

# Goodbye to memories bike

## RIGHT:

Brothers, John and Marton Baynes, take advantage of their last opportunity to have a few laughs on this 1929 Scott motorcycle before it goes under the auctioneer's hammer today.

The Scott is one of fifty bikes dating from 1911 to 1958 that belonged to their father, the late Randal Baynes.

His amazing lifetime collection of vintage and classic two-wheeled machinery is expected to attract keen bidding from motorcycle collectors and enthusiasts when it goes on sale at the Gisborne Army Hall at 11.00am this morning.

But the 1929 Scott has a very special place in the classic and vintage motor bike collection, thirty seven years ago it was this same motorcycle that took Randal Baynes and his new bride Karlyne away on their honeymoon.

Despite his growing motorcycle collection, the Scott remained as one of Randal Baynes' favourite forms of personal transport over three decades and John and Marton admit that it brings back childhood memories of their father.

The early Scott is a water-cooled, four-stroke machine and proof of its good design, says Marton, is the fact that this engine configuration has recently become popular again on new motorcycles.

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# Motorbike memories

Janet Johnstone reports

It is more than just fifty odd motorbikes plus tons of spare parts from Randal Baynes' collection going under the auctioneers hammer in the Army Hall today. For Karlyne Baynes it is her life and memories on sale.

Her late husband had a lifelong passion for things mechanical and motorbikes in particular. As a youngster he used to deliver papers on his pushbike and in those days Gisborne was pretty spread out with great distances between houses. Randal knew there had to be a better way to do the job so he bought an old motorbike, tinkered with it and from then on he never stopped messing about with bikes.

Karlyne said bikes played a very big part in their lives, she learnt to ride one herself and when they went on their honeymoon they travelled on a 1929 Scott.

Randal Baynes loved a challenge and when running a thriving sawmilling business he and Karlyne milled all the timber for their Aberdeen Road house and then set to work and built the house themselves. They continued to work side

by side until Randal passed away two years ago.

Randal would take part in motorbike races around Gisborne and would enter as many out of town events as possible. Following these racing events there would usually be swap meets where bikers could buy, sell and exchange parts.

It was at swap meets that he would come across a part and think "that could be useful" so he would bring

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it home and store it away until he found a need for it.

According to his son Marton, Randal had all his spare parts catalogued in his mind. He knew exactly what he had and where he could find it.

Gradually Randal would have enough parts for a particular bike to begin assembling his jigsaw puzzle. Any part he couldn't buy or felt was too expensive to buy he would set to and make himself.

When the boys came along Karlyne found she had less time to help Randal in the shed but as the boys grew older and started to take more interest in their Dad's hobby the whole family enjoyed many hours pottering about in the workshop.

When TV started in New Zealand Randal became very interested, not in the capacity as a 'couch potato' but in the workings of TV.

He attended the inaugural meeting of the Gisborne TV Society whose aim was to bring television to town as soon as possible.

Randal set up a TV set in the window of his shop behind his home and every night at 5pm when the transmission started kids came from everywhere to watch the new phenomena. Soon there were so many kids viewing that Randal set to and built tiered seats so that they could get a better view. Later in the evening adults would stroll over to watch *The Untouchables*.



ABOVE: Marton Baynes is pictured with just a few of the bikes being auctioned today.

Karlyne, Marton and John Baynes say there is a story behind almost every bike that Randal worked on and that seeing them being sold today will be quite painful for the family.

However, Karlyne is moving to Sydney with Marton, Barbara and their three children and so the bikes must go.

Marton says, "the collection is Dad's legacy to Mum, his superannuation if you like. The sale of the collection will take care of Mum in her old age, and we are sure that whoever buys them will value the bikes and get as much enjoyment from them as Dad did."

Randal Baynes' friends remember him as much for

his sense of humour as anything else.

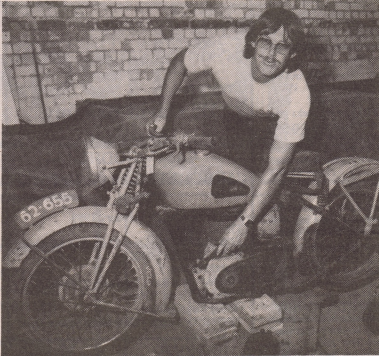
In the late 1970's he tied parts he had acquired at a swap meet to his body, and told everyone he was off home. The meet was in Hawkes Bay and he had everyone in an uproar as he rode off supposedly on his way to Gisborne. In actual fact, he rode around the corner and loaded the parts and his bike onto a truck and drove home in style.

Recently Karlyne received a photo taken of Randal as he headed off that day. The photographer, Peter Wright from Wellington told Karlyne he did not know Randal very well but he did recall he was a 'character'.

The motor bike collection is huge, and the Baynes

family, assisted by friends, in particular Bruce Scamless have spent recent weeks gathering together all the parts that belong to specific bikes. It is rather like putting a jigsaw together using very large pieces. It has been a slow task, partly because as they work memories of fun and good times with Randal spring to mind and today, difficult though it will be Karlyne will be at the auction to see her husband's treasures go to their new homes.

And motor bike enthusiasts will be grateful for Randal Baynes for finding, storing or maintaining the very part they need to complete their own restoration project.



ABOVE: Marton Baynes says that this late 1930's MSS Velocette has already attracted wide interest from enthusiasts.