

PHONE CENTRAL 2332



SOLE AGENTS IN
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
FOR
SHANKS'S
HORSE, HAND AND
MOTOR MOWERS
AND ROLLERS
DUPLICATE PARTS
FOR ALL MACHINES

BRASSFINISHERS
AND MANUFACTURERS
LAWN MOWER SPECIALISTS

REPAIRS TO
ALL KINDS.

*Mill Street,
Adelaide,*



Ant Simpson
Telg S.A. 5045
956436
p@adam.com.au

Contents

- A list of Scott Bonnar cylinder type mowers
- An extract from the Memoirs of Malcolm C. Bonnar relating to Scott Bonnar Ltd p. 1
- An outline of the history of Scott Bonnar Ltd in a speech by Faxton Bonnar 1980 p. 15
- A short history of Scott Bonnar Ltd by Richard Watkins on behalf of Rover- Scott Bonnar Ltd 1981 p. 21
- A description of the activities of Scott Bonnar Ltd in developing its export market from the mid 1930s to the early 1980s, by Brian Martin, 1981 p.27

SCOTT BONNAR LAWN MOWERS (Cylinder Type)

Domestic Models

	Model No	Year Introduced
Ace Electric 12"		1928
Standard Electric 14", 16", 18"		1928
Standard Petrol 16", 18"		1928
Bond Handmower 12"		
Standard Handmower 16", 18"		1930
Centenary Petrol 16", 18"		1936
Putting Handmower 14"		
Supercut Petrol 14", 16"	17	1950
Supercut Electric 14", 16"	17	1950
Bonmow Petrol 14"	19	1953
Bonmow Electric 14"	19	1953
Mower Petrol 16"	33	1960
Mower Electric + Petrol 14"	40	1960
Mower Petrol 20"	43	1960
Mower 45 14", 17", 20"	45	1968
Diplomat	430/590	1976

Industrial Models

	Model No	Year Introduced
Sulky Gang Mower	13	1933
Eagle Gang Mower	14	
Queen City Electric 20"		1925
Ajax Petrol 30"		1935
S.B. Motor Mower 20", 24"		1935
Queen Electric 24"	16	1950
Queen Petrol 20", 24"	16	1950
Supercut Electric 16", 18", 20"	17	1950
Supercut Petrol 14", 16", 18", 20", 24"	17	1950
Queen Electric 30"	30	1958
Mower 65 24", 30"	65	

I have gone to the
Queen City for the
introduction of some
mowers

Scott Bonnar Pty Ltd

An extract taken from the memoirs of Malcolm C. Bonnar

After the First War,

I returned to the G.P.O. to take up my job as Telephone Inspector, but was put on any old job which did not suit a cocky Little Officer and within a week I decided to resign and start business with my younger brother Scott. I had £300 and he had nothing, as he enlisted so late he only got to Durban when the Armistice was called.

Scott Bonnar & Co. was registered 20th January, 1920. We called it Scott Bonnar & Co. as we did not like the idea of Bonnar Brothers. Scott had no money but we managed to get him a loan of £150 from the repatriation department for which I had to guarantee as an Officer. Scott had served his apprenticeship with A. W. Dobbie & Co., he was a Brass Finisher and a clever engineer. So we started making Low Pressure Brassware, Gas, Main Cocks and Tank taps. It was a hard struggle with so little capital.

I started Electrical Contracting, and later got on to a Quasi Arc Electrical Welding Machine and soon received electric welding jobs from Perry Engineering Coy., Union Engineering Coy., also Forward Down & Coy., Hindley Street. Mr. Sam Perry started in a small way and later his son Sir Frank Perry pushed the business on to great success.

This was the first Electric Welding Plant in South Australia; how different now 1968 when most of the ships built at Whyalla are now electrically welded together.

We did very well with this plant for some time but then the Engineering firms found they could purchase a plant and teach their men in a few months to do all their steel work. Cast iron was very difficult to weld in the early days of welding but now it is much easier. Gradually I was receiving the difficult jobs and together with Oxy Welding we were able to keep going. Brasswear was selling Interstate very well and still is.

1st ELECTRIC MOWER

1923: We made our first Electric Mower.

A little Englishman came out to Australia and started in Currie Street as a sole sewer of boots and shoes. His name was Tom Harrison and he later started the Alma Shoe Co. now Clarke Shoes with Tom's two sons, Foster and Granton. Tom asked us if we could put an electric motor on his old Greens mower, as he was not strong enough to push it.

We put this motor on and geared it up to be self-propelled; not long after he invited us down to Glenelg to see the good work he was doing on an excellent green. The next week we got hold of a mower, mounted a motor and took it over to South Park Bowling Club where they were cutting their greens by hand mower. After a lot of discussion about the trailing cord, price etc., we improved the green so much that it

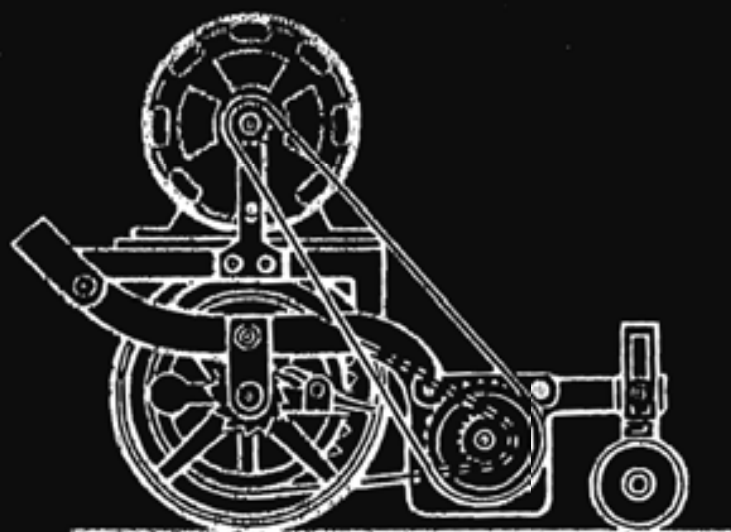


FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.

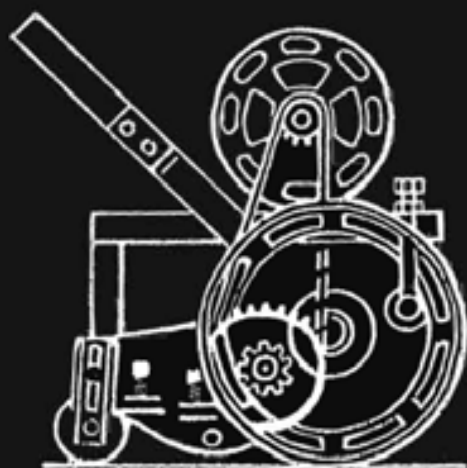


FIG. 4.



FIG. 5.

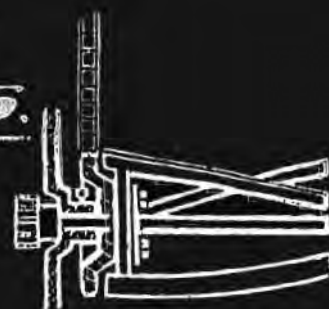


FIG. 6.

*Scott Bonner/
by his agent
John Herbert Cooke*

Application N° 22458 Dated 28th March AD 1923

was very popular. Next week we sold one to Marryatville Bowling Club, the week after another sale was going well. Then along came a man who said we had infringed his patent and wanted us to pay him £200. He showed us his patent taken out in 1919 whereby no-one else could put an electric motor on a mower driven by a chain, belt or gears. He stated that if we continued he would issue a writ against us. We found out he had tried his mower out on the Adelaide Oval during 1919 but had geared it incorrectly and the demonstration was a failure. He did not try again until we were started and going well. After a lot of discussions we paid him £100 for his patent and away we went, improved on his type of electric mower and soon began to build our Bowling Green Mowers and for many years we prevented others from copying ours by using the Patent. In one case I demonstrated our big 24" Mower to Payneham Bowling Club, six months later I went out looking for a sale and found young Hobbs had made one like ours. We took steps according to our rights and stopped any further infringement.

Scott and I retired to discuss the offer, and I said to Scott they have admitted the infringement by offering £10; we came back and said if this patent is no good we will take it to court and we will then know for all time. They paid us the £25 because they did not want to have a court case. Two other cases like this occurred but we won both.

Today, 1968, there are approximately 4,000 bowling greens in Australia and 90% of them use Scott Bonnar machines.

1924-1925: We had the Atco Petrol Mower Agency but because we were concentrating on Electric mowers the English manufacturers took the Agency away from us, we then straight way began to make our own Petrol Mowers, and later on the Gang Mowers for Ovals and Parks and Gardens. Our Triple and Quintriples Gang Mower became very popular and remains so today. 1967-68 year we sold three million dollars worth of mowing equipment.

Always needing more up-to-date plant, in the first ten years we had great difficulty in getting enough. About 1922 we were introduced to Mr. P. J. A. Lawrence, Mr. Rose an accountant, Mr. Jackson a printer and to others. We managed to get their approval for the money to start a private company and they took preference shares. This started to build us up and we were going well until the 1930 depression came. This slowed us up considerably until 1935, we had to stand 30% of our employees down one week in three. They only lost three or four weeks work when we were getting back to normal and going very well, but in 1939 another set-back when the 2nd World War broke out.

It was not long before we were making war munitions at full speed on a cost plus basis.

We moved our factory to Southwark in 1938. Just as well we did as the necessary expansion would not have been possible in Mill Street; we carried on our Sales and Service in Gouger Street for twelve months as Claude Dewar had left the firm. He requested to leave as he was much against us moving the factory to Southwark, now called Thebarton.

During the depression, about 1936, when things were improving, we sent Scott

AGREEMENT-

Between Scott Bonnar, and
Malcolm Cornelius Bonnar.

That the said Malcolm Cornelius Bonnar
agrees to deposit in the Bank of Adelaide
for the purpose of Business, in the
name of the said Scott Bonnar.

Electric Welder - the sum of Two
hundred pounds (£200)

The said Scott Bonnar agrees to be
responsible and refunds One hundred
pounds (£100) to the said Malcolm Cornelius
Bonnar within (5) years including
interest at 5% per annum from this Seventeenth
day of December 1919 on One hundred
pounds (£100) or part thereof unpaid,
Interest to be adjusted half yearly.

Dated December 17th 1919.

Signed S. I. Bonnar

Signed M. C. Bonnar

around the world, U.S.A., to England and Germany, mainly to purchase a large modern Turret automatic lathe and a couple of smaller ones to boost our production, but all he bought was a Die Casting machine for brass taps which cost a lot of money, but we eventually sold it in Sydney for £1,000—half cost. He returned via South Africa. I am afraid he played more than he worked and when he arrived back he became very unsettled, mostly because the Directors would not make him a joint managing Director. He claimed a big market was to be had in Africa and if we gave him £2,000 worth of stock on consignment and paid his fare he would go back and start on his own. We agreed to this and he was just getting some business which was promising when the war broke out and he stayed there until he returned broke. Scott never settled down and eventually sold his shares and went to Sydney and started a coal mine up near Black Heath, which did not last long. He contracted cancer and died 17th September, 1961, aged 68 years. Alas, poor Scott, he was a battler, but did not save much money.

For the first ten years after we started business 1920 to 1930 we made steady progress with our Lawnmowers and Brassware, we had moved from Chapel Street to the City. We bought out Terry Bradley's finishing shop, mostly because Bradley paid more attention to races than brassware.

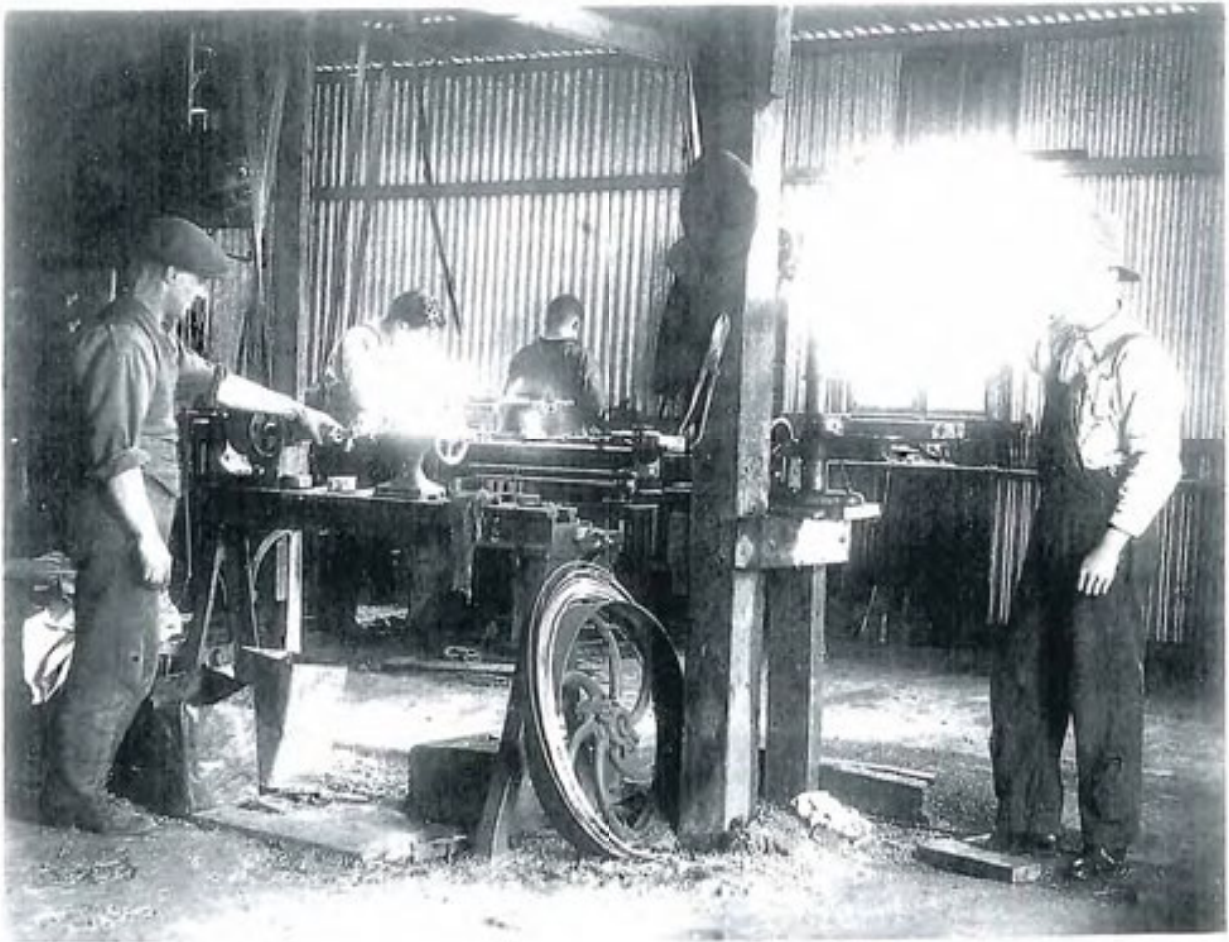
1933-34: We were pulling out of the depression after a very tough time, we had put our staff and men off one week in three. The most time they lost was three weeks in nine weeks. Lawnmowers were very slow, therefore we commenced making Rotary Pumps, Bean Slicers, both very good lines in quality and sold very well until 1939 when the Second World War broke out. Hitler attacked Britain ferociously, lawnmowers slowed down again and we began making War Munitions, cast-iron nose caps by the thousands, then as the war increased we were making parts for the Baurfor Artillery Guns. We were able to keep most of our staff but made very little profit on cost plus basis. As a matter of fact we were too honest and handed back to the treasury some thousands of pounds.

