

1914 IHC FAMOUS

TECHNICAL HISTORY

The International Harvester Company of America Inc. of Chicago USA manufactured this 2hp vertical tank cooled single cylinder 'FAMOUS' engine. Engine No.# KA32795E indicates that it is an export model, manufactured in 1914. The Company publications tell the prospective purchaser that 'a remarkably simple and efficient design has been attained in this engine. The working parts are all conveniently located in full view on the governor side, so that this engine may be operated, cleaned, or oiled from one side. All parts are numbered and interchangeable, and can be easily removed. The crankcase is enclosed and effectually protects the piston from dust & dirt, and forms an oil receptacle for lubricating the connecting rod by the splash system. An oil gauge on one side shows the oil level in the base, and enables the operator to keep the oil at the proper depth.' Features of this typical American petrol engine, which are of interest to the observer, are:

- The Ignitor: A make-and-break ignitor is used for engine spark rather than a spark plug.
- The Governor: The governor is of the hit-and-miss type. This gives the engine its unusual beat when running under light load.
- The Cooling Tank: The water-cooling system uses a water pump to run cooling water over the mesh screen above the cooling tank. This system is claimed to require one-fourth the amount of water. Consequently the tank occupies little space and is easily moved.

This engine has been restored for the Adelaide Hills Motor Restorers Club Inc. by Member Des Kotz, and can be seen running at the Club event **Power of the Past** on the first weekend in March each year at Mt Barker oval, Mt Barker, South Australia.

WORKING HISTORY

Some of the working history of the engine was sourced by Brian Walsh from Robin Crompton, son of Wilf Crompton, one of the former owners of the engine.

In 1920, the engine was purchased 2nd hand by Alan Cleggett of Cleggett Rd Littlehampton. The engine was used to pump water. In 1948, ownership of the engine passed to Mr Wilf Crompton, Adelaide Road, Littlehampton. It was used for 'standby' power for Mr Crompton's dairy in case of electricity failures. The Crompton dairy was on the opposite side of Adelaide Rd to the Walsh home, the present site of Frank Walsh Drilling.

Member Brian Walsh can remember the International Famous running during power failures when he was a boy. Once it had been removed from working duties, the engine was 'collected' by Syd Brittain, who eventually donated it to AHMRC.

IHC Famous 1914 selling agent. HB Chapman Mt Barker.

This engine was originally owned by brothers ERn & Allan Gleggett, general carriers of Littlehampton who plied the Adelaide route by horse team the engine would have been used in conjunction. One brother lived in the main street and the other at Tottness. An adjoining neighbour Crompton purchased the engine shortly after horses gave way to horsepower in the 1920s. Finally the Famous was given to a Mr Sydney Brittain of Mt Barker whose intention was to have it restored, after a period of time he decided to give the engine to the AHMRC. Sometime around 1995 an expression of interest was called for in order to have the engine running. The engine was conveyed to a members property at Wistow, with assistance from Des Kotz and a well-known individual Ken Hall who repaired the intermediate gear the Famous was exhibited at the POP in as found condition. A final restoration took place shortly after. The credit for this remains with Des Kotz.

