

Meccano Assists another Inventor

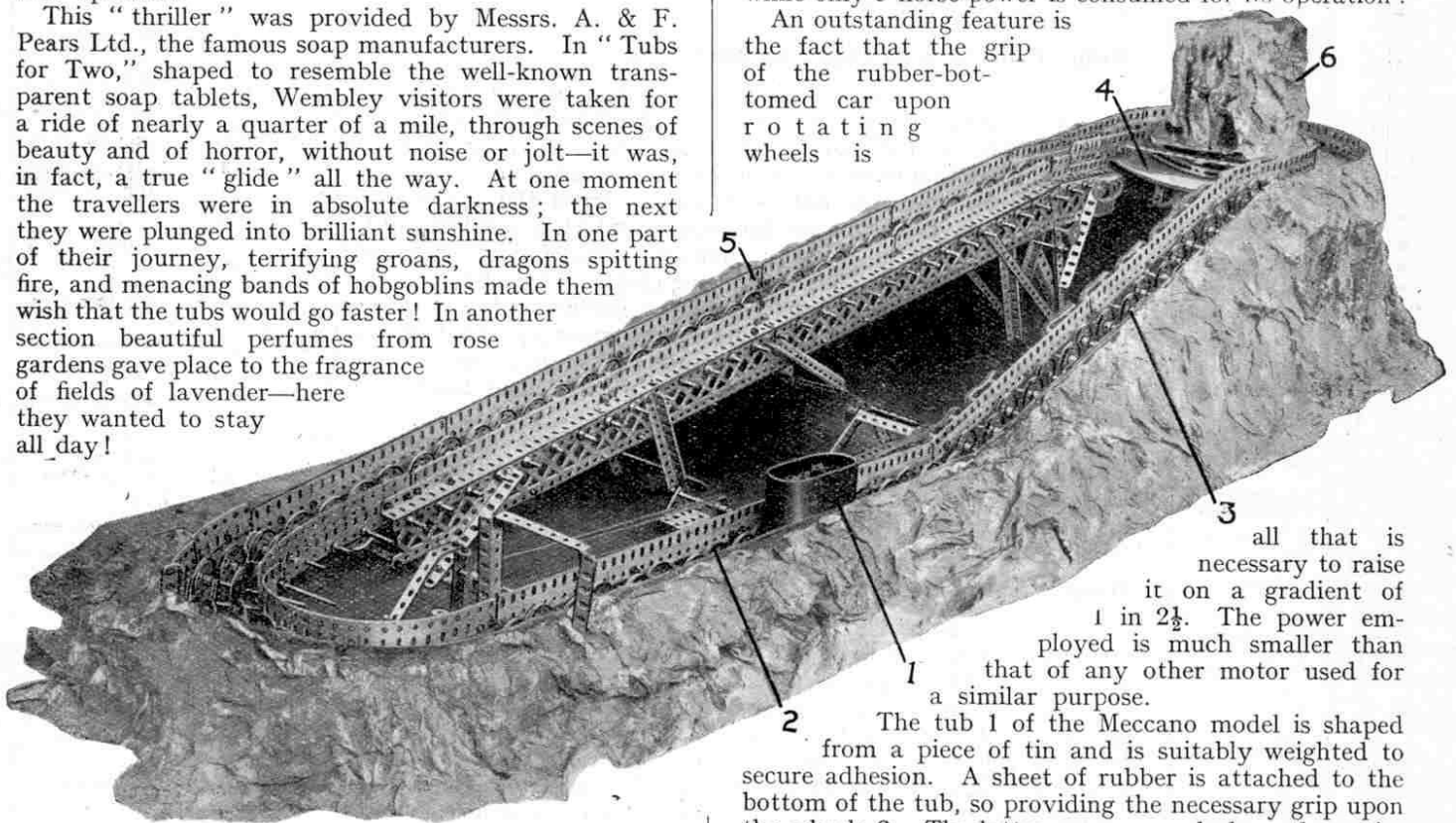
How Messrs. Pears' "Golden Glide" was Designed

MANY of our readers who visited Wembley Amusement Park during the second year of the great Empire Exhibition probably experienced some delightful thrills on the "Golden Glide." Those readers will be specially interested, we believe, to read of the part played by Meccano in the invention of the unique mechanism by which the wonderful joy-ride was operated.

This "thriller" was provided by Messrs. A. & F. Pears Ltd., the famous soap manufacturers. In "Tubs for Two," shaped to resemble the well-known transparent soap tablets, Wembley visitors were taken for a ride of nearly a quarter of a mile, through scenes of beauty and of horror, without noise or jolt—it was, in fact, a true "glide" all the way. At one moment the travellers were in absolute darkness; the next they were plunged into brilliant sunshine. In one part of their journey, terrifying groans, dragons spitting fire, and menacing bands of hobgoblins made them wish that the tubs would go faster! In another section beautiful perfumes from rose gardens gave place to the fragrance of fields of lavender—here they wanted to stay all day!

Cannon, Messrs. Pears' Publicity Manager. In an interview, Mr. Cannon informed our representative that the original model of the apparatus was worked out entirely with Meccano, and its ingenuity and simplicity is well shown in the photograph of the model reproduced on this page. The actual machine is capable of carrying a load of 40 stones in each tub at a speed of 15 miles per hour, while only 9 horse-power is consumed for its operation!

An outstanding feature is the fact that the grip of the rubber-bottomed car upon rotating wheels is



The Original Meccano Model of the "Golden Glide"

More than once in this glorious glide it appeared that nothing could prevent a terrible disaster. As the "Tubs for Two" slid silently and swiftly on their way, brick walls suddenly confronted the passengers; a hasty prayer was breathed, one last look at life and sunshine and—the "walls" opened to a new scene!

Throughout the journey there was something of interest to engage attention. The pace varied from a slow glide to a swift downward rush. In one place the gradient was actually a one foot rise in $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, but the "Tubs" surmounted all difficulties with the greatest ease and safety.

Only 9 Horse-Power Required

The "Golden Glide," which has been described as a triumph of engineering, was designed by Mr. C. E.

all that is necessary to raise it on a gradient of 1 in $2\frac{1}{2}$. The power employed is much smaller than that of any other motor used for a similar purpose.

The tub 1 of the Meccano model is shaped from a piece of tin and is suitably weighted to secure adhesion. A sheet of rubber is attached to the bottom of the tub, so providing the necessary grip upon the wheels 2. The latter are arranged along the entire length of the run, but only those placed in the level stretch 2 and on the incline 3 are driven from the Motor. The tub commences its journey on the level at 2 and is carried by the rotating wheels up the incline 3, from which it is deposited upon a slowly revolving turntable 4. This turntable is dispensed with in the actual machine since it has been found that the same result could be obtained by continuing the wheels round a more gradual curve. The turntable brings the tub to the head of the opposite incline 5, down which it is propelled by the force of gravity. The driven wheels at 2 and 3 are coupled to the Motor through a series of Sprocket Chains. A vertical column, carrying the turntable 4 and scenery 6, is also rotated from the Motor, which is situated within the model. It will be noted that the whole structure is covered with crinkled paper, brightly painted to represent scenic effects.

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