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# THE "LIGHT SHAFT"

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November 2020

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What a challenge, but a rare Austin 7.

See Richard Unkles My Austin on Page 23

**AUSTIN 7 CLUB INC. Reg No. A0003290N**  
**P.O. BOX 462**  
**MOORABBIN VIC 3189**  
**[www.austin7club.org](http://www.austin7club.org)**

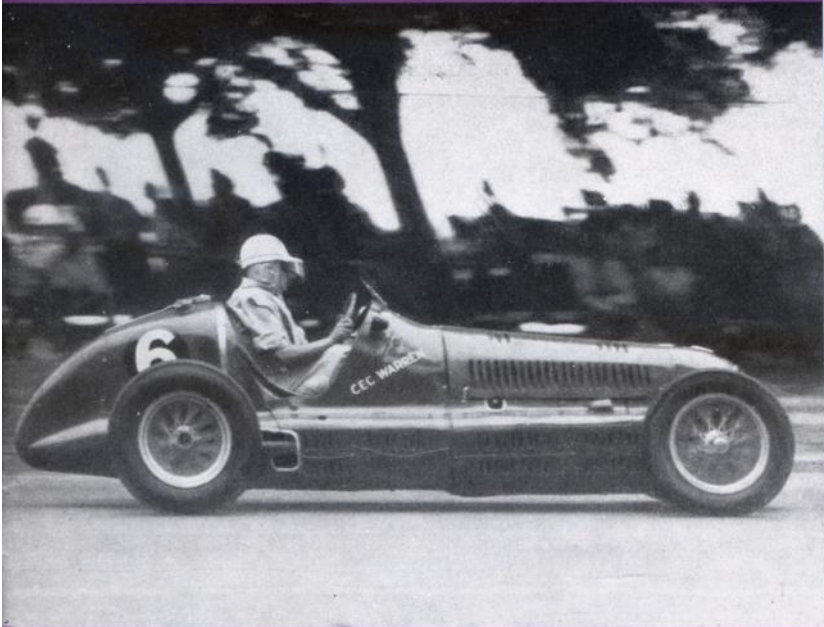


DECEMBER, 1953

*Australian*  
**MOTORSPORTS**

Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne,  
for transmission by post as a periodical

TWO SHILLINGS



**Formula III Review**

**The Renault Fregate**

**Korweinguboora Championships**

Tony John's story on Page 26, tells the story of how our Austin 7s were entered in the first race at Albert Park, in 1953.



**Magazine of the Austin 7 Club Inc. In its 71st year  
Foundation Patron of the Club**

**Col. A C R Waite,(dec.) MC, OStJ, DL, JP, Freeman of the  
City of London 1894—1991., Life member of the British Racing Drivers Club.  
Winner of the first Australian Grand Prix.**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **NOVEMBER**

31/3	Fri/Tues	7		Bob Booth Pub Crawl - CANCELLED
4	Wed	7	A	M.G.M./A.G.M. online
18	Wed	7	A	H.A.S. ????

### **DECEMBER**

2	Wed	7	A	M.G.M.
5	Sat	7		Spares/B.B.Q ?????
13	Sun			Year End Luncheon – Mulgrave CANCELLED
17	Wed	7	A	H.A.S./Spares/Christmas Pudding/Awards Night ??

*For events that show ???, the format is still to be debated, based on COVID restrictions in Victoria. The resumption of Spares open days is still to be decided.*

*Mail Order Spares has resumed,  
but with a strict COVIDsafe Plan.*

**The Club will advise when other active events are likely to resume**

### **LIGHTSHAFT COPY CLOSING**

Copy for Lightshaft **closes** late on

*Wednesday 18 November 2020.*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to November, and at last there are small changes taking place in Victoria with respect to COVID 19, however it looks like we will have to practise our zoom techniques for some time. Whilst the zoom helps to keep us all in touch it's not quite the same as face to face. There is however one advantage in that it allows remote members to join in for MGM or social activities where in the past this would not have been possible. One member, Geoff Hall from Canberra, has been active with this new technology and he recently posted a YouTube of a tourist drive around Canberra in his Austin, well worth a look at, and thank you Geoff, click this link to view. <https://youtu.be/b-4NIcm-2M>.

On the social scene there were 28 members who joined in for the Club's Trivia Night, and a good couple of hours were spent with a glass of wine by all. Again the wonders of zoom allowed us to meet both new members and members that we don't see that often. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome members Simon and Sue Sillio, Bruce & Sue McGorlick and new member Mathew Hassall.

This month is our AGM and Special General Meeting. All members have received notice of this meeting and copies of the audited accounts; please join us on zoom if you can.

### Spare Parts

Under strict COVID controls, mail order spares are able to operate again. Please contact via email Robert Humphreys to place an order or contact Graeme Logan (Manager Spares) if you require any information or assistance.

**More Photos and news on the website**

**<http://www.austin7club.org/>**

**And you can check for up-to-date information on events and news.**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT cont.

### Committee

Thanks to Glynis Gibbons the Committee have been able to address all of our insurance requirements and Robert and Paul have been putting our case for exemption of land tax for unit 8 & 9.

Gary Hawkins has the impossible task of trying to put together a calendar for next year, as well as taking care of OST and competition requirements with Motorsport Australia.

All of the Committee and others have been gazing into their crystal ball to see how we can start competition again and we are all hopeful for Historic Winton 2021.

John Shiells has his hands full as property officer installing new computer programmes for membership and other functions, as well as keeping our zoom operating.

Tony Press also has his hands full with minutes of various meetings, keeping the web site up to date and in conjunction with John keeps you the member informed with plenty of reading and other newsletters.

Keep well and in touch with fellow members

Len Kerwood.



## Editor's Rantings

### **CORONA CRISIS CANCELS WEEKENDS**

Well that's how it seems to me.

One day blends into the next.

Heaven's above – thank god that day and night still happens.

God moved into the rental house, about five doors down from us, about two years ago.

She gets up early, makes sure that the possums all finish their night-shift, their job includes trimming the creeper on my back pergola, and chewing a few citrus fruits. In the past I would hear them bounding home across the roof, but without hearing aids that's no longer a pleasure.

