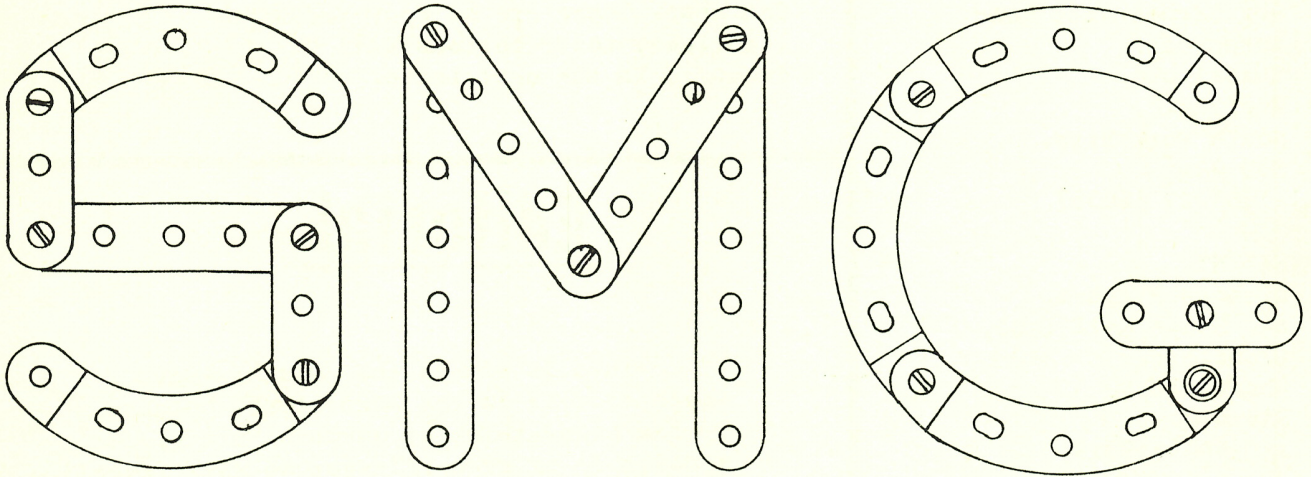
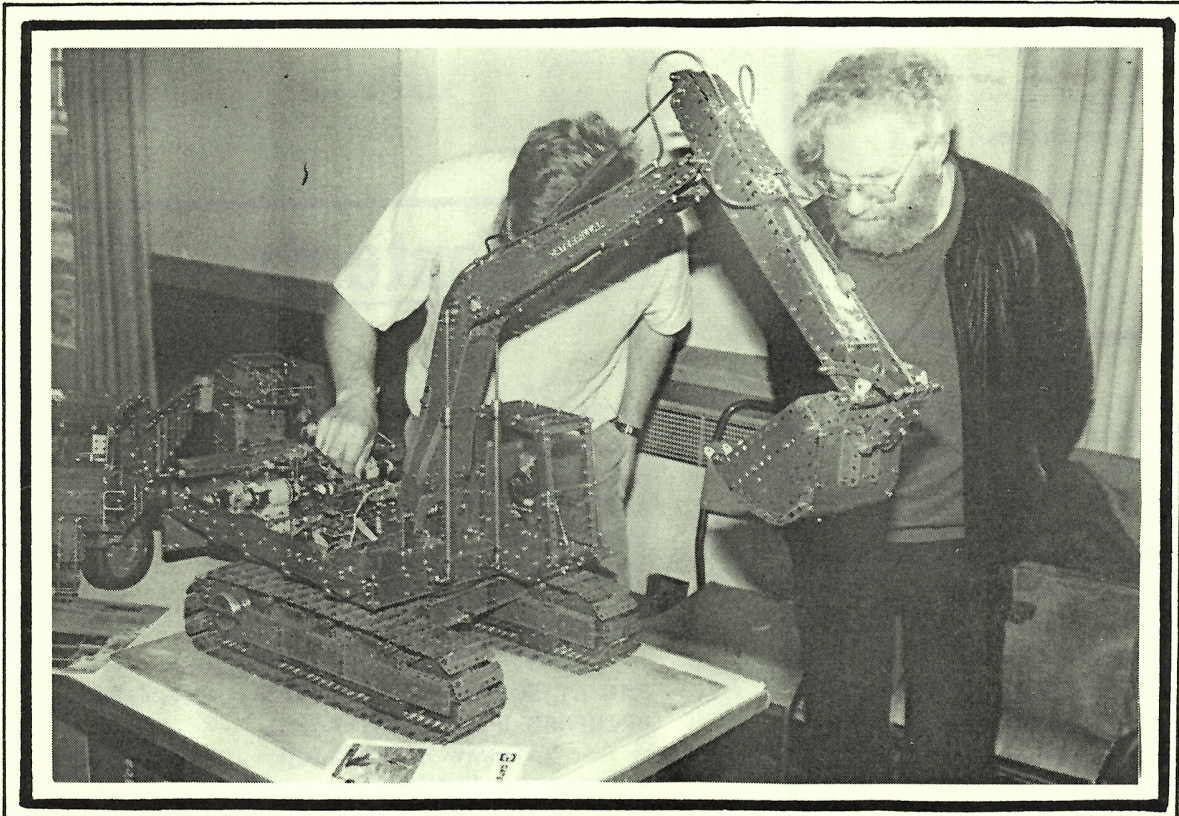


SHEFFIELD MECCANO GUILD



- NEWS -



THE SHEFFIELD
MECCANO GUILD

GUILD OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN-

Barrie McKenzie,

PRESIDENT-

Richard Bingham,

SECRETARY & TREASURER-

Mike Beadman,

NEWSLETTER EDITOR-

Rob Mitchell,

SMG News is produced quarterly by the Sheffield Meccano Guild in March, June, September, and December of each year.

Both the SMG Secretary and Newsletter Editor welcome any items sent in by SMG members (or others!) for inclusion in SMG News. There are no copy dates or deadlines; contributions will be included in the next issue.

Editorial

This is always the most awkward space to fill in the Newsletter, because we can never think of anything witty, remarkable or even relevant to say. (type?)

Anyhow, the Sheffield Meccano Guild is firing on all four cylinders; we have a healthy number of members, the last Guild meeting was very well attended, (indeed, the refreshment and food crew had to nip out on a foraging and raiding mission to replenish supplies, such was the demand), and the Newsletter duo's efforts seem to be going down well. Finally, we would like to take the opportunity to wish everybody a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Mike & Rob

Contents

Thanks go to Dave Yates, from Bolsover, for kindly producing half tones of photos for reproduction in SMG News.

COVER PHOTO

Dave Penney tries to hide behind his superb 245 CAT Excavator while John McDonald looks on. The fully articulated tracks have consumed almost all of the 3½" Flat Girders and Collars in the known Universe!!

SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLINGS	1
DIARY DATES	1
MEETING AND AGM REPORT	2&3
AUCTION ACTION	3
LETTER FROM SOMERSET	3
A CENTRELESS REVERSING CRANK MECHANISM	4&5
SMG MEGA-MODEL No.4- HMS UNSEEN	5
SMG AT NORTON CHURCH HALL	6,7,8&9
BRADFORD UNIVERSITY MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION	10
MECCANO ON 'EQUINOX'.	10
INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS No.9- BRIAN HARPER	11
SMG AT KELHAM ISLAND	12
YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW DUE!	12

Secretary's Scribblings

How many Meccano parts have you lost up the Hoover recently? I believe it was our former Chairman Charles Hatfield who once remarked that the vacuum is the enemy of the Meccano modeller. Much better to get down on your hands and knees and relate to that dirt directly with the dustpan. You never know what you will find. Although the sound of a Bolt disappearing up the vacuum pipe is peculiarly satisfying, and no great loss, next time it could be that particularly rare threaded pulley which flies up the spout.

A gentleman who lives in a large bungalow nearby has sometimes stopped the Sec. when passing to press into his palm some Meccano. The items in question have however seen better times, since they have been disinterred from the garden! It seems that the previous owner of the house actually buried his Meccano collection- not a very large one, to judge from what survives, but extravagant behaviour nevertheless. There is some temptation to ask if I could go over the lawn with a metal detector.

While reading the Daily Mail for November 26th, I happened across a little quote from Actress Maureen Lipman, which shows once more how the name Meccano has entered common use (like 'Hoover', but let's not get into that again....) 'Recently, at a dinner party, I had a long discussion with that plastic surgeon who totally rebuilt his wife, like a Meccano set'. Any comments about plastic Meccano or holes at half inch spacing will be strenuously ignored.

Happy Christmas; and best wishes for the new year.

MIKE BEADMAN

Diary Dates

1992

January 18th	North Midlands Meccano Guild, Meeting, Oxton.
March 28th	Midlands Meccano Guild, Meeting, Arthur Rank Centre, Royal Showground, Stoneleigh.
April 4th/5th	Sheffield Meccano Guild, Annual Exhibition, Kelham Island Industrial Museum, Sheffield. (Details, Mike Beadman).
April 25th	Sheffield Meccano Guild, Meeting, Norton.
April 25th	Holy Trinity Meccano Club, Meeting, Hildenborough.
May 16th	North Midlands Meccano Guild, Meeting, Oxton.
May 23rd	Meccano Exhibition, Kettering Drill Hall. (Details Mick Burgess 0536 84297)
July 3rd/5th	SKEGEX '92.
Sept. 4th/5th	Henley Exhibition.
September 19th	North Midlands Meccano Guild, Meeting & AGM, Oxton.
October 3rd	Midlands Meccano Guild, Meeting, Stoneleigh.
October 10th	Meccano Society of Scotland Exhibition, Perth
October 17th	Sheffield Meccano Guild, Meeting & AGM, Norton.

Meeting & AGM Report

Several members of the Guild have commented that they enjoy the informal atmosphere of meetings at Norton. The relaxed approach is important, indeed, we're all in the Guild to enjoy ourselves!

However, a business meeting of some form is necessary; the aim being to keep proceedings as short as reasonably possible.

Chairman Charles began by saying how pleased he was to see such a well attended meeting. However, he continued, membership had fallen slightly, and now stood at 50.

Charles then reported that our Treasurer, Stephen Parkin, was unable to attend due to illness. (A card, with best wishes from Guild members, was sent to Stephen after the meeting).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from John Bader and Alan Grimshaw.

Charles then said that the Guild meeting dates for 1992 were fixed for April 25th and October 17th.

As a consequence of Stephen being unable to attend, no accounts were available. However, the other Guild officers were able to present a convincing case for an increase in subscriptions to £5 per year.

This increase was accepted by a majority vote of the members present.

Rob Mitchell said that a subs. reminder would be included in the December Newsletter.

A vote of thanks was offered to the Guild officers and Michael Kent, who is a valuable source of advice, particularly in matters financial. Thanks also given to the catering team, Joyce and Roy Beadman, who give their time freely and gladly.

The time then came for the Guild officers to stand down. Charles has decided to retire this year from his position as Chairman; Richard Bingham turned down a proposal that he take over from Charles. No other offers or proposals being forthcoming, the post remained open. Richard has agreed to take over the job from Charles of booking the hall for meetings.

There was a consensus among the Guild officers that it was feasible for the position of Treasurer to be incorporated with one of the other Officers' posts. There was an agreement from the members present that this was acceptable in principle, Robin Schoolar making the point that the Holy Trinity Guild was run effectively on these lines. It was proposed and approved by a majority that Mike Beadman become Secretary/Treasurer.

The President and Newsletter Editor were re-elected for another year in office, and a vote of thanks given to Stephen.

Any Other Business: Joyce Schoolar asked whether the April meeting had to be on the stated date, as this clashed with the Holy Trinity meeting. Charles, who had booked the hall, explained that the hall was booked for other events in '92; but an attempt would be made in '93 to find a date other than the fourth Saturday of the month.

Russell Carr asked about the planned extra Kelham Island exhibition which had been mentioned at the previous meeting. Mike Beadman replied that due to the large number of Meccano and related events, no date had been agreed upon by Guild members; however, several members

attended the annual 'Christmas at Kelham' event at the museum. There was insufficient room, however, to consider the Meccano element of this event an official SMG exhibition.

Finally, Mike announced that the date for next year's exhibition would be in the December Newsletter.

Richard than closed the meeting.

Thanks go to Rob Mitchell for his enthusiastic assistance in collecting subscriptions at the meeting; and to Iain McKenzie for helping with the refreshments when things became hectic.

(SEC) The latest membership list- Stephen's final official action as outgoing Treasurer- shows membership at 68: a healthy figure from which to start a new year.

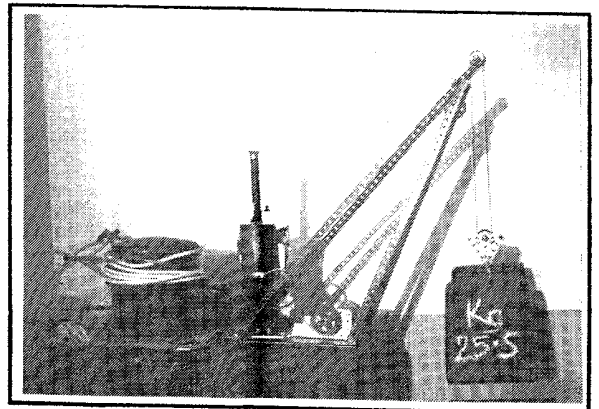
Auction Action

As is usual at the Guild's Spring meeting, there will be an auction of any Meccano and related items that members wish to bring along for sale. Any item can have a reserve price stipulated, and 10% of the price realised at auction will go to Guild funds. So dig out those surplus steam engines and redundant Roller Bearings- or more realistically, put together some old repaintable bits, bung 'em in an old carrier and make a few bob.

