 6 Eggs, Dave Heal.

You've got to admit it, when the W.S.E.C. runs a raffle, it really makes a job of it! Well done, Herb and many thanks to all those who donated prizes.

Jethro Tool.

"JUST TESTING"

I like Christmas just about as much as I like a cracked water hopper on an engine, both should be avoided if at all possible. Everything seems to stop while we eat and drink ourselves to death - or almost, and all the relevant services seem to grind to a halt for days while people recover. The only advantage as far as I am concerned is having a few days respite from the postman and undoubtedly he feels exactly the same about me! However, this particular saga happened when a number of Christmas cards arrived. You know how it is, each envelope is quickly opened to see if you have forgotten the sender. Well, on this particular snowy morning, it was a small YELLOW card that I forcefully evicted from an overtight envelope. The card depicted an engine, a Hornsby-Akroyd to be precise. "Who sent this?" I wondered, but found it to be unsigned. Printed on an inside corner was - WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB. How nice and thoughtful, but I still wondered why it was not signed, after all someone had gone to the trouble of buying a stamp on my behalf and I would like to have thought nice things about old Joe, Pete, Charlie or whoever it was. It was not until the evening when, drinking my pre-bedtime cocoa and puffing a Christmas cigar, that my gaze went back to THE card. Then I realised WHY it was unsigned, it was a joke card just to test me. For I instantly noticed the date of Akroyd-Stuart's death, the card had given him an extra ten years of life on this mortal sphere. Most enginemen know he died in February 1927 at Claremont, Australia, this is basic 'engine O-level' stuff! Furthermore I almost dropped my cocoa when I saw AKROYD was spelt wrong on TWO occasions, although it was printed correctly on the front of the card in large letters. Then came the word 'diesel', even Rudolph Diesel himself knew the 'i before e except after c' rule. At this point I looked on the back of the card expecting to see the words, 'JUST TESTING!' No such luck, so was all this done on purpose or had someone really dropped such an almighty clanger - could the word be 'Randallock' instead of clanger?

Of course this sort of thing keeps everyone on their toes, I call it a very noble effort. Is that all? What else do we read - 'The heat generated by combustion then became sufficient to maintain the running of the engine'??? What about the heat generated by compression? Many people (although I don't) claim that Akroyd-Stuart invented the compression ignition engine, but their theory would be gone with the wind if they had also received a YELLOW CARD this Christmas. It was in fact heat generated by combustion AIDED BY COMPRESSION that was sufficient to produce automatic ignition - i.e. running without the aid of a blow-lamp. As the compression was increased over the years so the starting lamp gave way to the full diesel concerning the make in question, the pattern being, Hornsby-Akroyd to Hornsby 'M' Type, then to the well known 'HR' which was a full diesel.

The obvious idea behind a Christmas Card is a good one, to bring a little cheer to the Festive Season. This little YELLOW CARD (peril?) was certainly true to form, although did it come about as a result of a 'Randallock' - or was someone really 'JUST TESTING', or was it sent just to goad me into writing something for the Newsletter? Well, no chance of the latter, because I am far too busy!

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

David W. Edgington.

Don't forget, please

addressed envelope

send a stamped,

Oh dear! Our Christmas Card certainly seems to have upset a few people in high places this year. Having the wrath of God drop through your letter-box on New Year's Eve is certainly no healthy omen for the coming year! So, let us consider the three basic problems that this little YELLOW CARD has posed for us.

1.SPELLING. I must say that, upon rechecking my draft for the wording on the inside of the card, I found no spelling errors, so I must pass the responsibility for all such errors to the printer's typist. This is of course a problem that David has suffered for years, it having taken Messrs Slugg up to issue 95 to spell the word 'definite' correctly. (Although I note that issue 95 introduced a new device called the 'laternator' -p14 - which I assume is some kind of credit generator, i.e. 'light now, pay later'.'). My printer's wife, a Lancastrian by birth, tells me that no self-respecting Ackroyd spells his name without a 'c'!

