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RESTORATION OF A FAIRBANKS "BULLDOG"

It all began five or six years ago; I was visiting a friend when I spied in his shed a very rusty-looking open-crank engine. Further investigation on my part showed it to be a Fairbanks Bulldog 1½ hp engine with low-tension magneto. After a bit of haggling, I managed to buy the engine from him and loaded it onto the old Land Rover which I had at the time.

On arriving home, I showed my new acquisition to my good lady wife who was somewhat less enthusiastic than myself and suggested she could have found other uses for the money. I then tucked it away in a corner of the garage, where it stayed for the next two years as I was restoring another engine at the time.

One cold and windy winters day, I decided to take it apart and see just what condition it really was in. Fortunately the piston and cylinder were not badly rusted, but the valves and mechanism were seized badly. With the aid of my trusty bucket of paraffin and a few weeks soaking, the valves were dismantled and eventually removed from the head. Stocktaking of the worn parts revealed the fact that the worst problem was the worn piston rings which would certainly need replacing, and also the worn valves and springs, etc. Weeks of de-rusting and de-scaling followed, but the problem of the piston rings became paramount. However, my old mate, Phil Harris of Wedmore, was able to put me in touch with someone who could make new ones to my exact requirements. A telephone call was all it took and to my delight, within a week, new rings arrived in the post.

I fashioned new valves from Zetor tractor valves which were fortunately just the right length and diameter in the stem, but the heads needed reducing in size. They also needed the stem drilled to take the cotter pins. New taper pins and springs were purchased from the local agricultural engineers. Now all that remained was to paint the engine using Joseph Masons paint which I can highly recommend and to reassemble and mount on a suitable new trolley.

Now came the big moment ... would it go???...!! A few swings on the handle.... - and not a thing happened! A few minor adjustments and half an hour later... the engine burst into life, filling the garage with evil smoke, frightening all the local dog, children and elderly neighbours;

Longleat, here we come.....!

Herbert R. Gane

HARRY'S MISCELLANEA (A round-up of thoughts from a regular correspondent)

On May 5th I went to the Calne Lions "Lawn Mower Grand Prix" taking my Lister engine. Also there was Rod Woolford, Mr. Cantor, George Moore (Alias Lord Lister of Cherhill), and his son John, and the Secretary of the Divizes Club (sorry but I don't know his name!).

I went to a sale at Wick near Bristol on Saturday 22nd May. There were four engines in the sale, a Lister D type, Ricardo head, tank-cooled; a closed crank Crossley which made £165; a Wolseley WD; and a 1907 Otto Crossley unrestored, which was sold to Dave Edwards for £760 plus £5 for the exhaust. Quite a few Wessex members were there.

Reports of the rallies are best left to better-known scribes, but I bet they won't about the disco entertainment that we had at Frocester Rally on Spring Bank Holiday weekend. On the Sunday evening the record "Don't Cry for me Argentina" was played and rioting broke out. Towards the end of the show we had two blokes do a strip.... and in front of the children! (Sounds like the Rally to avoid next year...! Ed.).

I wrote to Petters Ltd. at Hamble for a head gasket and they sent me a photostat copy of the Instruction Book of my engine. They told me that I must write to G.T.S. Bryco Ltd., Siddley Way, Royal Oak Industrial Estate, Daventry, Northants for spare parts, this I did but they were out of stock!

Harry Champion (Doomwatch)

See May Issue

CLUB VISIT TO EASTWOOD MANOR FARM, MAY 28TH

This, the second Club visit was well represented by Club Members; this was surprising due to the short notice needed to book the event. Mr. Gay, the owner, started by giving us a general history of the farm which was built between 1850 and 1860 and is quite unique. The building covers about 1¼ acres, and was known as the "modern farm" due to the fact that everything is under the same roof. The builder, William Taylor, built the farm at a cost of £15,000 using stone quarried at, or very near the site. All the metalwork was cast by Musgraves of Belfast. Inside, in the main cattle yard, is a most unusual object, a large

CLUB VISIT TO EASTWOOD MANOR FARM (cont.)

cast iron fountain which is still in use. We were taken upstairs where there is a store which will take 300 tonnes of corn plus other farm produce. The roof covering the entire 1½ acres is all of galvanised sheeting made in Bristol in 1860.

Most interesting of all, to our Club Members anyway, was the engine house containing a large single flywheel Tangye 14 hp diesel type engine, fully restored and started in a moment using compressed air. Other engines to be seen are various Lister D types, Petter A type, and a 1920'ish Amanco Hired Man, all in unrestored paint/rust finish. After the tour we moved back into the barn (except our member from Batheaston, wild horses or sticks of dynamite would have failed to move him from that shining product of Cornwall Works ... !!) for coffee, cheese, and biscuits; and to thank Mr. & Mrs. Gay for a most interesting and fascinating evening.

Mark Tilly (written under extreme pressure.....)