God then wakes up the magpies, ready for their shift, and then she kick-starts, what appears to be a 10 Litre Harley, which she leaves idling for ten minutes, to wake up all the neighbours, and make them aware that she is off to alert the sparrows that they should have their first fart. She then heads off, the great bike, with a diminishing rumbling into the distance, for what seems like five minutes.

This happens SEVEN days a week - no weekends.

The neighbours are no help.

Next door, Metricon is building a replacement house for our neighbours, and the builders work SEVEN days a week. They are now coming back every day to repair all their faulty workmanship - the neighbour is a legal eagle, and has been meticulously recording all the faults along the way, and alerting them to them. However Metricon seems to be hell-bent on doing tasks twice, or in many cases three times.

This happens SEVEN days a week - no weekends.

The next neighbours, a doctor and his wife – a nurse – work all sorts of shifts - SEVEN days.

On the other side, semi-retired - no longer doing the handyman job at the RSL, as its closed, and his wife lost her job at the South Oakleigh Club, a superb venue, as it's now closed forever.

So like many of you, I have trouble separating one day from another. Weekdays are vaguely defined, as I usually remember that Jane Bunn has read the weather report, as she always makes a couple of good points.

Otherwise, weekdays are defined by Wednesdays - garbage day, shopping day, Lightshaft closing day once a month, and more recently Austin 7 Club meetings by Zoom - I counted about 58 members at the month's MGM, with partners, and it's great to see country, interstate and overseas members participating - Ian Motley and Andrew Dawes from South Australia, Russell Hook from Albury, and other members that we rarely see.

So, remember to come and join us at our next meeting.

Rob.H.

## **TOURING AGAIN**

It means different things to all of us, but to me it is my delight.

With the pandemic, I was contained, and restricted, within a 5 km radius of home. Now, that radius includes two Bunnings and a number of delightful parks and walkways, but none of that is "real" touring.

So, I rejoice in our reduction of constrictions, and an increase to 25 km from home.

That 25 km takes me very quickly onto, what I consider - country roads – with a limited number of Sunday drivers, school run dawdlers and traffic lights. I like to be on the move, revisiting roads and vistas, which evoke memories of times past.

## And EDITOR's RAMBLINGS

I've been reading "Icons of England" by Bill Bryson, which contains about 110 stories, each of about two pages. It's a good read, but also a reminder that we all have memories from the past, and many from childhood of people, attitudes, nature, structures and landscapes and other things that evoke those memories from the past.

There are certain places on roads that I find memories of return trips from particular holidays – many years ago, sometimes I can even remember the conversations, but more particularly the emotions expressed by others in the car. It might sometimes have been a bit of history about the view, building or other roadside feature. At one place, on the Warburton Highway, I will always recall my 8-year-emotions when my elder sister (8 years older than me), suddenly burst into tears because she had left behind so many new friendships she'd formed during our 2 week's holiday in Warburton – the 8-year-old Robert, had no idea of what all the commotion was about.

Thank heavens that our Austin 7 Club is still foremost a car club AND a motoring club.

I think it is sad to see the great "The Royal AUTOMOBILE Club of Victoria" reduced to being "RACV", and reading their website, no mention of the Club's charter, but do mention a Privacy Charter, and a newcomer to the site would have trouble divining that it was a club about automobiles and motoring. Indeed, a search of the website seems to have little acknowledgement of the clubs origin and its original name. I wonder what our Queen thinks about being perpetually reduced to an "R" in an acronym that appears to be either an insurer or a tourist bureau.

However, that rant aside, let's get back to touring!

Rob.H.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

### **Communications Update**

**The Digital Age has been forced on us.**

**John Shiells**

Despite the COVID-19 lockdown, we have had to continue planning for the future of our club events for the members during this pandemic.

The Committee have been able to meet socially isolated using an internet video chat program, called Zoom, on our computers. The Committee held their first monthly meeting using Zoom in July.

We started our first Zoom Monthly General Meetings in September and emailed the Zoom links to all members who have supplied email addresses. At our initial Zoom MGM, we had over twenty six members present on the video link and a couple more who were listening on the Zoom conference phone number.

The phone dial is an alternative to using a computer. It still allows the members to be able to keep up to date with club events.

The next Zoom meeting held was October's MGM and again we had over forty members who were able to attend the meeting by video and phone.

**Continued Page 10 - Please read on**

## Help Section

If you have not seen an email invitation:

Check the 2020 Club Membership List has listed your correct email address, update it to me at [events@austin7club.org](mailto:events@austin7club.org).

Check your email Spam or Junk folder, as our messages to you by the Mailchimp emailing system may have been blocked by a spam filter setting.

Please check if the message is in a *Spam or a Junk folder* and select it and mark it as “Not Spam” to move it to the Inbox. Also add our **events@austin7club.org** address to your address book to ensure that the address will not be blocked in the future.

If you have a computer but don't have a web camera, you can still attend the meeting using the link. Just follow the instructions to download zoom client and join in as a viewer.

No Computer? To join in on a phone: Follow these instructions:

Phone **03 7018 2005** then when requested enter the following

Meeting ID: **691 744 1421**

Passcode: **680872**

To request to talk Dial **\*9**

To unmute or mute your phone Dial **\*6**

## COMING EVENTS

For most of us, one of most important Coming Event is Christmas, remembering family and friends.

We are also likely to remember past friends who are no longer with us, whilst we prepare for Christmas.

### Vale Trish Laughton Recipes

Back in February I inserted the following apology in the Lightshaft

“When I inserted the notice, in the December Lightshaft, advising members of Trish’s death, I made a “boo-boo”, I somehow omitted saving some Christmas recipes of Trish’s.

I will correct my “failsafe” system of saving copy, and make sure all members get an opportunity, in November, of making and savouring Trish’s Shortbreads and Mince Pies.

Rob.H.

Editor, with failing mind.”

So now you can savour these delicacies and remember all those members that the Club has recently lost.