September 26, 1938: We bought five blocks of land for £2 per foot and soon after removed our whole factory to Southwark now called Thebarton. Claude Dewar our enthusiastic Secretary declared emphatically we would go broke, but instead we continued to progress and increase our turnover and profit each year as soon as the peace was declared in 1945.

I quote here a cutting from Canberra:

"Since 1939 prices of Imported goods have increased on an average of 79 p.c. and prices of home produced goods have increased by 25 p.c. in six years prices of primary products increased nearly 30 p.c. This was disclosed by Commonwealth Statistics issued yesterday, the average prices increased of all goods has risen by 41 p.c."

H. C. Dewar resigned as a Director in 1949 and the same time gave us a month's notice to get out of the Mill Street premises which we had leased from him for many years. For what reason we will never know as he died in 1955. He also approached Keith Bowen our present Foreman (1969) to resign from Scott Bonnar and start with him on Electric Mowers and repairs, a shock to me after forty years of good friendship.



Chapel Street, Thebarton, January 1921.

www.outdoorliving.com
The first Scott Bonnar factory. Mr Scott Bonnar is the figure on the right.



Mr Sid Bowditch (pictured), factory manager, had input over many years in the design and production of Scott Bonnar mowers.

Sid retired in 1958. Could the machine be a converted horse mower?

July 13, 1949: After two weeks' negotiations with Mr. Alf Gard we have signed a deal with him to buy his property in Gouger Street, Nos. 21, 23, 25 for £12,000. We promptly left Dewar's premises and moved round the corner to Gouger Street.

We had to get in some more Capital and we received permission to increase by £10,000 shares at £2 each, the market value at that time.

Fax Bonnar was elected to the Board at this Annual Meeting. 29/9/49, having joined the Company 20/6/44. At this meeting we passed the 10% Div. making it 12½% for the year.

12/5/50: The Company decided to increase the Capital of the Company by 16,488 new shares to go on the Stock Exchange at a premium of 7/6d. plus rights to apply to the Stock Exchange for listing and to issue one for two ordinary shares held as Tax Free Bonus issue, we expected to be listed on the Stock Exchange as a public Company by June 30, 1950.

12/5/50: Have this day paid £400 deposit on 6¼ acres of land on South Road opposite the S.A. Rubber Mills for a future factory.

Lensworth Finance was formed in May 1950. Commenced business 1st June. Capital £48,300. Started on Stock Exchange 4th August have £35,000 out on loan, I was appointed Director, this should be a very successful Company—8/3/69 now £22 million out on loan.

June 1951: Meeting, we declared our Dividend at 17½%, the only time that amount was paid, next year 1952 we came back to 12½% and ever since 1952, we have paid a regular 10% Div. each year (5 & 5).

1953: We made our first six Petrol Bon mowers, supplied to Gouger Street sales, they look a good job.

H. C. Dewar died March 1955.

L. W. Harris and M. C. Bonnar went to Brisbane to purchase a property in May 1953. After several days searching and advertising we eventually purchased our present

Also makers of First Quality

GAS COCKS
RANGE COCKS
ROYLES UNIONS
SEMI-ROTARY PUMPS
BEAN SLICERS



SCOTT BONNAR LTD

Lawn Mower Manufacturers

Iron and Brass Founders

MILL STREET, ADELAIDE.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Telephone

CENTRAL - 3680
(2 LINES)

o

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS

"BONMOW"

4th September, 1944.

site for £10,000 we considered it a good buy.

20/11/53: We purchased seven old cottages in Coglin Street, Adelaide, for £6,250.

August 4, 1950: Purchased Sydney property at Ashfield, paid £23,100 for thirteen cars as hire and drive yourself.

Ashfield Council refused us permission to do repairs and we commenced legal action and eventually got them to agree to a modified degree. We sold the cars.

July 27, 1953: Last week the Board decided to employ Scott & Co. to put in a Methods System of Engineering costing £3,000. They guaranteed to save us £8,000 a year. It's a necessary gamble we must get over Sid Bowditch and get on with the new system, a unanimous vote. (P.S. Has this Paid?)

13/7/56: Appointed New Sales Manager Howard Goodwin at £2,000 a year. S. B. Sales Staff will need all the Sales Push possible in Australia to keep up our figures up to last year's (1955-6) this was £750,796 which looks like a Net Profit for this year of £45,700 against £31,000 last year. 1957 Financial Strain very heavy, £90,000 today.

15/3/57: Lance and his wife left on a world tour, business and pleasure via Johannesburg, Africa, away about seven months.

1/6/57: Drought conditions are looking bad in all States, unless we get good rains throughout Australia. O.D. today is £44,000, limit £70,000. We have our financial strains regularly every year until our highest turnover and smaller profit today 20/3/67.

28/12/57: The first 100 Engines we made in the Factory. These engines look like turning out trumps if the cost can be kept down.

26/5/58: Our first 30" Queen Bowling Club Machine looks the goods after delivering about 30 machines, mostly to N.S.W. Congratulations to Sid Bowditch for production and changing from 24" to 30" the greatest change in Mowers in our history.

Sid has also produced our new 18" Rotary Mower, the first test of this machine has proved very good and powerful, but we are afraid the cost will be high as about 50 to 60 manufacturers have come into the market. The next project for Sid is the 24" Self Propelled Rotary, but Sid has retired from our firm and no 24" produced. Our O.D. today is £62,000.

This year we have had £25,000 expense on a new plant, jigs and gauges.

J. Harper started in Melbourne 18/8/58, after consideration to recommend him to replace Bill Poller who finished 30/8/58 as Manager in Melbourne.

We have bought Chas Richardson Stock and Property, Nett Price £29,000.

7/2/59: The cash position improves £3,000 better than last year.

1/8/59: Board Meeting today to seriously consider measures to speed up production.

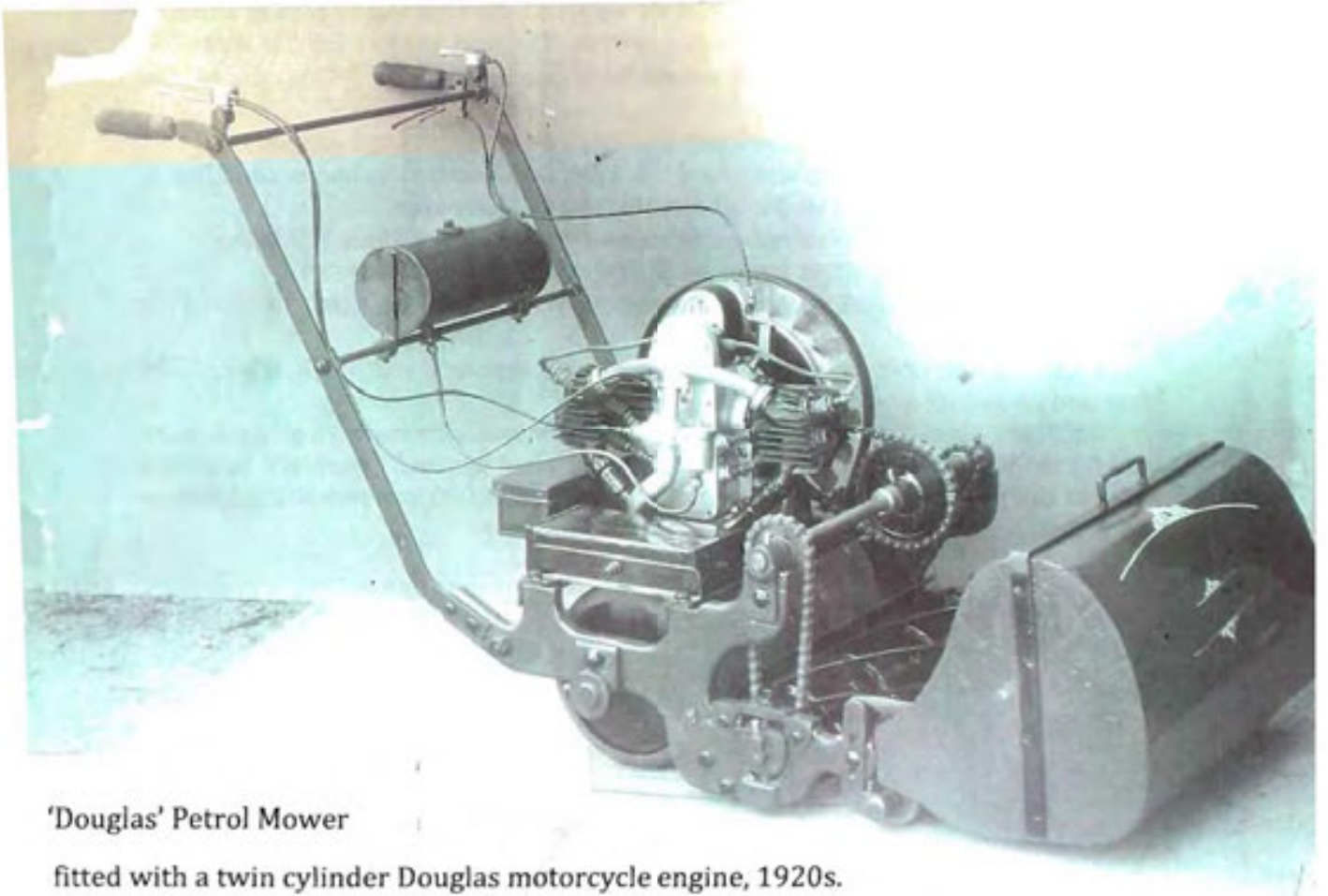
12/9/58: We have bought Chas Richardson's property and stock for £32,000 Plant and all and three years at £1,060 a year.

23/9/59: Next Friday we have our Annual General Meeting having had a much better year than last with nett profit of £23,100 after Tax and Depreciation, paying 10% for the year and £5,000 to reserves. Sales were £524,000 last year and indications are, we will have a little better year again this coming year.



'Standard' handmower 16" 1930s

www.outdoorking.com



'Douglas' Petrol Mower

fitted with a twin cylinder Douglas motorcycle engine, 1920s.

30/6/60: I estimate sales for this year about £700,000.

18/8/60: Sales were just over £700,000 as I predicted. The accountants are in a flat spin because stocks do not balance. The Stock Control has gone haywire. Some £15,000 out some will no doubt be found we are late as usual. Spincuts (Rotary) appear to be our largest loss.

We have had good rains throughout.

JANUARY 1, 1961

From today I step down to Position of Executive Director on a reduced salary of £1,500 a year plus travelling expenses of £1 per week and car.

Lance Harris steps up to Managing Director @ £3,000 per year.

Fax Bonnar steps up to Assistant Managing Director @ £2,400 p.a.

I am seventy-three years of age and I hope this will be a good progressive move although the last November Credit Squeeze has made a general slackening of Sales.

MAY 9, 1961

On May 19, I proceeded on the S.S. Straat Banka to Singapore, Malaya, Bombay and Karachi on a trade mission to endeavour to boost our export trade.

I was not very optimistic about selling mowers, however we must try.

I made some quite good contacts for our people to follow up, but few sales eventuated.

Singapore is a good place to buy Cameras etc. I had two trips there. I demonstrated our 24" Petrol mower on the Greens of a Singapore Golf Club, but the larger warehouses have had the English Agencies so long especially the Ransome Petrols that we have not been able to get in although we did an excellent job.

Malaya was on similar lines as Singapore, but since that time our Sales Manager, Mr. Goodwin has visited there and expects to get more sense out of them. He has sold several Rotary Mowers.

APRIL 19, 1961

We have sold the Gouger Street Property, Part of No. 23 and 25 for £27,000 we can now proceed with our new offices at Southwark.

We had our General Meeting. Sales very good, Profit £2,600 after Tax, Stocks £297,371, Debtors £56,790.

We are a little afraid of the talk about England joining the Common Market it may effect us in regards to Exports.

4th March, 1962: I lost my wife. She died suddenly at the tea table from a heart attack. This was a great shock to us all.

DECIMAL CURRENCY 1966-10th MARCH

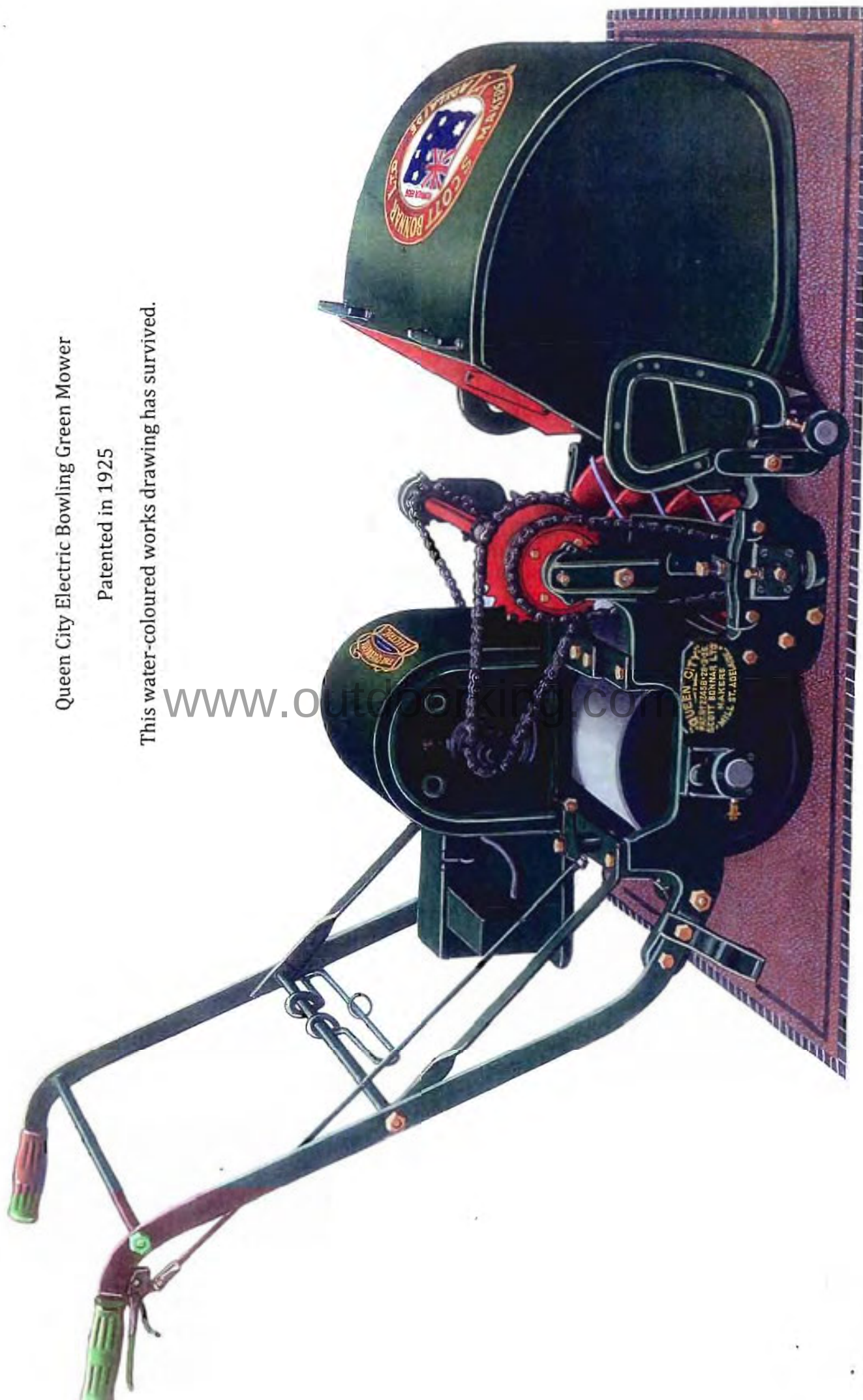
The changeover of Currency came in without much trouble. It is now well accepted-May, 1969.

