

The Trojan Museum Trust

Patron Tim Schenken



News Sheet No. 30
Winter 2020



Dear Friends,

I hope that you are keeping well and have managed to get safely through the latest lockdown. Despite all the restrictions the Trust has had quite a busy time since our last news sheet, we have received photos and items from three former Trojan employees, had some great items donated and have even taken possession of two more Trojan vehicles, though admittedly these are both small vehicles and in the case of one a very small vehicle.

Firstly to the new vehicles. Our front cover features a wonderful model of a Trojan 200 convertible, (I did say one was very small). This model was specially commissioned and donated to us by Robin Spalding. It really is beautifully made and is the same size as the Corgi Heinkel models that were made in the 1970's which is 1/43 scale. This model will one day make a great display and will help people to see just what the Trojan 200 convertible was really like. Thank you Robin for supporting the Trust in this way.



The second vehicle to arrive at the Trust was actually purchased by the Trust. I received an email from Richard Evans who had spotted a Trojan Trokart for sale on a Facebook link. The asking price was very low for a Trokart so we decided that it was a good chance to add another Trokart to our collection. Once the first lockdown came to an end I arranged to collect it from the owner who lived down in Dorset. The owner was a lovely chap who ran a farm, with his parents, for adults with learning difficulties. When he realised that it was being bought by the Trust he immediately dropped the asking price by 20%, making it an even better buy. Like many of these Trokarts it has lost it's Clinton engine but is otherwise complete and in reasonable condition. We do have a spare Trokart engine but we now own two karts without engines fitted and so we will be keeping our eyes open for another engine. Thank you Richard for putting us onto this Trokart.

*raced by the world's
leading drivers*

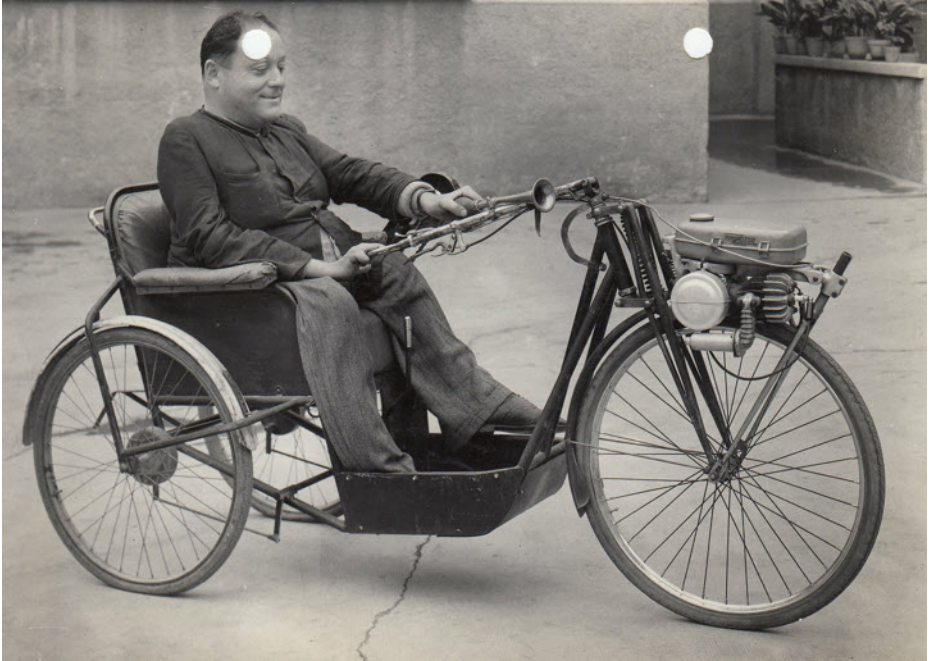
TROKART WINS

The TROKART, the lowest priced Kart in full production, has obtained more "FIRSTS" than any other Kart in Europe — proof of wonderful value for money.