### THE VICTORIAN CLUB PERMIT SCHEME

***Owners of Club Permit vehicles MUST maintain financial membership at all times.***

Your Club Permit Officer is our Membership Secretary Geoff Taylor  
When Geoff is not available Robert Humphreys also acts as Club Permit Officer

**Remember to plan ahead if you need a Club Permit application or renewal signed or issued. You will find more detail on the club permit scheme on the Web Site**

**<http://www.austin7club.org/>**

### Trish's Scotch Shortbread Recipe:

2 ½ cups of Plain Flour  
250g (8oz) butter (work out from package size of block)  
¼ cup of caster sugar  
1/8 cup (2 teaspoons) rice flour  
Mix up well

Cut into shapes etc and cook for 20 minutes  
at 160 degrees in ordinary oven  
(or at 150 degrees for fan forced over)

Check at 15 minutes. If they are a pale golden colour  
take out of oven and sprinkle with caster sugar.  
If not quite golden leave for another 5 minutes.



### Trish's Christmas Mince Pies:

Pastry ~ Mix Together:  
220g (or 8 oz) plain flour  
155g (or 6 oz) butter  
1 egg yolk  
6 tablespoons water

Fruit Mince ~ English Brand McRobertsons is best

Rollout pastry then cut into circles,  
Larger ones for the base of a pattie tin & smaller for the tops.  
Place fruit mince in pastry shells and put smaller circle on top.  
Paint the tops with egg yolk or milk to make them brown.  
Cook in fan forced oven at 180 degrees for 20 minutes -  
(Check at 15 minutes as ovens differ and they may be done.)  
Sprinkle with icing or caster sugar when cool.

**COMING EVENTS****PUB CRAWL - Cancelled**

Having studied Comrade Dan's and the Chief Muddleical officer's road map to oblivion, I see no option to cancelling the Melbourne Cup week end Bob Booth Pub Crawl.

Regards Ron Townley.

**Annual General Meeting – Annual report****Wednesday 4 November 2020**

The Annual General Meeting of the Austin Seven Club Inc. will be electronically as a Zoom meeting, to be held at 8:15pm on Wednesday 4 November 2020.

The ordinary business of the meeting is:-

- ◆ to receive from the Committee reports upon the transactions of the Club during the preceding financial year; and
- ◆ to receive and consider the financial statement submitted by the Club in accordance with Part 7 of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012.

**Club Secretary**

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**Watch this space for further coming events, as any news becomes available.**

When safe conditions prevail an adhoc 2020 Picnic in the Park will be announced!!

Ron Crellin  
Social Secretary 2020

## COMING EVENTS

### PICNIC IN THE PARK - Wednesday 20 January 2020

The traditional club event opening the new year may be on again at Le Page Park, Argus St Cheltenham, Melway 78B12.

Early birds at about 5:45 pm.

### **HOWEVER - WATCH THIS SPACE REGARDS AFFECT OF COVID RESTRICTIONS**

There are usually lots of Austins at this event which is a great time to bring the family for a barbecue. There is a playground for the youngsters and good parking for the “baby”.

This is a good time to shake, or blow, the cobwebs out of your Austin ready for the new year, and to also catch up with your friends after Christmas. A quick jog around the oval might be in order for those who indulged too freely during the festive season.

BYO everything. BBQ supplied.

Rob. Humphreys - 9583 6316

### **Begonia Rally - 2021 CANCELLED**

Could you please advise your members that the Begonia Rally in Ballarat scheduled for February 2021 has been postponed, of course, because of the COVID pandemic.

The 50th Rally will now be held on **18th-20th February 2022**. Entry forms and Rally details for this milestone event will be sent out later next year.

Many thanks for your help

Nerene Backhouse, Begonia Rally Committee, 0427 348 060

## COMING EVENTS

# AUSTIN 7 NATIONAL RALLY 2022

In the centre fold of the October Lightshaft is Newsletter No 1 about this exciting National event, for all Austin 7 enthusiasts.

It also comes with an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM.

If you know of Austin 7 owners who are unlikely to receive news of the event, have a chat with them, and give their contact details to the Rally Sub-Committee, so that they can receive news about the event.

A copy of the Newsletter No 1 and the Expression of Interest is also available on the website.

## **Austin Seven Clubs Association**

### **The Online Archive**

Handbooks, Parts Books Body Parts Book and lots more.

Just download it to your computer - all part of our membership of the Association.

More being constantly added

*An original Parts Book, for your model is one of the most valuable resources, especially for remote members.*

*An original Handbook is also a handy reference.*

# COMING EVENTS



If you can help in some way to make our 2022 National Rally a great event, please contact the Rally Committee

**Austin Seven**  
**100 YEARS**  
**WARRNAMBOOL National Rally 2022**

We are excited  
And you are invited!

**National Rally**  
Saturday 9th April - Thursday 14th April

Celebrate 100 years of Austin Sevens  
whilst exploring this beautiful part of Victoria  
Come have a whale of a time in Warrnambool!

Enquiries: 2022rallyinfo@gmail.com

## AUSTIN 7 NATIONAL RALLY 2022 SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair- Andrea Casabene, Peta Lee (Minutes), Graeme & Bev Logan, Tony Casabene, Russell Dickson, Greg Drummond, David & Judith Finn, Peter & Lesley White, Ron & Helen Crellin, Carole & Len Kerwood, Maria & Colin Cheesman, Robert Baudinette, Helen & Michael Shegog, Neil Rickard.

## COMING EVENTS

### **Austin 7 Heaven 2020-2021**

The Austin 7 Heaven facility is available to foster friendship between all Austin 7 enthusiasts and is not an Austin 7 Club run activity that counts towards aggregate points.

The team from Austin 7 Heaven were hoping to hold a one day work shop in late 2020 if we had freedom from the COVID 19 restrictions but this is looking increasingly unlikely - therefore we will hold this workshop as soon as practical in 2021.

Austin 7 enthusiasts will be able to observe Walter Raschle's skills with his special brake shoe machining device that allows machining whilst still fitted to the car. This assists to make all Austin 7s stop safely whether using two wheel brakes or four wheel brakes.

Keep an eye on the Light Shaft for dates and times.

