

SPANNER & WRENCH COLLECTOR



HAND TOOL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Inc. Reg No A0025953J

Spanner Special Interest Group Newsletter

www.htpaa.org.au

No 33 Aug 2018

Welcome to Edition 33, Issued in conjunction with the "Tool Chest" number 129.

If you require a copy of a back issue, contact the editor (see back page). Keep the contributions coming so that we can cover a broad range of topics.

An index of spanners covered so far is available from the Editor.

If you have an email address, and would like a colour copy of this newsletter in .pdf format, contact the editor.

Contents this issue:

Pg 1 Index of articles, Display of spanners and Whatsits by Max Kerr at the Tools & Trades day.

Pg 2 **Feedback** relating to non sparking spanners, combination screwdriver tool and flat spanner from issue 32

Pg 3 **Fits - All** universal wrench and the **Buffum Tool Company** by *G Radion (m)*

Pg 3 **M H Monfries** of Apsley Rd Naracoorte *Bung Spanner* by *G Radion (m)*

Pg 4-5 Another **Byrne Maker** - J N Byrnes, Melton by *G Radion (m)*

Pg 6 **HTPAA Tools & Trades Day, Saturday 7th July 2018** - some of the spanners displayed:

Alldays & Onions, Premier Cycle Co, Sturmey Archer, Velocette

Pg 7 **Ward Step Jawed Spanner** by *G Radion (m)*

Pg 8 **Stibbe Maxim** Knitting machine spanner, Orphan "D" spanner, Adverts & Housekeeping



Feedback:

Feedback from Chairman of the West Australian tool club (HTPSWA) Bob Wallis

In response to the non sparking spanners shown last issue, Bob sent a picture of a non-sparking wrench marked BP 63. It is approx 12 inches long



"The BP spanner is made from material that looks like brass. The maker was Stancast. Google tells us nothing but BP as you know bought out COR.

BP has refineries in Queensland, NSW and WA, so I expect Stancast made all the necessary spanners for the three refineries".

The Perfect Handled screwdriver Bob has appears to be identical the one shown in last issue. No markings on this one either,

Feedback:

In the last issue (#32) back page we showed an interesting little combination flat spanner.

Feedback reveals that it is an ignition key /device for model T Fords from 1914 - 1919.

Reading up on the internet, it transpires that the starting procedure for the Model T was a complicated procedure Reproduced here to give one an idea of the level of difficulty



"How to: article in Car and Driver:

1. Pull the choke adjacent to the right fender while engaging the crank lever under the radiator at the front of the car, slowly turning it a quarter-turn clockwise to prime the carburetor with fuel.
2. Get into the car. Insert the ignition key, turning the setting to either magneto or battery. Adjust the timing stalk upward to retard the timing, move the throttle stalk downward slightly for an idle setting, and pull back on the hand brake, which also places the car in neutral.
3. Return to the front of the car. Use your left hand to crank the lever (if the engine backfires and the lever swings counterclockwise, the left arm is less likely to be broken). Give it a vigorous half-crank, and the engine should start.

Wow. See what I mean? The Ford Model T, although it appears extremely simple in design, is deceptively difficult to operate. Even after reading all of this, I think I'd still like to give it a shot. I'm positive that once you have it figured out, the benefits far outweigh the difficulties. And I think you'll agree that anyone skilled enough to be able to drive one of these cars on the road deserves a lot of credit".

Fits - All universal wrench *by G Radion*

This dogbone wrench has eight hex openings and two square ones at the ends.

It is marked:

"Fits-All

Patented swastika Type D" on one side and **"Fits-All, Wrench Co Prov ??"** on the other.

The Buffum Tool Co used the swastika as a trademark and are the likely maker of this multi wrench.

Some info on the Buffum Tool Co

Buffum Tool Company

The Buffum Tool Company was founded by Frank W. Buffum and operated in Louisiana, Missouri during the early years of the 20th century. Their products included printing presses, adjustable wrenches, alligator wrenches, chisels, punches, bearing scrapers, and other forged tools. The exact founding date for the company is not yet known, but the earliest published reference to Buffum Tool is a 1908 advertisement for their printing press.