Letter From Somerset

Ernest Palmer, one of our regular contributors, sends more steam engine notes. Ernest writes:- 'Yesterday I came across a Meccano anomaly, in the Meccano Steam Engine Manual (1929). In the unfortunately headed paragraph 'Correct gearing', referring to model S13 Steam Capstan, details are given to supposedly produce a reduction ratio of 57:1. As described, that ratio would be correct with the modern Meccano/Mamod engine. The 1929 engine however, following the instructions in the manual, would produce a ratio of 123.5:1.'

Ernest also suggests that when it comes to strength of Meccano cord, the modern versions are no match for the old green variety which easily supported a weight of 56lb/25.5Kg, in his Derrick Crane. Ernest's previous cord strength tests as published in SMGM 21 quantify this as saying that a single strand of green cord breaks with a load of 20lb, whereas modern black cord breaks at 12lb load. It seems that strings aren't what they used to be.



A Centreless Reversing Crank Mechanism

-Constructed by FRANK SINGLETON

Yet another of Frank's 'solution in search of a problem' crank arrangements. This one is incredibly useless- four cranks, four connecting rods, two crossheads, and eight pivots to do what could be easily achieved by three uninteresting bevel gears.

The base is composed of a pair of $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ flanged plates connected together by two $7\frac{1}{2}''$ angle girders and two stacks of three $7\frac{1}{2}''$ strips. Feet are $1''$ pulleys & tyres on downward pointing threaded pins. Two flat trunnions and cranks are bolted to the girders to hold the crosshead slidebar, a $5\frac{1}{2}''$ axle rod, and each plate has one of those obscure $3'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ double angle strips to form the bearing journals.

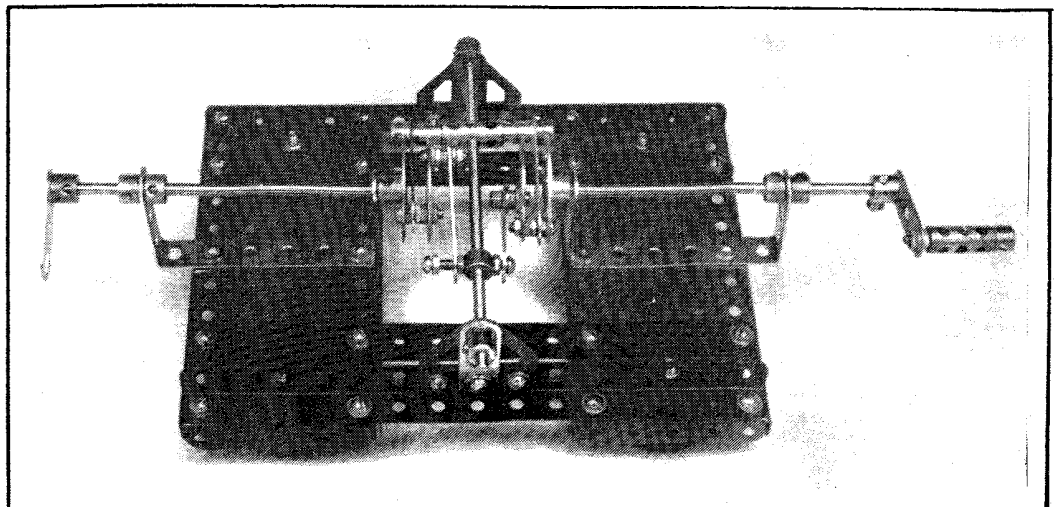
The input and output axles are both $4\frac{1}{2}''$ long, and each has a bush wheel at one end. They are journalled in the double angle strips and have a crank at the free end, one of which has a handle made from a coupling & a collar on a long threaded pin. The crosshead slide bar carries a free collar and a coupling; this has a $1''$ axle rod in each end, on which there are two aeroplane collars (or washers), a $2''$ strip, and a retaining collar, as shown in photo 2. Each bush wheel carries a $\frac{1}{2}''$ bolt on which one of the $2''$ strips pivots, with an eight-hole wheel disc clamped in the retaining lock-nut. The disc and bush wheels holes should line up. Each disc has another $2''$ strip locknuttred to it, 90 degrees out of phase with the first strip. These final two strips are pivotted on to the sliding collar by more locknuts.

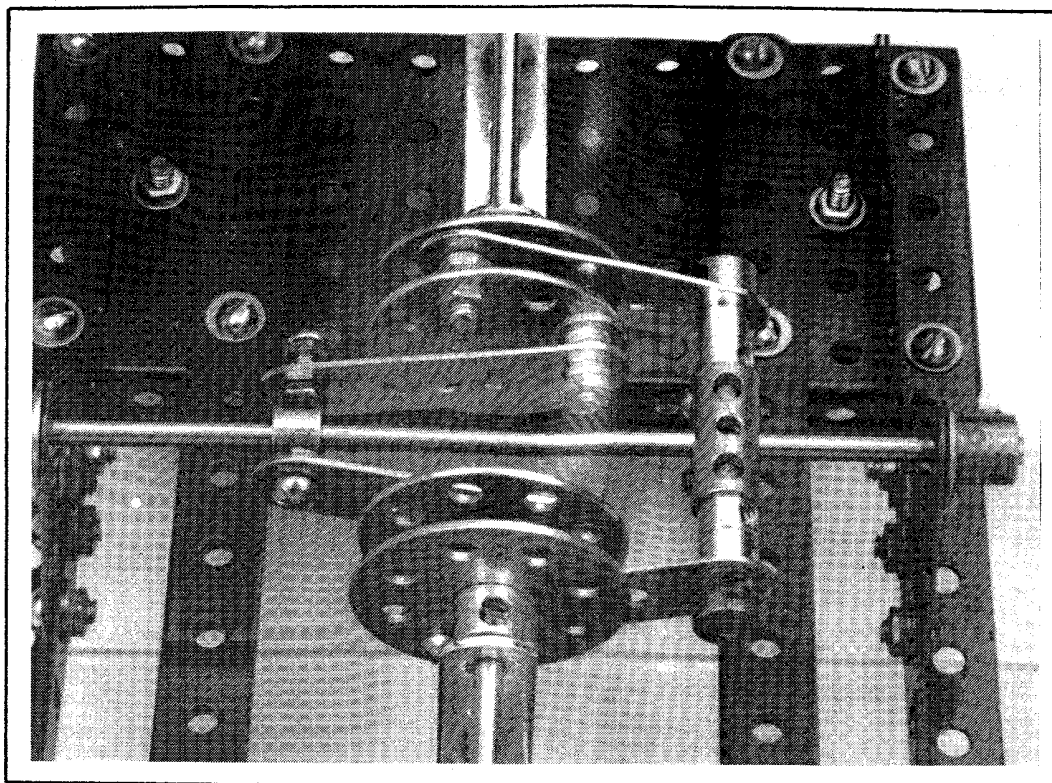
Hopefully, all should now work well with the input rotating in reverse to the output. Any more gems like this, Frank?