When restrictions are relaxed, Austin 7 Heaven will also recommence opening Monday, Thursday and Friday for Austin 7 owners to utilise the car hoist, metal folder, guillotine, metal rollers, garage press, sandblaster, welders and range of panel making and car servicing equipment in a friendly environment **at 3 Murdock Street Clayton South.**

Or just come along for a chat and enjoy lunch and coffee.

Contacts for information.

Bruce Walker      0409 410 700.

Michael Shegog    0419 007 033.

Russell Dickson    0409 577 215

## COMING EVENTS

**Humour the Editor, and read on - this is about communications with Club Members**

### **VICTORIAN SNAILS HAVE COVID 19**

It is quite clear that snail-mail has degraded.

A straw poll of A7 Club Committee and other members reveals that ordinary mail within Melbourne metro area is taking between 1 day and 8 days to get to Club Members, but it is sometimes considerably longer. It's very variable elsewhere.

If it is important, to you, to receive club news, notices or adverts, in a timely manner, then **emailed** copies of Lightshaft, notices and alerts, is the only way to go.

Please check the 2020 MEMBER LIST, and confirm that your email address is correct.

If it is NOT correct, send an email to:-

[membership@austin7club.org](mailto:membership@austin7club.org)

[editor@austin7club.org](mailto:editor@austin7club.org)

[events@austin7club.org](mailto:events@austin7club.org)

I can only expect that the Australia Post will continue to degrade until someone pulls their finger out of the snail-hole.

Editor

PS email does not share the virus with us, or the snails, but has its own ways to frustrate us.

BUT, we were told, "it will be all wonderful once the NBN is available to everyone"

**SOooo - please read John Shiells message about the Digital Age on Pages 9 and 10.**

## SOMEONE'S AUSTIN

### *Ramblings Mal Hill*

*Attached is more of my Covid ramblings about Austin Sevens. Again, not sure about it being in the Light Shaft. It might upset some who are more knowledgeable than I and my take on things might be completely wrong.*

### **More Lockdown musings from Mal**

The Covid Lockdown has led me to browse the Internet as never before and much looking at Austin Seven stuff of which there is so much, docos, reviews and a host of Austin Seven Clubs in the UK, the Cornwell club has a lot of info, there is the Austin Seven Archive and The Austin Seven Friends all previously unknown to me before Lockdown.

Austin Seven Friends in the UK has become a daily read of its Forum Chat. I caused great discussion there identifying whether my newly acquired Box Saloon is an RN or RP, I had a photo of the car with the original UK Registration Plate and that confirmed it was registered in Kent UK in October or November 1932 right at the changeover time of RN to RP. Seems at the end of the RN run, the rear tank, instruments in front of the driver and seamless rear of the RP were adopted. After much discussion and photos back and forth the general opinion, it's a RN. In the end I confirmed this by ungluing some carpet on the Tranny Tunnel where the Model and Body Numbers are stamped.

So on to reading the stuff about Stanley Edge, Lickey Grange and Herbert Austin taking the young Stanley out of the drawing office to work on his small car project. And somehow Edge seems to crop up as the main designer. I guess everyone has watched the 1984 BBC interview with him.

There is a long article on the Austin Apprentices website by Ivor Vaughn, an engineer who has the dubious claim to fame as having worked on the

## MY AUSTIN

design of that horrible O series engine. He had some access to Herbert Austin's preserved office and casual interviews with Edge and others in later years.

It has always puzzled me how a seventeen year old draughtsman could have so much influence on the design of a complete car, and I think the answer is – he didn't.

Certainly Edge may have had some involvement in the design but really his main role was to produce workable drawings from sketches and interpret ideas of Herbert's and some others. Herbert already had a lot of experience in design both at Wolseley and Austin and already held a few Patents.

And what about the engine? It is recorded Herbert seriously considered a horizontally opposed design at one stage but ended up with Cast Iron Block on an Aluminium Crankcase similar to the engines already in use in his bigger cars so no great inventiveness there.

Austin was very good at marketing, when the early cars hit the market they caused a revolution in British motoring. As the years rolled by other small manufacturers caught up and passed the Austin Seven. Stanley Edge went to Triumph and their Super Seven is almost a modernised (for the time) Austin Seven but the Austin juggernaut rolled on.

In the early years the race credentials of the Austin Seven helped a lot (The adage of “win on Sunday and sell on Monday”) was very true even right up to the heyday of our Ford versus Holden local competition).

So here we are today, and the more I read about what is going on with Austin Sevens all over the World, it borders on being a Cult and I am grateful to be part of it.

## MEMORIES

### Ramblings from Ron Townley

#### A PLEASANT SUMMER EVENING

It is rather hot and dusty in the hay paddock in the summer of 1958, it's Saturday so early knock off, go home, jump in the tub, clean up. Now put on the safety gear, black long sleeve shirt, white long pants, and take the new Bell helmet, which covers the back of the neck and the ears. Much better than the old Pudding basin.

Off to Koo wee rup to Tommy Burton's General Motors dealership, pick up the MG Midget and trailer, Harry Burton and Geoff Light [these two could fix anything with a screwdriver, shifting spanner, pliers and large hammer], call in at Dandenong to pick up Tommy, who had a Midget which an Australian Grand Prix winner drove at Olympic Park before WW2. Arthur Wylie built his first race car at Tommy's workshop.

Leave for Fred Tracey's Maribyrnong Speedway, unload, don't park under the light at the corner of the grandstand, Jack O'Dea parks there, comes at the last minute and he's bigger than us.

or Jimmy Davies, American Midget or champ Leroy Warriner if you were not there, the gate was shut, and you were a spectator. Now into the Midget, no roll bar, lap belt helmet, gas goggles 6 pence each from Hughes arm disposals, put on 4 pair, space the elastic headbands, back

#### PARKING AT CLUBROOMS

In the interests of all members could those attending meetings please park only *in the marked spaces*. Please leave the forecourt for *AUSTIN 7s ONLY* and any *handicapped members*, and please make access available for those *delivering or collecting* goods or club equipment.