9/10/66: Fax and Joe were married, we had a family gathering at 22 Egmont Terrace, Hawthorn.

Queen City Electric Bowling Green Mower

Patented in 1925

This water-coloured works drawing has survived.



The electric mower below is a British built push mower which has been converted to electric drive by Scott Bonnar & Co.

Electric Power Lawnmowers

Sizes 12 in. to 24 in.

Costs 3d. per hour to run.

Never goes wrong.



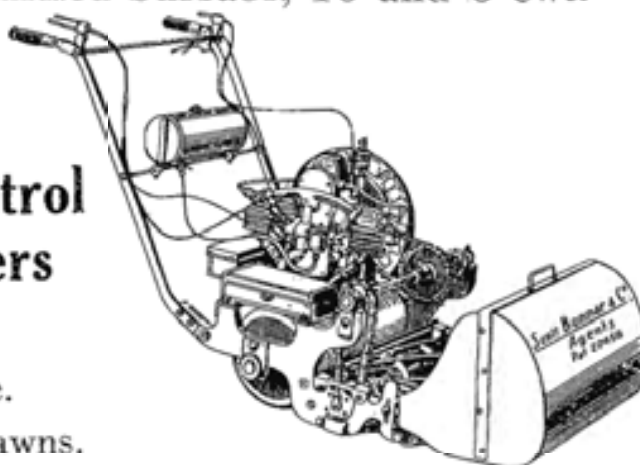
For Tennis Courts or Lawns !

Patented.

Shanks's Lawn Rollers



Turned Surface, 10 and 6 cwt.



"Douglas" Petrol Motor Mowers

Twin Cylinder.

Faultless Engine.

For Large Garden Lawns.

Scott Bonnar & Co.

MILL STREET, ADELAIDE

'Phone: Central 2332

The Lawnmower Specialists

The machine above has a 'Douglas' engine fitted to the Scott Bonnar built Queen City mower. An advertisement in the Official Programme, 34th Annual Tennis Championship, Adelaide, March 18th to 27th 1926.

TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

M.C.B. & JOHN DEWAR

8/11/65 to 29/11/65:

We arrived in Johannesburg 1/11/65 after a first class Air trip, first to Perth then to Mauritius. Bill Bradley and Jack Ferguson our Scott Bonnar's Agents for South Africa were there to meet us, they are doing a very good job for us on Exports. The day we landed in Johannesburg it was the hottest November day on record for 20 years, no fans or air conditioning of any sort in the First Class Hotel. We stayed there three days and went by bus down to Durban and Capetown interviewing our Agents in each place—both very fine cities. We travelled by Air from Durban to Capetown and down through Drakenburg Mountains.

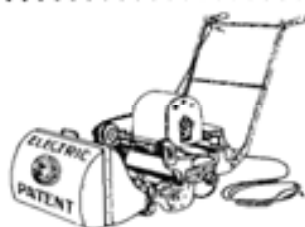
JANUARY 14, 1970

Had my 82nd birthday and twenty-eight bowlers and their wives came round at 5 p.m. to celebrate a very successful day.

The Swedish Company called Electrolux has made an offer of 165c per share of the whole of our shares, it will be finally fixed and paid for by the end of February. Scott Bonnar Ltd. will carry on in the old name. Fax Bonnar will be General Manager and Les Slade and myself will retire next Wednesday—that will be my final day after fifty years with Scott Bonnar & Co.

On the 23rd January we held a fifty years party at the Tonsley Hotel. I gave the main speech which consisted of a brief account of Scott Bonnar's operations since January 23, 1920. Two new Electrolux Directors will be appointed and that will be the end of a fifty year management for me.

Their Directors say the firm will run on for years under the name of Scott Bonnar Ltd.



Standard and Queen City Electric Lawn-mower

These Australian-made Electric Lawn Mowers will cut the area of a Tennis Court for about a halfpenny. There are no mechanical complications, no noise, smell, smoke, or vibration. Perfect cutting with provision for adjustment to suit all conditions. Used by one hundred Bowling Clubs throughout Australia—hundreds of private users. Prices from £29. Comprehensive guarantee with each machine. Sizes 12in. to 30in.

AGENTS:

VICTORIA—

Victor H. Moodie,
"McEwan House,"
343 Little Collins Street,
MELBOURNE.

NEW SOUTH WALES—

Scott Bonnar & Co.,
2 Crane Place,
31a Pitt Street,
SYDNEY.

QUEENSLAND—

Edgar V. Hudson,
55 Charlotte Street,
BRISBANE.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA—

Rupert L. Connor,
28 Alvan Street,
MT. LAWLEY, W.A.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA—

Makers and Distributors:
Scott Bonnar Limited,
22 Mail Street, ADELAIDE.

An advertisement for Standard and Queen City Electric Lawnmowers in 'The Australian Garden Lover' November 1929.

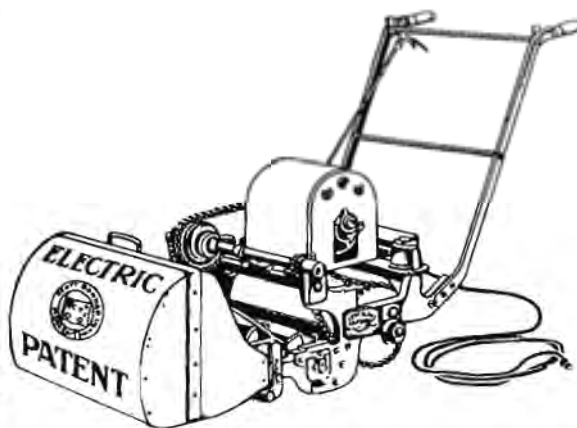
ELECTRIC POWER LAWNMOWERS

Over Sixty Bowling Clubs
in South Australia use . . .

Scott Bonnar Electric Lawnmowers

Sizes 12 in. to 30 in.
PRICES FROM
£29

Many exclusive and patented
features embodied in the
design combine to make these
machines the best procurable.



Also Manufacturers of—

Petrol Power Hand Roller Mowers Gang and Sulky Mowers

For Golf Courses, Parks, and
Gardens.

2 ft. 6 in. to 17 ft. cut.
Used by the leading Golf
Clubs in the Commonwealth.

We Repair Any Lawnmower

A MOWER FOR EVERY SERVICE

MANUFACTURED IN S.A.

SCOTT BONNAR LTD.

BY

17-19, 22-24 MILL STREET, ADELAIDE

(OPPOSITE
CHAS. MOORE'S)

www.outdoorking.com

Electric Power Lawnmowers

Over Sixty Bowling Clubs in South Australia use
Scott Bonnar Electric Lawnmowers

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MANUFACTURED IN S.A.
BY

SCOTT BONNAR LTD.

17-19, 22-24 MILL STREET, ADELAIDE

(OPPOSITE
CHAS. MOORE'S)

A Queen City (top) and a Standard Electric mower in 'The Green' bowls
magazine, November 1935 and February 1936.

**An outline of the history of Scott Bonnar Australia Pty Ltd
delivered in a speech by Faxton Bonnar, son of Malcolm
(Mick) Bonnar in Adelaide in 1980**

Scott Bonnar Pty Ltd had recently been taken over by Rover Mowers.

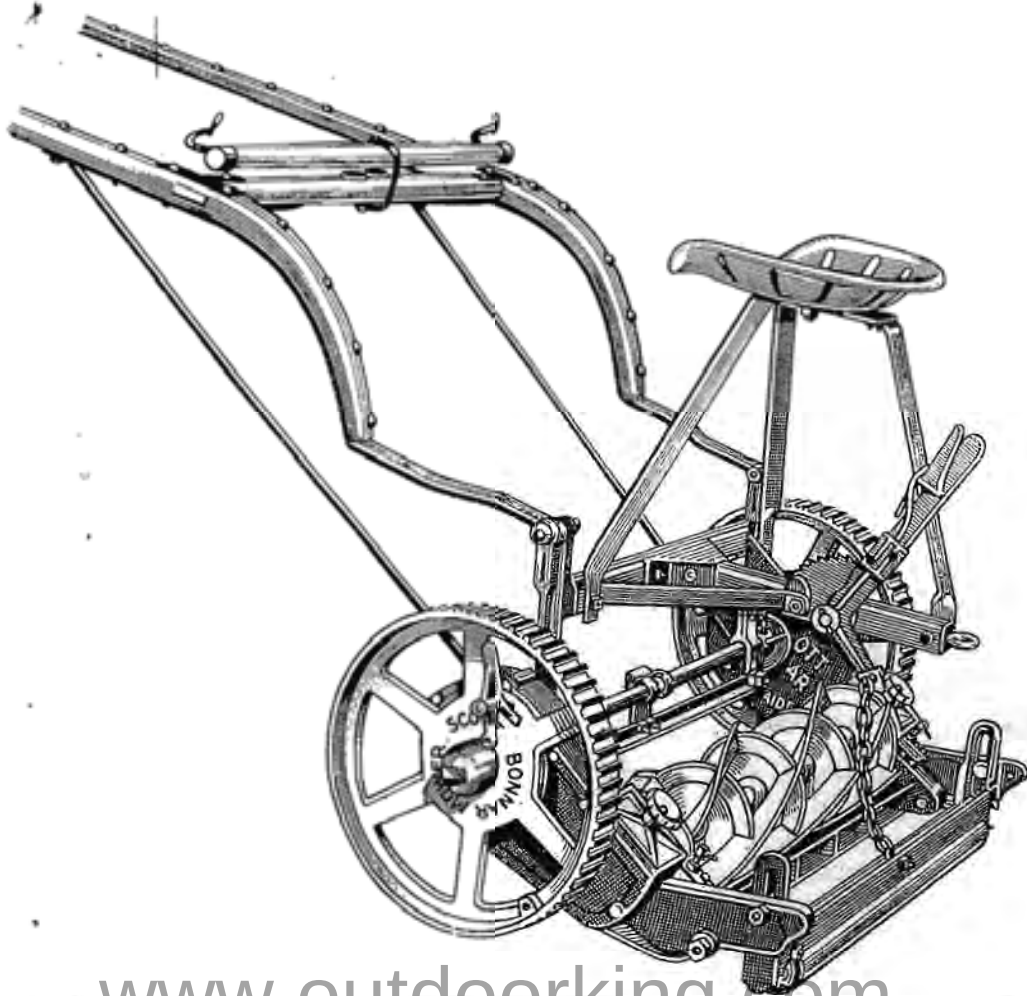
In January 1920 dad, with his war gratuity, and his brother Scott, who didn't have a great deal of money at the time started a brass finishing business in Chapel Street, Thebarton.

You may wonder how the name Scott Bonnar developed. After the war many returned soldiers were starting businesses and calling them somebody or other Brothers, or something like that. Too many of them, so dad thought they should have a different name, so they chose the name Scott Bonnar and Company. A little later they purchased Wadham and Bradley Brass Foundry in Mill Street. During this time they brought the first Quasi-electric welding plant into South Australia and became specialists in its use. In 1923, Tom Harrison, who was a great friend of dad's said to both of them that his old Shanks roller-type hand mower was getting a little hard to push. Would it be possible to put an electric motor on it and drive the mower? So Scott and dad put their heads together and placed a quarter hp electric motor on the Shanks hand mower and then drove the rear rollers with a chain from the cutter. Tom Harrison said "You boys could do well with this, in this kind of business," because the job turned out pretty well. So straight away they obtained a hand mower, mounted an electric motor on it, geared it carefully and took it to the South Park Bowling Club. The club thought it was a very successful machine and bought it. Next week Parkside Bowling Club bought a machine and subsequently



Marriatville Bowling Club. The records are not too clear, but I think that's about the order that the machines were sold, but they were the first three bowling clubs to buy Scott Bonnar bowling green mowers in South Australia.

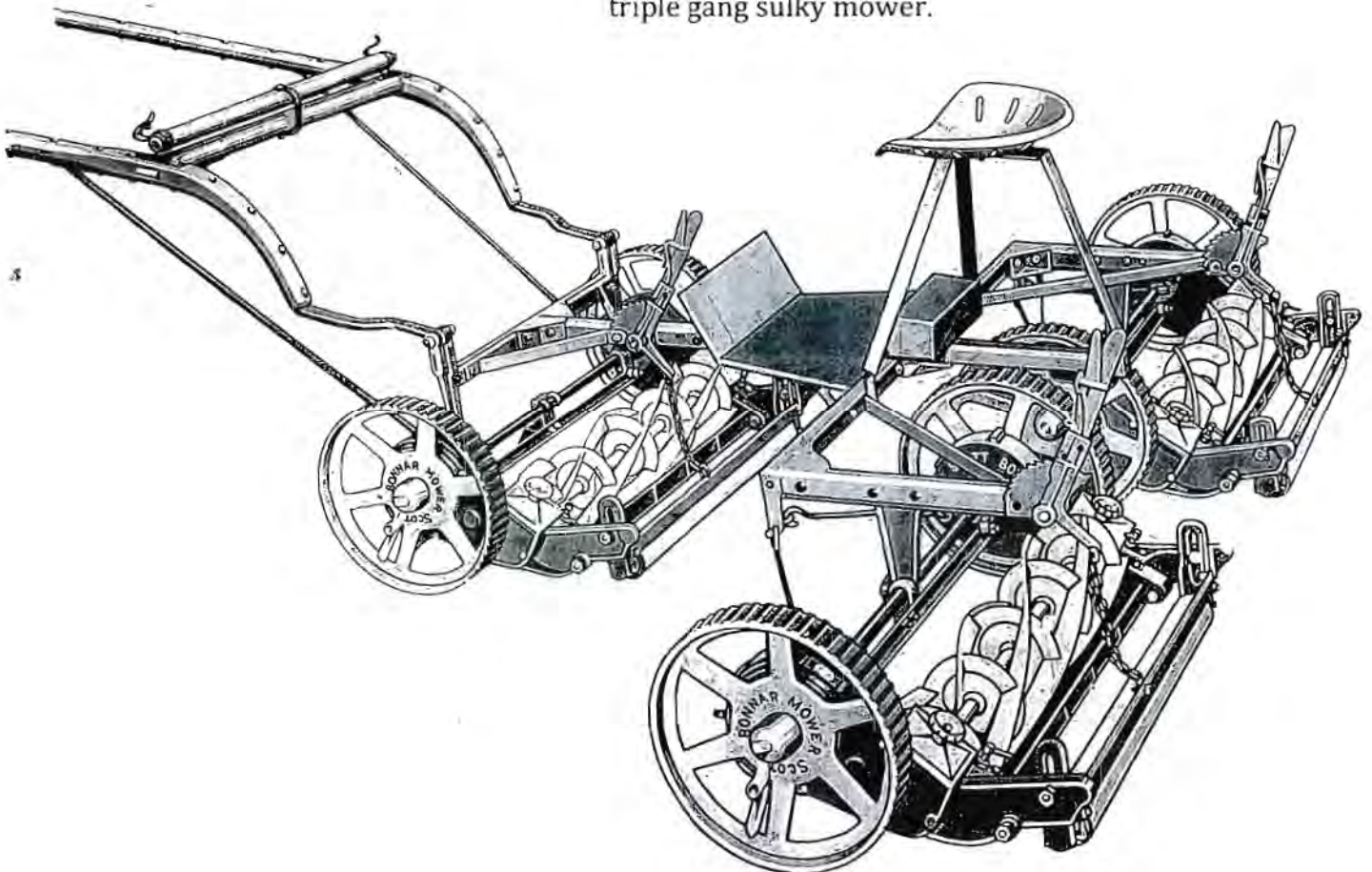
Now chronologically, I'll just tell a little about all the things that happened to the company. In 1926 the partnership was formed into a Limited Company and in 1927 an agent was appointed in Queensland and in 1928 in an old Standard 9 Roadster car with two electric lawn mowers in the boot, my mother, my sister, my father and I, and remember it was only a single seater car, took off to Sydney, to open a branch. It took us 10 days to get to Sydney. I think dad lost second gear going up the Razorback mountain and we arrived in Sydney on Christmas Eve. And dad only had top and bottom gear in this little Standard car. Going up George Street to the Metropole Hotel where we stayed, I can remember a policeman saying to dad about getting a move on, and with all the gear we had in the car, his reply was just unprintable. So we started an agency in New South Wales in 1928. I went to school there for about three months. At a later stage we had another three month sojourn just to get the thing going properly. In 1932 we started the Victorian Branch. In 1936 we purchased the land at Thebarton and in 1938 we built the factory on its present site, where most of you know it today. In 1939 to 1945, during the war, the bulk of our work was war production, but during that period we still made a few of our low - pressure brass taps. We made some rotary pumps and prior to this bean slicers. They were all manufactured under the trademark "Esbe" which are the two initials of Scott Bonnar and we used that right through the years on our brass taps until we closed that down in about 1972 because we were concerned about plastics coming in



