

ATTIC TREASURES... by Rob Reid

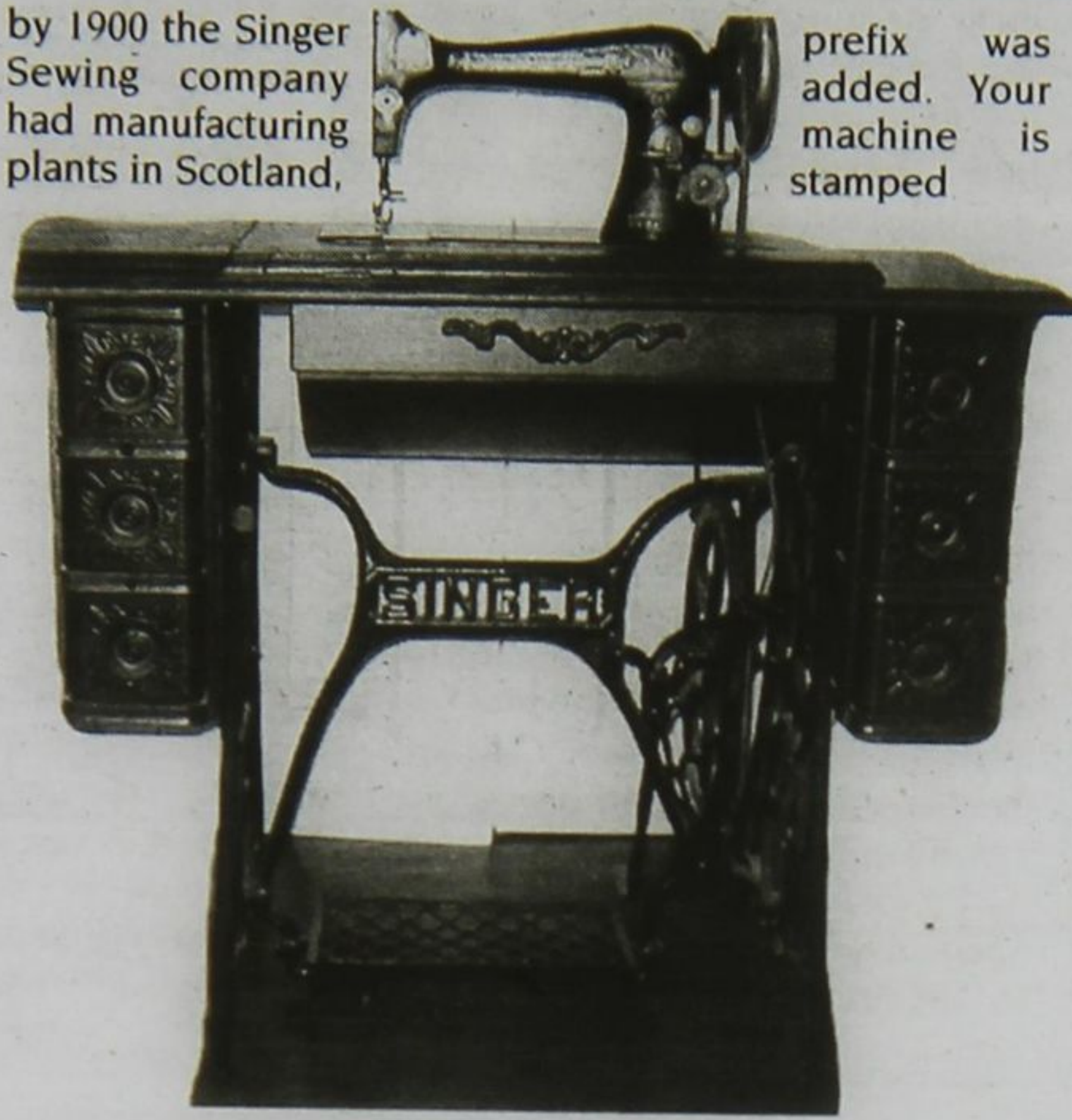
A sunny, bright May to everyone. I welcome inquiries about any objects that you may have and look forward to seeing and perhaps writing about them. Please forward a photo and a description to me through *Whitchurch Stouffville this Month*, drop it off at Reid's Antiques, 6397 Main St. Stouffville during regular business hours or via e-mail at robert.reid5@sympatico.ca.

Dear Attic Treasures: I bought this sewing machine about 10 years ago and I had it refinished. What can you tell me about it? J.T.R.

Dear J.T.R.: You have an easily recognizable Singer treadle sewing machine. It has an Egyptian painted motif in gold on the machine itself and is a six drawer model.

The Singer sewing machine was first manufactured in 1851 by Isaac Merritt Singer. Each machine has a serial number that you can use to determine where and when it was made. In 1853 he set up corporate offices and a manufacturing facility in New York City, U.S.A. and

by 1900 the Singer Sewing company had manufacturing plants in Scotland,



prefix was added. Your machine is stamped

one of the benefits of this material. The applied decal on the front of the cabinet is not original, but is consistent with the overall design.

The variations on the cabinet itself are almost endless: from two drawers per side to three drawers and a front centre drawer, to wood pulls or brass pulls and applied details to the front and sides of the cabinet. The sewing machine itself was also decorated in a variety of different styles. The Egyptian motif is one of the more common variations.

Singer also produced many different sewing related products and the older items are now avidly sought by collectors. There are several websites devoted to the collection and discussion of Singer items. The company celebrated its 150th Anniversary in 2001.

These machines are nearly indestructible, and at one time almost every household would have had a machine such as this to make routine sewing

USA, Canada and Germany, and in 1911, one in Russia. Canada started production in 1871. This same year, 1871, was when Singer introduced the Red "S" girl, a trademark that became recognized worldwide.

From 1851 until 1899 each machine was issued a unique serial number. In 1900 a single letter prefix was added to tell where it had been manufactured and later a double letter

H1361511 indicating that it was made in Elizabeth, New Jersey, USA in 1907.

The cabinets and machines were made to a high standard of uniformity and can be interchanged. Singer employed the best of modern manufacturing techniques. The cabinets are most commonly oak veneer -- this example has curved drawer corners wrapped in a seamless sheet of veneer illustrating

See 'Antique' page 27

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Protect Seniors

I submit that vulnerable seniors should be assisted in dealing with federal, provincial and municipal government bureaucracy, including the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal.

"Undisclosed" Matters

I submit that outgoing municipal councils should ensure that any "undisclosed" matters have a paper trail dealing with legal and financial angles so the next councils can avoid pitfalls.

Well-Run Towns

I submit that municipal government should be managed and coordinated by a well-qualified, experienced and knowledgeable Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Licensing By-Laws

I submit that persons seeking election as municipal councillors should be familiar with licensing by-laws in their town and compare them with by-laws in neighbouring towns.



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