The Paddock Information Collection – The most comprehensive source of information about Paddock

The Paddock Basement mid to late 60's (Dr. Peter A. Leigh MSc. PhD.)

Around this time the Powder Metallurgy Group had installed a rotary swaging machine in to the Paddock Basement on the grounds that it would be far too noisy for operation in the normal laboratories. The machine stood about chest height and consisted of a set of cylindrical hammers that rotated round in a fixed circle causing a pair of dies to hammer together thus reducing the diameter of the work piece. The dies could be easily changed and this was done on every pass until the work piece reached its target diameter. The work piece started with a diameter of about half to three quarters of an inch being a sintered powder compact and was reduced to a bit less than a tenth of an inch when it was taken up to the laboratories and could then be worked by drawing down to a fine diameter of about four thousandths of an inch by use of sequential wire drawing dies. I cannot recall if the machine needed a three phase electric supply but certainly most likely a fifteen amp outlet.

I recall seeing the Rotary Swaging machine when it was delivered to the lower loading bay. The next time I saw it was after it had been installed, in the first lower level of the Paddock Basement, by the Millwrights, a group associated with the workshop who were tasked with moving and positioning heavy machinery such as lathes. How they took the machine down to the first lower basement I have no idea. They would have also been tasked with its recovery up to ground level, when it was then probably donated to a university.

At this time the Paddock Basement was not heavily used but one or two rooms were used by such as the record club and the motor club. The record club loaned out records, mainly LP's for a small fee and the motor club loaned tools for DIY car maintenance. This was the era when many ran old bangers. My first car in the 1960's was a 1938 Fiat 500 Topolino. You can see one of these nowadays in the Cotswold Motor Museum.

More information from *The Paddock Information Collection* is available at www.bunkers.org.uk/paddock.htm

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