www.outdoorking.com

Sulky mower (above) and

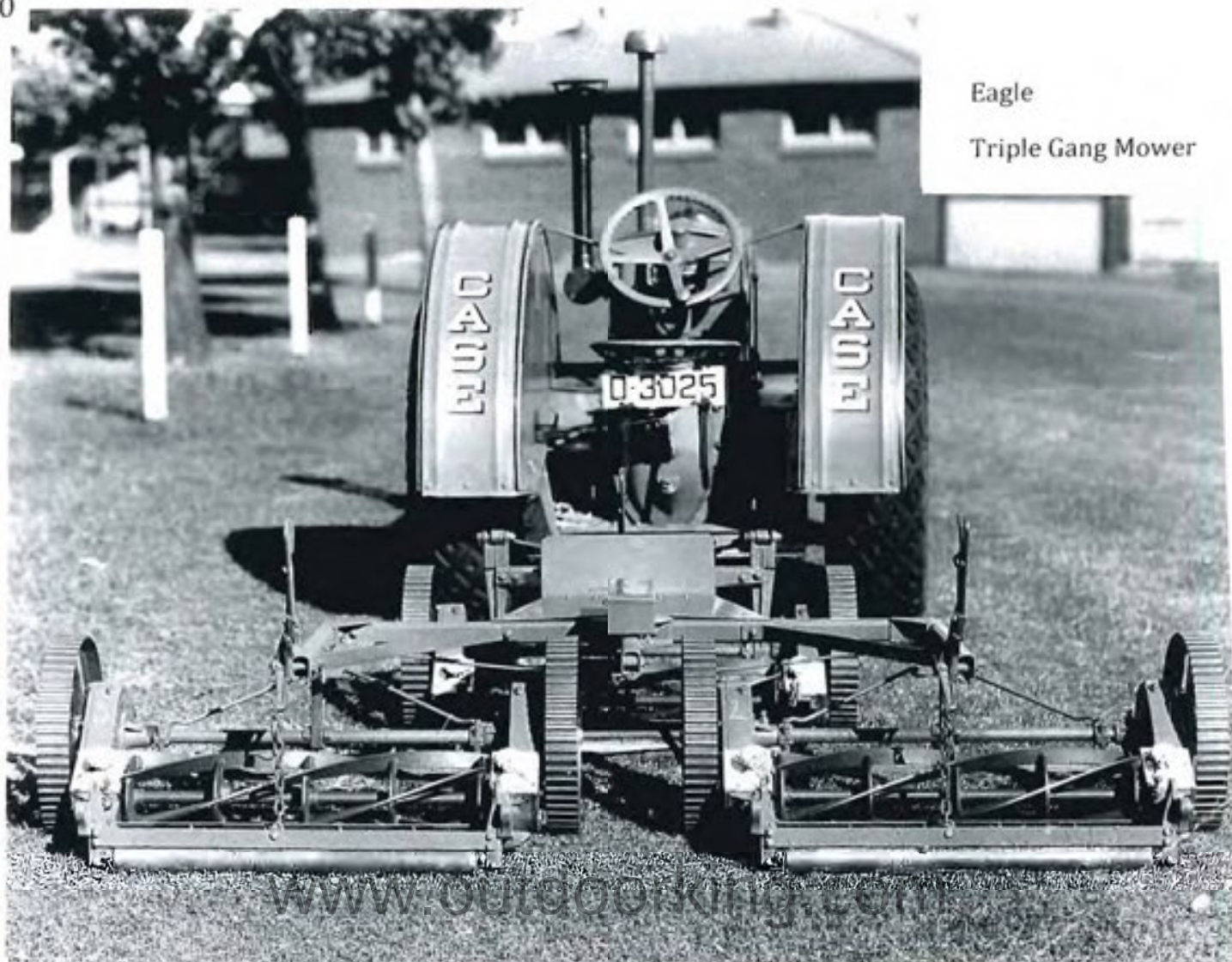
triple gang sulky mower.



and the volume of business was dropping. But the people to whom we sold the business are still making many thousands of those brass taps a week.

In 1947 Mr Scott Bonnar retired due to illness. In 1953 we purchased land in Brisbane and started a branch in 1954. In 1963, when dad was 75 years old, we opened our new administrative offices at Thebarton and the late Sir Thomas Playford (Premier of South Australia) opened the buildings by driving a cylinder type, self-propelled mower through the ribbon to officially open the building. In 1965-1966 we won an export award. This was mainly as a result of our efforts in South Africa and Rhodesia, where we have a very active operation. In 1968 we opened Perth and in 1970 we celebrated our 50th anniversary. At the present time we are supplying approximately 99% of the bowling clubs in Australia with bowling green mowers. In addition, of course, our export trade is increasing and we service mowers supplied to State and Federal Government departments, golf courses, councils, corporations, race courses and ovals and the list is expanding. In addition, of course, now that the company has been taken over by Rover Mowers, our participation in the domestic market will, of course, grow and this will in turn effect most of you here tonight.

I'd like to revert to the fiftieth anniversary of the Scott Bonnar Company in 1970. When my father was presented with a gift by the company on his retirement as Managing director he was given a Parker pen set, gold top. I remember his remark at that stage. "Oh, it's a Parker pen set, gold mounted too, but of course nothing but the best is good enough for Scott Bonnar. It's a matter of pride."



The following letter by Richard Watkins outlines the history of Scott Bonnar Ltd up to 1981. Richard was employed in the Research and Development Department of the company.

Rover-Scott Bonnar Limited

33-47 Holland Street,
Thebarton,
South Australia. 5031

P.O. Box 69,
Torrensview. 5031

Telephone: 08 43 9155
Telex AA 82708

26th November, 1981

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter I will start with a rundown of Scott Bonnar's history.

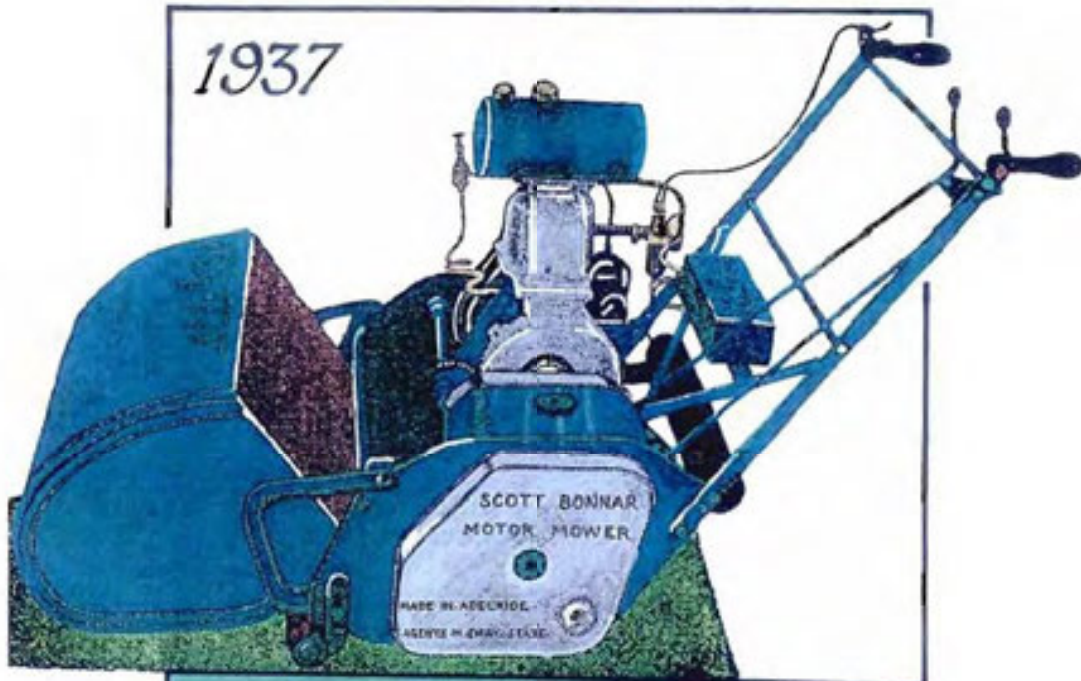
Two brothers, Mick Bonnar and Scott Bonnar formed a partnership, and the name of Scott Bonnar & Co. was registered on 20th January 1920. They started in the business of a brass foundry and machine shop in Chapel Street Thebarton, South Australia, first producing Low Pressure Brassware, Gas Main Cocks and Tank Taps. In 1921 they bought the first quasi - arc welding machine in South Australia and expanded the business to include welding jobs. A little Englishman came out to Australia and started in Currie Street Adelaide as a sole seller of boots and shoes. His name was Tom Harrison and later started the Alma Shoe Co. now Clarke Shoes. Tom asked if an electric motor could be put on his old Greens hand mower as he was not strong enough to push it. The year was 1923. It worked very well. The next week they got hold of a mower, mounted a motor and gear it up to be self propelled. They then demonstrated it at South Park Bowling Club, who were cutting their greens by hand mower. It improved the greens so much in its cutting ability that they bought it. Next week they sold one to Marryatville Bowling Club and Parkside Bowling Club.

1924-1925 ran the Atco Petrol Mower Agency but because of more concentrated efforts on Electric Mowers the English manufacturers took the Agency away.

In 1926 the company was registered as a Limited Company under the Companies Act, 1894, on 5th July 1926.

In 1927 certain features of the new electric mower were patented (which features they were - I cannot find any data on them) Agencies were established in all states including the appointment of Mr. E.V. Hudson in Brisbane.

In 1928 the Engineering Supply Co. of Australia Limited of Brisbane appointed the Companies Queensland agent in lieu of Mr. E.V. Hudson.



“SCOTT BONNAR” Motor Mower

The Perfect Machine

Sizes 20 in. and 24 in.

8 or 10 Blade Cutting
Cylinder.

All parts adjustable.
Ideal for Tennis Courts.
No Ribbing.

Easy to Handle.
Service and Spare Parts.

Write for particulars and
leaflet to

Scott Bonnar

(VIC.) PTY. LTD.

200 Queen St., Melbourne
C 2224.

224 Clarence St., Sydney. M.A. 5676.
22 Mill St., Adelaide. Cent. 2332.

Coloured and adapted from an advert in 'Lawn Tennis Australia' (magazine)
March 15th, 1937.

The mower was fitted with a 300cc J.A.P. 4-stroke engine.

2.

cont.

In 1934, Mr. Scott Bonnar and Mr. V.H. Moodie formed a separate Company trading under Scott Bonnar and Company in Victoria for the sales and service in that state.

In 1935, Branch of Victoria Company opened in Sydney. On 16th July, 1935 Scott Bonnar (VIC.) Proprietary Limited registered in Victoria to take over Scott Bonnar and Company in Melbourne and Sydney.

In 1938, Mr. Scott Bonnar, made a visit to South Africa and established a branch in Durban to import Scott Bonnar Products. Also a new factory was erected at Southwark (now Thebarton). South Australia.

1939/1945 The bulk of production was devoted to war work.

In 1950 Scott Bonnar Limited registered as a public company on the 26th May.

In 1953 the name of subsidiary company changed from Scott Bonnar (VIC) Proprietary Limited to Scott Bonnar Australia Proprietary Limited.

In 1960 Mr. M.C. Bonnar retired and was succeeded as Managing Director by Mr. L.W. Harris.

In 1963 a new block of administrative offices at Thebarton was opened by the Premier Sir Thomas Playford.

1965/66 The Company was honoured by the Commonwealth Government of Australia when the Department of Trade and Industry presented the Managing Director, Mr. L. W. Harris with an Export Award. This was presented personally to Mr. Harris in Canberra by the Federal Treasurer The Hon. William McMahon.

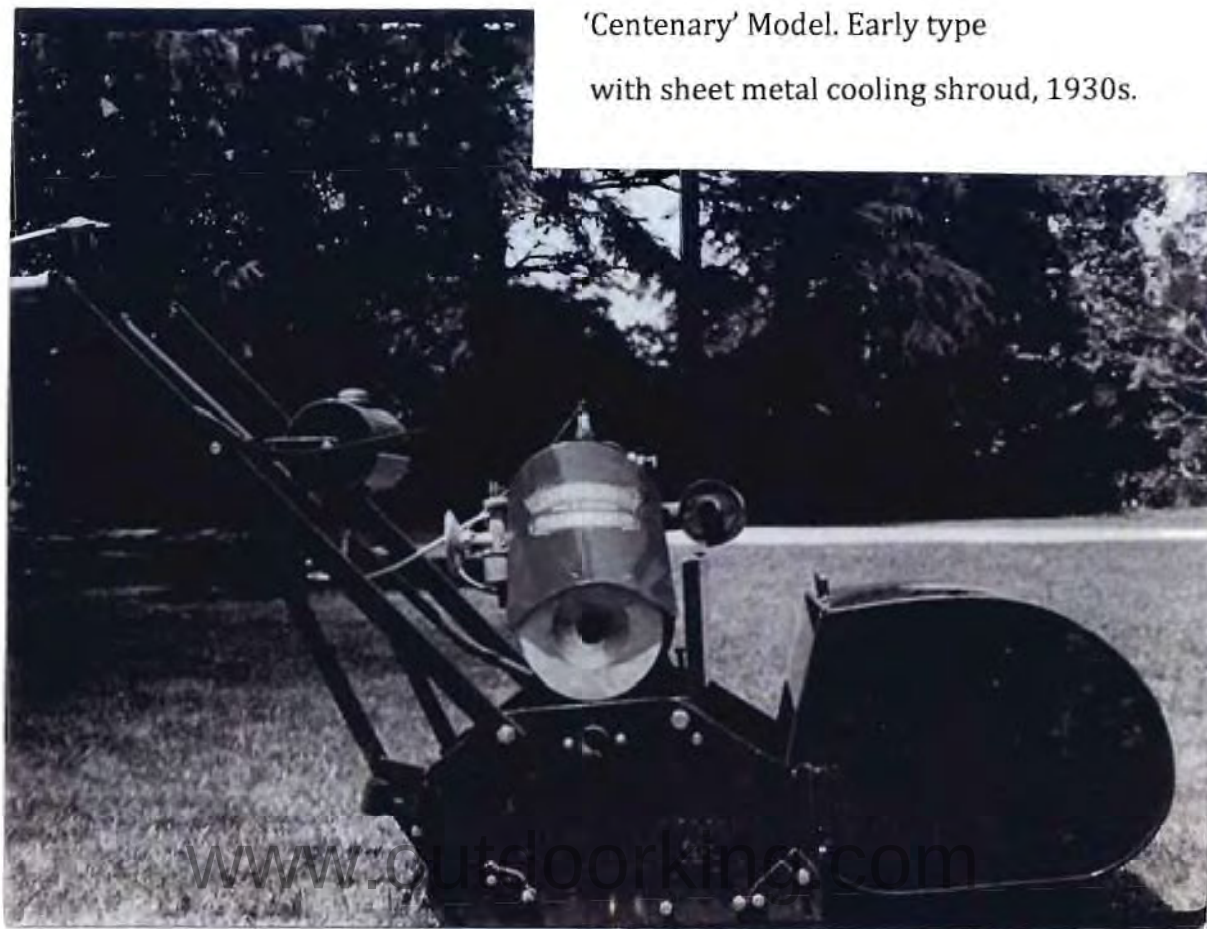
In March 1970, the International Group of Electrolux, Sweden acquired the Share Capital of Scott Bonnar Limited. In February, Mr. L.W. Harris retired and was succeeded by Mr. M.F. Bonnar as Managing Director.

