

The Old Machinery

JUNE 2019 - JULY 2019

• M A G A Z I N E •



Rec. Retail Price \$9.95
Aust. (inc. GST)

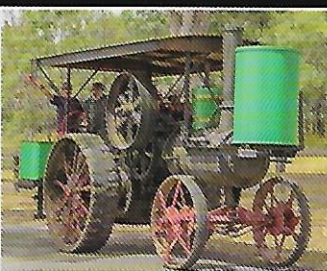
Print Post approved
100008057

03

ISSN 1441-3175
9 771441 317002



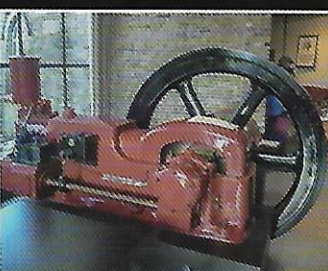
NHMA RALLY ENGINE
PICTORIAL PT. 1



STEAM
ROAD RUN



ALLIS-CHALMERS
ON DISPLAY



BEACONS IN THE
DUTCH LANDSCAPE

ACMOC: SOUTH AFRICAN SAFARI TO THE SANDSTONE ESTATE'S 5TH BIENNIAL RALLY

ARTICLE BY NEIL CLYDSDALE



In April this year, three adventurous and brave members of Chapter 19 travelled to the Sandstone Estate's 5th Biennial Rally in South Africa.

The Director of Sandstone Estates, Wilfred Mole, invited us to come and help display and work his small but growing Caterpillar collection, which forms a part of his very large and extensive collection of some 2,500 vintage items, including cars, trucks, farm tractors, military vehicles and tanks, stationary and traction steam engines, and a very extensive railway collection of steam and diesel engines with over 200 items of rolling stock. The very large vintage display is housed in over 60 sheds as well as 26kms of 2' gauge private railway.

A unique feature in these displays is the impressive team of 36 Afrikaner Oxen pulling an oxwagon, which dates back to the 1800s. All the oxen are bred and trained on the Estate.

Our flight arrived in Johannesburg at 4am, and we departed about 5.30am for Ficksburg, adjacent to the Lesotho border. It was a 3.75 hour drive down one of the most pot-holey roads I've been on, and we almost felt the need to sound the horn constantly before entering some of

the potholes to frighten off the wildlife hiding in there - we were warned to be careful if we only saw ears sticking out, as they could be those of a Giraffe!

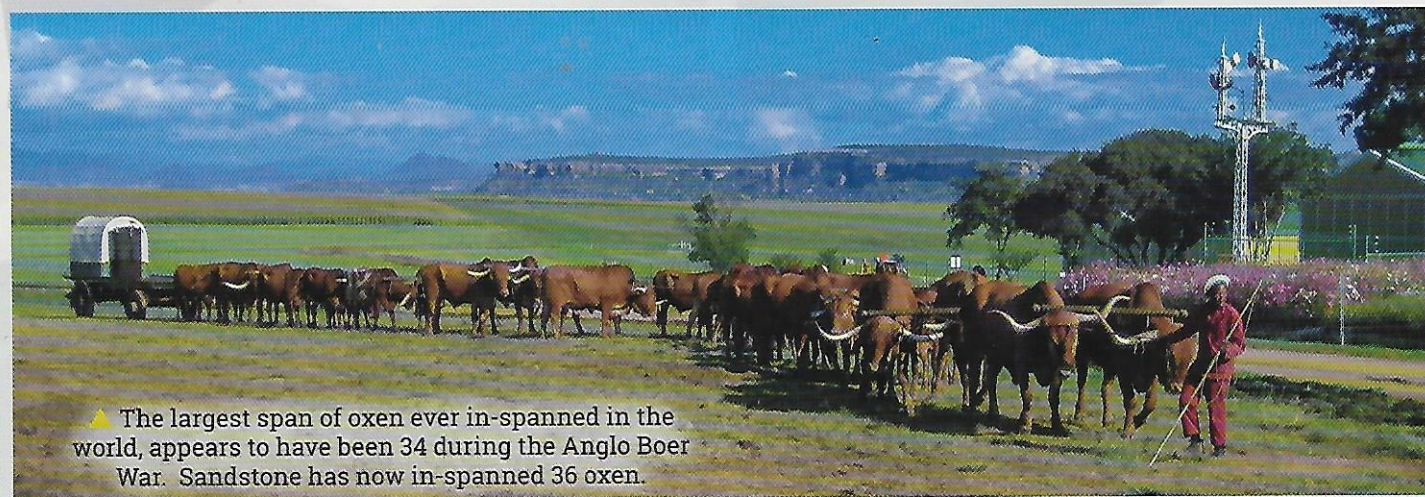
We finally arrived at Sandstone Estates which is a composition of approximately 20,000 acres of both scenic and very fertile farm country, and spent our first day with other volunteers and Estate staff preparing the working displays in readiness for the 10-day rally. We fitted new batteries and fresh fuel to vehicles, fathomed out the various starting systems and gear boxes as we went, emptied sheds and lined everything up in the field, thankful all along that everyone spoke English as well as Afrikaans.

The Caterpillar collection comprised 1 x D7G bulldozer, 2 x 621A scrapers, a No. 12 grader, a 212 grader, a D8H 46A bulldozer (under repair), a D4 6U crawler, a THIRTY crawler, and a D2 3J, as well as a 1920 tail seat BEST SIXTY. There were also Fordson, Field Marshall, International, Lanz, and Massey Ferguson crawlers.

Each day, we did a working display of the D7G, 621A and No. 12, making an obstacle course for the military vehicles, and grading the property roads where the other mobile plant and vehicles travelled as an interactive display for the visiting public.

During the course of the rally, a member of the visiting public approached the members of the Caterpillar team to see if we were interested in viewing the D8 his father had for sale. It was only some 40kms away, and not being ones to miss an opportunity, we headed off, admiring the vista of the Veldt,

◀ Apart from Caterpillar, there is a wide variety of tracked agricultural machinery on the farm.



▲ The largest span of oxen ever in-spanned in the world, appears to have been 34 during the Anglo Boer War. Sandstone has now in-spanned 36 oxen.

and more of the rich and extensive farmland as we travelled.

We duly arrived and were told that somewhere in the middle of a 90 hectare corn crop that was nearly ready for harvest, there was a D8. Walking through a 7' tall corn crop we had a real sense of what it was like to roam the tall Savannah grasslands. Eventually, we found the very nice Cat D8H 68A 270hp tractor that had been parked up for three years. We returned to Sandstone with photos in hand, at which Wilfred immediately said that he would acquire it for his collection.

There were many highlights during the rally for us including our accommodation, a nice cottage on the Estate, which was superb, and a dining room with fantastic food and a well-stocked bar, where the volunteers (numbering approximately 50 from South Africa, Britain, and Australia) gathered in the evening that led to the sharing of many interesting stories, and the opportunity to fraternise with the friendly staff and locals in this most jovial atmosphere.

Another highlight was to discover the 1920 BEST SIXTY which had not run for a few years. After two days, we eventually managed to get it running, although it still needs some further attention. For Caterpillar aficionados, it is a collector's dream to own and was the envy of those without such a tractor.

Like always, all good things come to an end and we sadly departed with one long, last nostalgic look over our shoulders. We travelled home with so many fantastic memories of this rally

▼ A little boy's dream. The organiser's Grandson, Sebastian, having the experience of a lifetime.



▼ The D8H about to join the Sandstone collection.