PARTS REQUIRED:

6 of no. 1b	2 of no. 24	2 of no. 52	4 of no. 115
4 of no. 6	2 of no. 24a	8 of no. 59	1 of no. 115a
2 of no. 8b	34 of no. 37	4 of no. 59a	2 of no. 126a
1 of no. 14a	21 of no. 37a/c	3 of no. 62	4 of no. 142c
2 of no. 15a	4 of no. 38	2 of no. 63	
4 of no. 22	2 of no. 47a	4 of no. 111a	

RIGHT- The completed crank mechanism
FAR RIGHT- a close-up of the business bit.



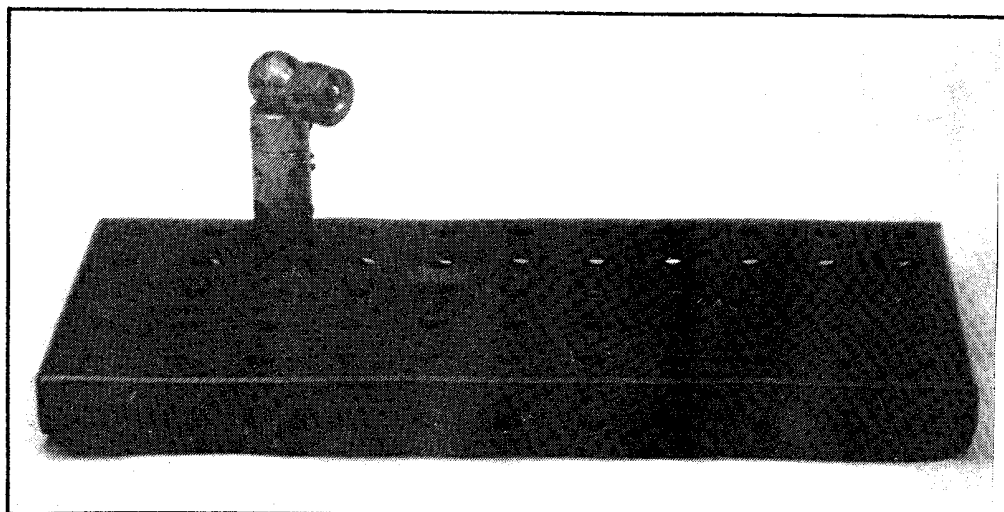


SMG Mega-Model No.4

Submarine - HMS Unseen

Unless you know better, this will probably be the last in this erratic series, as we can't think of any more! If you can think of any suitable subjects, then let us have 'em! This particularly stupendous feat of advanced Meccano construction is by IAIN MCKENZIE.

Construction begins by bolting a vertical Threaded Coupling close to one corner of a BLUE 5½"x2½" flanged plate (to represent the Atlantic Ocean). A 1" axle rod in the coupling holds a collar and a Handrail Coupling to form the periscope. Iain adds: "this model was originally built as part of a display of ships which was exhibited at Skegness some years ago. For the best effect, it should be arranged pointing towards an approaching warship."



SMG At Norton Church Hall

19th. October 1991. Report by IAIN MCKENZIE (thanks Iain!)

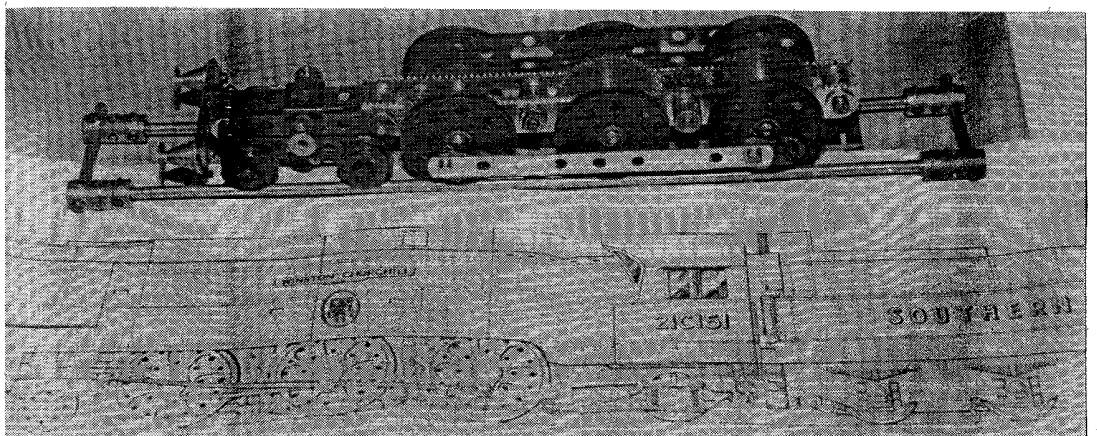
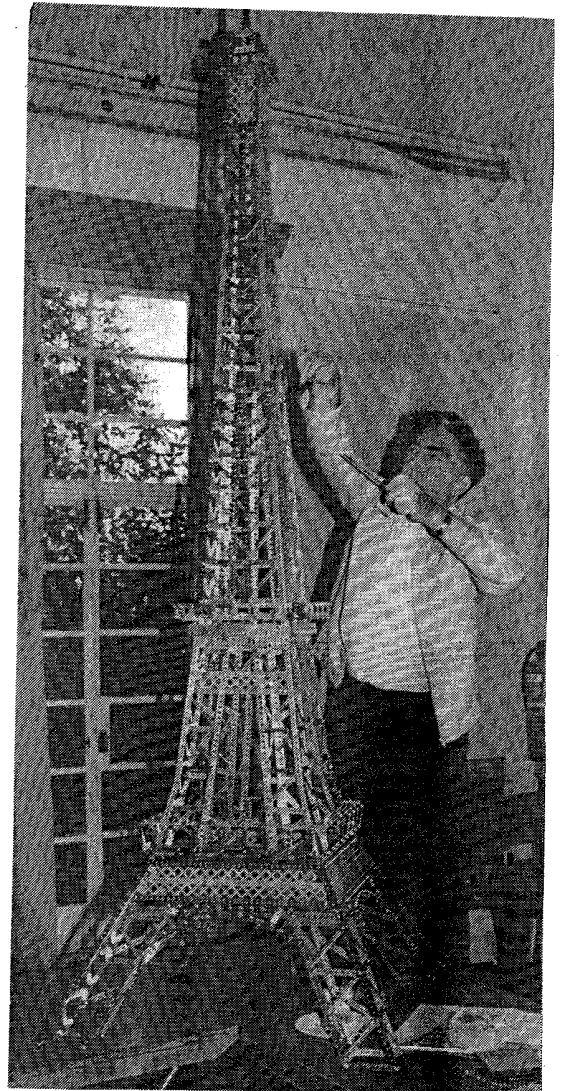
Norton in the Autumn is the place and time when the faithful and the fanatical gather together to display their creations and to view each others models. The success of the occasion can be viewed in various ways, but if on entering the hall you are greeted by a veritable babble of voices and roar of Meccano machinery then it can be considered that things are doing well.