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goggle strap to the bottom, front goggle strap to the top, so when the dirt covers the goggles, pull the top strap, hey presto next goggles are clean. We have been under the grand stand to draw the marbles for our heats, say you have number 9, starting in rows of 3, you are 3rd row outside,

Rolling start, flashing red lights stay bunched up ,clap the pace on approaching the top end, green lights, - go—now the sorting out at Raleigh Road end gets interesting, could be a score or 2 to settle here. Back to the pits, lift the bonnet check all OK.

Phil Irving looks at our 215 Holden engine, the man of few words look on his face says, “this bloody thing shouldn’t work.”

Bill Dutton & Bill Dudley had blocked the 3 side inlet ports in the head, machined through the top of the head, fitted a tube between the inlet valves. Burtons installed 3 vertical SU, as fitted to 1948 Wolsleys, converted them to methanol. I don’t think Phil ever worked out why it went so well, neither could we!

Load the car onto the trailer, whole or in pieces depending on the skill or lack of on my part or someone else.

Back to Koo wee rup get ready for next Saturday night.

A rather pleasant evening covered in dirt [doesn’t happen at the lead], back into the tub, Bed.

**Ron Townley**

### *Editor’s Note*

I can remember similar evenings to Brooklyn Speedway.

We went there once with the Austin 7 Club, and we also paraded around the track in our A7s.

## MEMORIES

You may remember that they had a Men's toilet on the banking that you could walk in either end, have a leak against a stub wall about 4'6" high while watching the racing.

Some Austin 7 lady members wandered in one end, and about halfway through, suddenly realised what they had done.

Very funny, and a few red faces - I think a few with happy expressions.

## MY AUSTIN

Hi Rob

Today is the first in years that I devoted much time to the Austin restoration.

I guess spares (somewhat needed now) will open when retail opens on Nov 2 or thereabouts.

First I should advise that the RACV is withdrawing from any form of sponsorship of motoring events, perchance you are not already aware.

So Daryl Meek (manager) is finishing on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. He was not surprised as the CEO terminated their archivist last year and no one has had any access to the records since.

This year the RACV is bleeding money from its resorts so that has probably cemented the CEO's decision. I am told the board is quite happy to promote motoring but normally follows the CEO's desires.

I am forced to admit that my work on the A7 has been a case of fits and starts. Or maybe fits and stops. Anyway – here goes.

## MY AUSTIN

I bought the animal ambulance from the late Russell Stapleton circa 1992. I once made a comment about it and he never forgot so when he was downsizing he asked was I still interested.

When new it seems to have been built by a very small firm (one or two man?) in 1930 in South Melbourne according to Bill Sheehan. It was registered for (but not by) the Animal Welfare League in August 1930. Engine date is circa February 1930. The League was started by Mrs Lort Smith and a good friend. Both were animal lovers and worked in conjunction with the Veterinary School at Melb Uni. I think they started in 1927.

They had the ambulance until 1934 and it was replaced by a small Ford. In 1936 the name was changed to The Lort Smith Animal Hospital. Mr Lort Smith was a wealthy lawyer and supported her interests.

The van went through some 14 ownerships and several colour changes up to 1954 when it died at Red Hill on the Mornington Peninsula. It was registered during the war, no doubt as a commercial it got a better petrol ration. It was pretty worn out judging by the suspension and lack of brakes.

At some time it was picked up by Graeme/Graham Harder who in turn sold it to Russell Stapleton, better known for his Napiers and Alvis cars. I believe this sale was during the 1960's. At least it was then under cover, but rather sad. By then it had lost its radiator, bonnet, headlights and shocker absorbers and acquired a couple of bullet holes in one side. May well have been a brakeless paddock bomb.

Russell used to have a high standard garden at Bright and it was sometimes open to the public for charity. On one occasion a tall lady named Mrs Margaret Browning (nee Swinburne) recognized the van as she was a volunteer driver. It was used to pick up and return dogs and cats for

## MY AUSTIN

treatment from the wealthy suburbs as a way to fund the League's activities as they did much to help the animals of the less fortunate, especially during the Depression. It had a division down the middle and had several wire topped cat baskets on one side. She left in 1938 when she married a farmer. I found her near Yarrawonga circa 1995, hence the detail.

Russell never did any work it as evidenced by the photo of when I acquired it. That photo shows the good side.

I did a lot of welding of major cracks in the sheet metal floor and the like but the chassis was intact. It does seem correct not to disguise its hard life from those who inspect it closely which allows me to restore it whilst acknowledging its history but not to become a show pony. The rear doors were rusted out due to the simple gaps so I replaced the skins in galvanized sheet. I have replaced the bottom 50mm of the front doors and some 40% of the original wood could not be saved. Luckily the guards were repairable. The upper louvered side panels were saved but the lower ones were too far gone. The engine crankcase and crankshaft are original but the block has been changed at some stage. A bonnet proved hard to find but a good friend and general wonder girl, club member Pat Bren, in New Zealand found one for me.



Hopefully I am now on the home straight with the engine totally rebuilt

## MY AUSTIN

and gearbox majorly overhauled but not installed yet.

The mechanical side has been very well catered for by the spares department of the Austin 7 Club but there is more to be spent there.

It must be finished for the 100 years of Austin 7 celebratory rally in April 2022 at Warrnambool so hopefully I am in the home straight.

Bruce Walker has seen it and is keen to reproduce the sign writing.

I plan to make it available to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital for fund raising if that is helpful to them.

Cheers Richard Unkles

## THOSE RACING AUSTIN 7s

Bob Watson's excellent book "Going Strong" on page 15 states that five Austin Sevens were entered in the first ever race meeting at Albert Park in November 1953. He then goes on to say that despite the good entry of Austins, there was no mention in the Australian Motor Sports magazine report of the meeting.

I believe the answer can be found under "Club Notes" in the December 1953 issue.

Austin 7 Club Vic, penned by John Pryce tells the story of how the five entries were reduced to two cars, and after Don Dunoon struck trouble, actually a lamp post in practice. John Fleming was the only Austin to start in event one. John finished the race in last place, but as he said ahead of all the retirees.