Buffum tools were generally marked with the company name and notably with a swastika logo, the design that later became infamous as the symbol of Nazi Germany. (Buffum's use of the swastika design predated the Nazi party by some decades.) The advertisement at the right appeared on page 1222 of the June 1910 issue of the Hardware Dealers' Magazine. Note that the advertisement claims the swastika logo as a trademark registered with the U.S. Patent Office.

An advertisement for the Buffum Tool Company on page 821 of the June 1, 1918 issue of Aviation shows a selection of the company's tools at that time. The illustration includes a set of chisels, a hammer, bearing scrapers, pliers, and other tools.



Ref: Alloy Artefacts website

M H Monfries of Apsley Rd Naracoorte *by G Radion (m)*

Bought on a whim, no-other explanation, except that the drum spanner reminded me of one Graeme Plaw had photographed in a museum on Kangaroo Island (see issue No 24) - that one was marked:

FW VM Langford, Shell agent.

This one is only marked "SHELL M H MONFRIES"

Searching in Trove revealed an advertisement in the Naracoorts Herald on 12 Aug 1954, shown below, it reads:



Public Notice

MH Monfries, Shell Co (Aust) and John Shearer & Sons Ltd, Representative, will as from Wed, Aug 11th operate from the Shell Depot, Apsley Rd (Naracoorte)

So we have established that Monfries were operating from a Shell Depot, and presumably took over as the Shell representative at some stage.

I have no idea if that arrangement still exists, however, Monfries still exist in Apsley Rd, as agricultural machinery and implement stockists today.

It would appear that Shell provided these bung spanners for 44 gallon drums with agent advertising to various agents.

We can speculate that rural customers who purchased their petrol in 44 gallon drums were supplied with such bung spanner as a convenience.

Readers may have other examples to share with us and more information.

Another Byrne Maker

In issues 23 and 24 we discussed Australian makers / blacksmiths / coachbuilders J W Byrne of Tongala (Vic), and J K Byrne of Harden (NSW)

Another name, closely related was found on a spanner sourced from a Gippsland junk shop recently: J.N. Byrnes.

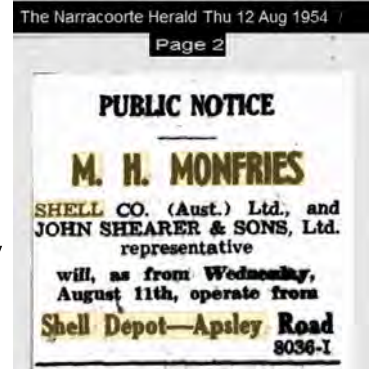
A Trove reference from the Bacchus March Express in June 1907 states that Mr J N Byrnes is opening a branch at the Melton Railway Station.

Other articles found on Trove digitised newspapers reveal that a J N Byrnes was a Blacksmith / Wheelright in the Melton district and the business was being taken over by a William Drain from January 1913.



Notice that the spanner pictured above, 24 inches long and hot stamped J.N. Byrnes on both side in the centre is very similar to spanners in our collection by Wm Barger. It is not known where Byrnes trained, but my suspicion is that it was with Barger.

Note the similarity to the Barger spanner at right



The HTPAA Tools & Trades Day, Saturday 7th July 2018 by G Radion

The Tools & Trades day went off well with lots of interesting speakers with hands on presentations in the intervals. A review of the day will be published in the Sharp Edge so there is no need to cover it here except to say what a great day it was.

Max Kerr (m) displayed a number of interesting farm tools, curiosities and spanners (see front cover also).

I shall deal with some of those spanners for those of you who could not make it on the day.

The first was a multi holed bicycle spanner marked "ALLDAYS" it was quite a sturdy spanner, so my suspicion was that it was for a motorised tricycle or quadricycle.

References in Wikipedia and Graces Guide soon confirmed my thoughts that that was a possibility.

"Alldays & Onions

The Alldays & Onions Pneumatic Engineering Co. of Birmingham, was a company founded in 1889 by the merger of the long established Onions (formed by John Onions in 1650) and William Allday & Co. (formed by William Allday in 1720) engineering companies. They became known for their engineering and blacksmithing equipment. Like many such companies at the time they turned to bicycle manufacture and sold a range under the Alldays name. They also started making motorcycles in 1903 under the Alldays-Matchless name; these had no connection with the London-based Matchless company, and in 1915 presumably following representations from them, the name was changed to Allon. Manufacture of these continued until 1927".