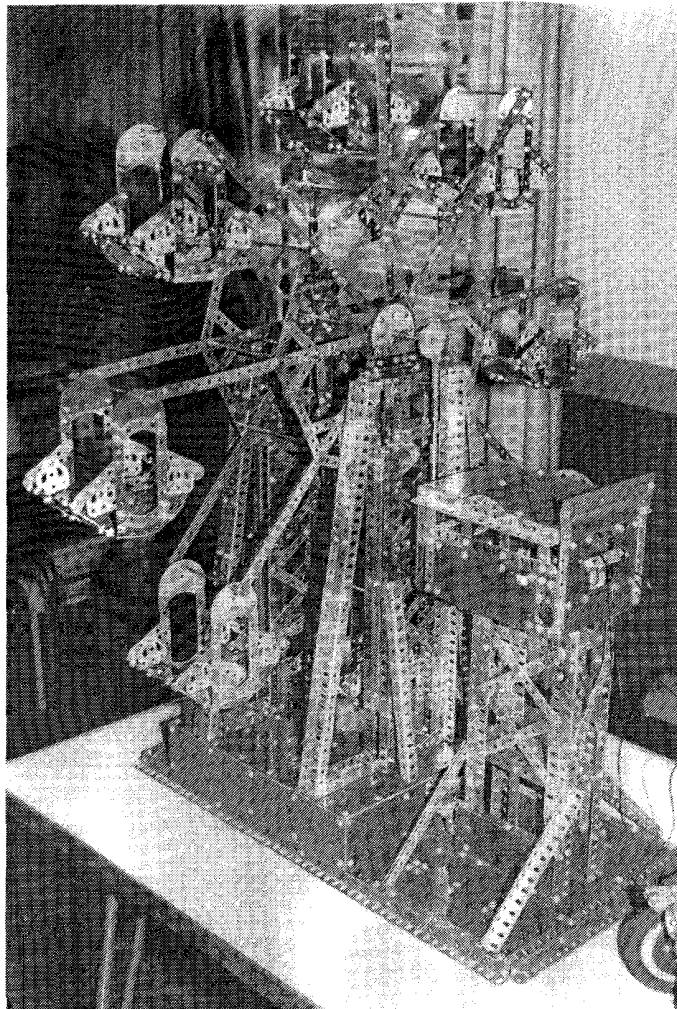
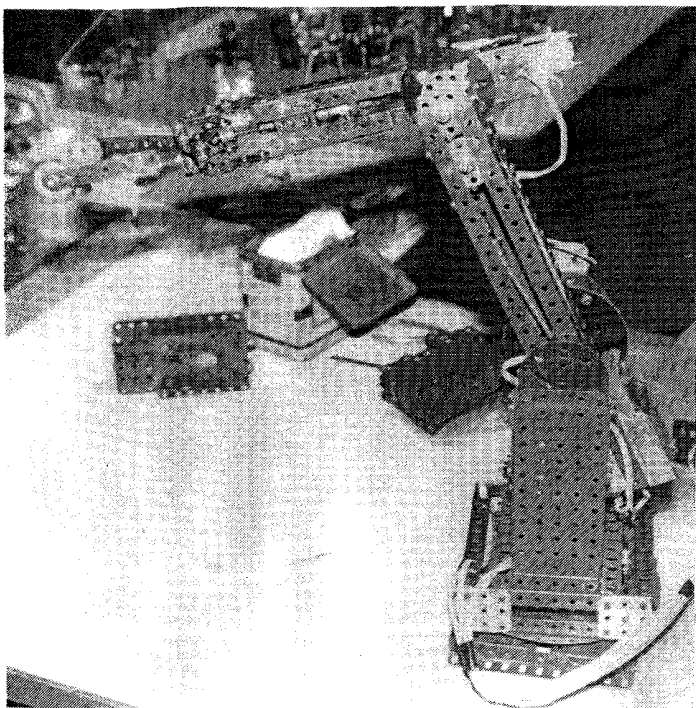
On this occasion some well known faces were missing, and as this included most of our parts suppliers, it was assumed that another event elsewhere had drawn them away. There was, however, still a very good crowd and all the available table space was well filled with models.

It is always a bonus at these events when someone brings a model which scorns table area, and reaching for the ceiling in an impressive manner was Brian Rowbotham's splendid version of Gustave Eiffel's gift to Meccano modellers. Which enthusiastic model builder has not attempted to recreate the tower at sometime?

A Saturday at Norton is a very limited time to study the workings of some of the more complex models so we are grateful to Rob Mitchell for another chance to view his fiendishly complicated Plasser & Theurer ballast cleaning machine. This model effectively defies photography due to it being around fourteen feet long. If you get far enough away to fit it all in, you miss out all the intricate details such as the powered bogies and moving conveyor belts.

On a totally different scale, John Martin showed his latest railway creation, a West Country class pacific locomotive. Although in chassis format only, this had the makings of a very effective model, using black 1½" pulleys for driving wheels and a special standoff bracket for fine crank adjustments made from obtuse angle brackets in a special jig.





ABOVE- Robot arm, constructed by Lewis Pugh.
 RIGHT- Ferris wheel, part of an extensive display by Wayne Stancliffe.
 OPPOSITE- Brian Rowbotham's rafter scraping Eiffel Tower.
 BOTTOM- Microscopic West Country loco modelled by John Martin.

Russell Carr showed a completely different and original model, a Meccano E20R motor. This was built about three times actual size and used all Meccano and Elektrikit parts. Also displayed was his version of the delightful Skaters model as featured in CQ, finished in yellow and zinc colours.

