



Canadian MeccaNotes

--- EXTRA ---

Nov. 2003

Gordon & Norma Frank at
the Leduc West Antique
Society July 2003



Gordon
Frank
1938-2003



Editor's Notes

Sad News from Alberta, Canada

Unfortunately, I have to report that Gordon Frank unexpectedly died at home on November 16, 2003. He was only 65 years old and was a long time farmer living outside St. Albert, northwest of Edmonton.

Gordon had been very active in the Meccano community, he had just returned from a trip to the Toronto Hobby Show last week where he renewed his friendships with others in the hobby. His widow, Norma Frank, reported that he was ecstatic and flying high after returning from his most recent trip. Last year, he was voted as "Meccanoman of the Year" by the Canadian Modelling Association for Meccano and Allied Systems.



For the last few years Gordon has been exhibiting at the Leduc West Antique Society every summer and has presented a large exhibit at "Power From the Past" in St. Albert a couple of times.

Gordon produced some fantastic models during his Meccano career, some of them are pictured in this report. He was a very good modeller and tinkerer, no doubt helped by his long association with machinery of all types.

Gordon Frank's "Farming for Meccano" website by Georgette Nunnamaker:

<http://www.angelfire.com/art/meccano/>

David Williams



Canadian MeccaNotes

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"Written and produced by Meccano enthusiasts for Meccano enthusiasts."

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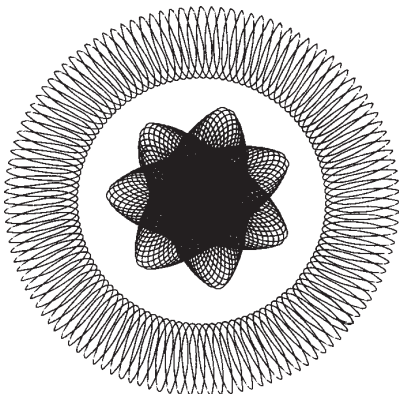
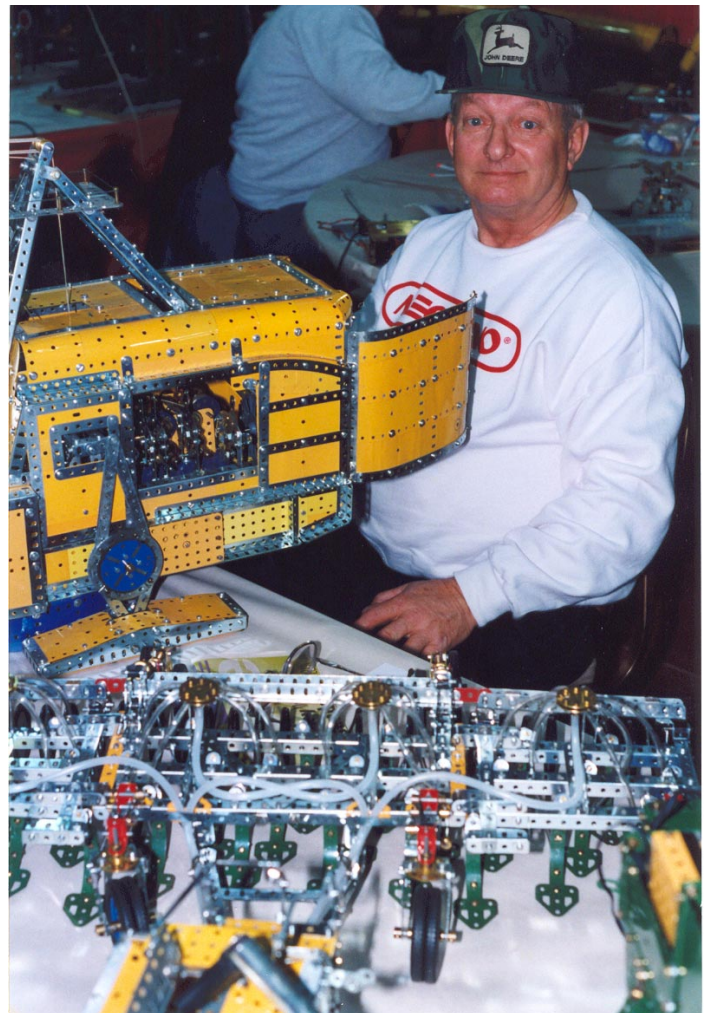
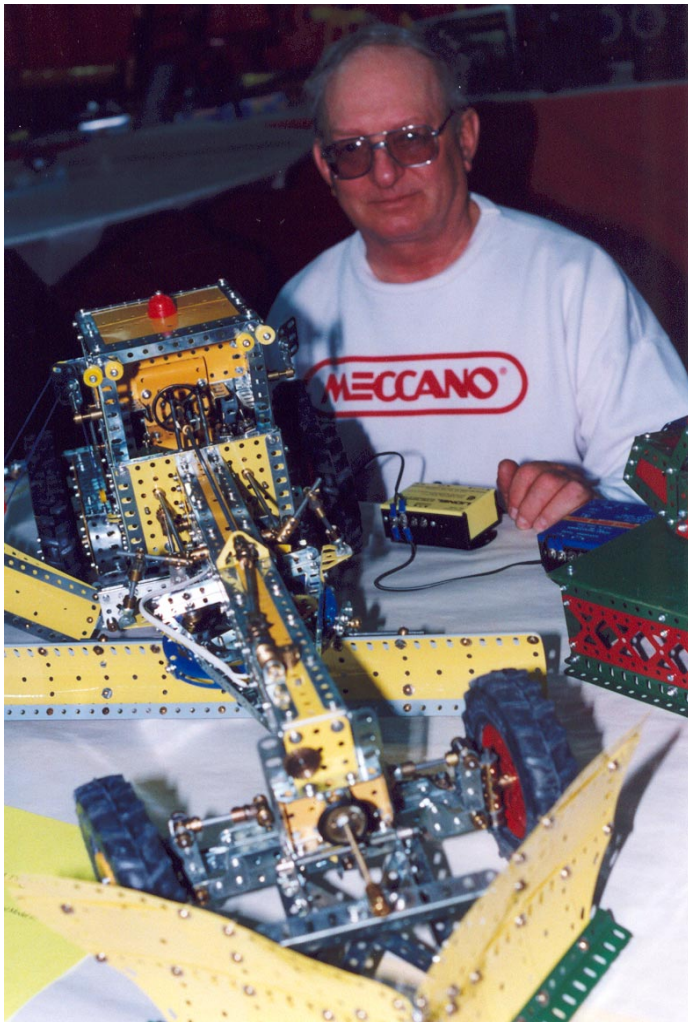
Meccanoman of the Year 2002