In 1973, The New Zealand Company, Challenge Corporation Limited, acquired the share capital of Scott Bonnar Limited on 8th October, 1973.

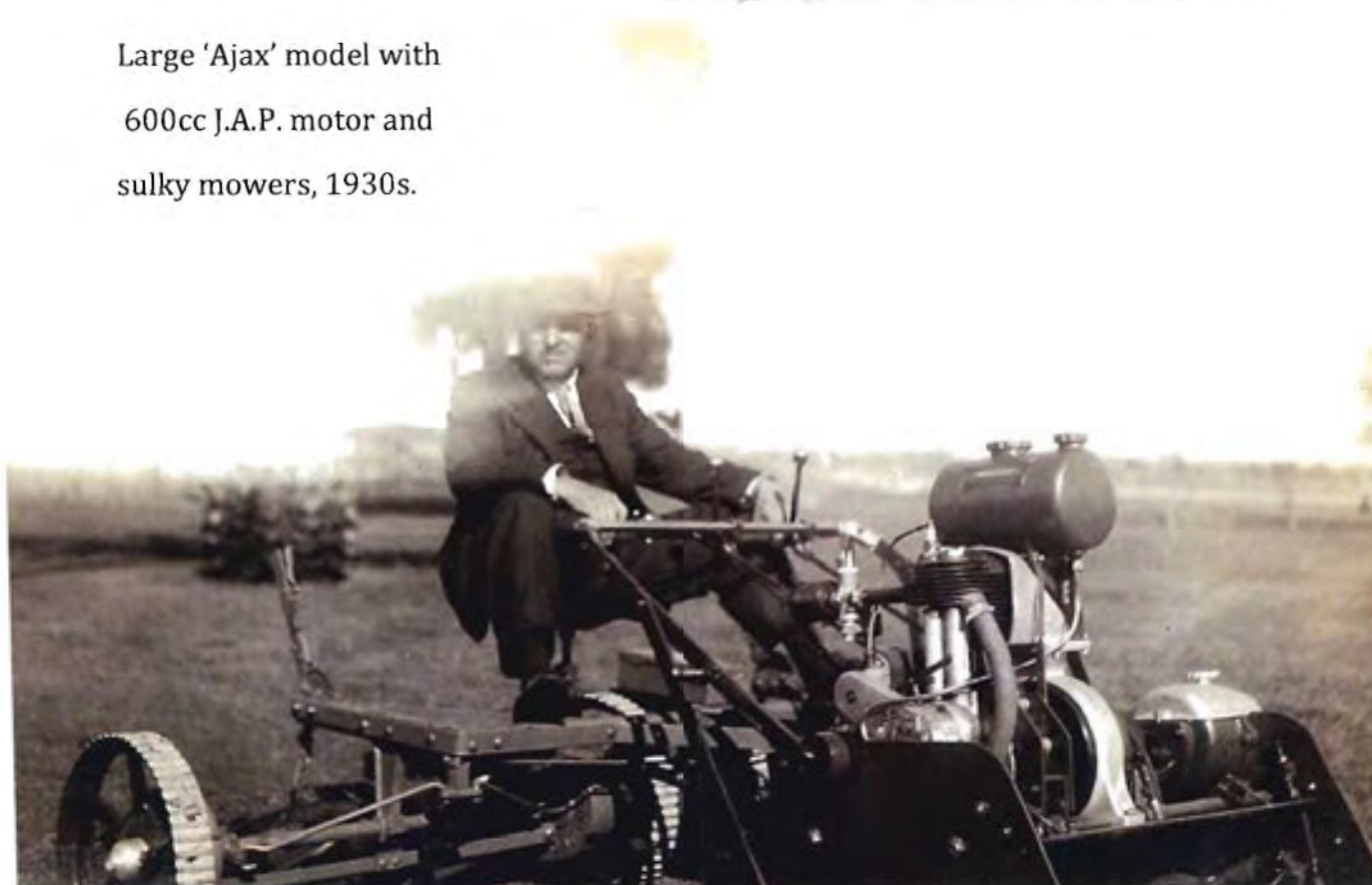
On Wednesday 7th July, 1976 at Scott Bonnar, Thebarton the Premier of South Australia, Mr. Don Dunstan, launched the revolutionary Scott Bonnar Model 590 Rear Catcher Reel Mower. This was the first mower to win an Industrial Design Award from the Industrial Design Council of Australia.

cont...

'Centenary' Model. Early type
with sheet metal cooling shroud, 1930s.



Large 'Ajax' model with
600cc J.A.P. motor and
sulky mowers, 1930s.



3.

cont...

In regards to the question of, if a Bonnar relation instigated Beercraft Engineering Co. I can not help you. Mr. Scott Bonnar after he left the Company started a coal mine up near Black Heath, near Sydney. He died of Cancer on 17th September, 1961 aged 68 years.

From old records I can only go back to January 1929 when an 18" Queen City No. 63 was delivered on 17-1-29 at a cost £ 28.16.0 Nett Cash to Harris Scarfe and Sandover Hay St. Perth, I can only assume at the rate Queen City's were made, the first would have been made approx. 1926.

The first "Supercut" Model 17 was made mid 1950. Some of the picutres included of the early machines are reproductions of water coloured drawings, hence dark appearance.

I hope the above information will be of some help to you. I wish you all the best of luck for ycur book and if possible once produced would you be able to send a copy over?

On the 4-12-81 in the Australian there is to appear an article on exports to which an article has been submitted from Scott Bonnar. - Could be of some interest to you.

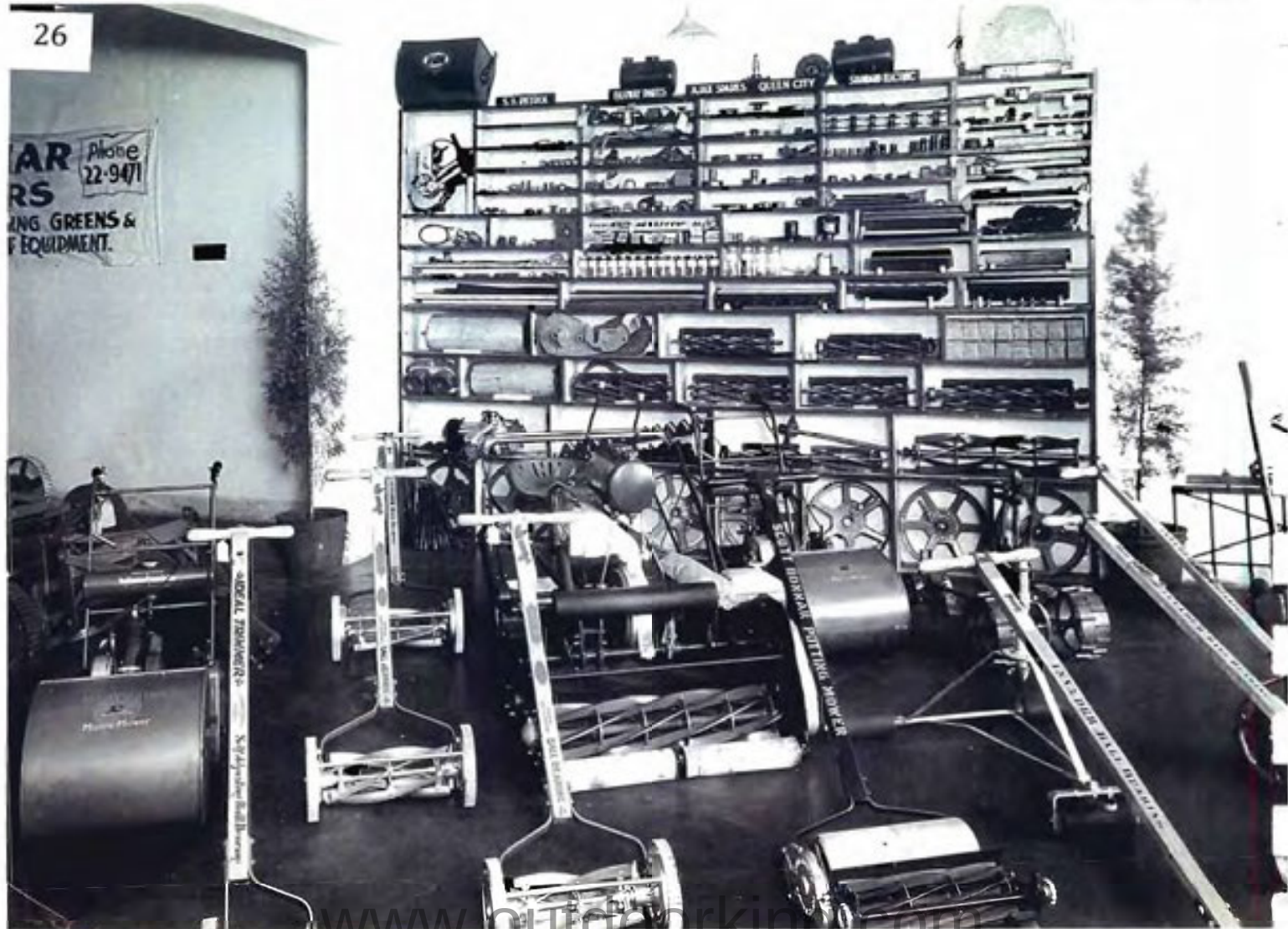
Yours sincerely,
ROVER-SCOTT BONNAR LIMITED

Richard Watkins

Richard Watkins

Note:

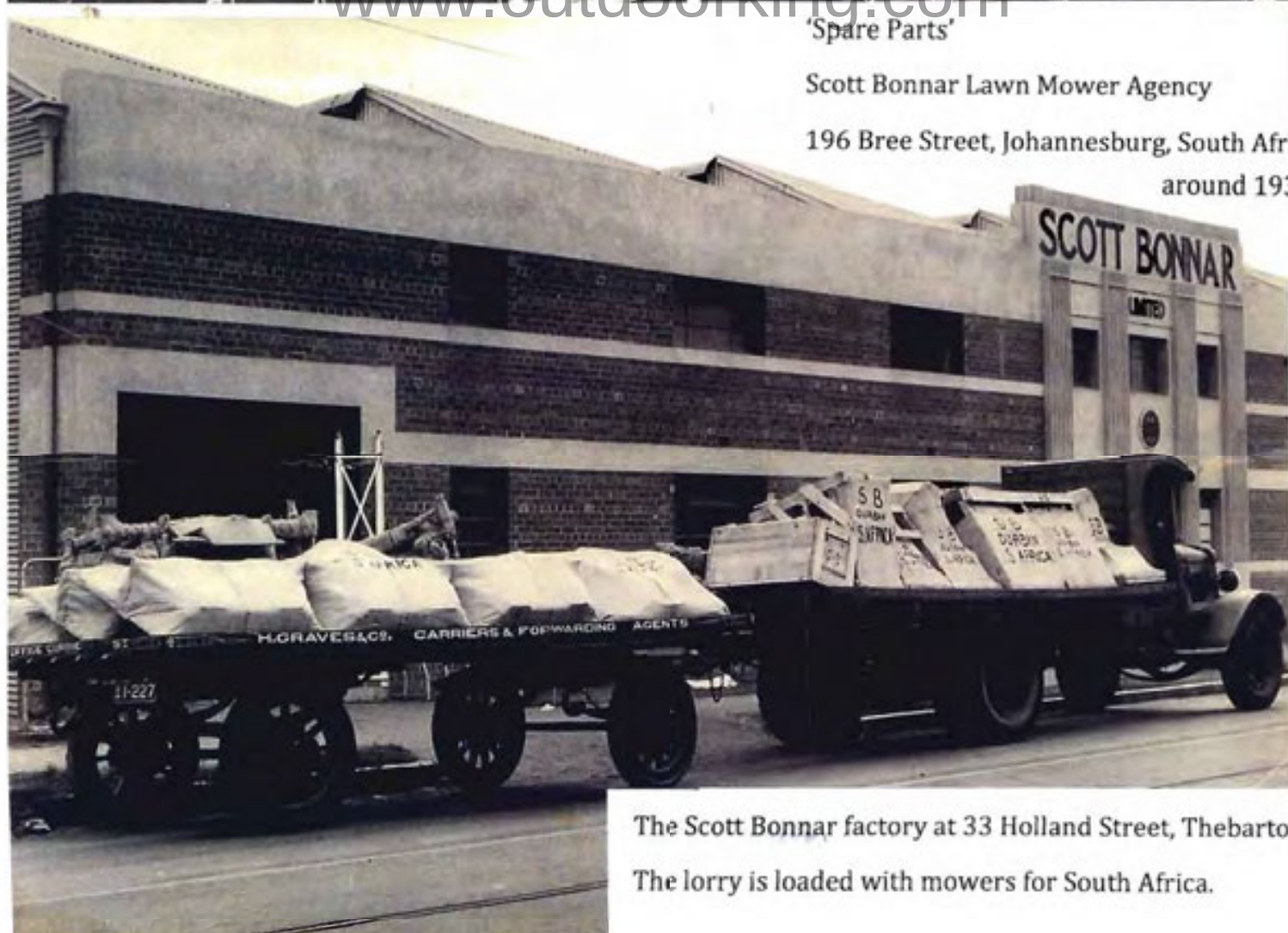
- Electrolux, a Swedish company acquired the share capital of Scott Bonnar Ltd in 1970, presumably to gain access to a widespread dealer network to sell their Flymo mowers in the region.
- In 1973 the New Zealand Company, Challenge Corporation Ltd acquired the company.
- In 1980 Scott Bonnar Ltd was taken over by Rover Mowers (Aust) Ltd Pty Ltd, based in Brisbane.
- In 1983 the Thebarton factory of Scott Bonnar Ltd was closed and production was centred in Brisbane.



www.outdoorliving.com
'Spare Parts'

Scott Bonnar Lawn Mower Agency

196 Bree Street, Johannesburg, South Africa
around 1939



The Scott Bonnar factory at 33 Holland Street, Thebarton.
The lorry is loaded with mowers for South Africa.

Mower Exports

Brian Martin, a Scott Bonnar executive, outlines the development of Scott Bonnar Ltd's wide network of overseas agents and the efforts made to build its export business.

DATE: November 13, 1981
 RE: Export Award - Special Feature

Suggested Article for use in "The Australian" 4.12.81. Special edition on exports.

Scott Bonnar Limited has been actively engaged in exporting their range of high quality turf care products to South Africa since the mid 1930's, in fact in 1938 Mr. Scott Bonnar, co-founder of the company, made a visit to South Africa and established a branch in Durban to import Scott Bonnar products from the Thebarton factory and to re-distribute these through an appointed dealer network.