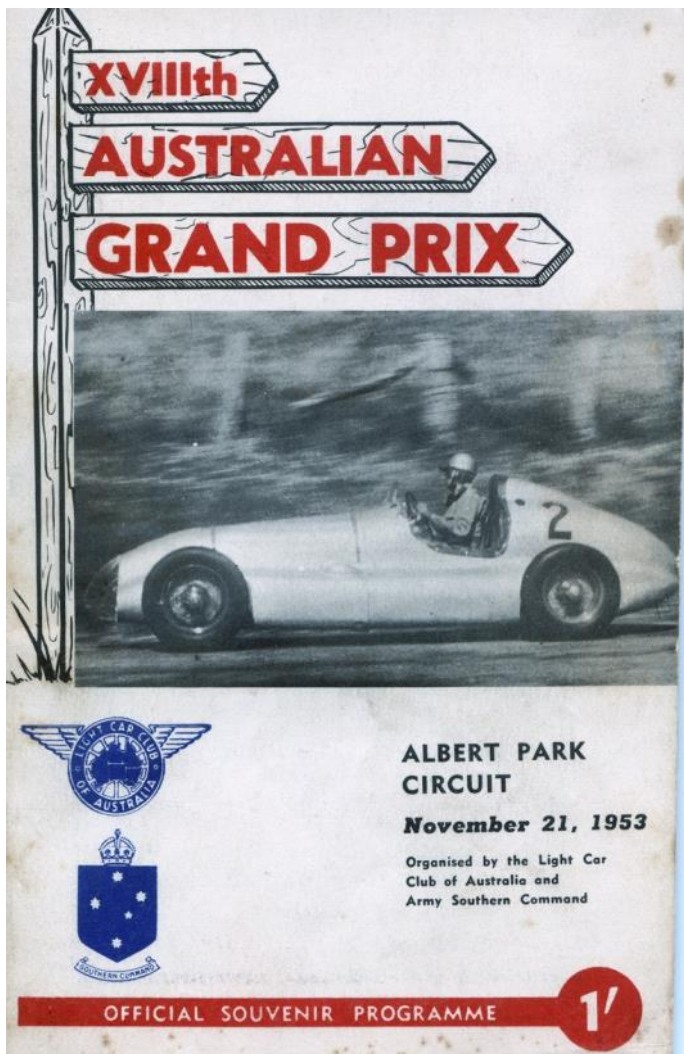
## THOSE RACING AUSTIN 7s

The other historical point to be found in John Pryce's notes was that John Fleming was actually driving Alan (Doc) Grosvenor's Austin albeit with his own Ulster engine fitted in order to have it completed in time for the weekend.

The "Grosvenor" Austin has been owned and raced by John Heagney for many years at circuits all around Australia. John is one of an exclusive group of owners whose cars competed in event one, "An Open Scratch Race of 16 laps" the first ever race at Albert Park back in 1953.

My copy of the program has pencilled notes stating A.N.Davison first, S.J.Jones second and R.H. Hunt in third place.

Tony Johns



# ALBERT PARK

## Event No. 1

An Open Scratch Race of 16 Laps  
(50 miles). Within this race is conducted a Handicap Event of 12 Laps.

No.	Name	Car	c.c.	State	Hcp.
4.	Ecurie Australie . . . . . (Driver A. N. Davison)	Alfa Romeo s/c	2996	Vic.	Scr.
43.	Ecurie Australie . . . . . (driver S. J. Jones)	Cooper	1096	Vic.	1.00
44.	W. J. Craig . . . . .	Cooper	1097	S.A.	1.00
45.	G. Greig . . . . .	Cooper	1097	N.S.W.	1.00
46.	B. A. Walton . . . . .	Walton J.A.P.	996	Vic.	1.36
47.	M. Ravdell . . . . .	Cooper	998	Vic.	1.36
48.	H. Firth . . . . .	M.G. Spl. s/c	1380	Vic.	1.50
49.	K. R. Machin . . . . .	M.Y.F. Spl.	4223	Vic.	2.48
50.	S. J. McLatchie . . . . .	Ford	4200	Vic.	2.48
51.	D. G. Abicair . . . . .	Holden M.G.	2200	Vic.	2.48
52.	V. Moloney . . . . .	Jaguar XK120	3442	Vic.	2.48
53.	J. S. Moody . . . . .	Jaguar XK120	3442	N.S.W.	2.48
54.	R. H. Hunt . . . . .	Allard J2	3900	Vic.	2.48
55.	J. H. Phillips . . . . . (driver R. K. Phillips)	Allard K2	4250	Vic.	2.48
56.	V. Moloney . . . . .	M.G. T.C. s/c	1250	Vic.	3.12
57.	H. W. Hurst . . . . .	Allard K2	3622	Vic.	3.12
58.	D. J. Landrigan . . . . .	Wyllecar	3500	Vic.	3.12
59.	V. N. Power . . . . .	Lycoming	3264	Vic.	3.12

## RESULT SCRATCH RACE

1. *A.N. Davison* . . . . . 2. *S.J. Jones* . . . . . 3. *R.H. Hunt* . . . . .

Time . . . . .

# TROPHY RACE

12 noon

## Race Prizes

Scratch: 1st, £60 and Trophy; 2nd, £45; 3rd, £25; 4th, £15; 5th, £10; 6th, £5; 7th, £5. Handicap: 1st, £45 and Trophy; 2nd, £25; 3rd, £15; 4th, £10; 5th, £5.