The photo below shows Colin Hoare, President of the CMAMAS, presenting this award to Gordon Frank in Toronto.



Red Deer Hobby Show 1999

Gordon enthusiastically joined in a display of Meccano models at Red Deer. Pictured on the right are Gordon, Greg Rahn, David Williams, Eric Sinton, Phil Kraaikamp, Bill Cook and John Kraaikamp.



Leduc West Antique Society

Gordon took a break from the farm in July to exhibit models at Leduc. He also took a ride on an antique IHC "C" tractor.

The top two photos are from 2002. The other photos, as well as the front cover photos, are from 2003.



Gordon and Fred



**Left:
Gordon
with
the
Mayor
of
Leduc**



Reaction from "Spanner"

"Spanner" is an Internet mailing list all about Meccano in which Gordon enjoyed participating. These are some of the reactions from Gordon's friends around the world.

I'm in shock.....

I would appreciate any word as to when the funeral is.....

I will let Bill Cook know as he is not on spanner as of now.....

Greg Rahn

Cochrane, Alberta, Canada gsrahn@shaw.ca
ISM845 and CS1

It is very sad news that you bring us. The death of any person is a sad event and more so when you know the person well.

Gordon had a love of Meccano and his thoughts and viewpoint were appreciated. Our condolences to Norma.

Wes Dalefield wes@dalefield.com

Loudoun Heights, Virginia www.dalefield.com

Hello everyone,

Gordon Frank came in from Alberta to the Toronto Hobby Show with his model of the JCB 930 Rough Terrain Fork Lift, MW Modelplans No. 136. I present the attached photo to you all in his memory. It's a fine model, just like all his others. I am fortunate to have many photos of the models he brought to Toronto over a period of several years.



Gordon was always fun to be around. He was always cheerful and always looked at the happier side of life. His jokes kept everyone around him happy and laughing. A farmer who is also a skilled Meccano builder is an educational bonanza. Thanks to him, many more children know - and

will remember - where their food comes from. He has built a number of fine models of farm equipment. The first one I saw was his combine harvester, a model of a machine he actually operated on his farm. He was always ready and willing to exhibit and talk about his models at schools and other groups. That's one of the reasons he got the Canadian Meccanoman of the Year award, which was well deserved.

A few years ago, Gordon and Norma visited us at our home in California while on vacation. The Meccano community will suffer with Gordon's loss. Kim and I offer our most heartfelt condolences to Norma.