2. HISTORICAL. No, I am bound to say that I did not know that Herbert Akroyd-Stuart died in 1927. Neither, apparently, did D.S.D. Williams, A.M.I.A.E. (although no mention of '0' levels) and the entire technical staff of 'The Oil Engine' one of the many superb publications produced by that long established and highly respected publishing house, TEMPLE PRESS LTD., for, underneath his (H. Akroyd-Stuart's) picture on page 5 of the third edition of 'THE OIL' ENGINE MANUAL' (1943), we see "Herbert Ackroyd-Stuart 1864-1937". They obviously could not spell either! Perhaps this particular book, the definitive work of its day, was, unknown to us, rejected as essential reading by the '0' levels examinations board for this very error! Perhaps the '0' stands for OIL:

Incidentally, on setting out to see just how easily the layman could find out the date of this unfortunate man's death, I found it to be no simple task. It does not appear in any currently available publication on stationary engines, including those excellent contributions from Lodge Wood Farm! This may even apply to the entire run of S.E.mags. but lack of adequate indexing puts the search for such a snippet into the 'post-graduate reseach' field, rather than the '0' level syllabus. (Have I spelt that correctly? Better check - you never know who may be reading this stuff: Yes, it's O.K. Mops brow in releif, or should it be relief - Oh,

3. TECHNICAL. Again I am bound to say that the Temple Press has let me down rather badly, the sentence in question being lifted almost verbatim from page 4 of this now thoroughly discredited publication. Oh well, "Such are the trials of an engine historian" (Quote from p.11, S.E. mag. Issue 95!)

Tom Randall.

JULY 23/24/25

JULY 31/AUGUST 1 JULY 31/AUGUST 1

JULY 24/25

AUGUST 7/8 AUGUST 7/8

AUGUST 15.

AUGUST TBA

AUGUST 21/22

AUGUST 29/30

SEPTEMBER 4/5

SEPTEMBER 11/12

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES. (if you've got one that is, the advertising world has been uncharacteristicly tight-fisted round these parts this year!)

APRIL 11/12 DART VALLEY RAILWAY RALLY. Contact Mr. R. Villis. 34, Waterleat Road, Paignton, Devon. Tel:- Paignton 557447. HAWKCHURCH RALLY. Wally Hull. Courshay, Hawkchurch, Axminster, Devon. MAY 1/2

NAILSEA SCOUTS MAY DAY FAIR. P.Smith. 22, The Bramleys, Nailsea, Bristol. MAY 3 CASTLE COMBE RALLY. Brian Dando. Ricketty Bridge, Wapley, Bristol. MAY 8/9 MAY 15/16 SOUTH BRISTOL RALLY, Bristol Docks. Entry forms will be with newsletter. MAY 15/16 BEAMORE HOUSE RALLY.

MAY 29/30/31 FROCESTER MANOR RALLY. Mrs. N. Haines. 11, Picked Acres, Bulley Lane,

Churcham, Gloucestershire. Closing date April 30th.

MARKET LAVINGTON RALLY. John Kyte.10, High st., Market Lavington. CRICKET St.THOMAS RALLY. Bill Foster, Fourways, Sandley, Gillingham. CAMERTON RALLY. Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cott., West Road, Midsomer MAY 30/31 MAY 30/31 JUNE 12/13

Norton. Closing date April 10th. JUNE 12/13 HOLTON RALLY. Also ABERGAVENNY RALLY. JUNE 13 11th.V.B.A. RALLY, LAREN, HOLLAND. JULY 3/4

HEDDINGTON & STOCKLEY RALLY. G. Hyde. 34, Goatacre, Hilmarton, Calne,

Devizes, Wilts. Tel:- Hilmarton 681.

BRITISH LEGION FETE, Withywood School, Bristol. Phil Wookey. The Firs, JULY 17

Novers Hill, Parson Street, Bristol 3. Tel:- Bristol 632739.
NETLEY MARSH RALLY. D.Burdle.Fernbank Cottage, Ringwood Road, Netley

Marsh, Southampton. S04 2GX. Tel:- Southampton 863033.

RUSHMOOR RALLY, ALDERSHOT. Also, CUMBRIA STEAM GATHERING.

MUCH MARCLE RALLY. Peter Allen. The Folly, The Marsh, Weobley, Herefords. ROSS-on-WYE RALLY.

ALDERHOLT STEAM RALLY, Plumley Farm, Somerley, Ringwood, Hants.

DEVIZES VINTAGE FAYRE, Fox & Hounds Inn. Room for 50 engines. Plaques & Free Beer! P.Steele. 'Tugela', Wick Lane, Devizes. Devizes 4820.

TROUBLE HOUSE INN, Tetbury.

FAIRFORD RALLY.

WILTS NVTEC RALLY, Neston Park, Corsham, Wilts.

COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK, Burford. STONEHOUSE RALLY.

for entry forms. SOMERSET NVTEC PLOUGHING MATCH & SHOW, Lulsgate area. WS.E.C. members

invited. AUG 14/15 YEOVIL Festival of Transport. Bill SEPTEMBER 11/12 SELWOOD RALLY MECCARI RALLY, Melksham. AUG 30

"HARRY'S CORNER" PAGE FOUR. Well, it is 1982 and I hope that after all that snow and ice we will have a good summer, especially for rallies. Talking of which, I did not go to the Christmas Rally at Puesdown, near Northleach since I heard it was a boozy rally - waste of time travelling a 65 mile round trip just to have a drink! The Wessex member that I saw dive into the sex shop in Bath was - - - - and not a member of the South Somerset Club since they appear in the girlie magazine, Mayfair! Before the roads here got bad, I went to see George Hyde of the Heddington & Stockley rally and gave him lists of members who went to the last rally. So, to save postage, he will be sending a quantity of entry forms to the secretaries of Wessex, Devizes and Somerset clubs. I have left forms with Sodbury Vale and the Chippenham & District Preservation Society, so if you do not get one, contact me.

Harry Champion.

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

Re. the Hovermower cartoon, did anyone see the Leyland steam driven lawnmower at the Bath &

FOR SALE....TRAILER, single axle, 2ton cap., with over-run braking. c/w winch & 30yds. wire rope, ramps, pin hitch. Suit Landrover or similar large vehicle, £150. ALSO:-B.S.A. unit with impulse magneto. Working order,£10. F.H.Champion. Cherry Patch, Sheldon's Corner, Chippenham, Wilts.

FOR SALE....PETTER M Type, early pear-top model, 1½h.p. £55. FOR SALE...LISTER D Type, petrol/paraffin, on trolley, £25.

FOR SALE...STUART TURNER MARINE engine, 1½h.p., £55.

FOR SALE....1930's BUTCHER'S BICYCLE c/w basket & black-out lamp,£25.

FOR SALE Old Centrifugal pump, make unknown, £8.

West Show, on loan from Leyland to Sam Blackwell?

FOR SALE....BEDFORD CF Caravanette, 1972, fitted with Perkins diesel engine (33m.p.g.) & towbar. Sleeps four. M.O.T. £250. Contact Ian Skuse, Yatton 834943.

FOR SALE VINTAGE LAWNMOWERS, including a Joseph Pugh motor mower, all in working order, offers please, to Ian Skuse, Yatton 834943.

FOR SALE....J.A.P. 5h.p. air-cooled engine. Will fit a Howard Rotovator, £10. Ian Skuse,

carried out by a local model engineer for whom no job is too small, please contact Tony Jones at 59, Marsh Road, Trowbridge, Wilts. BA14 7PR., stating your requirements.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Your Annual Membership Subscription is now due. Please note that membership is for the calendar year, January to December, and is inclusive of your Third Party Liability Insurance for Stationary Engines. No insurance certificates bearing a 1981 date will be accepted by rally marshalls in 1982. This newsletter is the final reminder for subscriptions. There will be no increase in membership rates for 1982, their being as follows:-

£4.00 Joint membership for married couples.

£3.50 Single membership.

£1.00 Junior membership - persons under 16 years of age.

Please send your subscriptions as soon as possible to: - Stuart Ashman, Club Treasurer. Moorledge Farm Cottage, Knowle Hill, Chew Magna, Bristol.

Cheques/P.O's must be made payable to: - THE WESSEX STATIOARY ENGINE CLUB.

CLUB EVENTS.

FEBRUARY 22nd. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. PLEASE USE THIS MEETING TO AIR YOUR VIEWS ABOUT THE CLUB AND HELP SHAPE ITS FUTURE. Agenda attached to this newsletter.

It is hoped to have a full programme of events by the February newsletter. It is hoped to arrange a visit to John Forward's 'Longhedge Collection' of engines and agricultural machinery, near Warminster, later in the year, and also another visit to Eastwood Manor Farm, East Harptree, in May. The Club Rally will be JULY 17th. & 18th., full details next month.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

Applications for the newly vacant post of CLUB CHRISTMAS CARD (1982) DESIGNER will be welcomed by the Committee. Only applications from suitably qualified persons will be considered. '0' Levels will require verification by dipstick. This is a prestigious position demanding unstinting personal dedication for minutes at a time and an unfailing ability to dodge brick-bats from all sides and especially from above. No salary is negotiable and there will be the usual lack of fringe benefits. Applications may be handed to your nearest committee member.

P.S. THOUGHT SOME OF YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE THIS

Rallying

For any of these items,

contact Martyn Denham, 35, The Butts, Frome. Tel:-Frome 62715.

FIVE organisations have benefited from the profits of the Camerton Steam Rally in June.

Camerton School, Hilltop School for the disabled, Hilltop Gateway Youth Club, Midsomer Norton, the Southdown Community Project, Bath, and Cancer Research have each received \$200.