Premier Cycle Co

Another heavily built bicycle spanner was marked "PREMIER CYCLES"

Once again, Graces guide came to the rescue.

Some history:

1891 July. The Premier Cycle Co Ltd was formed for the purpose of purchasing Hillman, Herbert and Cooper as a going concern.

1891 September. Company wound up. 'The Premier Cycle Company Limited...Resolution was duly confirmed, viz.:— "That the Company be wound up voluntarily under the provisions of the Companies Acts, 1862 and 1867."

1896 The New Premier Cycle Co was registered on 29 June to acquire the business of the Premier Cycle Co.

1896 The cycle boom was at its peak, with improved road surfaces and the introduction of the pneumatic tyre. Employment in the industry almost quadrupled, to 30,000. It was reported that "agents hurried from factory to factory, cash in hand, pleased if they could secure even a couple of machines"



1896/7 Directory: Listed under cycles as New Premier Cycle Co. Limited, of Premier Works.

1902 The original title of Premier Cycle Co was reverted to.

1912 Listed in Spennell's directory of Coventry as Cycle Manufacturers.

1912-1913 Advertised a car 1913 The German operation went into receivership and the Japanese operation was in trouble.

1914 Changed the name to Coventry Premier Ltd

1915 Further losses mainly due to operation in Japan.

1920 Company acquired by Singer.

Max Kerr's Spanners [Contd] by G Radion

Another of Max's spanners was a **Sturmey Archer**.

Sturmey Archer are famous for their hubs for bicycles and Motorbikes

From Graces Guide:

"Sturmey-Archer Gear Co, famous for its bicycle hub gears, also sold motorcycle hubs, of Nottingham, England.



1908 The Three-Speed Gear Syndicate became the Sturmey Archer Gear Co under Frank Bowden the primary owner of the Raleigh Cycle Co. The gears were manufactured for the company by the Raleigh Company

Originally produced hubs for three-speed bicycles designed by Raleigh Cycle Co.

By 1913 the Sturmey-Archer Company was producing 100,000 three-speed hub gears per year

1934 Public flotation of a new holding company: Raleigh Cycle Holdings Co Ltd of which there were 2 operating subsidiaries - Raleigh Cycle Co Ltd and Sturmey-Archer Gears Ltd; Raleigh had always manufactured the gears sold as Sturmey-Archer; both companies together had 4000 employees

1939 a four speed model was developed. This led to the development of temperamental 5 speed models

1994, 7 speed hubs were introduced.

The Sturmey-Archer name was also credited with the 49cc two-stroke engine fitted to early Raleigh mopeds, although this was actually a reworking of Vincenti Piatti's "Trojan Mini-Motor" and built by BSA's motorcycle operation.

2000 Sturmey-Archer was sold to Sun Race Sturmey-Archer Inc. and operations were moved to Taiwan".

Velocette

Starting in Birmingham. before 1900.

In 1913 the name was changed from Veloce to Velocette - a name that was to remain famous in the history of motorcycles.

1922 The famous **Velcoette clutch** arrived. The design was ingenious as it fitted in a small space between the drives to avoid altering the layout and positioning of the engine or gearbox. How it was devised remained an enigma for the whole of the company's lifetime. Throughout the following years, variations of a model with a larger engine were produced.

In the following years, various successful and unsuccessful models were produced. Many aimed at the racing market.

1971 The company went into liquidation.

My memories as a teenager were that the Velocette was considered very favourably by rev heads and went like a rocket.

I have some of these uncommon Velocette spanners which form a small part of my extensive motorbike spanner / wrench collection.

I am keen to exchange info and spares with other members.

The Ideal Gear for Solo or Sidecar work Immediate Delivery

For all motorcycles.

Fitted by  all the Best Makers

STURMEY-ARCHER

Ideal Ratios	1	1.57	2.42
Example of gears	5 to 1	7.8	12.1

IMPORTANT TO AGENTS.

There are thousands of motorcycle owners waiting to have Sturmey-Archer 3-speed gears fitted to their machines. There are a number who call at your shop every day. **Suggest it to them.** We can fit this gear to almost any machine in our own works. Trade quotations on application. — WRITE TO-DAY.

STURMEY-ARCHER GEARS, LTD.,
Nottingham.



Ward Step Jawed Spanner by G Radion

This spanner was recently found in New Zealand.