Charlie Pack

Los Altos Hills, Calif. USA (San Francisco Bay area)

This is very sad news indeed. I had spent a short time with Gordon at the Toronto Hobby Show last weekend, and had discussed my time spent in Medicine Hat during my teenage years.

Please pass our condolences to Norma, from the Montreal Meccano enthusiasts.

Regards, Jim Bobyn in Montreal

I am truly sorry to hear this sad news.

Regards, Madhav ("Manu") M. Bhalerao

Alpharetta, Georgia, USA

This is not only sad news, it's very shocking, to me, anyway. Gordon seemed perfectly well at the Hobby Show and was pleased as peaches when I handed him a big box of his 2002 parts, which he had been waiting so long for (it still didn't complete all of what is still owed to him, though).

I'm glad at least that he got the well-deserved MotY award before we lost him, and that I had one last chance to chat with him.

Poor Norma - she must be going to pieces.

Lynn Krause, Toronto

Words cannot describe the sense of loss I feel. Gordon was a very special Meccanoman, one whose enthusiasm for the hobby, and whose love of life in general made him very special. We will all miss him.

Sincerely, Colin Hoare, Toronto

Sad news from Alberta

Ladies and gentlemen,

This message is being sent to all of the attendees to "The Hobby Show" just over a week ago, who, to my knowledge, are not subscribers to Spanner.

David Williams has just sent an e-mail informing everyone that Gordon Frank passed away very suddenly last night. Gordon has been an enthusiastic Meccanoman for quite a few years, and has participated in several Hobby Shows. He was awarded the Canadian Meccanoman of the Year in 2002. To me, and I am sure to all of us, Gordon was a very special person. His infectious enthusiasm for everything he did will be just one of my cherished memories of him. He was a skilled Meccanoman, and we will all miss him.

In sorrow,

Colin Hoare

President, Canadian Modelling Association for Meccano & Allied Systems

I am very sad to hear this. 65 is far too young. I remember the enthusiasm with which he described some of his farm models on Spanner although he hasn't been such a regular contributor in recent months. I suppose it is some tiny consolation that he'd had such a happy time at the Toronto show. Please pass on my sympathy to Norma.

Just, very very sad news.

Chris Bourne

London UK

I am sorry to hear this sad news.

Rob Beijersbergen

Breda, The Netherlands E-mail
rbeyersb@wanadoo.nl

hello spanners,

i have received the news of gordon's death with shock and sadness. i spoke to him at the recent hobby show and he appeared hale and hearty at that time. i told him that i considered him to be a fantastic modeller and that i was in awe of his creations. he immediately discounted my opinions and mentioned several other meccanomen present



whom he considered better modellers than himself. i found his deferential opinions to be curiously sincere. i inquired whether he kept all his models or dismantled them, he laughingly explained that he kept as many as his wife would allow but that his basement was running out of space. what a shame it would be if these creations were dismantled for parts. better by far if they were placed in a museum to inspire others as they have inspired me, in my humble opinion. the canadian meccano community has lost a shining star.

regards, jim hughes

toronto, canada

Very sorry to hear this news. I, of course, never met Gordon, but we did have some internet exchanges at times. Like others, I have always been highly impressed with his models, particularly those based on his farming knowledge - "John Deere" always comes to mind when viewing them, doubtless because of his irreverent and far more realistic use of green and yellow in all the right places!

Please pass on Mary's and my sincere sympathy to his family.

Regards, Graham.

Graham Jost, Melbourne, Australia
gsjost@melbpc.org.au

Shocking news - one of Spanners long time members and contributors and a great Meccanoman. I only knew Gordon through the pages of Spanner and the internet, but he will be a great loss to the fraternity.

In sorrow, Tony Press, Melbourne.

So sorry to hear of the news of Gordon's passing. I was fortunate enough to have met him and his wife Norma two years ago when they came to BC for a visit and stayed overnight.

Gordon was well known by most of the Meccano followers here in British Columbia and will be sadly missed.

Gordon showed so much enthusiasm for our hobby that I often wondered if when buying new equipment for the farm he thought of how nice a model he could make from the original full sized unit. I can picture him running out to the barn with tape measure in hand to get the proper scale for a particular section of the model he was building.

I don't know what the family's plans are for Gordon's website as it would be a shame to see it discontinued so may I suggest that all his excellent models displayed on it be transferred to the CMAMAS site to be shared with all current and future modellers in memory of a truly dedicated Meccano hobbyist.

