**Meccano Nieuws 41.3 – Autumn 2023 – translations by Bea Brouwer**

**Page 02**

**Photo frontpage**:

*Roelf Valkema is the owner of this restoration project.*

*The clown was built by Gerrit Venema (†) and has homemade parts and can move.*

**Page 02**

**From the editor**

It was a wonderful summer in terms of Meccano news. Various MGN members forwarded their newspaper articles to the editor and of course something had to be done with those articles!

The recurring theme in this Meccano Nieuws is ‘In the news…’. Whether it concerns a band, a Citroën CX, unforgettable toys, or a remote control, it is all covered in this edition of Meccano Nieuws.

Furthermore, it is of course always a bit quieter in the Meccano area during summer time than usual. People spend more time outside, go out by bike or otherwise, and enjoy the nice weather.

Yet there is plenty of news to report about Meccano and the associated side effects.

In Venlo we learned a lot about gears and such. Building and dismantling cranes and enjoying them have proven to be two extremes. It turns out that children have been building all summer long. Furthermore, of course, the reports of the regional meetings with the necessary photos to give an impression to those who could not attend them.

Enjoy reading. Hopefully see you at one of the next meetings.

*Your editor,*

*Bea Brouwer*

**Page 04**

**Grandchildren’s work**

Dear editors,

Our grandsons Pim (14 years old) and Teun (11 years old) from Oegstgeest came to stay with their grandparents in Weert! The Meccano was removed from the attic and here is the result!

Pim made the slide (with example) and the dog, and the dog and the man according to his own ideas without help; all by himself.

Teun made the (mobile) swing and the floating carousel, which can really float, both forwards and backwards. Also made according to his own ideas and without help! (With a little help from grandpa when installing the engine.)

Grandpa and grandma enjoyed it.

Sincerely, Jan Peeters

*Editor’s note:*

*When we receive messages like this, we become happy.*

*Feel free to share your experiences with the editors.*

**Page 05**

**In the news... at NRC Magazine**

*Text: Hans Kuijl & Bea Brouwer*

A letter sent by our first editor-in-chief of Meccano Nieuws, Henk Elema, to the editors of the NRC from a long time ago, has received an unexpected follow-up. In NR Magazine 06/2023, #19, in the section ‘Ribbens passes on’ on pages 56 & 57, there was a beautiful photo of ‘A CX from Meccano’. Every month NRC Magazine gives away a used design object. This time a Meccano scale model of the Citroën CX’; according to the accompanying text next to the beautiful photo.

The builder of this beautiful model is Mr. Karel de Ruiter (71) from Naaldwijk, of course a CX and a Meccano enthusiast since his 7th of 8th birthday, but – how is it possible – not a member of the Meccano Gilde Nederland. Naturally, as MGN we have not submitted any motivation for obtaining the CX, but we do make the offer to Mr Fe Ruijter for a free subscription to MN and membership for 2023 as a thank you for the publicity.

The article in NRC Magazine was written by Arjen Ribbens, the photography was provided by Benning & Gladkova, in the person of Arjan Benning. Both have agreed to be included in our Meccano Nieuws.

**Pages 06-08**

**A Meccano meeting with:**

**Jo Stienen**

*Text & photos: Bea Brouwer*

It is Saturday, April 1, 2023, and we drive to Venlo at 9:00 am in a drizzling rain that had been falling since yesterday. As it turns out, it will remain drizzly until the evening. The journey is going well, the only traffic jam on the A58 this day is on the other side of the highway, so fortunately we can drive without problems.

We arrive as agreed at the address of a special man. Around 10:30 am we ring the bell and are welcomed very enthusiastically by the dog of the person we are interviewing today; we would like to introduce you to: Jo Stienen.

Jo Stienen is currently 74 years old and has been a member of our Meccano Guild since 2017. Tommy, the shared dog, is a friendly and happy dog who comes for a pat every now and then. Jo says that Tommy is a shared dog because he spends half the week with his girlfriend and the other half with Jo. He used to be married, but he has been divorced for more than 20 years. His girlfriend lives ‘on the Reuver’ as they say, or in Reuver, about 15 km from Venlo. His daughter, in turn, has two daughters who are now in their twenties. They proudly display in a photo frame on the wall. Of course, a nice cup of coffee is offered, and you can’t miss it, but the Limburg pie is also present; delicious.

