

MARCH 2004

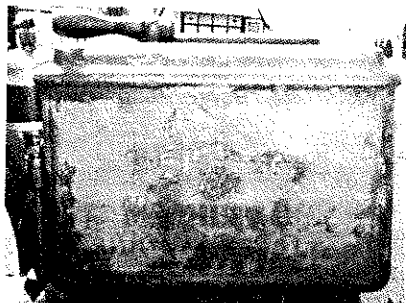
Hercules Engine News

By Glenn Karch

A Waterloo by Any Other Name ... is Still a Waterloo



Surprise! This story isn't about Hercules' engines, it's about Waterloo Economy engines, which bear a slight relationship



to Hercules. As I mentioned in a past column (*GEM*, March 2003), Waterloo Economy engines were the forerunners to the "Sparta" Economy engines. These engines used the typical early Waterloo fuel-and-governor systems patented by Louis W.

This Waterloo engine hopper carries the faded remains of a Jaeger Machine Co. decal. Jaeger was among many firms to contract engines through the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Co.

Witry and assigned to the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Co., Waterloo, Iowa. Later Waterloo engines used a Lunkenheimer fuel mixer and had governor weights located in the flywheels.

The Waterloo Gas Engine Co. was well-known for its engines, many of which were sold to jobbers and wholesalers. In fact, just about any company that wanted to sell its own brand of engine could contract through Waterloo Gasoline Engine Co.

Cement mixer manufacturer



These vintage tractors and engines were on display at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. In the foreground, from left to right, are a Hercules, a Knott, an American, and a Jaeger. The variety of engines manufactured in Waterloo, Gasoline Engine Co. but carrying the names of other companies.

Jaeger Machine Co., Columbus, Ohio, was among the major brands that bought Hercules-built engines. Interestingly enough, however, Waterloo produced engines for Jaeger before Hercules. If you're in doubt, flip to page 256 of C.H. Wendel's *American Gasoline Engines Since 1872*, and you'll see a Waterloo-type engine in a Jaeger Machine Co. mixer.

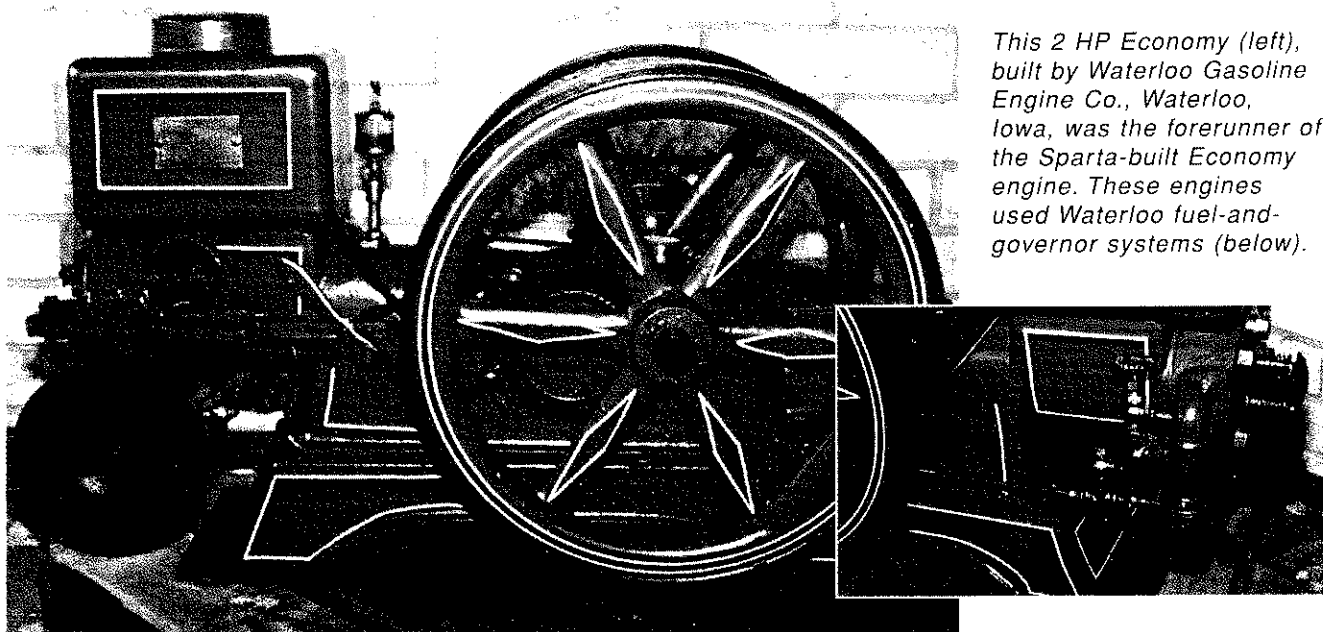
Iowa-built engines were featured at the 2003 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion in Mt.

Pleasant, Iowa. My good friend George Martin of Wyaconda, Mo., brought about 15 Waterloo-built engines, all produced for other engine companies. Check out the wide variety of engines Waterloo made for other companies in the picture above.

During the next few years, a long list of engine manufacturers will celebrate their centennial anniversaries. Hercules won't be one of them, but the firm will celebrate its 90th birthday, and Sparta Economy will celebrate

its 95th birthday. Also, the Southern Indiana Antique and Machinery Club's annual Classic Iron Show (June 11-13, 2004) will feature both brands. So in the meantime, shine up those engines and get them ready for the festivities!

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This 2 HP Economy (left), built by Waterloo Gasoline Engine Co., Waterloo, Iowa, was the forerunner of the Sparta-built Economy engine. These engines used Waterloo fuel-and-governor systems (below).