Addendum III — The Return

Gear Technology's bimonthly aberration — gear trivia, humor, weirdness and oddments for the edification and amusement of our readers. Contributions are welcome.

Gears on Film

It's Friday night at the video store, and as usual, all the new releases are checked out. You can't decide between *Killer Teenage Cheerleaders from Outer Space* and a documentary on the mating rituals of the hippopotamus.

Gear Technology is here to help. The Addendum page is proud to present a list of films for gear lovers. All of these films feature *the industry's own star*, the late **Luella Gear**.

Born in 1900 in New York, Gear made her broadway debut in 1917. Best known for her acid wit, she went on to roles in motion pictures, appearing in *The Perfect Marriage (1946)* with Loretta Young and David Niven; *Jigsaw* (1949), starring Marlene Dietrich, Henry Fonda and Burgess Meredith; and *Phffft! (1954)* with Judy Holliday and Jack Lemmon.

But our favorite Luella Gear movie has to be *Carefree (1938)*, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Gear plays the role of Aunt Cora in this musical comedy about a psychiatrist (Astaire) and his patient (Rogers).

If none of these films is available at your video store, some of them may occasionally be featured on cable TV. But if that doesn't work out, you could always go for the hippo flick.

Hey, I've Been Looking for One of Those

The Missouri State Highway and Transportation Department is trying to give away the Mark Twain Memorial Bridge across the Mississippi River at Hannibal, MO. No, they're not kidding. The cost to repair the bridge, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is greater than the cost to build a new one, so the state must try to find an alternative use for the structure before it can tear it down.

More than 100 proposals were submitted before the March 17 deadline. If any of the proposals is accepted, the state will dismantle the bridge, but the new owner will be responsible for hauling it away and reassembling it.

Look Out, Cooperstown!

Given the current disenchantment with the game, tourists may be looking for someplace to visit besides the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. We'd like to recommend the lesser-known, but just as important Machine Tool Hall of Fame at the American Precision Museum in Windsor, VT.

Recently, the Hall elected four new members. George O. Gridley (1869–1956) held more than 60 patents for his early machine tool designs; William L. Bryant (1875–1931) was instrumental in the development of early ginding machines; Francis J. Trecker (1909–1987) oversaw the development of the Milwaukee-Matic, the first true machining center; and John T. Parsons (1913–) was one of the first pioneers of numerically controlled machine tools.

PUZZLE • PUZZLE • PUZZLE • PUZZLE

The supply room at Wacky Widgets Gearmotor Company contains two shelves. Shelf A has half spur gears and half helical gears. Shelf B has two-thirds spur gears and one-third helical.

Every gearmotor made by Wacky Widgets turns out slightly different (that's why they're Wacky). Their production method is to blindfold the foreman, spin him around 100 times and send him into the supply room to select the gears for their gearmotor. Whatever he comes out with is combined into a single product.

For the latest Wacky Widgets design, the foreman is allowed to choose only one gear from each shelf. What is the probability that he will emerge from the supply room with one helical and one spur gear? Two spur gears? What is the probability he will throw up before he picks any? Answers next issue.

Munchkins Part II

Last issue we brought you Gearing for Munchkins. This time it's the world's smallest motorized car. Built by the Japanese company Nippondenso, the Micro-Car was displayed at the recent Society of Automotive Engineers convention in Detroit.

The car, certified by the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the world's smallest, is a 1/1000th scale model of the 1936 Toyota Model AA—about the size of a grain of rice. The Micro-Car consists of 24 parts, including wheels, axle, spare tire, headlights and steel bumpers. The car is powered by a magnetic motor that can run at 600 rpm.