BRADFORD ON AVON HOSPITAL FETE, JUNE 5TH

Under the shade of large trees in the beautiful grounds of the hospital was certainly the best place to be, on a very hot Saturday afternoon.

There were just six engines present, Wilf and Les Crouch with their Wolseley WD II, Mark Tilly with a very nice Ruston Hornsby, Robin Lambert with an equally nice, but different, Ruston Hornsby, powering a New Manchester saw. Tony Jones brought his faithful Amanco out for an airing, as did Robin's pal Mike Mason. Oh yes, must not forget Reg Butler with his Stuart Turner. The hospital provided us with a Lister product, not an engine, but a most useful seat, which we all took turns in sitting on. It was unrestored and year unknown!

All too soon, the Fete was closing down and it was time to make the short journey home.

Mary Butler

BREAMORE RALLY, MAY 15TH & 16TH (or what the Butler saw.....! Ed.)

Once again it was time for Breamore House Rally, held in Hampshire. After last years bad weather, there was some doubt that a rally would be held at all this year, but the organisers managed to put on a show. This was a well run rally, the only criticism being the overcrowding of the Stationary Engines in two small enclosures.

On the larger side, the steamers were well represented by about fifteen engines, of great interest to the public. The public attendance on the Saturday was not great even though the weather was rather kinder to us this year with only a few showers on both days. Sunday brought more visitors to the showground, and once again, exhibitors were busy explaining ignitors, hit and miss, low tension, etc. to eager listeners. The Stationary Engines had a good selection of makes on show, with, as always, Lister, Petter and Ruston leading the field. Nevertheless, Crossleys, Amancos, Blackstones, and a few less well-known makes were well catered for. Some Wessex members were present, including Rob Lambert with the only 1910 Aster 2 hp engines on show (!), Bill Appleby, with his Lister J 3 hp, Tony Jones, Crossley 3 hp, Don Rogers, Bulldog 2½ hp, Roger Pike, Amanco - all these engines well restored by their proud owners; apologies to those other members who may have been present but whose names I do not know.

Also there were a 1923 2 hp Stover, a 1920 1½-2½ hp Bentall, and a Briggs & Stratton 1½ hp 1940. The larger hot bulb engines caused great interest to the spectators as they were fired up.

The steamers including 'The Greyhound' Showmans Engine, 'Dreadnought', a 1926 Burrell 7 N.H.P. owned by Breamore Museum and 'Black Prince', a 1908 Fowler were as immaculate as ever, while some of the machines were being used to drive stone crushing mills, threshing machines and a baler. Steam Rollers and forty-three tractors were shown, as were many well polished cars and motorcycles. A few Commercial and Military vehicles were exhibited and an Anderton and Rolands 98 Key Marengi Organ greeted the spectators as they entered the Rally Field.

Adjoining the site, the Breamore Museum is well worth a visit. It contains many exhibits from the farming world. Some stationary engines include a converted Avery 1917 two cylinder tractor engine, a 1912(?) Emerson Brantingham 3 hp (did it run? Ed.), a 1938 Lister and engines made by Millars Machinery Co. of London in 1932.

All too soon Sunday tea time was upon us and we had to pack up and make the long trek home.

Reg Butler

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CLUB INSURANCE

Following a recent enquiry, would ALL members please note:-

1. The W.S.E.C. insurance policy does not cover rallies on the Continent of Europe or even further afield for those REALLY intrepid rallygoers.
2. We must repeat that Junior Members are defined as being under 18 years of age; our policy does not cover Junior Members UNLESS they are rallying an engine in their name AND accompanied by a parent or legal guardian WHO IS ALSO A W.S.E.C. MEMBER.

CLUB CONSTITUTION

Recently, minor amendments were made to this document. It is only fair to point out to all members that there is a set of parameters within which the Club is run; it is not a 'secret document', and can be seen by any member on request to any Committee Member.

CLUB EVENTS

- August 23 "Crank & Buy" at the Old Down Inn, Emborough. 7.00 p.m. A new event, combining the joy of attempting to get your old engine to run with a pint mug in the other hand, with all the possible financial gain from selling all those defunct mags, sparking plugs, and other bits of junk which you failed to sell at the "Bring & Buy". It could even pay for your petrol and pint!
- Sept. 27 "Railway Miscellanea", an evening of steamy nostalgia, not with Cindy (see last month" but with the Rev. A.G. Newman.
- Oct. 25 "Film Night", Steam Rallies and Restoration by John Forward.
- Nov. 27 W.S.E.C. Dinner and Dance at the Masonic Hall, Frome, Somerset. Music this year is by Sirocco, a local band with something to suit all tastes.
- Nov. 29 "Kennet and Avon Canal", an illustrated talk by Bob Scudamore.
- Dec. 4 Jumble Sale, at St.Peters Church Hall, Westfield. This VERY important fund raising event is to finance the Dinner and Dance of the previous week. Show how much you appreciated the evening by coming along and bringing your jumble and bric-a-brac and help refill the Club's coffers. Doors open 2.00 p.m. promptly.