It appears to predate the Ward & Payne partnership established in 1843.

I was not aware that Ward made spanners, better known to me for their quality chisels and plane irons, see bottom for more info.

David Ward (about 1767-1822) founded the edge tool forging business in 1803.

When his son Edward Ward (1813-1842) joined, the company name changed to David Ward & Co.

Edward Ward's brother-in-law Henry Payne, an established edge tool maker, joined Ward and registered the Ward & Payne trademark in 1843. '

After Edward Ward's premature death in 1842, his share was put in a trust until his son David Ward (1834-1889) came of age. Payne died in 1850, and his widow briefly retained an interest in the firm, but this apparently passed to the Ward trustees. Under the second David Ward, Master Cutler and Mayor of Sheffield, the company achieved its greatest success.

Ward and Payne, Ltd., Limbrick Works, Hillsborough, Sheffield made many types of forged hand tools during its long existence. These included brick trowels and various chisels for masonry. Its 1953 Price List included "shears, secateurs, trowels, forks, cultivators, dibblers, hooks, hoes, rakes, spades, shovels, chisels, pliers, pincers, adzes, hatchets, choppers, augers, bits, drills, braces, try squares, levels, gauges, turnscrews, spokeshaves, saws, bradawls, punches, blades, planes, caulking irons, scrapers, plumb bobs, masons tools, hammers, pincers, needles, spanners, grips, calipers, vices, cramps, stops, compasses, dividers, ladles, mallets, wedges, knives, groovers, figure and letter marks, oil cans, glue pots." Earlier, they also made wood chisels, files, razors, axes, and washer cutters. Their tools were labeled Ward & Payne or Ward, both with a trademark of 2 crossed hammers over an anvil.

Note that the anvil is pictured at right angles to the writing, and the writing in the trademark is just "WARD above SHEFFIELD"

The more commonly seen trademark has the anvil above the writing which is "Ward & Payne".

Is this a very early trademark, or just an anomaly? Information sought.

Ref: The Trowel and masonry Resource website: <http://trowelcollector.blogspot.com/2016/05/history-of-ward-payne-ltd.html>



Orphans - no information on the ". - D" spanner below.



Stibbe Maxim Knitting machine.

"A fine gauge machine used for producing stockings. The machine has an air feed to take the finished product from the knitting head to the collection bin. This was the last model of hose machine made by Stibbe".

This is one of many spanners in our collection related to spinning, knitting and other facets of the Cotton Industry in England

Ref: www.knittingtogether.org.uk/virtual-museum/collections



Animals on Tools

Planning has commenced for next years display at the Steamfest on the March long weekend - Richard Williams has suggested a theme of "animals on tools." To that end, we have been assembling names and examples that fit that criteria:

Spanners: Deere, Dragonfly, Eagle, Husky, Jaguar, Lion, Snail, Terrier.

More spanners: Garringtons made a range of spanners with bird names: Grebe, Jackdaw, Kestrel, Lapwing, Magpie, Merlin (and probably others).

R Sorby had Kangaroo mark on tools.
I Sorby had a suspended Sheep on tools.

There must be lots of others.

Readers are invited to suggest others, and loan them for display if possible.

Wanted to buy or swap - Double ended Crescent shifters, cast iron seats, agricultural machinery nameplates, parts lists and interesting spanners for agricultural, vintage motor vehicles and vintage motorbikes etc, also other interesting shifters and spanners & tool company catalogues from Australian, British, American and Continental Makers etc. Contact G Radion

Spanner & Wrench Collector back issues: Issues 1-32 now available in a folder with clear pockets and provision for extra issues. \$25 plus P & P, or collect at a club event by arrangement. Postage will be calculated for a parcel over 500 grams - Call the editor.

Wanted Spanners with animal names or images for a display of animal themed tools. Contact G Radion.

*Feedback from those who find this newsletter useful would be appreciated. **Continued contributions are required to keep it interesting.** Thanks to those who have sent content, your stuff will all be used eventually.*

This Issue Edited by George Radion.
Contact by snail mail: PO Box 4021, McKinnon, Vic 3204
Contact by email: george@htpaa.org.au, phone 03 9557 1178, mob 0406 687 980

Aims of the Spanner & Wrench SIG:
Promote the conservation, identification and collection of spanners & wrenches and to share information with the group to that end.