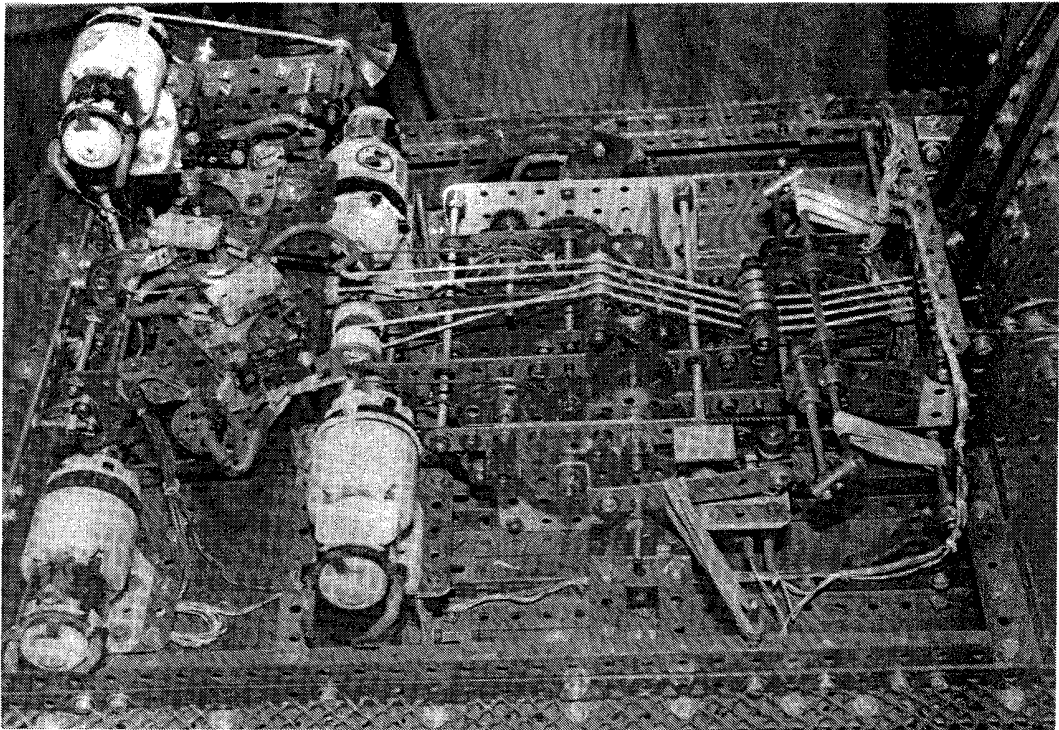
Hellmuth Kohler demonstrated to us all, the possibilities of the Constructo system, with a C40 programmer 10 step sequential controller driving a hopper-loader model. He also brought an improved no.19 Steam Shovel Supermodel with redesigned turntable spider and other features.

Jim Mortimer captivated the audience with a cyclic colour mixer, which was hand operated for maximum enjoyment! Also shown was a model birthday cake, adapted from Bert Halliday's Skaters model, in a fetching white and yellow colour scheme.

Mike Cotterill showed his usual flair for steam engines, showing a neat red & green Beam Engine. This was built on a $18\frac{1}{2}'' \times 7\frac{1}{2}'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}''$ base with a typically Victorian style centre frame built from curved strips.

Accompanying Mike was Alan Scargill, also displaying a steam engine. This time a twin oscillating cylinder engine based on an Andreas Konkoly design and finished in red, green and blue.

Alan Partridge built the ingenious Mars Rover, as featured in CQ no. 12 and enlightened us all to its fascinating operation.

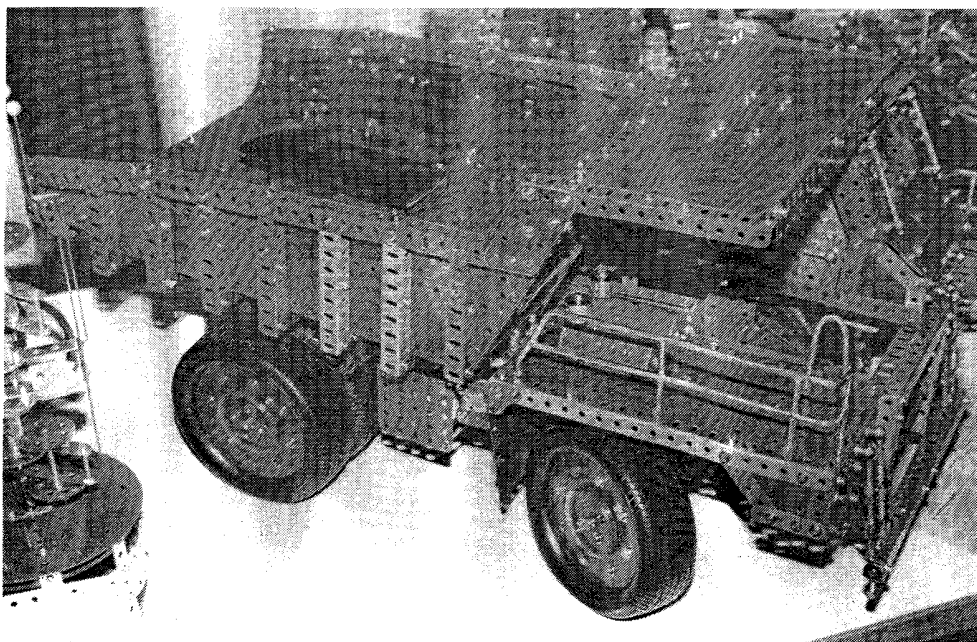


Dave Penney had two very impressive models, a 245 CAT Excavator and a 769E CAT Dump Truck. (Ed. Dave can be found cowering behind his excavator with John McDonald on the front cover!) Both were built to about 1/10th scale in red and green and featured lots of detail and working features.

Roy Everitt displayed his 1930's type Rolls Royce Cabriolet De Ville, which looked most impressive in yellow and bright metal finish. This was powered by a 20V E.L. motor, produced as Roy pointed out, in about the same period as the real car. This was connected to the road wheels via a single plate clutch, three speed gearbox and bevel geared differential. Suspension was via semi elliptical front springs and coil springs at the rear.

Michael Whiting showed a Saturnian Orrery which will form part of a much larger orrery under construction. He also had an optical illusion machine and a Pat Briggs design Skeleton Clock.

Joyce Schoolar exhibited 'Larus Meccanicus', a mobile seabird suspended in a rod frame, with wings that flap when the string is pulled.



TOP- The 'guts' of Dave Penney's impressive 245 CAT excavator.
 LEFT- Dave again; his 769E CAT Dumper this time.
 OPPOSITE, TOP- Konkoly Steam plant and Pickup truck by Wayne Stancliffe.
 OPPOSITE, BOTTOM- Alan Scargill's oscillating Steam Engine from CQ instructions.

Frank Singleton demonstrated a selection of small models all in blue and yellow colours, one of them being a very cunning gearless reversing mechanism, instructions for which are featured on pages 4&5 of this SMG News.

Geoff Lilleker brought a nickel Steam Shovel and an example of one of Meccano Ltd's 1960's diversifications, a Jones Meccano Sewing Machine.

