

From David A. Roberts
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“Evil Spirit”

I have only just come across the item “Evil Spirit” on the NAME web site. I can add some information, as follows.

Mr Fred Westmoreland, son of the Fred who built the boat, was a friend of my father's. Fred (senior) came from Spalding, Lincs, and served his time at the firm of Henry Massey, this firm was most famous for building engines for steam launches but also made machine tools, and possibly other items. Fred later moved to Bellis & Morcom and later, Daimler. He delivered a car to somebody I think called Ansdell, who offered him the job of chauffeur. This gave him plenty of free time to pursue his model engineering interests. The home was in Pendleton, Salford, near my father's, which is how he came to know Fred (junior). Fred (senior) wrote an autobiography which appeared in *The Model Engineer* in, I think August 1936.

With the death of Fred (junior) I think in the mid 60s his widow Audrey gave Evil Spirit to my father who kept it in the garage for a few years but eventually we decided to present it to the NAME who already held a number of models. I think this was probably in the 1970s. I don't know what happened to it after that as it seemed to disappear but a few years ago I was surprised to see the boat on the NAME stand at a Harrogate exhibition. Nobody there seemed to know anything about it.

I was amazed to read that the boat had been “discovered in a skip”, surely this cannot be true.

Fred Westmoreland (junior) was a keen model power boat man, a member of Altrincham MPBC. As a child I remember attending regattas with him and my father.

I hope that the above notes fill a gap in the boat's history.

David Roberts

(Editor's note: David sent this item in some long time ago, when the discovery of the flash steam racer "Evil Spirit" was fresh in our minds. The model may be seen on the Northern Association stand at all the exhibitions, along with what little is known about it, and we publish David's letter now, with apologies for tardiness, filling out some detail in the story and perhaps provoking further contributions from anyone else who may remember the boat, which may be seen at the left hand end of our picture of the 2011 stand at Leamington.)

More info and photographs can be found at: <http://www.onthewire.co.uk/evilsp.htm>

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