

The 1987 Ariel 500 Red Hunter

THE ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLE CLUB OF MANITOBA

P.O. BOX 1074, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

R3C 2X4

Number 3, Volume 19, March, 1996

1996 Executive

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Treasurer- Siggy Klann - 668-7679

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President's Note

We had a nice meeting at Tiny's. It was good to see two guests, Bill Russell and (Oops, lost the name !) attending. We hope they decide to join our jolly group!

Now that our club has an Ad running (3 actually, Jim) we will be holding our meetings at our advertised location, Woodhaven Community Centre. We should be able to hold social nights and visits to our less mobile members at other times (More chances to get together). Hopefully, we soon will be riding our motorcycles to the meetings. In 1973, I was riding my bike (A BSA Victor) by March 7th. The weather around here certainly varies!

Well, more information about Ben Benson's exploits (Fearless Winnipeg inventor). Some of our more senior members were acquainted with Ben. They report that his lawsuit against Harley Davidson was a success. H-D introduced a hydraulic front fork in 1949. Ben Benson had been manufacturing his own design as an accessory for H-D bikes (and John Deere??). Apparently some people also fitted them to their Indians (vast improvement!!!) Ben won a good sized settlement (A new Ariel ?). I am reprinting some of the drawings from the Benson Patent Application. In his heyday, Ben ran a well equipped motorcycle shop. His equipment included a turret lathe.

Jim Harrison (notes by renegade typist)

Meeting Notice

Next meeting is at Woodhaven Community Club, 7.30 PM

Meeting date: MARCH 26, 1996

Special News

For those on the hyperspace connection (Internet, for you kickstart folk) there is a web site for old motorcycle information called "Brit-iron".

The E-mail address is: [HTTP://bronze.ucs.indiana.edu/~cstringe/brit.html](http://bronze.ucs.indiana.edu/~cstringe/brit.html)

Very interesting stuff, especially if you have the necessary software to get the pictures.

Decent discussion and activities calendar. Now you know.

AMCM Anniversary-1997

In 1997 the AMCM will be 20 years old! A few of the members feel that a celebration of some kind is in order. So far, a motorcycle show, swap meet and barbeque has been suggested.

Hopefully, this would be at our regular meeting place, in mid July 1997.

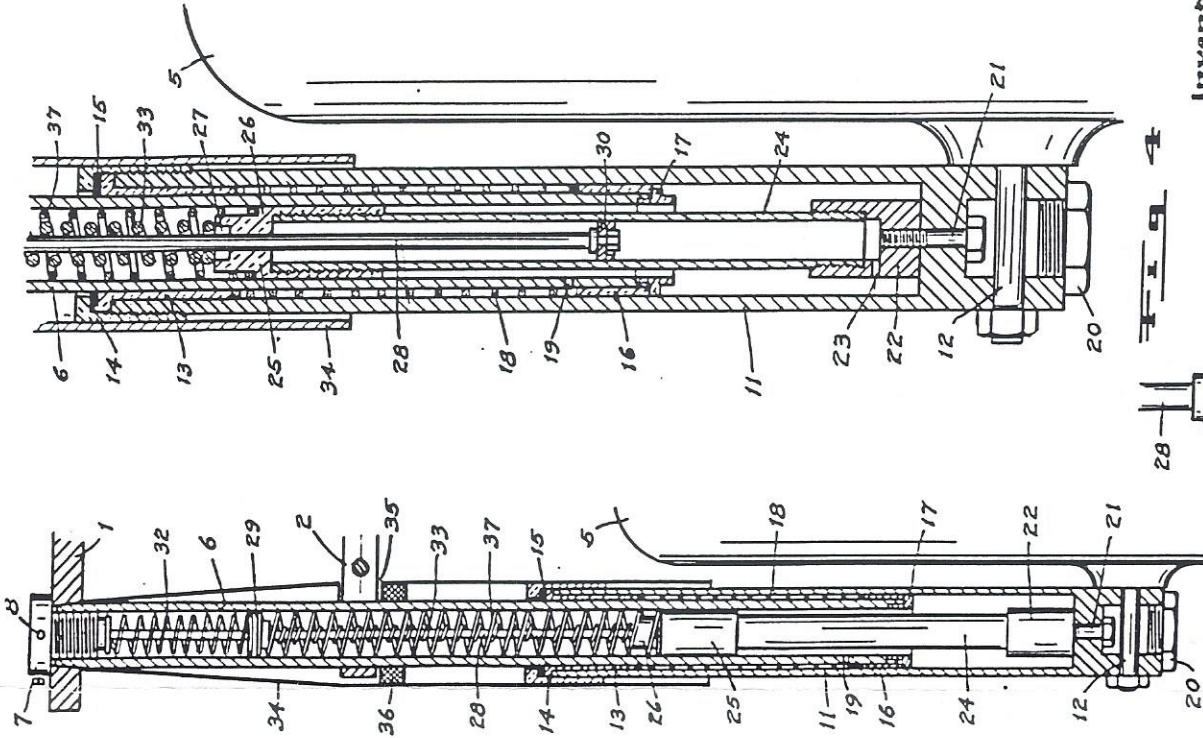
Oh yes, the AMCM has ads in the OLD CAR BOOK, Metro One, Winnipeg BUY AND SELL.