**Employment history**

Jo is originally a manufacturer of military medical equipment. The Nedinsco precision mechanical factory hangs in a frame above the table, a beautiful building in the ‘Bauhaus’ style. It has been his home base for many years. Before WWI, periscopes were built in height; these were the heydays for the company, when more than 1,000 people were employed. After WWI, the (still current) family produces the Primo photo cameras. They then switched to industrial, weapon parts and later to aircraft parts for Fokker, with their precision mechanics. ASML was the biggest customer when Jo worked there. In response to customer orders, a design was made via a prototype, after which an order may of may not be received later. At first, he sat at the drawing board, but later he naturally moved to drawing via the PC. After the drawing board, he also worked in sales: shooting ranges, printing industry, Stork Colorproofing were the companies Jo was involved in.

The first assignment at Nedinsco was to convert a conventional milling machine to a CNC milling machine. Because no one wanted to stand at the machine, he learned CNC programming and created the programs in the initial phase. He now benefits from this to program his own 4-axis CNC milling machine. Eight years earlier he worked in Germany at a company that made machines for the textile industry. Jo was one of the lucky ones who could take advantage of early retirement. He stopped ‘working’ when he was 62 years and 3 months old.

**Lamps**

Looking around the room, two beautiful lamps naturally catch your eye; ‘Little Helper’ and a rocket. He copied these lamps from designs by Uncle John. Billy Leliveld is known worldwide with the Uncle John’s lamps with his Meccano lamps, which are sold, for example, in the Piet Hein Eek design shop in Eindhoven and they are offered in a gallery in New York. Jo regularly has ‘Uncle John’ as a customer who purchases certain parts from him. Just as an indication, how artistic Uncle John’s models are: a lamp in the shape of a gun is currently being offered for around €1,200.

**Workplace**

Jo lives alone, with his workshop in the extension at the back of his house. This means he doesn’t have to go outside and can always go to work. Jo has an extensive customer base that he supplies with gears, among other things. His customers come from everywhere: Mexico, Paris, Switzerland. Usually it concerns Dutch people who found Jo via ‘Marktplaats’, for example. He prefers to make special parts from brass or aluminium. He is able to make all sizes with the DP-16, the tooth is the same as the Meccano parts (for example no. 167a large toothed quadrant). Meccano is made with 38 DP. The Meccano teeth are DP-38, which means 38 teeth per inch.

DP stands for ‘Diametral Pitch’, it is most commonly used in the United States and Great Britain, where the ‘inch’ in the unit of measurement, just as a unit expresses the size of a gear. The metric size of DP is 1 inch divided by the number of teeth per inch, this is called module, for example DP-16 = 25.4 divided by 16 is module = 1.5875 mm.

He makes large gears to drive large cranes, carousels, or other rotating models. He makes straight racks with module DP-16 on his 4-axis CNC machine. This is the same module as part no. 167a (toothed segment) and gear no. 167c (quadrant pinion). He then rolls the rack with a homemade roller to the desired radius. The circular segment begins and ends with a half tooth and has a stretched length of a strip of 19 holes (so 9.5 inches). There are two threaded holes at the end to attach the circle parts together with a strip of 4 holes. Four circle parts give an outside diameter of 4 x 9.5 inches divided by pi (3.14) = 307.2 mm. Then 5 circle parts is 384 mm, 6 circle parts is 460.8 mm, and 8 circle parts is 614.5 mm.

He has linked a computer to his CNC machine. This computer contains a program that can be started after correct programming. When the machine starts milling, everything does itself and he can just relax and drink a cup of coffee in the meantime. An interesting detail is that there are 12,000 steps in the program to produce one gear. First the holes are drilled, and then the machine mills the sprocket with the desired size from hole to hole.

There are two short videos of this on the website of Meccano Gilde Nederland.

The teeth are then milled in with a small cutter; one tooth contains six positions, a 1.5 mm cutter makes three steps and goes around three times. The smallest cutter that Jo uses is 1 mm. He can mill for any purpose.

**Nice touch**

Creating and making is what gives it the most fun. For example, Meccano no. 180 (gear ring 90 mm, teeth 133 outside and 95 inside) is no longer available in retail for a reasonable price; this is no. 180a (gear ring with teeth 95 outside and 57 inside). This created the challenge for Jo to recreate this one in one.

Most people specify the Meccano number and the required quantity when ordering. If a different model is required, the number of teeth is important. No. 30 (bevel gear 26 teeth) is also becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. Unfortunately, here too, the material has become more expensive.