British Northern Championship	Class I	First
	Class II	First
British Kart Manufacturers Championship	Class I(a)	First
	Class II	First
International Challenge Meeting (Hoensbroek - Holland)		First
British National Kart Race (Martlesham)	Class I	First
	Class II	First
	Class IV	First
Doncaster International Kart Race	Event III	First
	Event V	First
British National Kart Race Meeting (Tilbury)		First
50 - mile Manufacturers Race		First
	Class I (Special)	First

I mentioned in the last news sheet that we had been promised a pile of paperwork from the late Ted Tovell who had worked for Trojan from the 1920's right through to the 60's. Again taking advantage of the easing of lockdown rules during the summer months, I was able to make the fairly short run down to Ted's grandson Roger Tovell. Though we had to keep

our distance from each other and wear masks I had a good couple of hours visit. Roger showed me the MBE that his grandfather had been awarded for his design work on the 100lb bomb rack, and then gave to the Trust a large holdall full of photos and paperwork, as well as a Trojan perpetual calendar and a Trojan desk tidy. We then went to his garage and he dug out two tool boxes which had belonged to his grandfather.



These mainly contained fairly general tools but also some specialist tools and various micrometres etc. I am awaiting a chance to meet up with an ex Trojan employee to try to establish what these specialist tools were for, but all are great additions to our archive. The general tools will be kept with formerly donated tools to one day be used in a museum workshop. The paperwork includes the following:

A sales folder filled with 1950's van brochures and information.

A folder from the early 30's packed with literally hundreds of original press cuttings mainly about the Trojan RE.

Album of wonderful mini motor photos including one fitted to a disabled tricycle.

Several large photos of Trojan formal dinners.

A pile of loose photos including product photos and photos of Trojan staff including one of the Trojan Fire Brigade, though we are unsure of the date of this photo.

Six copies of 'Trojan Talk' dating from 1938 to 1940. This was a magazine produced by Trojan's Sports and Social Club and is packed with names of workers and the various out of hours fun that they had.

Various other vehicle handbooks and brochures including a copy of a wonderful brochure for the company as a whole called 'A Trojan Survey' This amounts to a wonderful collection of items which really help to tell the story of life at the Trojan works. Thank you Roger for donating these to the Trust.



Then a month or so ago I received by post a large package from Derek Cooper. Derek's maternal uncle John Cornwell worked for Trojan from 5/10/28 until 26/01/75, eventually working under Percy McNally after Percy took over Trojan Engineering. Derek had been kind enough to write out what he knew about his uncles time at the Trojan works and also included a pile of Trojan related paperwork. This included a folder

of paperwork relating to John's employment at the works including details of the pension scheme and letters from P.W. McNally Engineering Ltd. Which was the new name for Trojan Engineering after Percy McNally took over ownership.

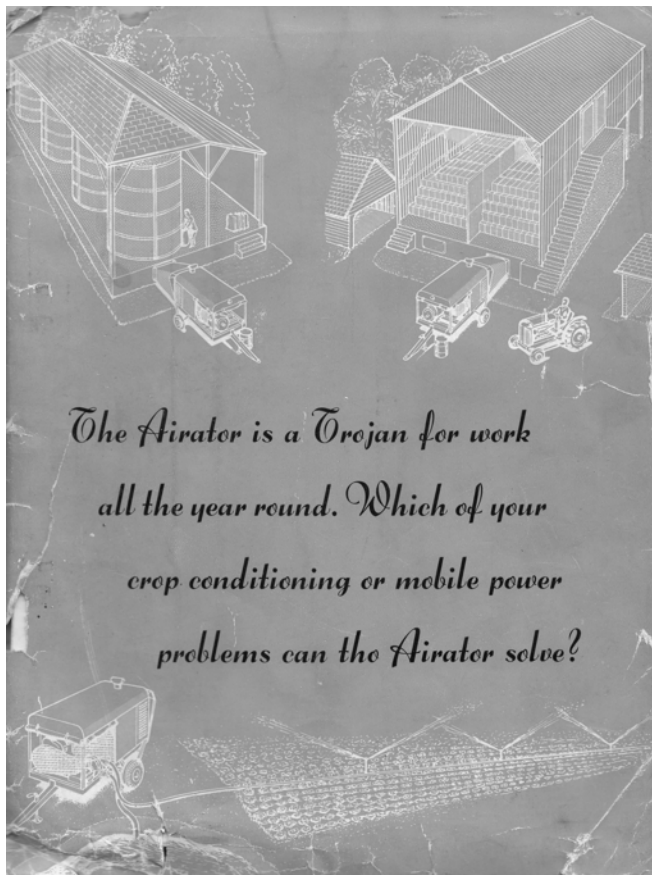
A folder about the Trojan Airator.