Want and Don't Want Ads

For sale: 1977 Triumph Bonneville 750, former BC museum display, 6000 miles, mint! Contact Duane Chapman (204) - 489 - 0636

Wanted: Petrol (gasoline) tank for 1957 Ariel 650 twin - Contact Ed Pauch (204) - 832 - 0255

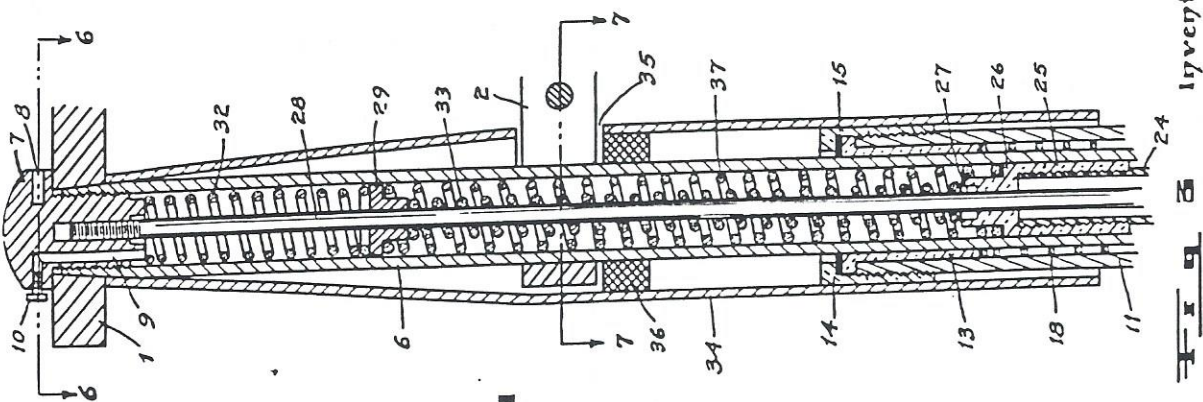
For sale: Replica Lucas battery cases, standard bike and Square 4 sizes- Also bearing babbiting, fiberglass replica parts- Inquire- Contact Ed Pauch (204) - 832 - 0255



Inventor
B. Benson

By

Walter C. Blythe
Att'y.



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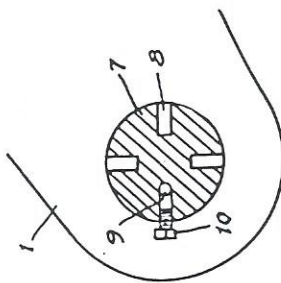
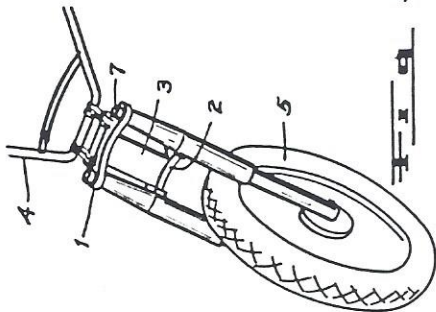