The onset of World War II saw the factory production change from the manufacture of mowers to the war effort requirement of gun and bomb parts and as a result of this, plus the loss of necessary shipping in the Indian Ocean, the company decided to close down their South African branch.

By the time the war was over Australia's home market was suffering from starvation of products such as mowing equipment. This kept the factory manufacturing at full capacity to maintain supply, and at the same time the home market was rapidly growing.

By 1957 the company was in a position to resume their export activities in South Africa and elected to do this by appointing a distributor in Johannesburg and sending staff to suitably train their distributor's sales and service team.

As the South African market progressed and expanded distributors were appointed in Rhodesia (Now Zimbabwe) and Kenya, then the first distributor to cover Asian markets was appointed in Singapore.

By the mid 60's, in order to satisfy domestic and export market demands, the company introduced a second shift into the machine shop of their Thebarton factory, however, this created a surplus of products and subsequently created a need to seek new markets to absorb this surplus.

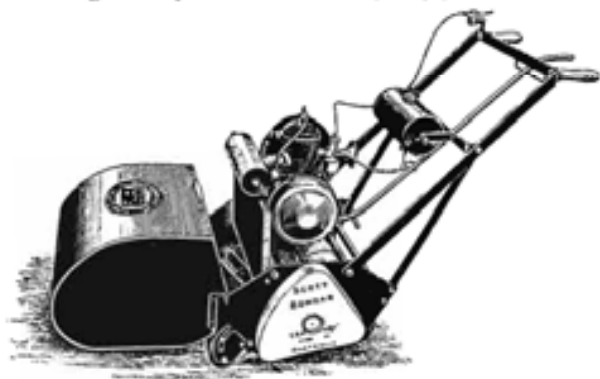
Distributors were appointed in Fiji to cover the Pacific Basin and in Port Moresby to cover Papua New Guinea, while at the same time selling direct to golf clubs and other end users in areas not covered by duly appointed agents or distributors and this included lawn bowling clubs in USA and Canada.

It was during this time that the company started to participate in overseas trade fairs, and received from the then "Dept. of Overseas Trade", substantial assistance and advice on such matters as "foreign language" brochures and other support services to assist overseas agents achieve their objective of selling the company's products.

.. The .. Centenary Petrol Motor Mower One Size 16in. For Private Gardens

THE CENTENARY MOWER was built to meet the demand for a light, strong machine selling at a comparatively low price. Our friends suggested that we should build a cheaper Mower to compete with machines imported from overseas, but after examination of several of these Mowers we decided that Australian buyers and conditions demanded something better. Briefly, we valued our reputation, established during twenty years of experience, too greatly to risk it in producing a machine that could not possibly give general satisfaction.

We designed improvements in many ways, some of them being as follows—



IMPORTED MACHINES.

1 h.p. Engine.
Cast Iron Sideframes.
Light Cycle Chain Drives.
Fixed Drums.
NO Cooling Fan on Engine.

Six-blade Cutter.
Fixed Cutter Bearings.

CENTENARY MOWER.

1½ h.p. Engine.
Steel Plate Sideframes.
Heavy Motor Cycle Chains.
Differential in Drums.
Efficient Fan, mounted on crankshaft, and deflector to direct air over engine cylinder.
Eight-blade Cutter.
Adjustable Cutter Ball Races, permitting of raising or lowering cutter.

The above are the more important features, but many smaller details by comparison show the Centenary Mower to great advantage.

ASK FOR A FREE DEMONSTRATION FROM THE MAKERS:—

SCOTT BONNAR LTD.

22 Mill St., Adelaide

200 Queen St., Melbourne

224 Clarence St., Sydney

www.outdoorking.com

The early Centenary Mower was fitted with a Villiers 147cc Mark XIC 2 stroke motor. The advertisement appeared in 'The Australian Garden Lover' May 1937.

SCOTT BONNAR (Vic.) PTY. LTD.

200 QUEEN ST., MELBOURNE

Phone MU 2424 (Entrance Lit. Bourke St.)

Manufacturers of all Types of Electric, Petrol.
Hand and Fairway
Mowers. Service
and Spare Parts.
Repairs and Parts
for all Makes of
Mowers.

ALL
WEARING
PARTS
ADJUSTABLE

VARIABLE
CLUTCH.

AN
AUSTRALIAN
PRODUCTION.

SCOTT BONNAR
½ H.P. "STAN-
DARD" 18 - inch
ELECTRIC
MOWER.

The advertisement for the Standard 18" Electric Mower was in 'The Australian Garden Lover' January 1942.

./.

DATE: November 13, 1981

In 1966 Scott Bonnar Limited won an export award and by that time regular calls were being made on overseas distributors by senior executives.

By 1972 the executive handling exports as a part time function was obviously in need of assistance if export business was to continue expanding and a further executive was employed to fulfil this role.

Until this point in time the company had concentrated on selling only their industrial range of products overseas and had found that the domestic reel mowers, which were so well accepted on the local market, could not compete price wise on overseas markets. However, the additional executive staff appointed to export activities allowed more time for research into these areas and it was revealed that provided purchased components were kept to a minimum then the domestic reel mowers could be shipped overseas in CKD format and sold competitively.

During the next few years the addition of domestic reel mowers to the range of products exported assisted their export turnover to grow and by 1975 the company had increased their production and sales of domestic rotary mowers on the local market.

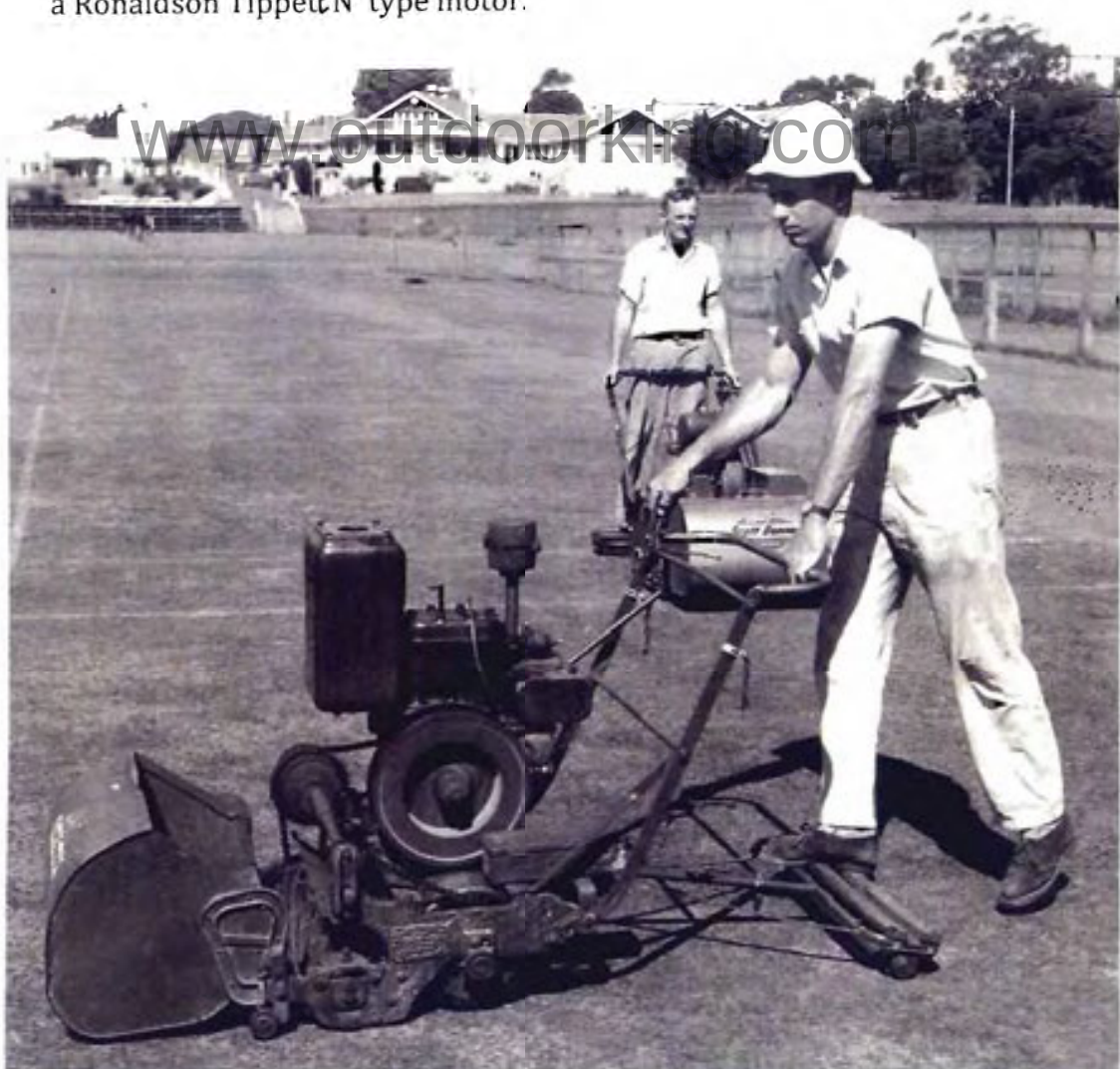
Domestic rotary mowers are not the product on which Scott Bonnar Limited's reputation was built. However, these products had and still have the same inherent quality of design and manufacture as the high quality reel mowers and other industrial equipment and had in fact been produced for many years but in much lower volume.

It was inevitable that these domestic rotary mowers should flow on to the company's existing export markets and also open doors to new markets.

In 1976/77 a five year plan was formulated to . . .



'Queen City' mower powered by
a Ronaldson Tippet't'N' type motor.



'Queen City' mower at Kooyong in 1965.

'Queen' 24 inch petrol mower in the background.

DATE: November 13, 1981

In addition to this some products have been designed specifically for export sales and other products tailored to suit specific overseas requirements.

Point of Sale material, brochures, and supportive advertising aids are specifically designed for export agents and this together with frequent personal visits by Scott Bonnar executives to give overseas agents and their staff the benefits of product knowledge, in house training, the opportunity to discuss market trends and competition actively, have all helped to keep the company's export business growing.

In 1980 the major shareholding in Scott Bonnar Limited was acquired by a former competitor company, Rover Mowers (Aust.) Pty. Limited and locally the marketing resources were combined. While the new owner company was actively engaged in export business, from their Brisbane office and factory, Mr. D.W. Steel decided to maintain an export division in Adelaide to continue to sell Scott Bonnar brand products overseas in competition with the sister export division in Brisbane and the company name has since changed to Rover-Scott Bonnar Limited. This was obviously the right decision hence this 1981 export award.

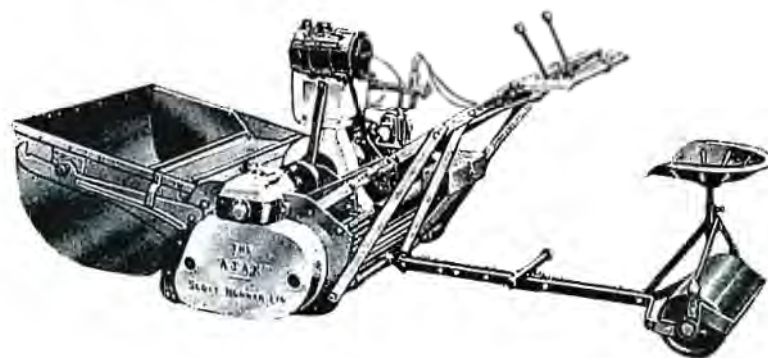
Adelaide export division of the company is currently negotiating for new business with potential agents in Korea, Holland, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Oman and is currently exporting to distributors in:

United Kingdom	.
United States of America	-
New Zealand	-
South Africa	-
Zimbabwe	-
East Malaysia	.
West Malaysia	-
Philippines	-
Indonesia	-
Thailand	-
Papua New Guinea	-
Fiji	-
Samoa	-
Tahiti	-
Canada	-
West Indies	-
Belgium	-
Kenya	-

Export business did not and never will come easy but has to be worked for with effort, careful planning, and the flexibility to tailor the product to suit the target market.

BRIAN M MARTIN

LAWNMOWERS!



SCOTT BONNAR (VIC.) PTY. LTD.

200 Queen St., Melbourne
(Entrance: LITTLE BOURKE ST.) Telephone MU 2424

Head Office: 22 Mill Street, Adelaide

Sydney Office: 259 Clarence St., Sydney

Manufacturers of:
ELECTRIC AND PETROL MOWERS

A Special Mower for Every Class of Cutting

TENNIS COURTS

BOWLING GREENS

GOLF COURSES

CRICKET GROUNDS

PRIVATE GARDENS

EXPERT REPAIRS

THESE COURTS WERE METICULOUSLY PREPARED
USING SCOTT BONNAR MOWERS

The 1946 and 1948 Davis Cup Tennis Programmes contain advertisements
for the 600cc J.A.P. powered Scott Bonnar 'Ajax' mower.

The "Queen" Electric Lawn Mower

MADE IN AUSTRALIA

by

SCOTT BONNAR LIMITED

**USED BY LEADING CLUBS
THROUGHOUT THE
COMMONWEALTH.**



**SIZES:
20 in. and 24 in..**

**MANUFACTURERS OF ALL TYPES OF PETROL, ELECTRIC, TRACTOR
AND HORSE-DRAWN MOWERS.**

Distributed by:

S.A.—Scott Bonnar Ltd., 19 Mill Street, Adelaide. (Sales and Service);
33-47 Holland Street, Southwark. (Reg. Office and Factory). VIC. and TAS.—
Scott Bonnar (Vic.) Pty. Ltd., 200 Queen Street, Melbourne. N.S.W.—Scott
Bonnar (Vic.) Pty. Ltd., 259 Clarence Street, Sydney; also 57 Parramatta Road,
Glebe. Qld.—Engineering Supply Co. of Australia Ltd., Brisbane, Rockhampton
and Townsville. W.A.—Harris, Scarfe and Sandovers Ltd., Hay Street, Perth.

Advertisement in the Handbook of the Fifteenth Commonwealth Jubilee

Bowling Carnival, Adelaide February 14th to March 3rd 1951.

THE QUEEN *Petrol Power* LAWNMOWER



SIZES: 20 in. and 24 in.

The Ideal Machine, embodying every new and useful feature of design, for Public Authorities, Schools, Colleges, Local Government Bodies and the Private Householder

Manufactured by SCOTT BONNAR LTD.
33 - 47 HOLLAND STREET, SOUTHWARK, SOUTH AUST.

Queen Model 16 Petrol Mower with a Villiers Mark 25 256cc 4 stroke engine.

www.outdoorliving.com

THE SUPERCUT *Petrol* LAWNMOWER



SIZES: 14, 16, 18, and 20 in.