The hobby shop often asks for top prize. Jo prefers to get his sheet metal from the wholesaler, because it should not be flexible materials, but a fixed quality with a fixed stiffness. Only then can Jo also guarantee quality.

**Meccano**

Jo says that he doesn’t build with Meccano much anymore, he enjoys making the individual parts more. The most beautiful models can be built with the various gears, such as planetariums or clocks. Any different size is possible. During the tour of his house we are taken to a bedroom where there are several racks filled from top to bottom with Meccano parts and other systems. We see many motorcycles of various manufacturers, whole stacks of construction sets from Meccano, Märklin, Stokys and many more. It seems like a small museum.

**Other hobby**

Of course, upon entering it was immediately noticeable that there were a number of special plants throughout the house. There are several orange trees with various types of oranges and pineapple plants, including small pineapples sticking out above them. Also peppers, cucumbers, lemons, an olive tree, a fig tree, palm, banana tree, and mango.

There is a large greenhouse in the garden, and in the room there is a growing cabinet with tomatoes that will soon be able to go into the greenhouse. He grows them in various flavours, regular tomatoes and cherry tomatoes. In any case, the entire neighbourhood is supplied with tomatoes and other crops. He is now growing a plant from an avocado seed. There is also a large walnut tree in the garden where walnuts will soon grow. The rest of the garden is dotted with wildflowers; so everything has been kept ‘natural’. Anyway, it is wonderful to see everything growing like this, says Jo, but he thinks the yield is less important.

Jo, thank you for your hospitality. It was a real pleasure for us.

***Photos Page 07:***

***Top****: Jo in part of his workshop. The photo in the middle shows a gear demo. On the right a made gear.*

***Bottom****: The CNC machine with the linked computer and on the right a stock of commonly made gears.*

**Page 08**

**Temse, April 29, 2023**

*Text: Bea Brouwer & Photos: Bea Brouwer & Gilbert Ghysselbrecht*

Jan Bressinck organized this guild meeting in the beautiful town hall of Temse. The last time was in 2019, so it was nice that this location is back in the picture. Jan has put a lot of time into it, because extensive advertising was already done during the AGM in March with a Meccano figure placed near the A4 sheets.

Upon entering Temse there are again many figures, but this time with notes with names in their hands where the registered participants can display their brought items. This time too, Jan has called in his family to provide everyone with something to eat and drink. In short, everything was taken care of down to the last detail. Jan acts as a perfect host and welcomes everyone with enthusiasm, including for example the mayor. The banners are set up outside to attract people in, but there is a wedding today, so the banner goes out of view for a moment during the landing scene.

***Photos Page 08:***

***Left****: Jan Bressinck’s figures with nameplates.*

***Right****: Jan Bressinck made a scaffold for the clock for the occasion; normally it hangs on the wall.*

***Left****: Geert Vanhove made these balls, all in various sizes.*

***Photos Page 09:***

***Top****: Side view of Erik Beek’s dump truck with a detail of the hydraulics on the right.*

***Right****: The front of the dump truck.*

***Left****: Andriaan Westermann made these trailers.*

***Top Left****: Gilbert Ghysselbrecht’s washing machine. It is a cleaning drum containing sand, among other things, to clean parts.*

***Top Middle****: Derreck crane by Gilbert Ghysselbrecht controlled by an Android app, see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FJcmhTL1kg*

***Top Right****: Steam tractor with cart by Philippe Aelvoet.*

***Bottom Left****: The Twin Cylinder Steam Engine was designed by Erik Callebaut. All parts have been stripped, derusted, sprayed and enamelled. The smoke generator is for model railway use, the remote control was made by Gilbert Ghysselbrecht and was difficult to adjust, but everything runs very consistently now.*

**Pages 10-12**

**De Hachette Block setter**

*Text: Karst Quast*

*Photos: Karst Quast & Bea Brouwer*

All Meccano builders have their favorite models to build. Large models naturally appeal, certainly the models that you regularly saw when you looked at the manuals: the railway accident crane, the ‘walking dragline’ ad the block setter. Models that you could not build at the time, but more than half a century later you can. I actually intended never to build the ‘Titan’ block setter, because it was a model that you regularly came across at meetings, so I only built the other models mentioned.