60.	Ecurie Australe . . . . .	Cooper	497	Vic.	3.36
	(driver G. W. Patterson)				
61.	D. W. Stephenson . . . . .	D.W.S. 500	498	Vic.	3.36
62.	A. Menzies . . . . .	M.G.	498	Vic.	3.36
63.	Mrs. A. N. Davison . . . . .	M.G. T.C. Spl.	1250	Vic.	3.36
	(driver I. K. Mountain)				
64.	S. Massola . . . . .	H.R.G.	1496	Vic.	3.36
66.	I. D. Kitto . . . . .	Vauxhall	1936	Vic.	3.36
67.	G. Sandford-Morgan . . . . .	M.G. N.E.	1271	S.A.	3.36
68.	L. A. Nelson . . . . .	Salmson-Durant	2800	Vic.	5.12
69.	C. W. Miller . . . . .	M.G. T.C.	1250	Vic.	5.12
70.	J. F. Lanham . . . . .	Bugatti "8"	2000	Vic.	5.12
71.	G. L. Russell . . . . .	Morris Spl.	1959	Vic.	5.12
72.	D. J. Leonard . . . . .	M.G.-Vaux.	1498	Vic.	5.12
73.	J. Lanham . . . . .	Lombard-Vaux.	1490	Vic.	5.12
74.	G. D. Barr . . . . .	M.G. T.C.	1380	Vic.	6.00
75.	A. E. Cartwright . . . . .	M.G.	1250	Vic.	6.00
76.	D. B. Young . . . . .	Singer	1097	Vic.	6.00
77.	W. M. Wright . . . . .	Ford "10"	1172	Vic.	6.36
78.	J. Fleming . . . . .	Austin Ulster	747	Vic.	7.24
79.	M. H. Richardson . . . . .	Austin Ulster	747	Vic.	7.24
80.	D. B. Hughes . . . . .	Austin	747	Vic.	8.00
81.	D. Dunoon . . . . .	Austin	747	Vic.	8.00
82.	"E. Ellis" . . . . .	Austin	747	Vic.	8.00

## RESULT HANDICAP SECTION

1..... 2..... 3.....

Time.....

### AUSTIN 7 CLUB (Victoria)

(Enquiries, John Pryce, 275 Balaclava Rd., Caulfield, LF 5877, or FJ 6609 at work)

A Merry Christmas to all, particularly Austin Sevenists, and may your crankshafts never break!

The absence of notes during the last couple of months has been due to furious activity on all fronts. Back in October we had a hill climb at a secret place (as usual). This hill was a fairly short, nearly straight affair which called for cog-swapping half way up, except for the unhealthy, who had to do it more often. Don Dunoon motored up from Geelong to take the fastest time at 33.0 secs. and Bob Riches won the touring class at 40.7 secs.

A novelty gymkhana was held at Eltham on November 1. The ground was a little damp, so the allegedly fast cars were at a disadvantage. Geoff Hall won the day in his Chummy, which is so standard that he apologised for entering the thing. However, a good sound Chummy skilfully handled will always shine on occasions like this.

Of course, on November 21, there was that magnificent feast of motor racing at Albert Park. Five highly optimistic members entered for the 50-mile race, but alas, only two made it. By a tremendous working bee which lasted from Monday to Saturday, with only a few hours off each night, various members assisted in the preparation of Don Dunoon's and John Fleming's entries. This was after the other three had given up and were now concentrating on these two.

These two hoped to have a little dice on their own, for the handicappers obviously did not intend them to win the race. Unfortunately Don Dunoon struck trouble (actually a lamp post) in practice, so John Fleming had to circulate on his own, and although he came in last he was still running at the end, so technically he beat those who were not. John's car was actually Alan Grosvenor's. This car was built from scratch and is practically brand new throughout. All the chassis and body frames form one unit, the whole being very businesslike. The engine was John's Ulster unit.

Just as these notes are being written a Peninsula Trial is taking place, but the results will not be known until too late, so more of this next time.

There will only be two more functions this financial year. On December 9 we have a film night and prize giving, then on January 24 we have a day at the beach at Mount Martha.

The new financial year starts on February 1, when subscriptions at 12/6 will be due. During next year we hope to develop the Austin 7 Formula for Austin 7 sports racing; the regulations should be all cut and dried by then and anyone interested is invited to contact the secretary.

In Tony's story about the first race meeting at Albert Park, this report was mentioned.

During this era, and for many years, John Pryce made sure that there was a report of our Club's activities in each month's edition of Australian Motor Sports.

John was certainly a very busy man during the 8 1/2 years that he served on Committee, as he was also busy in all types of motor sport, particularly in his many years as Motor Sport Manager for BP.

**AUSTIN 7 CLUB INC. - COMMITTEE 2020**

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**CLUB VISITOR**

If you know of a Member who is unwell or in Hospital please contact Bruce Walker, our Club Visitor. He will visit or send a card to the Member.

Contact Bruce on [brucewalkerartisan@gmail.com](mailto:brucewalkerartisan@gmail.com)

**9807 1729 or 0409 410 700.**

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**HISTORIC SPRINT**

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Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?

Do twins ever realise that at least one of them is unplanned?

Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?

Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and It just takes 75-100 years to fully work

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UNIT 8, 19-23, KYLIE PLACE, CHELTENHAM NORTH.**

**All correspondence to the Secretary:**

**Austin 7 Club Inc. P O Box 462, Moorabbin. Vic 3189**

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Spares are open:-

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Spares can be ordered by mail from:

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Or [mailorderparts@austin7club.org](mailto:mailorderparts@austin7club.org)

## MARKET PLACE

### FOR SALE

An Austin Rarity , the BS4.

Originally built in1932-34 by George Brough of the Brough SuperiorSS100 motorcycle fame.



George built the best quality (called the Rolls Royce of motorcycles) also the fastest and most expensive of the time and achieved great fame at Brooklands and world speed records and speed trials.The BS4 was unique for its time being fitted with an Austin 7 engine to fill the need for the largest capacity motorcycle and also with a four speed gear box and reverse gear and electric start.

All these unique features made the bike ideal for sidecar work like no other.Also a great luxury touring machine.(More history at Wipedia)

These bikes were made even rarer as only 12 were ever made due to the world depression stopping the demand for expensive Motorcycles.

This replica is to re-tell the history of the worlds best motorcycle builder (George Brough) and also to celebrate the mighty Atom(A7) yet again.



## MARKET PLACE

***Market Place advertisements will normally appear for FREE in two consecutive Lightshafts Editor***

This bike has been built by a professional engineer to the highest standards and features the A7 engine , shaft drive , and the luxury of rear suspension.

Built to Ride , Show , rally or Club outings. In perfect order.

Regards & Carpe Diem

**Leigh Goodall , CEO, Proud Products Pty Ltd**

**T** (03) 8368 2522 **M** 0417 368 058

**E** [leigh@proudproducts.com.au](mailto:leigh@proudproducts.com.au)

**A** 47 Burns Road (PO Box 69) Altona VIC Australia 3018

This is a sad story of the depression that can haunt a man.