The phrase "Farming for Meccano" will be a reminder of him forever.

Jim Picton

Maple Ridge, B.C.

Hello,

I give my deepest condolences to all concerned.

Dave Bradley

Central England

Spanners and especially Norma Frank

I too would like to express my condolences - especially to Norma and the Canadian Meccano community - on the sad occasion of Gordon's passing at such a young age. (At age 49, 65 is not that far away!)

I never met Gordon in person but we did exchange a series of off-Spanner emails some years back. Canada has always been near the top of my list of places that I would like to visit and Gordon generously extended an invitation to visit him should I manage to venture that far from NZ. I really would have enjoyed that.

I do hope that it will be possible for Gordon's model-building legacy to live on in some way. It would be a real shame if all those wonderful models got disassembled for parts before they were photographed and described in sufficient detail for others to build them. Perhaps CMAMAS could produce a series of special modelplans?

John Stark, Nelson, NZ. ISM 0479.

An unpleasant surprise - especially when so unexpected. I suppose that, when our time comes, we would all like to go as quickly and painlessly as possible and that may be one positive aspect of Gordon's sudden passing. Very hard on Norma, though.

I hadn't seen Gordon since the last Hobby Show in Red Deer but he called me two or three weeks before the Toronto Hobby Show, which he was

going to attend, to discuss with me the hardened bolts he wanted to use to build the same (CQ) Gyroscope model that I had shown at the Red Deer Hobby Show.

That led to a long and pleasant chat about many other aspects of our shared hobby. He was a "late developer" in Meccano but more than made up for that with his enthusiasm and zest and inventiveness and Norma played no small part in encouraging that and sharing in his pleasure. I wonder if there has ever been a builder more prolific than Gordon has been in these few years that he enjoyed in the hobby?! Obviously, his passing leaves a very large gap in the Meccano scene in Alberta and far beyond.

Eric Sinton, Red Deer

Once Gordon and Norma were on a vacation from the cold of Canada in February 2000 and visited my home in Albuquerque and we had a wonderful few hours together going over Meccano items. Once he remarked on Spanner that for Christmas in his stocking he would like some Meccano Auto headlights I had in my collection. I think he may have better now in his collection on high. Condolences to Norma.

Bob Galler

I am deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Gordon Frank. I very much enjoyed his delightful company only a few days ago at the Toronto Hobby Show.

Don Morton

Victoria BC

Likewise, we are also saddened by Gordon's passing. It seems unreal that only a few days ago we were joking together at the Hobby Show.

A great loss indeed.

Phil and Yoke Lin Edwards

Phil Edwards Webmaster, Southern California Meccano & Erector Club www.scmec.us

My sympathies to Gordon's family and friends. I enjoyed reading his contributions to Spanner.

Patrick

Johannesburg

Hello everyone,

On behalf of the Executive of C. M. A. M. A. S., and all our members, I want to express my thanks to everyone who has sent condolences over the news that Gordon Frank passed away so suddenly. Without a doubt, this news has shocked us all, and we share in Norma's grief. As several people have commented, when we saw Gordon at the Hobby Show less than ten days ago, he was as jovial as ever, and he was great company. Without a doubt, he - like the other two of our members who departed this earth earlier this year, Don Pearson and Jerry Dubois - will be sorely missed.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Hoare

President, Canadian Modelling Association for Meccano & Allied Systems

Jim Picton wrote:

>The phrase "Farming for Meccano" will be a reminder of him forever.

Yes, indeed.

Requiescat in pace.

Howard Somerville



Sandy and I heard today the devastating news about Gordon.

Please, please convey our heartfelt sympathy to Norma. She is very much in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time of bereavement.

It was only in April last year that Sandy and I were so hospitably received by Gordon and Norma into their home and accompanied on a tour to visit all you kind folk. He was so dedicated to our hobby and went to great lengths to send us regular material for our newsletter here in S. Africa.

On behalf of the Johannesburg Meccano Hobby-ists and both my wife Sandy and I, please express our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to dear Norma.

Dave and Sandy Feinstein.

Dave Feinstein Johannesburg, South Africa.
meccano.za@global.co.za

Hello Spanners, Having just returned from a trip

to Ottawa and New York to visit with new friends, both meccano and motorcycle, I returned to learn the passing of Gordon Frank. Gordon made me feel at home at my first meccano show and although my communications with him were few, I feel a great loss. A heart felt hug to you Norma.

Bruce Vanschepem, Calgary

Power From The Past

Much closer to home, Gordon put on a fine display at Power From The Past in St. Albert, set in an old grain elevator.