In 2018, the block setter became available as a construction kit in France through bookstores and newspaper kiosks. It was offered in 120 individual editions in appealing machine yellow with blue. One delivery every week, for 120 weeks, which meant more than 2 years of deliveries. It weighed 40 kg, supplemented with a lot of extra information and a manual of 500 (!) pages. But it wasn’t in the Netherlands yet, so it was nice for the French.

By spring 2022, 3,000 complete cranes had been delivered to interested parties in France, the rest of the stock was offered on a website for purchase in one go. In the meantime I had seen many of these cranes on the internet and a few at an exhibition. What a striking model, beautiful colours, ‘*La grue devotie enfance’*, the faucet of your childhood. A real gadget.

After careful consideration with the credit card, the amount was transferred to France, but I still waited with a bit of stomach ache, no ‘track & trace code’ or something like that. After 5 days I came home and the boxes were on my doorstep. It was like ‘Saint Nicholas’, the boxes contained the 120 well-packed episodes with the manual in 120 steps.

I started building with the brand-new parts, including the GRB; I was able to extend the construction project to more than six months. It was of course a large model, the jib length 275 cm, 80 cm high and, for example, a counterweight of 9 kg. The crane was ready well before the Model Show Europe and I still had time to create a matching ‘scenery’, a pier on which the rails were located for the crane and the railway for the delivery of the concrete blocks. Some placed blocks at the end, so that an explanation of use was easy.

A transport board was made for the jib, with difficulty the whole thing fit into the Panda, with the front seat also down.

On the Friday before the Model Show, I always help with setting up the room and put tablecloths on the tables of the Guild tables, so I had time to set up the block setter in advance. It looked great and during the exhibition it was a much-photographed model.

Halfway through the day I was asked by an admirer what it had cost. I mentioned the amount and the admirer wanted to buy it for the same amount.

I had to think about that carefully, after all it was only his first exhibition… it was (too) big, it was beautiful, I drive a Panda, it was only just finished, my wife was not eager to put it in the living room, what a dilemma, stomach ache again. In the end I did it anyway, for me it’s all about building and I still have plenty of ideas. Just under a year after purchase, the parts went to a new owner.

And that is how Meccano is intended: building and then dismantling for new plans.

**Page 13**

**Summer caravan**

*Text and photos: Jacques Rompa*

The Oosterhout Summer Caravan: activities especially for children and young people during the summer holidays! During the summer holidays, activities for youth take place throughout the municipality. Whether it’s reading with Dikkie Dik, crafting with H19, curb siding or fat biking, there is something fun to do for all ages from 0 to 18 years! These activities, supported by the Municipality of Oosterhout, are specially intended for children who cannot go on holiday for some kind of reason.

This year, the Toy Museum ‘OP STELTEN’ (MGN member) is participating with the ‘***Meccano Challenge’*** for children from groups 7 and 8 to bring our technical hobby more to the attention of young people. After a visit to our display case where large Meccano objects are displayed and instructions on how to deal with screws, nuts, strips, etc., the children get to work. Every Wednesday afternoon (6x) from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, 10 children work on objects, to be built according to an example or on their own initiative. There is really a lot of interest in this activity this year, all the children are very enthusiastic and there is even a waiting list! Members of ‘Team Technology’ have built a merry-go-round on a large plateau. Some of the objects built by the children are placed on top.

On August 23, the last Wednesday of the summer holidays, all built objects are exhibited in the museum; in the presence of an enthusiastic alderman.

**Page 13**

**In the news... Weekly Oosterhout**

*Text and photos: Bea Brouwer & Rolf Roozeboom*

Rolf Roozeboom wonders whether we, as Meccano enthusiasts, are associated with dementia…?

On June 10, 2023, an article entitled ‘Unforgettable Toys’ will appear in the Weekly Oosterhout! This is a project for people with early dementia and possibly their informal caregivers, organized by Toy Museum ‘OP STELTEN’.

Obviously a dubious honor, according to Rolf, but at least for a good cause!

**Pages 14-15**

**Sassenheim, June 3, 2023**

*Text: Bea Brouwer & Photos: Jan de Goede and Bea Brouwer*

On this beautiful Saturday we are guests at residential center ‘Sint Bernardus’ in Sassenheim. The journey there goes smoothly, without too much traffic because we are on the road early. Bert Stiekema had also left early this morning and had already been busy with tables and chairs. Only the table allocation still needs to be taken care of. Some other early birds can therefore start arranging their table almost immediately.