**Marcel** was sick and tired of the world; of Covid 19, Brexit, Russian belligerence, global warming, racial tensions, and the rest of the disturbing stories that occupy media headlines.

**So Marcel** drove his car into his garage and then sealed every doorway and window as best he could.

**He got back into his car and wound** down all the windows, selected his favourite radio station and started the car.

Four days later, a worried neighbour peered through his garage window and saw him in the car. She notified the emergency services and they broke in, pulling Marcel from the car.

**A little** sip of water and, surprisingly, he was in perfect condition, but his Tesla had a dead battery.

<b>MARKET PLACE</b>
---------------------

**FOR SALE.**

A pair of Lucas headlights for chummy.

A radiator core for chummy.

A petrol tank for chummy.

One wheel 18'' plated centre, painted black.

Wayne Styles. 0417 532 412.

**Maintenance work - Kingpins and other blacksmithing**

Gary Page does blacksmithing repairs of front axles, resizing king pin eyes and ensuring they are properly aligned. Gary is an engineer who is qualified to certify his work suitable to meet the Vehicle Assessment Signatory Scheme (VASS) approval certificate.

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Sean Conlon 12 Patrick Crt, Seaford 9786 2988

**Austin 7 Brake Shoes / Drums.**

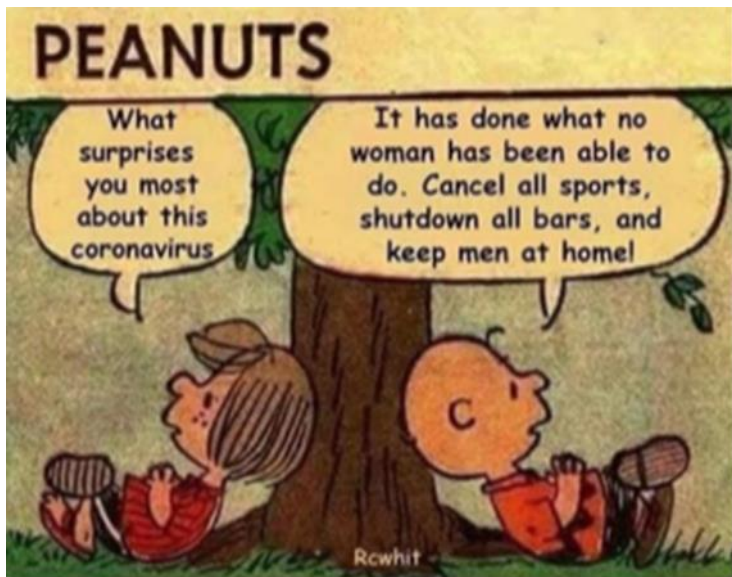
B.G.T. over 45 years. Ask for very soft linings.

Jeremy Shao. 18 Cambria Road. Keysborough 9794 6787 1300 819 863.

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PABLO'S - no scratches.

Factory 2 / 16 Rosemary Crt. Mulgrave, 3170. 9561 5522.



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Please note Spares Banking Details, located at the bottom of our Invoices.

**Robert & Janne Humphreys-  
mailorderparts@austin7club.org**

**To all of you who have a car under the Club Permit Scheme.**

**Check your date of EXPIRY of your Permit.**

**Many have NOT received renewal notices on time.**

**If you have not received your renewal by 2 weeks before expiry, give VICROADS a phone call, on 9854 2432.**

**ALSO check ALL details - including expiry date, addresses etc.**

**The "period of grace" has recently been reduced to 90 days.**

**When paying ALWAYS retain your receipt.**

**Keep a scanned copy of your receipt with your logbook.**

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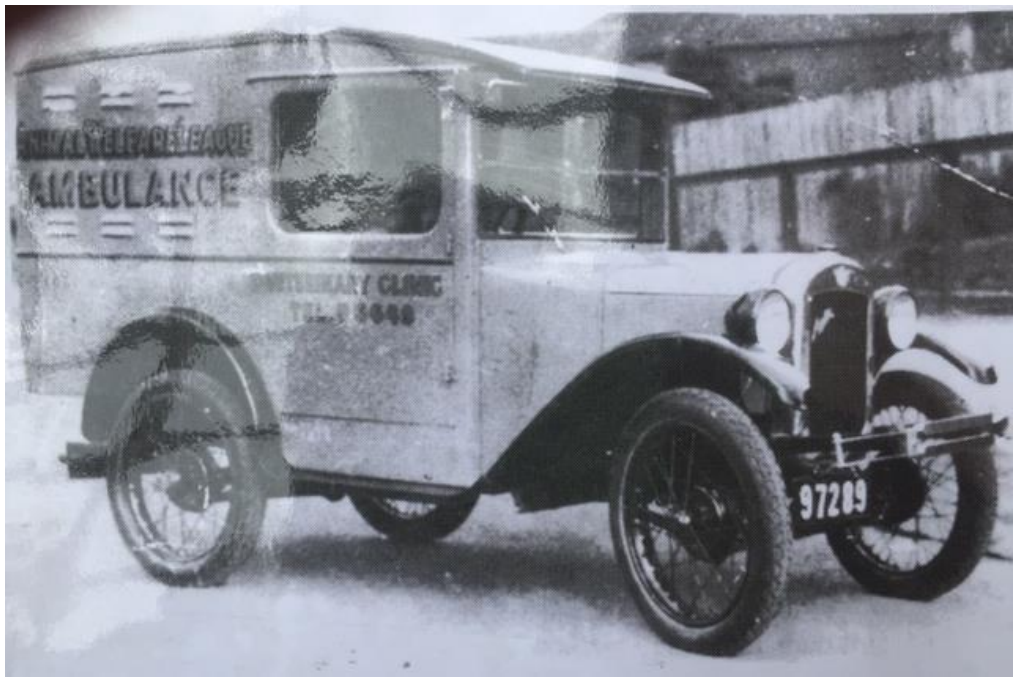
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Bill Conouly's Austin 7 "Comet" read further next month



Above: The Lort Smith Animal Ambulance as it was, and below, part way through its rebuild - see Richard Unkle's story starting on Page 23.

