



The Line Shaft

The Official Newsletter of the

NORTH JERSEY ANTIQUE ENGINE & MACHINE CLUB

April 2018



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Founded on October 15th, 1979 by: Arthur Goble, Fred W. Westbrook, John Snook, Roy Bischoff & Lewis Quince

The March 8th meeting was canceled due to "SNOW" ...actually two back-to-back NOR'EASTERS, with a 3rd as a follow-up & a 4th as we go-to-press!



**Note: we are planning on having (2) Plow Days in April...see page 4...
Coordinate with Chuck!**

Due to the cancellation of the March meeting, we are extending the deadline for dues payment until April 12th...the next meeting...If there is a RED check mark in the box below, our records indicate you have not paid your 2018 dues...as of 3/19/18:



Our next meeting will be at 7 PM on April 12th at the SHED!

67 Branchville Lawson Rd., Newton NJ 07860

Saint Patrick's Day Parade...Newton NJ

March 17th 2018



Weather:
Cold, but
sunny &
clear!

**Township
Misses
hitch a ride
on club
trailer!**



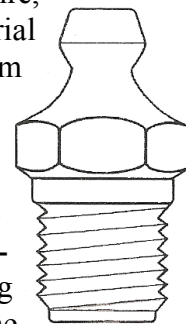
**Members participating
In the parade:**

- Blace Flatt Ford 8N
- Bill Castimore MF 135
- Linda Klim Oliver 660
- Chuck Klim Oliver 550

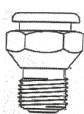


The Zerk (or Alemite) Lube Fitting...Oscar Zerk, 1878-1968

The origins of the common grease fitting and grease gun go back to the early 1900's and two interrelated people, Oscar Zerk and Arthur Gulborg. Born in Vienna, in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, Oscar Zerk had built himself a name for engineering in the European automotive and industrial communities. Among his contributions were several engine designs, a "fail-safe" brake system for trolleys and trams and a process for dyeing women's "panty-hose" (his Dad was in the textile manufacturing business). He immigrated to the United States in the early part of the 20th century and founded and became head engineer of the *Allyne-Zerk Company* of Cleveland, Ohio. Among his products was the "Zerk", a small single-size ball and nipple grease fitting invented in 1907 and developed over the next decades...and what was called the "**Push-Type Lubrication System**". This system (with 3000 psi gun) did not mechanically lock-on the fitting and used hand pressure to hold and seal the grease coupling to the fitting. In 1922 thru 1924 he "personally" applied for patents covering the grease fitting, grease gun and an updated system. He received the initial patent #1475980 in 1923.

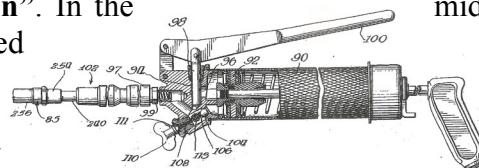


Arthur Gulborg was co-owner (with his Dad) of the *Alemite Die Casting and Manufacturing Company* of Chicago Ill., and it was his job to hand-lubricate the die casting equipment...a very labor-intensive task in a very labor-intensive era. In 1916 he invented and received patent #1307733 for the "**Alemite High-Pressure Lubricating System**", using a screw-in-coupler, a hose and a screw-type grease gun. In 1922 *Alemite* developed the "Button-Head System", a lock-on type of fitting that allowed for easy installation and removal of the grease gun. The button-head came in a variety of sizes and joined the Zerk in varied applications in the automotive, farm, railroad, mining, construction and marine industries. *Alemite* was purchased and became a division of *Stewart-Warner* in 1924.



Also in 1924, *Stewart-Warner-Alemite* purchased the *Allyn-Zerk Company*...for cash and stock...and continued production of the "Zerk" and *Allyn-Zerk* lube equipment under a license and royalty arrangement. In 1927 and 1929 Oscar (now working as a stock holder-employee of Alemite) again "personally" received patents for further updates to the "push-type" grease system. Eventually, he used the proceeds from his company's sale and royalties to found another business and to develop other products...among them the "stamped" steel wheel rim and a new concept, the "hub cap". In 1938 and extremely wealthy (mostly due to the cash and stock of the *Alemite* sale and royalties from the Zerk...*which had become and still is, the worlds leading grease fitting*), he retired to a mansion in Kenosha, Wisconsin and founded a private museum of paleontology...the study of pre-historic life. At the time of Oscar's death in 1968, he had 300 patents to his credit and it was estimated that 20 billion "Zerk" or "Alemite Fittings" had been manufactured worldwide.

Several other people bear mentioning in the development of the grease fitting and gun. As previously mentioned, the original Zerk and push-type grease gun were connected by hand pressure only and was a relatively low pressure system. In the mid 20's Vanus Fogleberg of the *E. Edleman Co.* put a groove below the head of the Zerk and patented the "**Sliding Sleeve/Pin-on Positive Connection**". In the mid 30's Joseph Bystricky of *Stewart-Warner-Alemite* developed and patented the **Lever Action High Pressure Grease Gun** (10,000 lb.), with a grooved Zerk and a positive lock jaw type coupler. Finally, in 1941 Edwin Sundholm of Superior Manufacturing patented the "**Multijaw Chuck-Type Hydraulic Snap-On Coupler**", patent #2,311,097...with an undercut Zerk and a 3-jaw nipple-gripping-coupler...a Bystricky-Alemite styled coupler, that was and is essentially the same coupling we use today.



- It is important to note that Oscar Zerk patented and continued to patent up-dates to the "Zerk" and his lube equipment and made a small fortune in the process. Many "inventors" seem to miss this step and walk away with little more than a well done!
- Alemite Corp. previously sold off from Stewart-Warner, was purchased in 2006 and joined Lincoln Industrial as a unit of the Lincoln Lube Group.
- Pews & Edleman, a present day manufacturer and supplier of lubrication equipment, traces its history to both the Edleman and Superior Companies.

NJAE&MC - Upcoming Events

Spring Plow Days #1

Event coordinator: Chuck Klim 973/903-3583

4/21/18 & Location to be announced

Spring Plow Days #2

Event coordinator: Chuck Klim 973/903-3583

4/28/18 at Castimore's Farm , Route 206N in Frankfort NJ

MTA Swap Meet & Military Vehicle Show

Event coordinator: to be announced

4/21-22/18 at the Fairgrounds

Branchville Memorial Day Parade

Event coordinator: to be announced

Date & Location to be announced

Lafayette Day/Car, Truck & Equipment Show

Event coordinator: to be announced

Date & Location to be announced

Sparta 4th of July Parade

Event coordinator: to be announced



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Albert Muys III

1946-2018

We are sorry to report the March 22nd passing of club member Albert Muys, father of Mary Muys and Paulette Hendershot. Our condolences go out to all of the Muys and Hendershot families, who are "all" extremely active members of our club.

Rest in Peace Albert!



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