Today it is nice and busy with visitors, only in the afternoon it is a little quieter, but that is to be expected in a residential center. Around 3:00 PM everybody is ready to start packing, but… 53 motorcycles and 9 taxi vans have arrived and are blocking the entire parking lot. However, the purpose of this is a good one, because fellow disabled people were allowed to ride with this touring caravan. As MGN we can load our cars, but in most cases we cannot leave our parking spot. Only a few of us find a hole to maneuver through. An hour later the entire caravan leaves and the rest of us can also leave for home.

***Photos Page 14:***

***Top Left & Right****: Bertus Jongste rightly proudly shows his mobile crane, which is still ‘under construction’, and his Sik.*

***Bottom Left & Right****: Herman Nobel brought his Tintin series, including the Tintin boat. On the right you see his Mammoet mega crane, which is also still ‘under construction’.*

***Photos Page 15:***

***Top 3x****: The carousel of Jan Schroef attracted a lot of attention, with lighting in the boxes. Lifting and tilting is difficult due to the weight, but turning is possible.*

***Left****: Jan de Goede’s steam workshop.*

***Bottom Left****: Henri Goovaerts brought, among other things, this motorcycle with sidecar, from 1914 WWI, with machine guns.*

***Bottom Middle****: Bea Brouwer made this short boot or shoe with a high heel.*

***Bottom Right****: Eugene Bonefaas proudly showed off his Spiering Mobile Crane.*

***Left****: On land, at sea and in the air; brought by Hans de Graaf, but we show the paddle boat.*

***Bottom Left****: New model of Bert Stiekema, the Overtype Steam Engine. Seen on the front page in News Mag 2015 and made from the construction plan with my own input. Amongst others the engine is covered (because that’s nicer).*

***Bottom Middle****: Another new model from Bert that has not been shown before, the Beam Engine. The engine has been placed in a concealed position again.*

***Bottom Right****: This tractor with a spring motor from Aat Visser serves as an example to show children that this is good for the environment, without electricity and without batteries.*

**Page 16-17**

**Meccano factory in Calais closes**

**End of Meccano production in Calais!**

*Text: Hans Kuijl*

The title of my short article on page 11 of Meccano Nieuws of summer 2023 closed with a question mark. In the Calais region in particular, the news of the impending closure of the Meccano factory hit like a bombshell, but the French and especially the English newspapers, as well as the financial and economic newspapers and weeklies, were also vocal and the Meccano magazines from the various national associations reported the news.

In my working life I have worked at the intersection of law and business economics, with special areas of interest including ‘companies in financial difficulties’ and ‘forensic accountancy’, ‘accountancy at the service of the law’; a fit for my taste, this closure, as you can imagine. While reading, the question arose whether the experience of that bomb impact was justified.

Looking at the case with some distance over time, it is striking that many historical descriptions are presented in the form of the ownership relationship of the Meccano brand (see Appendix 1), and the color schemes of the Meccano parts also receive occasional attention. If you like, take a look at the different color schemes in certain periods in relation to ownership relationships. A change in ownership often also results in a more or less extensive change in color scheme. It would take us too far to go into all these messages in detail; to this end, an extensive literature review is included for the enthusiast (see Appendix 2).

According to Appendix 1, significant changes have occurred in ownership relationships in more than a century (1901 to 2023), with a special role for Argentina. After the transfer of the Meccano shares by the Hornby heirs in 1964, changes in the shareholding occurred even more frequently, which usually did not last longer than 10 years, including that of the current shareholder Spin Master, who acquired the shares in 2013.

The subject is well known, especially through the wonderful work of Bert Love and Jim Gamble in the Hornby Companion Series, Volume 6. A 5-to-10-year ownership term also provides the opportunity to take a closer look at the profitability of the product.

Interesting is Spin Master’s announcement from the fourth quarter of 2022, which caused the fuss described above: *“…..In connection with efforts to effectively manage the Company’s cost structure, in the first quarter of 2023, the Company committed to a planned reduction to its global workforce and also announced the intention to close its manufacturing facility in Calais, France inherited through the acquisition of Meccano in 2013. As a result, in 2023 the Company expects to incur a restructuring charge of approximately $9.0M related to severance, employee-related costs, professional fees and closure costs.”*

Please note that it says ‘*manufacturing facility*’. This suggests that production will be moved to low-wage countries, such as China, and that a small assembly facility will remain in Calais to package the right parts, in the right quantities, in the appropriate boxes. The Calais branch has never been profitable since 2013 despite the investment that has taken place since 2014. The thunderclap that the mayor of Calais and members of staff also mention is just a firecracker that you could have seen coming for several years. An excellent overview article can be found in *Meccano British model construction system* (see Appendix 2).