Fig. 6

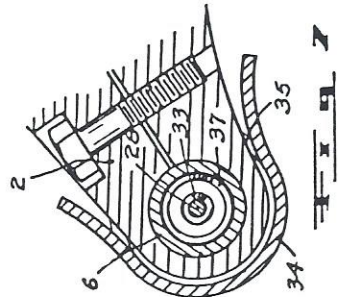


Fig. 7

Bookworm Munchings and Musings

On my return I bring some Earl's Court history. Cruising through the club magazines I homed in on "The Motor Cycle", which was a weekly magazine from England. Imagine the activity level to support a weekly mag. In the November 1958 Show issue I found an article by Jim Sheldon. I don't recognize the name but he submitted a two page article dealing with the history of the yearly motorcycle shows, in particular The Earl's Court new models show. I've condensed it down to a few highlights that might be of interest.

The first show in Great Britain was put on by Sir David Salomons mayor of Tunbridge Wells: on his own grounds. This occurred on October 15, 1895.

In 1897, the exhibit was called The Stanley Show, and was intended for pedal cycles, but included a few De Dion inspired motorcycles. The two wheelers then were called Moto cycles. The industry grew and in 1903 there were 300 exhibits in the Stanley Show.

1910 was the first Olympia Show after a lull in motorcycle interest, and was held there for another 25 years. The show was moved to Earl's Court in 1937, in London. World War Two interrupted the show, unfortunately. It was revived in 1948, and was opened by Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery.

I don't know when the Earl's Court shows ceased to be, but this is as far as the history goes to present day as this article appeared in a 1958 issue. The shows lasted for a week every November and seemed to be very well attended.

These issues of The Motor Cycle show very detailed photographs of the bikes, so could be used for checking equipment on a bike you are restoring.

Stay tuned for a bunch of our unsung scooter riders models in a future issue. There were an awful lot available in Europe over the years. More than just the usual Lambretta, that's for sure.

DID-JU-NO7??????? The Hondamatic was preceded by the BSA Fluid Flywheel by Daimler, introduced at the 1933 show. It was mounted on a single cylinder model.

SO LONG FOR NOW!!!!!!!

Meeting Minutes

It was a cold and dark night whereupon seven members and two guests attended a meeting at Tiny Robins home. It didn't take long before the coffee was flowing along with the conversations.

In the mail..... another issue of CVMG, for the library

..... a notice of a "Major Exhibition" of Motorcycles from the Reynolds-Alberta Museum. This is part of the Alberta Community Development. They are encouraging clubs, etc., to participate in special week-end events on June 1-2, July 20-21 and Sept 20-21. The Museum is located 1km. west of Wetaskiwin on Highway 13 and 45 minutes south of Edmonton. They have over 100 bikes on display and claim to be the largest vintage motorcycle exhibit ever organized by a public museum in Canada. Exhibits include exotics, specials, scooters, and competition from 1900 to 1975.

If you are on holidays during the summer near Edmonton they say "it's closer than you think and too good to miss!!!" For more info call 1-800-661-4726.

Another Bike Museum at the other end of our huge country is the "Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Museum" as listed in the CVMG newsletter. The place was open April 1 to Oct. 15 last year from 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Closed Mondays. Unfortunately the map provided, doesn't give readable detail. The address is 347 Greewich St. Building #19, Brantford, Ontario. For info call Doug Adams 1-905-639-4031. This provides another repository of unused wheeled vehicles we can peruse if on holidays out east. Brantford is west of Hamilton, Ont, just off the 401.

We discussed the plans for next year, tentavely we are going with a one day Swap Meet and Bike Display at Woodhaven c.c.. The first step is to check for permission to use grounds. Will keep you posted as to progress.

Ziggy donated two magazines for library draw, which were won by Bill Russel, a guest. Undoubtedly a pleasant ending to his first AMCM meeting.

Irv Lowen is in Deer Lodge. Fourth floor, Tower Four, if you wish to visit him.

After a second round of coffee...courtesy of Tiny, we ventured home into the seemingly never ending cold.

Dues by March 16 for the 1996 Membership. Thanks.

Submitted by Mike the Bike.