A folder including the designs of a light car trailer which John Cornwell had designed.

Various copies of articles about the Trojan Works.

An Owner's Manual for a Homelite Chain Saw, which Trojan imported and marketed in the early 70's.

These are all great additions to our archive and the personal employment information will result in John Cornwells contribution to Trojan being forever preserved. Thank you Derek for sending them to us.

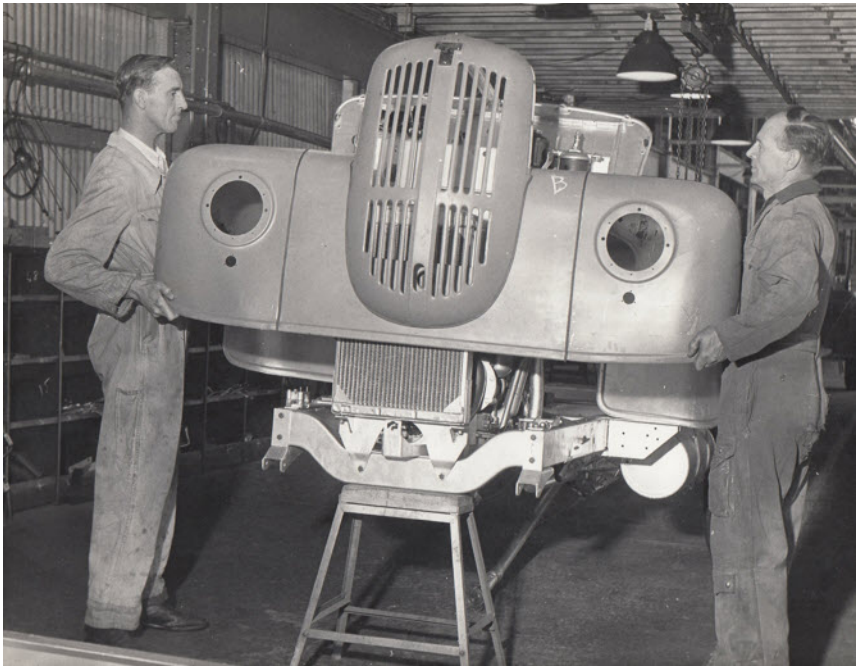




*Two More of Ted Tovell's Photos, Please Let Me Know if You
Recognise People in the Photos*



Apprentice Palmer With His Father at an Open Day.



More of Ted Tovell's Photos



CROYDON FIRM'S STEADY PROGRESS

HEADWAY WHILE OTHERS HAVE GONE "TO THE WALL"

THE POPULAR TROJAN CAR

While many other motor-car manufacturing concerns have "gone to the wall" in the past year, the firm of Trojan, Ltd., Croydon, have weathered the storm and are now making steady progress. This fact was announced with satisfaction at the annual dinner of the staff and employees of Trojan, Ltd., on Tuesday, at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon.

It was pointed out that the Trojan car, which was looked upon as something of a freak in its early days, was now one of the most popular makes on the market.

THROUGH TRYING TIMES

Sir George Roberts (chairman of Trojan, Ltd.), presided, and among others present were Mr. Basil



MR. BASIL MONK

Monk (managing director), Mr. Gordon Lee (director), Mr. Frank Laurier (director), Mrs. Monk, the Misses Laurier, Mr. H. J. Rickwood (secretary of the company), Mr. E. C. Ruffie (works manager of Leyland Motors), Mr. Stuart Davis (of the Davis Theatre, Croydon), Mr. H. Young (a director of Messrs. Grace & Marsh, Croydon), Messrs. F. and J. McConnell (directors of Waterman's Dye Works, Croydon), and Mr. G. Parrish (secretary of Trojan Sports Club).

