

MASSEY HARRIS HAY BALER

TECHNICAL HISTORY

The stationary hay baler, known locally as a “Magpie baler” because of the “pecking” action of the machine, is designed to compress & store hay for stock fodder. It has a drawbar so can be towed to the location of available hay or the haystack, and is powered by a 4hp SUNDIAL type A engine. The bales are held in the compressed state by wire ties. These are made from light wire, formed on a frame that comes with the machine.

These balers are quite labour intensive, with a man necessary to fork hay to the compressor, another to insert dividers between bales and wire to tie the bales, and another clearing & stacking bales. While a big improvement at the time, the wire ties proved a problem in the stock feed and they were replaced by twine tying binders and automatic pickup balers.

The machine has no serial number, and we have no manufactures documentation.

The 4hp SUNDIAL engine #1664 that powers this baler was made in Australia by H.V.McKAY MASSEY HARRIS at the Sunshine Harvester Works, Sunshine Vic. in 1940. It is a simple horizontal engine of OHV design (atmospheric inlet valve), hopper cooled with total waste lubrication system. It develops 4hp @550rpm. The cylinder is lubricated by drip oiler and major bearings by wick oiler. Other moving parts are lubricated by oilcan.

Engine specifications are: bore 5”, stroke 5 1/2”, ignition by high-tension magneto to an 18mm spark plug. Fuel is sucked by induction vacuum from a 1 3/4 gal kerosene tank, with starting assisted by a 1-pint petrol tank. Power is transmitted by flat belt from an 8” pulley

WORK HISTORY

Nothing is known of the work history of this baler. It is thought to have worked in the Adelaide Hills of South Australia, as this is where it was purchased at auction.

It is in annual use at the Adelaide Hills Motor Restorers Club event, **Power of the Past**, held on the first weekend in March at Mt Barker (SA) oval.

