

## RESTORATION OF A STANGER

At the Shannons Spring auction on the 18th of November a number of unusual bikes were for sale out of the estate of Warren Hicks. Warren was a chief chemist at an oil refinery, he went around the country in the 1960's and salvaged hundreds of often unusual veteran and vintage motorcycles from scrapheaps at farms and saleyards. Most moved on to enthusiasts and therefor preserved for prosperity. He kept a number of unusual bikes for his own collection. These went for sale after he passed away in July 2020. I understand that the proceeds of the estate went to support students studying at the University of Adelaide.

At the same auction I had entered a few "modernish" motorcycles for sale. Unreserved so I was also assured of funds coming in ! It was a timed auction whereby the end time is extended by a few minutes every time a bid is made. There were a number of offerings from the Warren Hicks estate which tickled my fancy. In particular a Zenith Bi-car which in the end went for more than \$100,000. A bit much for my liking.

The Auction concluded unfortunately at the night of the Club's AGM. In order to follow the auction I had taken my iPad to the meeting and whilst running the AGM kept an eye on the proceedings. I could see that a number of lots attracted big dollars bids. Although a 1910 FN with two spare engines went for around \$50,000 which for such a bike with two spare engines was not over the top..

When it got to the Stanger , I noticed that my maximum bid was overbid and I increased my maximum with \$3000. And it held. Bidding stopped



just when it reached my new maximum bid. So I was the proud owner of a 1922 Stanger. A two stroke V-twin. A unique design of which only about 20 were made. There is one in the Sammy Miller museum in the UK. The sign with that bike states that it is the only one to survive.



**The Miller Museum Stanger**

Before the auction I had never heard of a Stanger and other than a slight resemblance with my family name, I had no affinity with this particular bike. The bike looked complete and there was a photo of Warren Hicks riding it.

So on the night of the AGM, I became the proud owner of this Stanger. Bikes Only was contracted to get the bike transported from Melbourne to Sydney. It was delivered mid December.

My intention was to keep the bike as original as possible and not do a full restoration. But upon inspection after its arrival I noticed a lot of wear and tear. Most suspension bushes were shot. The mudguards were crudely repaired. Several sprockets badly worn. The wheels were badly rusted etc. The bike must have been ridden a lot for it to be so worn at many places. So I decided to take it apart and do a full restoration. (To be followed up)

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