The Perfect Lawnmower

FOR
Country

BOWLING GREENS
TENNIS COURTS
CRICKET PITCHES
PARKS and GARDENS
INDUSTRIAL AREAS
and for the larger
DOMESTIC LAWNS

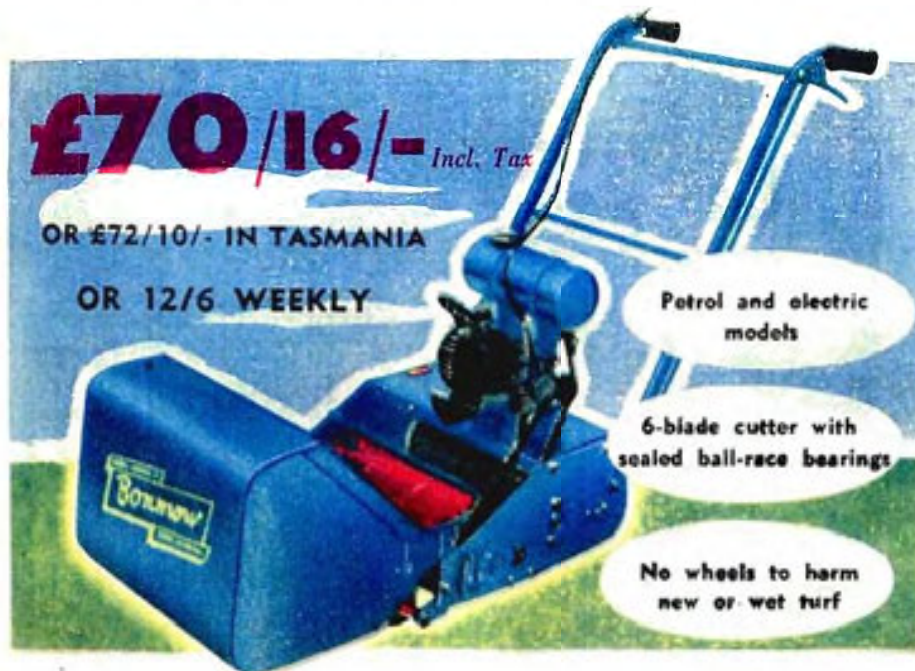
Manufactured by: SCOTT BONNAR LTD.
33 - 47 HOLLAND STREET, SOUTHWARK, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Supercut Model 17 Petrol Mower with a Villiers Mark 25C 147cc 2 stroke engine.

Bonmow

35

The professional-type ROLLER mower designed and built by Scott Bonnar for the home gardener.



Over 30 years experience is embodied in the Bonmow — a professional "park and golf green" type mower for home gardeners. Rear roller of ribbed cast iron provides traction and improves turf. Bottom blade and sole plate are rigidly fixed to maintain permanently correct angle and close cut. Velvet-action clutch. Handsome baked enamel finish. Even nuts are cadmium-plated to prevent rust. A "master" mower your friends will envy!

SERVICE

Complete spare parts and maintenance service by Scott Bonnar agents throughout Australia.



ALLEN Motor Scythe

A rugged, powerful and simple unit for cutting grass, blackberry, etc. 12 optional attachments, including cultivator, plough, harrow and potato hiller.

Phone, write or call for a FREE DEMONSTRATION on your own lawn or property. There's no obligation.

SCOTT BONNAR AUSTRALIA

PTY. LTD.

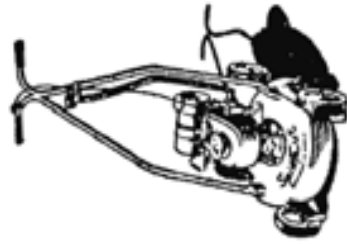
21-25 GOUGER STREET, ADELAIDE - LA 2686
303 ELIZABETH STREET, HOBART - B 1798
27 IPSWICH ROAD, SOUTH BRISBANE - J 4343
259 CLARENCE STREET, SYDNEY - BX 6764
265 BOX HILL ROAD, EAST OAKLEIGH - UJ 1277

Introduced in 1953, the Bonmow Petrol Mower was finished in cobalt blue baked enamel and fitted with a Villiers 2G 70cc 2 stroke engine. Later, the fan cooled 3G was fitted.

Over 30 years of experience has produced the best! . . .

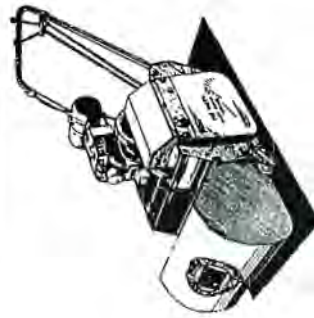
Lawnmowing Equipment . . .

★ Mowing equipment is Scott Bonnar's business! . . . and Scott Bonnar's have put their 30 years' experience to forthright use in producing the "Queen," "Spin-Cut," "Bonmow," etc., machines, which represent THE BEST in lawnmowing equipment.



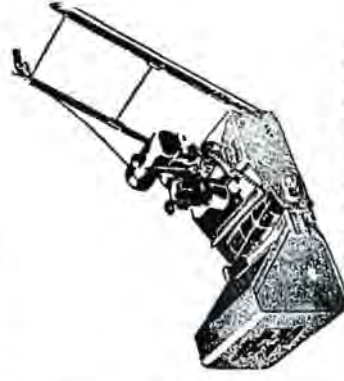
'SPIN-CUT'

The new dual-purpose 16 inch "Spin-Cut" rotary power mower will cut long uneven grass and give a smooth even finish to lawns. £49/15/6



'QUEEN'

The ideal machine embodying every new and useful feature of design, for public authorities, schools, colleges and local government . . . petrol and electric models.



'BONMOW'

The 3G "Bonmow" power mower for domestic lawns. Powered by a Villiers fan-cooled engine for efficient operation under hot conditions . . . £75/15/6 (I.S.T.)



SUPERCUT

The perfect lawnmower for bowling greens, tennis courts, industrial areas and for the larger domestic lawns. Petrol and electric models.



★ This is the Scott Bonnar factory at 33 Holland Street, Southwark, where the four mower models pictured were designed, developed and perfected.

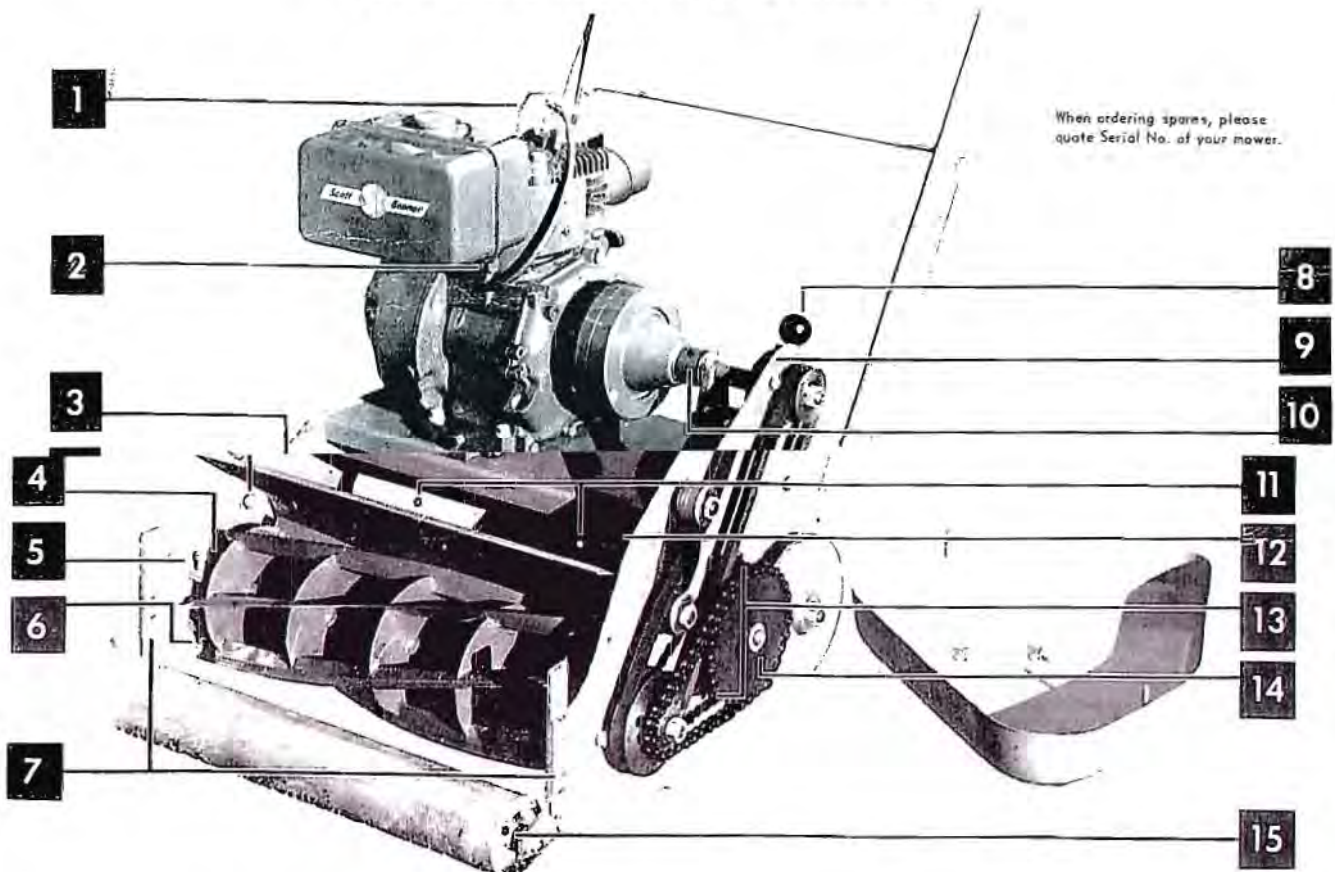
Scott Bonnar Australia Pty. Ltd.

- **Victoria:** 265 Box Hill Road, East Oakleigh, Melbourne.
- **Queensland:** 27 Ipswich Road, South Brisbane.
- **New South Wales:** 259 Clarence Street, Sydney.
- **Tasmania:** 303 Elizabeth Street, Hobart.
- **Western Australia:** Hay Street, Perth.

21-25 GOUGER STREET — ADELAIDE • TELEPHONE: LA 2686 (opp. Moores)

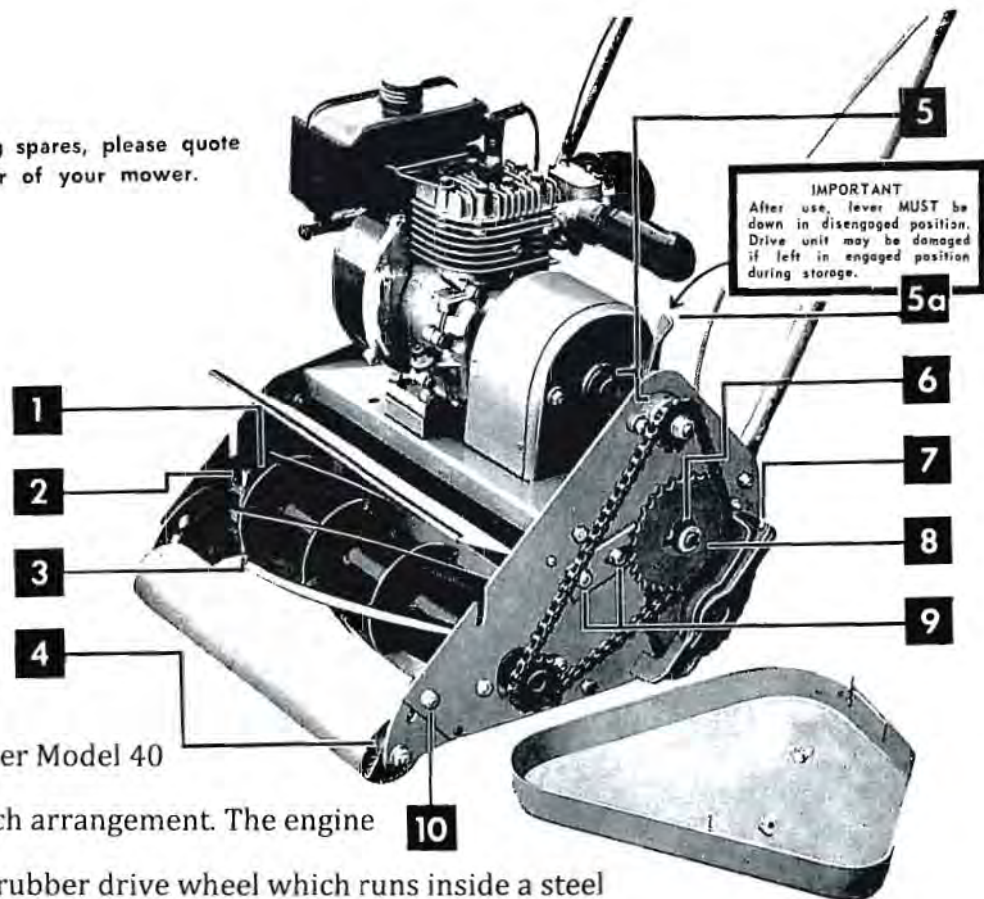


www.outdoorliving.com
 A Scott Bonnar 16' Model 33 mower with
 a Villiers 98cc Mark 3 Midget 2 stroke engine.



A Model 33 with a Kirby-Tecumseh HK 25 2.5 h.p. 4 stroke engine

- When ordering spares, please quote Serial Number of your mower.

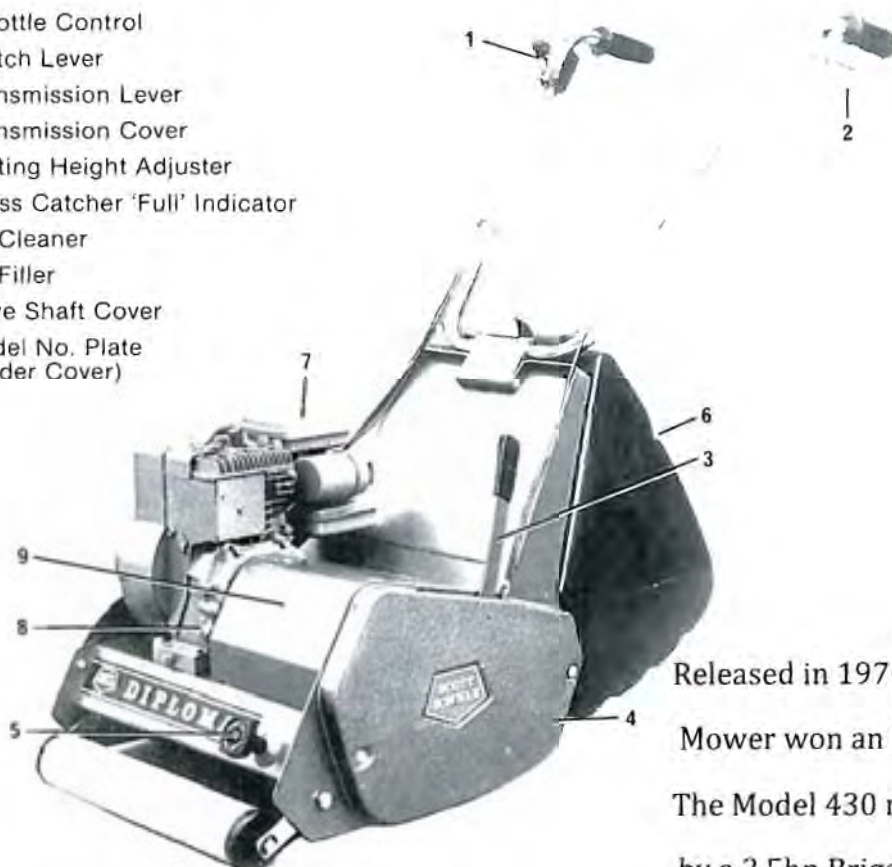


The 14" Petrol Mower Model 40

features a dual clutch arrangement. The engine clutch consists of a rubber drive wheel which runs inside a steel drum. The mower is powered by a Villiers 75cc 4-stroke engine.

DIPLOMAT

1. Throttle Control
 2. Clutch Lever
 3. Transmission Lever
 4. Transmission Cover
 5. Cutting Height Adjuster
 6. Grass Catcher 'Full' Indicator
 7. Air Cleaner
 8. Oil Filler
 9. Drive Shaft Cover
- Model No. Plate
(Under Cover)



Released in 1976, the Diplomat Rear Catcher Mower won an Industrial Design Award.

The Model 430 mower was powered by a 2.5hp Briggs and Stratton engine.