Proposing the "Staff and employees," Mr. Basil Monk said that during the past year the whole country had been through very trying times, and Trojan, Ltd., had also had their difficulties. "But these difficulties have been overcome," he said, "largely owing to the loyalty of the staff and the co-operation of the workmen. Greater responsibilities were placed on their shoulders, but they were carried capably and without complaint."

FINE NEW YEAR PROSPECTS

"We, as a firm," continued Mr. Monk, "have been in an extremely fortunate position, in so far as while other firms in the same industry have had nothing to do, we have had plenty of work to get on with—and there are prospects of plenty more coming our way in the near future."

"I can say we start the New Year with better prospects than in any year we have previously embarked upon. (Applause.)"

"There is, I must point out, one thing in which you employees can help us and help yourselves, and that is by killing rumours—the biggest curse to any industry in the country and the biggest curse in the country itself."

"Rumours are started by people who do not know what they are talking about."

"They appear to know everything, but they do not know. They pick up scraps of information from other people, enlarge and distort the information, and then scatter it far and wide."

"If any rumours get about, you fellows must know whether they are right or wrong. You know whether we are going backwards or forwards. When you hear a rumour put your heel on it there and then, and if the fellow who tells you does not know what he is talking about tell him to shut up!"

Mr. Monk spoke of the progress of the Trojan car, which, he said, had developed into one of the most popular all-British products on the motor market.

MR. MONK'S GUIDING HAND

Mr. W. Puckey, rate fixer, responded on behalf of the staff, and pointed out that while many firms had gone to the wall in the past year, Trojan had carried on with renewed success. The strong guiding hand which had kept the firm going through these difficult days had been Mr. Monk's. (Applause.)

Mr. J. E. Patient responded for the employees.

Mr. J. E. Gadsden, manager of the Manchester depot of the firm, proposed "Trojan, Ltd. and the Board of Directors," and said it was mainly due to the skilful guidance of Mr. Monk that the company had pulled through the past difficult year, during which so many other firms had had to throw up the sponge in view of vicious modern competition. The chairman of a well-known contemporary motor manufacturing company had stated that this year his firm had received the hardest knocks of its successful career.

Mr. A. Crafts seconded the toast.

CHAIRMAN'S TRIBUTE

Responding, Sir George Roberts referred to the fine co-operation of the staff and employees. In factories and big works he had always found a certain amount of jealousy. Some workers were jealous of others who rose to higher positions. He had always urged those with whom he came into contact to forget all about jealousy and to help each other along to the best of their ability. (Applause.)

He spoke with pleasure of the progress of the Trojan Sports Club, and congratulated the football section on their success. The success of the recent handicrafts exhibition held by the employees and staff was also a source of satisfaction to the directors.

Mr. C. A. Hasting toasted the ladies, and Miss N. Woodhouse responded.

Mr. W. Yearsley proposed "The Visitors and the Press," and Mr. H. A. Young replied.

Entertainment was provided by Miss Evelyn Baly, Mr. John Lovering, Mr. Wilfred Burnand, and Miss Brightwell (a member of the Trojan staff).

PRIZE-WINNERS

Sir George Roberts presented the following prizes won in the handicrafts exhibition:—

Mrs. Stone and Miss Woodhouse (ladies' 1st and 2nd respectively), Miss K. May and Mr. Witchell (juvenile 1st and 2nd), Mr. Hunter and Mr. Seymour (men's 1st and 2nd), Mr. Haag and Miss Robins (1st and 2nd special awards).

At the conclusion of the dinner the company adjourned to the Davis Theatre, where a film showing the evolution of the Trojan car was shown.