A. H. Palmer had a ten million to one gear reduction machine, intended to impress the public at a toyfair. In addition to that he had a couple of manual models, the delightful little Shunting Engine from the early 30's set 4 manual, (although unpowered, probably one of the best looking prewar models), and a saloon motor coach from the very inadequate no.9 set instructions.

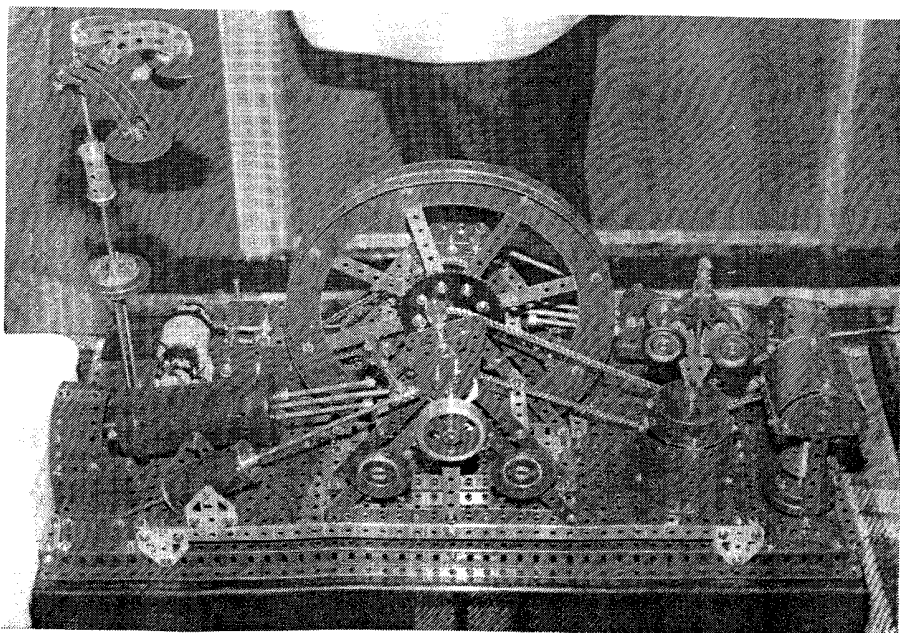
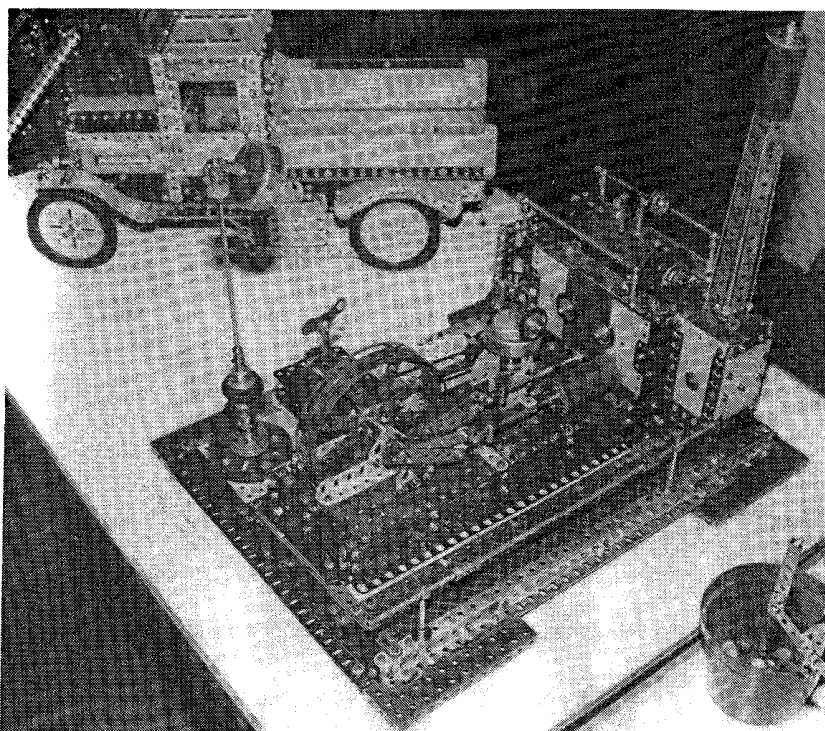
Richard Bingham showed his very entertaining Climbing Man. For those who haven't had chance to view this model before, it consists of a little Meccano chap who tirelessly shins up and down a rope in an attempt to pick the fruit from the branches overhead. Needless to say, this is a very effective model at public exhibitions.

Wayne Stancliffe displayed a pickup wagon, Ferris Wheel, and a Wilescos type Steam Engine, modelled on the CQ instructions and finished in a variety of colours.

Les Gines exhibited a hand operated Chair-o-planes fairground ride and a panel displaying a range of eight models which could be made from a No.1 set.

Lewis Pugh had brought a versatile Robot Arm which moved plastic cups around the table to the best of the operator's ability.

Finally, Iain McKenzie brought a variety of models, a red & green Grasshopper Engine based on the Ernest Palmer design (built on a $5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " flanged plate) as published in SMG News, a Queen Mary battling against a heavy Atlantic swell (untill the drive band snapped and calm was restored) and a selection of Dealer's shop window display models.



Bradford University Model Railway Exhibition

Five Guild members took part in this enjoyable exhibition, however unfortunately two could not attend on the Saturday, and the other three likewise on the Sunday!... This 'dot and carry one' method of attendance did not prevent a good display of models appearing on both days.

Alan Grimshaw supplies the notes for the Saturday show:- 'John Bader brought a 'Newsmag' Helicopter, (This Mike Hooper design seems to have truly caught the imagination of the Meccano fraternity, since six have been seen at exhibitions and meetings), A Kenworth articulated lorry, a Multikit lorry and trailer, a rear axle and differential demo, a Nickel clock built from a September '66 MM article, and two small cranes built by his sons.

Fred Clark had a display of magazines etc., and gave valuable support with setting up and giving explanations to the visitors.

Alan showed his own design sixteen horse Galloper roundabout, a Christmas Chalet based on the Keith Cameron model, a small own design Meccanograph, a rocker arm steam engine, and his fine model of a Neilson crane locomotive, the prototype of which, in the Lytham motive power museum being the only surviving engine of its type.

On the Sunday, only Rob Mitchell and Mike Beadman were able to attend the exhibition. Mike had only a small lorry built from Keith Cameron's article in CQ No.13, being 'between models', but as usual Mitchell was able to present a substantial show. His Plasser and Theurer ballast cleaning machine was much admired- I understand he had been 'under orders' to bring this for someone in the model railway show to see! Other items including a differential demonstration and 'Steamerpillar', plus the popular Meccanosaurus.

