Traction Front Suspension Tools

COCA Spare Parts Officer, Peter Boyle is as you might expect, a "man of many parts", and he demonstrated his knowledge and versatility once again at the April CCOCA General Meeting.

Peter gave a rather impromptu talk on the subject of: Special Tools for the Traction Front Suspension. We were fortunate to also have present Gerald Propsting, well-known for his meticulous work in restoring and maintaining Tractions, and the approaches and comments of these two experienced and knowledgable experts made for an entertaining and valuable evening. New member, Graham Barton, also provided valuable input to the evening.

For those not 100 percent familiar with the topic, the illustrations herewith (adapted from Front Drive 10 (1) May/June 1986) will help to make matters clear.

The special tools which Peter demonstrated have been made up for CCOCA by marine engineer, Dennis Walton, and incorporate improvements from the original factory designs, based on experience and refinement. As such, they may differ in detail appearance from the tools illustrated.

The individual tools shown were: hub remover; inner locking ring remover; lower suspension ball pin extractor; and upper suspension ball pin extractor (the latter is not illustrated, but consists of a shallow threaded body which carries a threaded extractor bolt and which screws into the ball-joint eve in the upper suspension arm). An adaptor is being developed for the hub remover so that it can function as an outer bearing remover as well. This full kit of tools is available from CCOCA Spare Parts for an all-up price of \$250 approx., but individual tools can be ordered separately.

Also displayed for examination during the evening was an example of the "modernised" version of the Traction driveshaft (Outer) assembly (item 19 in the illustration), manufactured as a new item by Peacock Engineering in the UK. This particular shaft is one of a pair brought in by Graham Barton, by the simple expedient of phoning John Gillard at "The Arches" in London and quoting his credit card number. Delivery by air was completed in a fortnight from ordering at an all-up price of about \$A 1050 for the pair.

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The Peacock shafts are of all-new materials and incorporate the rubber-boot sealed Rzeppa (6 ball) constant velocity joint from the front axle of the Range Rover, and are a direct bolt-up replacement for the Traction outer driveshaft assembly (item 19 in the illustration). It was commented that wear in the cardan sliding splines may largely occur in the outer (male or shaft) section, since replacing the shaft

section (eg. with Peacock outer shaft) seems to remove any play.

For people with concerns about the state of the cardan joint assembly (item 21 in the illustration), it should be noted that an alternative complete shaft replacement is available in the UK (ie. equivalent to items 19 and 21 together). This also incorporates the Range Rover joint (very long life), but its modern cardan joint is not interchangeable with the original Traction item. I think these complete shafts are being produced by Roger Williams.

Gerald Propsting notes that standard CV crosses (as at 20 in illustration) are now selling at \$A 250 each (four per pair of shafts), and hence it is really more economic to replace with the modern shafts when they can be landed here for just over \$1000 per pair.

Overall, a very successful technical evening.

Bill Graham.

Technical Notes .. and so on

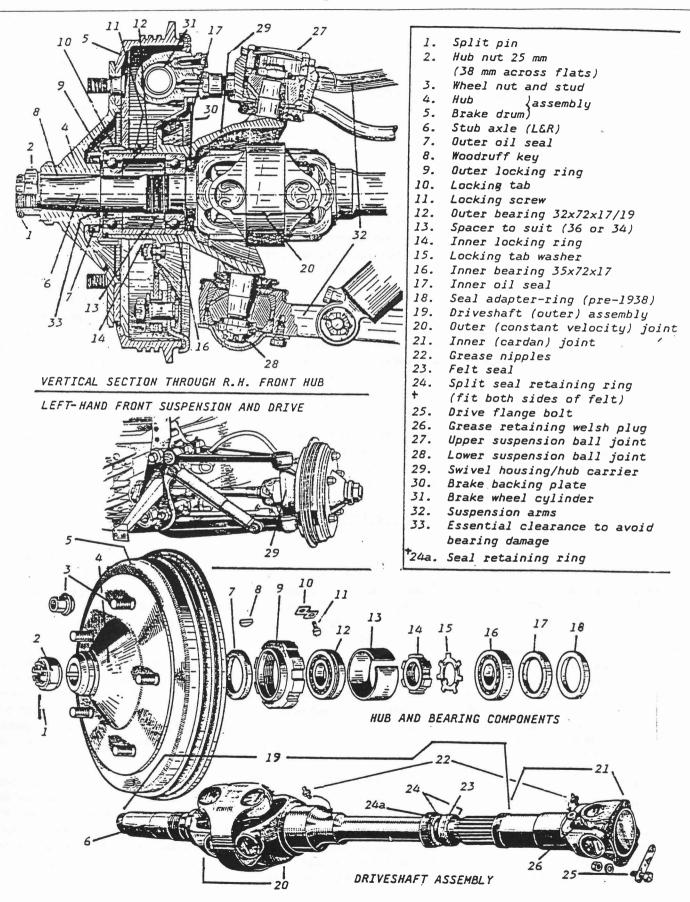
lsewhere we have observed on the positive clamouring from members of CCOCA for more technical info in the pages of FRONT DRIVE. Custodian of archival material (and now President), Leigh Miles, reports that one of the most frequently requested reprints is of the Austin 1800 driveshaft conversion for Tractions, published some years back as a contribution from Warren Seidel

While by no means wanting to deter the contribution and publishing of completely new material, we recognise that members may have variously failed to retain previously published notes which they now want, or may be so "new to the game" that they have not seen some of the valuable tech info residing in back issues of Front Drive. In response to reader needs and requests, we have therefore decided to publish from time to time, a selection of technical notes from earlier Front Drives.

To kick off this project, we will be approaching Warren to give us his comments on how the conversion has performed over the several years of day-to-day use that it has had, and we will incorporate these comments and republish the 1800 driveshaft article, hopefully in the next issue of FRONT DRIVE. However, people contemplating such a conversion should note the availability of completely new "bolt-on" Traction shafts, using the Range Rover constant velocity joint as described elsewhere in this issue.

Ed.

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