The third relative of a Trojan worker to contact us was Bryan Davis. Bryan's father Frank Edward Davis worked for Trojan from the 1940's until 1990, ending his time first at Peter Agg's Effingham Park museum and then working personally for Peter on Peter's own private car collection. Bryan has sent us various scans of photos from his father and is gradually sending us more on an almost daily basis as he discovers them in his father's house. His father sadly died recently this last October. Again such photos will help to preserve Frank's name as an important Trojan worker.

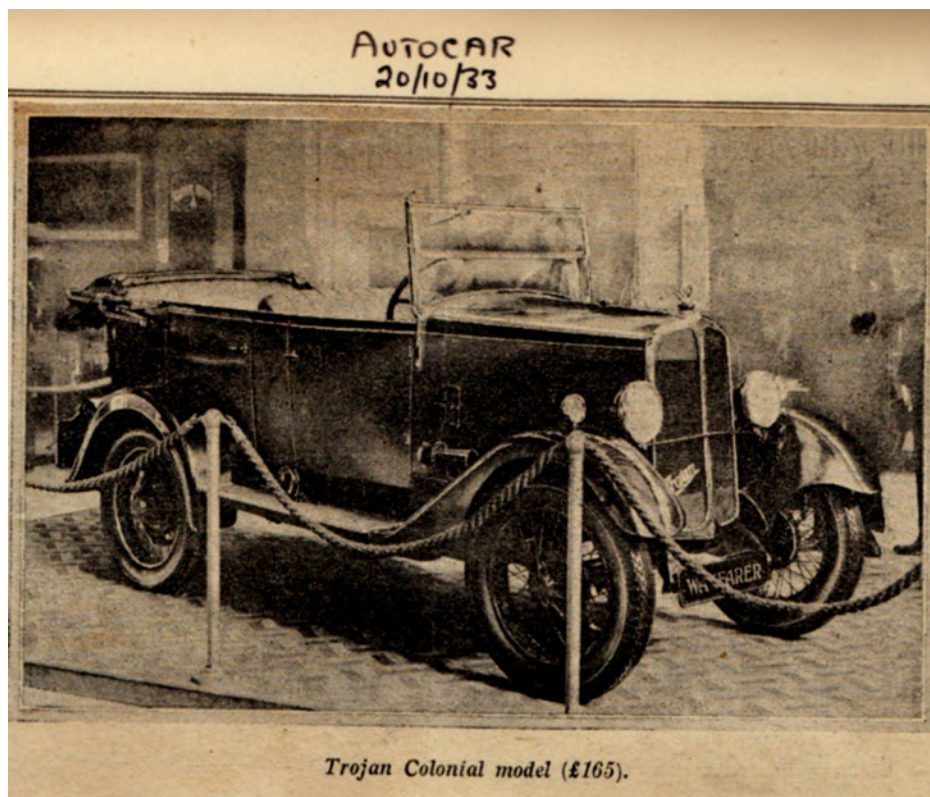


Any Suggestions as to What Frank is Making in These Photos



In the middle of the first lockdown a large collection of assorted Hounsfield testing equipment appeared on ebay. Usually these beautifully boxed instruments tend to sell for £50 plus each and rarely come with all the additional extras used for various testing. For some reason this large collection had only a very low starting price and seemed to not have attracted the notice of other buyers. So it was possible for a Trust supporter to purchase the whole collection for only around £20 including postage, which due to the weight I rather suspect amounted to most of the £20! It is great to have these instruments in our collection as items produced by Leslie Hounsfield's new company after he left Trojan in the early 1930's. Thank you for this kind donation.





A Very Rare Photo of a Trojan Wayfarer, Only a Handful Were Ever Made, With No Known Survivors. Press Cutting from Ted Tovell's Album.

Well as you have just read, lockdown has proved to have been one of the busiest times for a while for the Trust. All these items and the many contacts that we've also had with Friends of the Trust and others through this time have all been a great encouragement to us all. Do please get in touch if we can help you in anyway.

Have a lovely, safe and blessed Christmas.

David Hambleton

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