Meccano on 'Equinox'

Paula Webb, a Researcher for Hauer Rawlence, the company which produces the well known Channel 4 TV science series EQUINOX, writes to the Guild, '....the programme's subject is construction toys, such as Meccano, and we are currently seeking film footage and home videos from the 1940's 50's and 60's showing children playing with these games.

Do you know of anybody that might be able to help us?'

Seems like a long shot to the Sec., since indoor home cine film must be extremely rare. But you can contact Paula Webb on: (071) 493 1022 or (071) 622 5823 (eve).

Moreover, the letter continues, '...would you be interested in us coming to meet you at one of your meetings-to see you build with your Meccano collections or even just to discuss the enduring passion that Meccano creates?'

The potential is here for some fine publicity for the hobby and the SMG- although we may have to set the record straight about Meccano being a TOY. A more appropriate description would be a constructional system. As for the request to come and see us- more news perhaps in the March Newsletter.

Introducing The Members~

No.9; Brian Harper

One of the true gentlemen of the Meccano fraternity, Brian is well known for his high standards of modelling, of subjects which appeal to enthusiast and public alike. Brian was 'collared' for this interview during the NEMS exhibition, at the Darlington Arts Centre where his Sleeping Meccanoman model attracted much attention.

Q. How long have you been a Meccano modeller?

A. I started when I was six years old, then sold my Meccano when I was fourteen- and have regretted it ever since. Twelve years ago, my wife bought me a motorised No. 3 set, from then on- I aimed to return to having a No.6 set, that is, the position I was at when I sold up as a fourteen year old. Then, I worked towards having a No.10 set- with help from my local dealer, who not only allowed me to buy things on weekly instalments, but even loaned me parts!

Q. How did you become involved with the SMG?

A. I contacted the NMMG through an MW Models advert, I think it was in 'MM'. Then, five or six years ago, John MacDonald introduced me to the SMG.

Q. What is your favourite modelling subject?

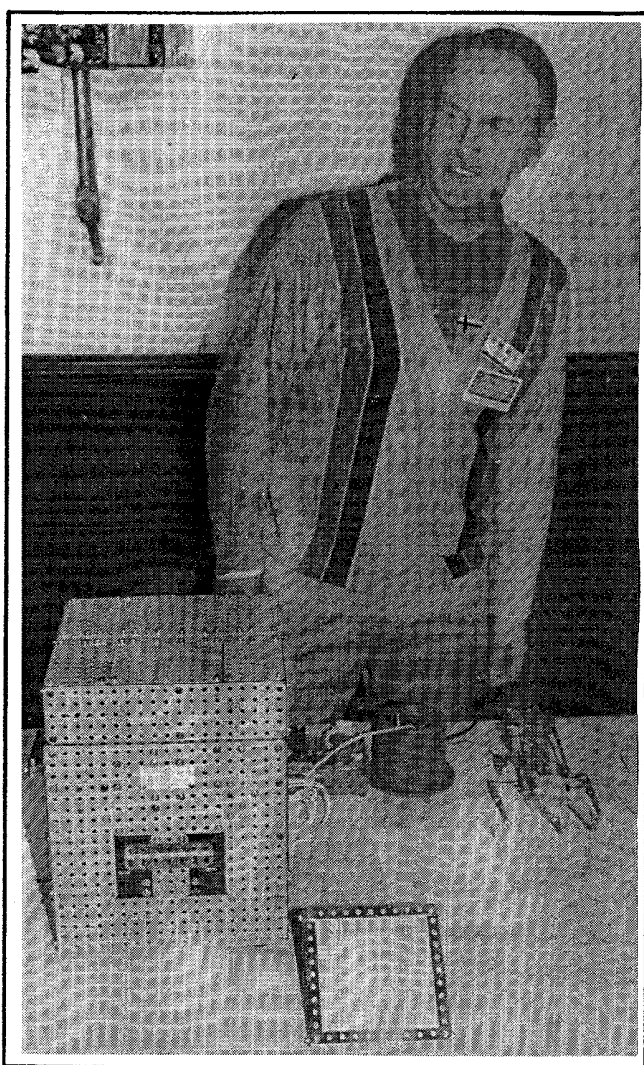
A. Clocks, all sorts. I always wanted to make a Meccano clock, and I like renovating old clocks.

Q. What would you like to build that you haven't yet done?

A. Nothing specific. I'd like to build some of Keith Cameron's fairground models.

Q. What do you do for a living?

A. I'm a radio engineer for Securicor Communications. The electrical experience does come in useful sometimes for Meccano models!



SMG at Kelham Island

KELHAM ISLAND INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

Once again, the SMG will be holding its annual public exhibition at the Kelham Island Industrial Museum, in Sheffield, on the weekend of April 4th and 5th, 1992.

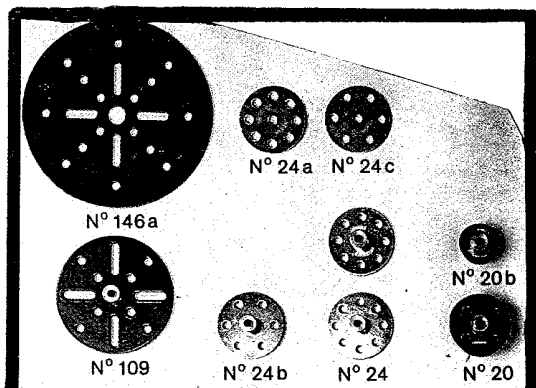
All modellers will be welcome with their Meccano masterpieces, the more, the merrier!

On the Sunday, the presentation of the SMG Trophy will take place, with voting for the award being done by the exhibitors themselves. This fine framed drawing would look splendid hung up in your Meccano workshop!:

Kelham Island Museum is situated on Alma Street, which is off Corporation Street, below West Bar. Scouting parties have reported to SMG HQ that direction signs to the museum have come into being at the City end of the A57 Parkway. Food and drink can be purchased at the museum cafeteria, or at the 'Fat Cat' pub just down the road. (Kelham Island own brew is recommended by Meccanoholics).

A map showing KI was included in the December 1990 SMG News (no. 32), a copy of this map can be sent with the March Newsletter if you want one.

SEE YOU ALL THERE IN APRIL!



Your Subscription is Now Due!

We are now taking SMG subscriptions for 1991/92. It is now £5, as agreed at the AGM, and around 50 subs. have been collected so far. As an up to date membership list is unavailable, this Newsletter is being posted to everybody who appears on an earlier list, plus the healthy intake of new members. A new membership mailing list will be compiled at the end of February 1992, so please pay by then if you wish to stay with us!

Mike Beadman is now collecting the subs., address on inside front cover; he will send you a receipt with the March 1992 Newsletter.

*A Very Merry
Christmas!*