

Taylor-Tot News

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It's been a long time coming.

The idea of putting out a newsletter was something I wanted to do many months ago, but several restorations and information gathering sort of took my time...but it's here now.

It's not my idea of this being a 'sales' or even a 'marketing' tool, but I will display my new products when they become available.

I want this to be something that the readers can have fun reading and learn something in the process.

I don't want to use up all my information in the first issue, so I may break it up a little.

Hang around this will be fun!

- Tom

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1932 ad for a DeLuxe Model

(check out the price! I'll take 20!)

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You received this newsletter because you made contact with 3R1 Enterprises, the web specialist on Taylor-Tot strollers.

If you do not wish to receive future Newsletters, please send a 'reply-back' email, with the subject line of "UNSUBSCRIBE" and you will be immediately removed from our newsletter list. - thanks!



**2801 Highland Ave in Norwood, OH
As it is today.**

The Frank F. Taylor Company

The Frank F. Taylor Company was founded in Norwood, Ohio (just outside of Cincinnati) in 1921. The factory was installed at 2801 Highland Ave and it remained there until 1964, when it was relocated to Frankfort, KY.

The oldest patent we have been able to find was one of a Mr. Powel Crosley Jr. who invented a "Baby Walker". Mr. Crosley was an employee of the Taylor Company. His patent application was filed on November 20, 1922 and was awarded on March 6, 1928. This walker was typical of the early Taylor-Tot offerings in that it was convertible to a 3-wheel 'toy vehicle' once the child got old enough to drive by themselves.

Following Mr. Crosley's efforts, we find a patent application by Frank F. Taylor himself, which was filed on January 31, 1924 and awarded on March 11, 1930. The familiar shape of the Taylor-Tot strollers was starting to become evident. This patent was to record improvements to Crosley's 3rd-wheel conversion package.

Mr. Taylor filed another patent application on October 25, 1924 and it appears that it is designed to 'clean-up' several key features of Taylor's products. The back seat is better looking. The mechanism to convert the 3rd wheel is also cleaner and more substantial. This patent was awarded on January 10, 1928.

On March 16, 1926, Donald Gill and Mark Orr filed a patent application covering a new method of making "toy vehicle wheels". They were awarded a patent on April 16, 1929.

Donald Gill, Mark Orr and Frank Taylor filed a patent application on February 3, 1927 for a "child's vehicle". They were awarded their patent on February 24, 1931. The drawings are identical to the pictures from the 1932 catalog that has been offered on the internet for the past 3 years. One might safely say that this is the first, well-known Taylor-Tot offering.

On April 14, 1943 a Mr. Morris Shuler filed a patent application for a "child's vehicle" that appears to be identical to the Taylor-Tot units, with the notable exception that much of the stroller is made of wood. This was of concern as the USA was at war with both Germany and Japan. Mr. Shuler address is given as "Cleveland Heights, Ohio" and although the patent does not record it, it seems difficult to believe that Mr. Shular was not affiliated with the Frank F. Taylor Company in some fashion or other. The similarities between his vehicle and Taylor's seem to be too overwhelming to be coincidental.

March 14, 1945. Donald Gill, who might have been Company President by this time due to the death of Company founder Frank F. Taylor, filed a patent application that pertained to a "Handle for Vehicles". This handle was the now-familiar 'wishbone' style and it got its start in the mid-30's, although it didn't have the center support on the early models. This style was used until 1951.

The mid-1940's saw some changes to the Frank F. Taylor Company. The Company founder and owner, Frank Taylor passed away and left the Company to his daughter, Frankie Taylor. Ms. Taylor was married to Major Harmon and he succeeded Donald Gill as the President of the Company.

November 1, 1955 saw a patent application filed by Donald Gill for a "collapsible walker-stroller for children". This was a new direction for the company, but a necessary one. Mr. Gill followed that patent application up with one on June 24, 1957 for just a plain old "collapsible stroller". This version had a basket on the back for carrying groceries of what have you. It kept the Company tradition of thinking about the 'stroller pusher' alive for a few more years.

As we mentioned, the Company moved to a new plant in Frankfort, Kentucky in 1964. The company was also renamed Taylor Tot Products Inc. at some point. The Company was purchased in 1980 by Cosco Inc. of Columbus, Indiana and one of the country's best 'home-grown' industry greats was no more. The Taylor-Tot brand spoke of good quality, excellent value and was among the reasons that the USA became the industrial powerhouse of the world.

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1937 model. "Spanish Brown" in color.

51 years making products that still last.

One of the most interesting stories of the Frank F. Taylor Company is that of Charles D. Follmer. Mr. Follmer started work with the Frank F. Taylor Co. in 1923, at the age of 16. By 1933, he was the plant manager and in charge of experimental design. By the time the late 1930's rolled around, Mr. Follmer was taking his young son, Donald, to the plant and having Donald 'experiment' on the new models of strollers and tricycles. By 1956, Mr. Follmer was the Vice President of the company and Donald's children lacked for nothing that came off of the production line. When the plant was moved to Kentucky in 1964, Mr. Follmer gave it one more year and then he retired in 1965, after 51 years of service to the Frank F. Taylor Company.

Yes sir, those Taylor-Tots are still going strong.

This 1949 Stroller is 48 years older than the little girl riding in it.



New Products:

New wooden bead set.

Part # CWB-001

\$17.00 including shipping.



Searching for stories:

All of the people receiving this issue have contacted us at 3R1 and some of you have told us really interesting stories or, if you have already told us your story and wouldn't mind it being read around the world, send us a note of permission and we'll probably get it in the next issue.

FEEDBACK WANTED:

Sincerely interested in what YOU think about this effort.

Is it worth a read? Please let us know. Just send a reply-back or contact us at WWW.3r1enterprises.com or 3r1enterprises@bellsouth.net