

The End of Sheffield Car Company Wood Wheels after 71 years

Rich Harner has found the evidence and solved the “Steel Six Spoke Mystery”.

See Newsletter 52 Pages 8,9,10 “The 4 Phases of Sheffield Wheels”.
Click on <http://velocipedes.blazerweb.co.uk/newsletters/Newsletter%2052.pdf>

- 1 Wood “Wheel Barrow” spoke, wheels and centre brake 1879 + (the patent machine)
 - 2 Flat Wood spoke wheels and centre brake **about 1890 +**
 - 3 Flat Wood spoke wheels and side brake **about 1900 + exception below**
 - 4 Steel replacement wheels without the “double flange”, with steel 6 spoke insert **1940’s +**
- The Mystery was the source of steel six spoke replacement wheels, **now solved.**



4 examples.

Fairbanks, Morse & Co.

THREE RIVERS WORKS

THREE RIVERS, MICH.

June 23, 1950

RAILROAD
DIVISION

JUN 26 1950

CHICAGO

REPAIR & SERVICE INFORMATION

#5-50

Subject: Changing from wood center to all-steel wheels on
No.'s 1 - 2 - 3 and 4 Velocipedes

Mr. J. F. Marquitz
Railroad Division
Fairbanks, Morse & Co.
600 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois

Dear Sir:

make just, 348

In conformity with decision to eliminate wood center wheels, we have made and released for production a line of all-steel wheels to replace wood center Velocipede wheels, as follows:

<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Wood Center Wheel</u>	<u>Velocipede Used On</u>	<u>Corresponding new All-Steel Wheel</u>
17"	V1000	1-2-3-4	MR24893
20"	V1001	1-2-3	MR24890
14"	V647	1-2-4	MR425266
14"	V643	3	MR425280

The two guide wheels, MR425266 and MR425280, essentially are new 14" x 1/4" demountable hub steel wheels. That is, they consist of our MR11857 14" x 1/4" Demountable Wheel Plate, and the regular G10167 Bolts, but necessarily have special hubs (a welded design,) MR310775 for the MR425266 wheel and MR310776 hub for the MR425280 wheel.

The 17" and 20" wheels, MR24893 and MR24890 are welded designs, utilizing present concave tread tires V627 (17") and V622 (20"). Both of these wheels have hubs made of hexagon bar stock and spokes (6) of square tubing. Tires are not replaceable because they are welded to the center structure.

Because we are continuing to use the V627 and V622 tires in our new all-steel wheels, we will have these tires for service orders if customers want to make replacements on existing 17" and 20" wood center wheels.

REPAIR & SERVICE INFORMATION

#5-50

June 27, 1950

SUBJECT: Changing from wood center to all-steel wheels on
No.'s 1 - 2 - 3 and 4 Velocipedes

Gentlemen:

In conformity with decision reached in September - 1948 to eliminate wood center wheels, we have made and released for production a line of all-steel wheels to replace wood center Velocipede wheels, as follows:

<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Wood Center Wheel</u>	<u>Velocipede Used On</u>	<u>Corresponding new All-Steel Wheel</u>
17"	V1000	1-2-3-4	MR24893
20"	V1001	1-2-3	MR24890
1 1/4"	V647	1-2-4	MR425266
1 1/4"	V643	3	MR425280

The two guide wheels, MR425266 and MR425280, essentially are new 1 1/4" x 1/4" demountable hub steel wheels. That is, they consist of our MR11857 1 1/4" x 1/4" Demountable Wheel Plate, and the regular G10167 Bolts, but necessarily have special hubs (a welded design,) MR310775 for the MR425266 wheel and MR310776 hub for the MR425280 wheel.

The 17" and 20" wheels, MR24893 and MR24890 are welded designs, utilizing present concave tread tires V627 (17") and V622 (20"). Both of these wheels have hubs made of hexagon bar stock and spokes (6) of square tubing. Tires are not replaceable because they are welded to the center structure.

Because we are continuing to use the V627 and V622 tires in our new all-steel wheels, we will have these tires for service orders if customers want to make replacements on existing 17" and 20" wood center wheels. All No. 1 - 2 - 3 and 4 Velocipedes shipped after this date will have the new all steel wheels.

Yours very truly,
PAIRBANKS, MORSE & CO.

J. P. Marquitz
J. P. Marquitz, Ass't. Mgr.
Railroad Division

JPM:pmd

cc - Messrs.

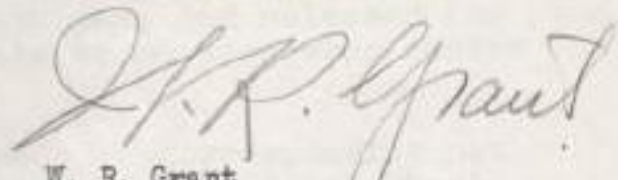
O. H. Brauer
D. L. Hopkins
H. D. VanHorn

June 23, 1950

All No. 1 - 2 - 3 and 4 Velocipedes shipped after this date will have the new all steel wheels.

Yours very truly,

FAIRBANKS, MORSE & CO.



W. R. Grant
Railroad Department

WRG/sm

**The No Longer Mystery 4th type of wheel
Sheffield/Fairbanks Morse did it.**



Photo Harry Taylor, Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society in Surrey, British Columbia Canada which is just east of Vancouver.