For the best deal
on any Flymo-
Scott Bonnar



BUY NOW FROM
A MEMBER OF M.S.A.A.
MOWER SPECIALISTS ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA

THE FLYMO 19" ROTARY

Buy now the Flymo-Float-on-Air Rotary mower. It cuts mowing time by 60%. Versatile, lightweight (weighs only 30 lb). This air-power mower mulches grass so fine it goes back into the lawn to promote healthy growth. No heavy grass catcher and all-conditions performance allows steep banks, edges and under bushes to be safely controlled. M.S.A.A. Charter Protection and 100% Service. For the Best Deal going on all Flymo Scott Bonnar Mowers, buy where you see the M.S.A.A. Symbol. ARRANGE A HOME DEMONSTRATION OF THE "FLYMO."



**CUTS
MOWING
TIME BY
60%**



SCOTT BONNAR 14" REEL
Engineered to last a lifetime. Self-propelled Scott Bonnar Reel-type mowers are the choice of professional green-keepers. Scissor-like cutting action, choice of 5 models. INSPECT NOW.

FLOATS ON A CUSHION OF AIR—NO WHEELS!

SCOTT BONNAR 18" ROTARY

Featuring Revolutionary 3 cutter-catcher blade design. Impulse starter. Simple height adjustment. A real power-house plus performer. 3 models available from members of M.S.A.A. today.



PRATT & OSBORNE

20" MODEL 45-0431 (Petrol)

Top of the range, the 20" Scott Bonnar brings a mower of magnificent capacity and performance to owners of large domestic lawns. These attributes speak for themselves: 8-blade cutter giving 95 cuts per yard; 3-section rear roller; 2.75 m.p.h. ground speed at 2,000 r.p.m.; 170 lbs. gross weight; Kirby-Tecumseh HK30 3 h.p. 4-stroke engine.



with a heritage of fine features...

- 1 Smoothly operating recoil starter.
- 2 Engine is started without load . . . a separate cutter clutch engages the cutting reel.
- 3 Each model is completely self-propelled. With just the very lightest pressure on the "hair-trigger" clutch the mower will move forward.
- 4 Enclosed drive. All gears and chains are totally enclosed for safety and to prevent clogging with dirt or grass clippings. Hard wearing steel gears give longer life.
- 5 Six blade cutter for 14" and 17" models, 8 blade cutter for 20" model. The Scott Bonnar cutting reel provides a "scissor-like" cut leaving a smooth finish to the grass. Championship Golf putting greens and Davis Cup Tennis Courts are mown with this type of cutter.
- 6 Steel Front Roller. Steel rollers remain true and last longer. They don't swell and stick when wet. Wood wears unevenly leaving an irregular cut.
- 7 Instant cutting height adjustment with the hand-screw front roller adjuster . . . keeps the front roller in permanent parallel with the cutter and bottom blade.
- 8 An adjustable Deflector. Can be varied to suit wet or dry conditions. Thumb screw adjustment makes it simple to get the correct angle of "throw" of the grass clippings into the box.
- 9 The new deep-suction, "non-spill" grassbox has greater capacity than previous models.
- 10 Robust Construction. 10 gauge steel sideframes will resist the knocks that are bound to come . . . no likelihood of distortion with this framework.
- 11 Easy cutter adjustment.

Scott Bonnar self-propelled reel-type mowers are so easy to operate . . . just start and steer . . . it's as easy as that . . . the mower does the rest. Precision spiral cutting blades clip the grass cleanly and evenly, and the rear rollers gently smooth the cut grass into a luxurious carpet of turf.

The Scott Bonnar Model 45 has proved to be an outstanding design and has continued to be produced by Rover/Scott Bonnar Ltd for 30 years.

Appendix A : Mower Production

Electric Mowers 1928 (Annual General Meeting for year ended 30 June, 1928)

During the year our sales in both Brassware and lawnmowers advanced considerably. New customers for our Brass production have been introduced. We also exploited the Sydney market and achieved considerable success in placing many Electric Mowers there. As a result of new ground broken we confidently anticipate a larger volume of trade from that source during the coming season.

Handmower 1930 (Annual General Meeting Report, 1930)

We have commenced manufacture and sale of a new type of hand roller mower and are confident that next season there should be a good demand for this type of machine.

Golf Fairway Mower 1933 (Half Yearly Report, 30 March 1933)

Patterns for a new golf Fairway Mower Unit have been completed and the first machine under test proved so satisfactory that an order for a new mower has been placed by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

Sulky and Gang Mower 1933 (Directors' report for the half year ended 31st December 1933, in March 1934)

Our new Sulky and Gang mowers have been received most favourably and sales have been made freely in this State, also in Victoria, Queensland and to a lesser extent in Western Australia.

Sulky Mowers 1934 (Directors' Report Annual General Meeting 10th August, 1934)

Again, our new Horse Mowers have been received everywhere with extraordinary enthusiasm and the results obtained from the use of the first machines have been so very gratifying to the owners that recommendations to other buyers have been quite voluntary, with a consequence that sales have been stimulated.

Electric and Hand Mowers 1933 (Directors' Report, March 1934)

Electric power and hand roller type lawnmowers have sold freely, particularly in this State, where the sales have been almost as satisfactory as at any period in the past.

New Type Units 1935 (Letter from M. C. Bonnar, 18/5/1935)

I am afraid we have not made much headway in this line yet, as the Ajax engine and Die Casting machine have taken a lot of Sid's time lately. He has been away ill for the last couple of weeks. I intend pushing ahead with suggestions on this Unit with 10" cutter and steel frames as soon as he returns.

Ajax Mower 1935 (Letter from M. C. Bonnar 18th July 1939)

Dear Reg... (Marsten, Sydney Manager)

I suppose you know that the two test Ajax machines sent to Melbourne were with Howard Engines which caused a good deal of alterations and expense. However, we have 4 engines arriving next week from the JAP people and I hope to stick to the JAP. They are a good bit cheaper without the duty free and we hope any day to get word from the Tariff Board that they will admit them free.

We are getting three machines built up ready for the engines when they arrive, two for you and one for Melbourne.

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Ajax Mower 1939 (Letter from M. C. Bonnar, 12/5/39)

Dear Arthur... (Smith, Manager, Melbourne Branch)

... Again these machines cost us to make approximately £120 to deliver at the Factory Door. They pay us locally but not to an Agent. So long as you make a good profit on them its not so bad, but at £120 it's no good to anyone. However, we hope to improve our production cost by about a fiver plus Duty off, but I am afraid we will never be able to make them with a trailer for less than £110. Wages are all going up again next month and materials are gradually on the rise.

Centenary Mower 1939 (letter from M. C. Bonnar 18th July, 1939)

Dear Claude... (Dewar, Company Secretary)

We went to see the Briggs and Stratton 4 stroke mower at Knock and Kirby. Reg Marsten (Sydney Manager) was disgusted with Sid's attempts at the 4 stroke on the Centenary and said Sid was too old fashioned and behind the times. I told him strongly I would not stand such criticism of anyone.

Cheaper Mower 1953 Bonmow 14" (Minutes of conference at Southwark, 26th October, 1953)

A cheaper power mower should be given urgent priority. Mr Potter (Manager, Melbourne) considered that the following points should be observed:

- The new mower must be a roller type.
- Must sell only Scott Bonnar mowers and carry no opposition
- Many Department and big stores were very interested in a machine of this description and a 15% discount was considered satisfactory.
- It was of general opinion that no clutch was required.

Engines: That Mr Potter discuss with Mr Ryan when he visits Melbourne the question of import licences for engines including our requirements of approx. 500 60cc Villiers engines costing about £5000 per annum for the cheaper mowers.

Hayter type mower: Priority be given to the cheaper mower before considering the possible production of a Hayter type of mower.

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Allen Scythe 1935 (Letter from M. C. Bonnar 18/5/1935)

Dear Reg ... (Marsten, Sydney Manager),

What do you think of the Allen Scythe? We are not very impressed with them here, being rather expensive, heavy to turn and on the slow side.

Allen Scythe 1952 (Managers' Conference 17th January, 1952)

Mr John Allen felt that 180 scythes was not a satisfactory order for South Australia and that in his opinion there was a much bigger scope for these machines in this State. He suggested that an additional order for 70 machines should be placed for the ensuing year as he expected a considerable improvement following new arrangements being made and the appointment of more agents.

Allen Scythe 1953 (Sales Conference held at Gouger Street 6th July 1953)

In Victoria and N.S.W. there was a very limited market for Scythes for Councils and Golf Clubs. The rotary disc cutters (such as Najon and Hayter) were preferred for this type of work as the scythe was too slow. The main market was now in the agricultural field.

Mower stock in Melbourne, 1952 (Conference held at Southwark, 1952).

5	12"	Ace
2	14"	Supercut electric
2	14"	Standard electric
1	18"	Supercut electric
1	20"	Supercut electric
3	24"	Queen electric
1	18"	Supercut petrol
3	24"	Queen petrol
1	30"	Ajax
2	3 gang	Eagle
1	30"	Eagle unit

Projected mower Production 1953/54 (Conference, April 1953, at Southwark).

- Suggested production for 12 months from 1/7/1953, subject to revision when more specific requirements known, as under:

500 Supercut

150 Queen

300 Eagle

50 Light Unit (Bonmow)

= 1,000 units

- Suggested that the Ajax mower be discontinued owing to high cost and power unit difficulty. Suggested fit bigger power unit on Queen petrol mower and supply trailer seat if required.

Notes

- These conference items from 1952 and 1953 suggest that 1952 was the last year of production of the old cast iron framed Ace and Standard Electric mowers which began around 1928.
- It seems 1953 was the last year for the large Ajax mower.
- The projected production figures for 1953/54 show the first appearance of the light domestic petrol and electric Bonmow 14" mower.

Appendix B: Agencies and Branches

Agency in Victoria 1928 (Annual General Meeting for the Year ended 30th June 1928)

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed on 11/4/28 between Messrs Scott Bonnar Ltd of Adelaide and Victor H. Moodie of Melbourne, Manufacturers Agent, whereby it was agreed that Scott Bonnar shall employ V. H. Moodie as their representative for the sale of their manufactures in Victoria.

Agency in NSW 1930 (Directors Report, Half Yearly Meeting, 27th March 1930)

Arrangements were completed for the appointment of the Industrial Bearing Company of Aust. Ltd. As representatives for the sale of our Electric Lawnmowers in New South Wales, and a substantial turnover is guaranteed from the State for a period of five years. Our depot has been closed in Sydney.

New Agency in Victoria 1933 (Meeting 3rd May 1933)

A proposal was presented for the formation of a new company to operate in Victoria, for the purpose of distributing lawnmower products from the factory of Scott Bonnar Ltd, South Australia.

It is suggested that Mr Scott Bonnar would establish and manage the business for the first twelve months, but would during the slacker winter period be a liberty to come through to Adelaide to confer on any innovations or improvements in the manufacturing process.

Agency in Victoria 1934 (Directors' Report, Annual General Meeting 10th August 1934)

Again, Mr Scott Bonnar is now personally controlling our Agency in Victoria, and as a consequence we have acquired quite a large share of the very substantial Victorian trade in lawnmowers.

Proposal for the formation of a New Company to operate in Victoria 1934

It is suggested that Mr Scott Bonnar would establish and manage the new company...

It is estimated that the capital required would be £1,500, and of this amount some portion could be found by Mr Scott Bonnar privately, and a further part would be represented by stock to be furnished from the factory, who propose to

take an interest in the new company to the extent of say £250, the stock supplied being valued at this figure.

Trade in Victoria, N.S.W and N.Z. 1936 (Annual General Meeting 21st September 1936)

Our lawnmower trade in new South Wales and Victoria, which is cared for by Scott Bonnar (Vic) Pty Ltd, has been good and a pleasing development has been the call for our machines from New Zealand, where indications point to our opening up a good market.

Agency in Victoria purchased by the Company 1937 (Report for Annual General meeting 11th October 1937)

At the close of the year we purchased the whole of the shares in the Company established by Mr Scott Bonnar and which operated in both New South Wales and Victoria under the name of Scott Bonnar (Vic) Pty Ltd.

This channel of distribution became such an important one that it was deemed advisable to secure its control and today in both States we have live agencies, which are, in reality, branches of the parent organization in Adelaide.

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Scott Bonnar on an Overseas Trip 1937 (AGM 11th October 1937)

Mr Scott Bonnar is at present overseas and I feel that we will derive much benefit as a result of his trip extending over three continents. He is interesting himself primarily in seeking out new processes of manufacture, and modern factory equipment, and on his return through South Africa I hope that it will be possible for him to establish suitable trade connections there.

Agency in South Africa 1939 (Annual General Meeting Report September 1939)

Trade with South Africa developed to some extent and with a view to the extension of our circle of operations, an arrangement was made with Mr Scott Bonnar for representation in Johannesburg. Owing to the fact that his entry into the field in South Africa only dates from April last, it is not yet possible to record results...

Agency in New Zealand 1939 (AGM September 1939)

New Zealand, owing to financial conditions there, has almost ceased to be a market for us, and the prospects for the immediate future in this direction could scarcely be described as encouraging.

Appendix C : Wartime

Abundant orders, some models laid aside 1941 (Annual General Meeting Directors Report 30th September 1941)

Lawn mowers have been sought after to an extent that has exceeded our capacity to produce, and enquiries have been received from quite a number of overseas houses.

Certain lines have of necessity been eliminated from our production list but patterns and tools remain in good condition so that when the opportunity again arises, we will renew manufacture of those articles which have been temporarily placed on one side.

Wartime restrictions 1945 (Managing Director's Report, first Six Months of Year 12th March 1945)

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We have endless difficulties due to war restrictions. The staff are all working well, but the Technical Operators generally have slowed down by at least 10% compared with pre-war days. Shortage of manpower restricts us from taking the necessary steps with the individual to get the required discipline and pep in the factory.

The Brassware, with the absence of junior labour, now unprocurable, and continued absenteeism especially among women, make the turnover difficult to increase. Abundance of orders continue to arrive and costs as far as we can ascertain, are satisfactory.

Shortage of Engines and Labour 1945 (MD Report, March 1945)

It is now the twelfth day of March and this marks the period when Defence Contracts are closing. Very few suitable contracts appear to be coming our way at present, although, if we could get engines, we would have ample orders to manufacture lawnmowers for some months to come. The call for Mower Spare Parts is heavy, causing delay in manufacturing new mowers with our limited staff of mechanics at the factory.

Agency in South Africa- financial problems 1940 (Letter from M. C. Bonnar)

Dear Scott,

It is with very mixed feelings I write you this personal letter as your refusal to meet the Draft due this month will complicate matters very much. We received your cable last Friday week, the 5th, and as we were sending you another shipment by the Dutch boat on Monday, we did not say anything to Melvin. By working overtime Friday and Saturday we could have got at least 2 of the 18" machines you asked for, but the shipping would not take them as they said they were full.

However, only today we informed the Bank that you could not meet the whole of that £670 Draft... ...Never-the-less Melvin is very concerned about it, as we knew he would be, hence the delay in telling him until the last shipment had gone.

... At the monthly meeting last week Harrington at first refused to pay your interim dividend to your account until some money was forthcoming from you as the account now is over £3,000 against you. Certainly £1,000 of it is still on the water, but you should have by now received the big shipment sent from here on 6th December, also engines from England. I discussed the situation on these lines in your favour. This means that your dividends on Ordinary Shares of about £117 plus £50 Director's fees will be paid into your account. This will provide sufficient money to pay the Bill until July if no other account is overdrawn against you...

...Altogether your actions generally are disappointing and we are losing confidence in just what you are doing. The monthly report as to the position as promised are not regular, we have no idea at present what you have sold or what kind of mowers to prepare for you. At present you have on order:

- 8 - 18" Standard Electrics
- 2 - 24" Electrical
- 2 - 20" Deluxe