This and the Dinner and Dance, take the place of a December meeting.

NEWSLETTER

We are getting VERY LOW on material for the future issues of this sheet. With the abundance of events, especially at this time of the year, surely out of a membership list of around 200 members, SOMEONE else could write up their thoughts on a rally, a restoration, or whatever....??

Please send all articles, etc. as early as possible in the month following any Club Meeting to Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Nr. Bristol or telephone Temple Cloud 52633.

SALES AND WANTS

- FOR SALE: Climax Shallow Well Pump, complete except pulley. £45 o.n.o.
Ray Hicks, Tel. Exeter 50178.
- Climax No.2 Pump. £45 o.n.o. Terry Heath, Ter-shi, Bradford Road, Sherborne, Dorset.
- Heavy Duty Dynamo, 24 volt, and twelve 24 volt household type, bayonet fitting bulbs. £10. Derek Maybee, Tel Blagdon 62795.
- Lister L type, 5 hp, in good running order, mounted on a solid trolley ready to do some work or to rally. £100 o.n.o. Roger Parsons, Tel.Temple Cloud 52595 evenings.
- Wolseley WD II, 1948, on craftsman made oak trolley, ready to rally. £80. Mark Tilly, 3 Tellcroft Close, Corsham, Chippenham.
- Wolseley WD II, 1946, Lister A-Type Tank Cooled, 1925, very original and tidy. Offers to Terry Filby, Tel. Nailsea 854053.

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FOR SALE: Lister D-type, in pieces but complete. £20. Another similar D-type but mounted on a portable saw-bench as a working unit and running. £40. Tel. Vince Baker, Temple Cloud 52673.

Petter Junior 5 hp about 1914 or 1915. "Jelly-Mould" head and mounted on original Petter trolley, C.A.V. magneto. Complete and dismantled with most parts shot-blasted and primed ready for painting and assembly. Main bearings need re-metalling. £150, Tom Randall, Midsomer Norton 418926.

"The Book of the Motor Car" by Rankin Kennedy. Three volumes, £25. Tom Randall as above.

"Stationary Diesel Engines", set of three volumes, 1935 edition. £5. Tom Randall as above.

Ruston Hornsby PB 3 hp, 1939. Lister Junior A type 2½ hp, 1932. Scammell 1940'ish. Root cutter - age unknown. Set of Iron Wheels - suit large engine. Offers to Peter Stevens, Tel. Pill 3345.

WANTED: Spoked Flywheel, 14"-16" dia. approx 1" bore. John Emery. Tel. Temple Cloud 52939.

Large Steel Frying Pans. NOT alloy or non-stick, preferably over 12" dia. and in good condition or easily restorable. Details to Tony Jones, 59 Marsh Road, Trowbridge, Wilts.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- August 1 Eighth National S.E.Rally at Beaulieu, Hants.
- August 15 Blagdon Gymkhana, apply to Pauline Purvis, TelAxbridge 732569 for details and entry forms.
- August 21-22 Somerset Traction Engine Club. Rally at Low Ham, Nr.Langport. Mr. B. Cornelius, 51 South Street, Hinton St.George, Somerset.
- August 28-30 Neston Park Vintage Rally, Atworth, Wilts. Enquiries to Mr.C.G. Escott, 21 Forest Road, Melksham, Wilts.
- August 29-30 The White Horse Show, Uffington, Faringdon, Oxon. Enquiries to Mr. J.Clarke, The Coach House, High Street, Uffington, Tel. 495.
- Sept. 4-5 Eighth Farm Working, Selwood Steam Prs.Soc., Seymours Court, Beckington, Frome, Somerset. 11.00 a.m. daily.
- Sept. 4-5 "Yesterdays Farming", Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.
- Sept. 11-12 Vintage Farm Working and Ploughing Match at Hyatts Wood Farm, Backwell. Details from J.R.T. Hodgson, 14 Union Street, Nailsea. Tel. Nailsea 857932.
- Sept. 12 Science Museum Open Day, Wroughton, Wilts. Open 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
- Sept. 19 "Farming Rescued", Long Ashton, Bristol. Entry forms from Mr.B.Gunningham, 33 Marshfield Road, Bedminster, Bristol 3.
- Sept. 25-26 Vintage Farm Working. Dinnisworth Farm, Pucklechurch, Bristol held by the Sodbury Vale Group N.V.T.E.C. Entry forms from Mrs. M. Maggs, 198 Badminton Road, Coalpit Heath, Bristol. Tel Winterbourne 774656.

And Finally overheard at a Committee Meeting !

"Hey, M-----1, can you get me one of those Rubber Gusset things?"

Could this at last be the ultimate defence against a smutty Petter M?