

## Durrington Businesses

### James & Crockerell Ltd. Durrington



For 75 years between 1850 and 1925 the principal means of hauling heavy loads on the roads of this country was the steam traction engine. The advent of the internal combustion engine spelled the end of these engines and the vast majority were scrapped by the end of the last war.

In recent years these old engines have become collectors' items and those remaining have in many cases been restored to their former glory. As the boiler is the heart of any steam engine there has been a demand for repair and rebuilding of boilers and this work is being carried out in Durrington. We understand that we are one of two firms in the country which currently carry out this work.

In our boiler shop the engines are first dismantled, the wheels, roof and all moving parts being removed. The boiler is then stripped as required and we have facilities for cutting, rolling to shape, drilling and riveting the boiler platework, the plates in common use vary from 3/8" to 3/4" thick. After replacing the corroded metal parts we reassemble the engines are often required to repaint and re-line to the original maker's colour scheme.

The components of the engines are extremely heavy and we have craneage capable of handling up to 7 ½ tons. The engine in the attached photograph is a Maclaren Heavy Haulage Road locomotive which was rebuilt by us early this year (1965). It weighs about 20 tons and was originally manufactured for the War Department in 1917 for gun haulage.

*(Information from 1965 & held by W.I. & retrieved courtesy of Dave Healing)*