**Page 18**

**In the news... in the Noordhollands Dagblad**

*Text: Bea Brouwer & Photos: René Muijen*

On Monday, June 19, 2023, a two-page article is published with the title ‘With a direct hit to Rosmalen: René Muijen (75) amazes with a direct hit: the first RC transmitter from Meccano’, with which you can operate a radio-controlled car (RC means remote control). All beautifully illustrated with photos of his famous Meccano knight suit (bottom left), and his radio-controlled Ford (bottom right).

Quotes such as: ‘The hobby has gradually become bigger and bigger, and has now cost me a fortune’, ‘I started with Meccano when I was eight’, and ‘I get reactions from Canada, America, Germany and England’. Furthermore, a beautiful quote about building with Meccano: ‘It is the magic that you see something grow, see something emerge.’

Editor’s note: The bottom photo is unfortunately a bit dark, but René’s face speaks volumes, so I posted it anyway.

**Page 19**

**Rosmalen, July 1 and 2, 2023**

*Text: Bea Brouwer*

After several calls, including during the AGM last March, unfortunately no one came forward to coordinate the 2-day summer edition of the Model Building Show in Autotron Rosmalen. The result was that the MGN as such was not represented, but two true Meccano enthusiasts ensured that Meccano could still be included in the program booklet. Unfortunately, a third enthusiast was too late to register.

Henri Goovaerts and René Muijen proudly showed their models. René thought it was a shame that there were not more members. It was quite busy on Saturday, July 1, according to René, and reasonable visited on July 2. The two gentlemen were able to leave a nice impression on the audience with their Meccano presentation.

***Photos Page 19:***

***Top & 2x Right****: Henri brought many items, such as the carousel, the train hoist, truck with racing cars and his truck with trailer with his RC shovel on it.*

***Bottom Left****: René Muijen’s Ford snowmobile, from 1923, of which 8 different models were made. This one is RC.*

***Bottom Right****: Naturally proud of his newspaper article, he laminated it and placed it on a Meccano stand.*

**Page 20**

**Information from the Documentation Center**

*Text: Jan de Vries*

The extensive documentation center of the MGN is currently housed in the Brouwer home in Dongen. You can see what it includes in the overview, which can be found on the MGN website under ‘Documentatiecentrum’. Disclosing the entire collection by subject, model, time period, technique, etc., etc., with or without photos or the entire article, would require a huge investment of time and is not necessary. For an overview of the contents of all those magazines, books and model descriptions, you can use various websites on the internet, many of which already offer this.

Once you know the source where what you are looking for is published, it can also be quickly found in the Documentation Center for reference. But where do you look for something on the internet, because the range is overwhelming. In fact, only a handful of websites are needed to get an almost complete overview. The intention is to review the most important ones on this page.

To get started, just a few Internet sources are sufficient for an overview of all links to websites on the Internet:

Meccano Weblink ( https://meccano.link/index.htm ) via de website van het MGN ( http://www.meccanogilde.nl )

International Society of Meccanomen ( http://internationalmeccanomen.org.uk/ISM/Societys/soc.html )

The overview in the digital quarterly magazine Johnny’s Meccano Magazine, to which you can subscribe for free by sending an email to MeccanoNews@gmail.com. An overview of available previously published episodes can be found via Timothy Edwards’ website ( https://www.meccanoindex.co.uk/Johnnys/index.php?id=1689859556 )

Timothy Edwards’ website, which was already brought to your attention on the back page of Meccano Nieuws 41.1 from 2023, is of great value for opening up the MGN Documentation Center. That is why I would like to pay more attention to this in a next issue.

**Page 24**

**Your voice is heard**

**In the news... in the Weekly magazine for the Uitgeest region**

Jan & Ans de Goede thought this newspaper article was sublime! One of the bands is called Mecano…

**In Memoriam: Dipl. Ing. Karl Rekers**

The message came through Jan Schurink that the founder of the German brand Metallus, Mr. Karl Rekers, passed away on July 20, 2023 at the age of 93.

On the site www.metallus.de you will find everything you want to know about this brand. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that a great man has passed away.

**Call for joint purchasing of set screw with hexagon socket control**

Herman Nobel writes the following regarding these adjustment screws:

Some time ago I received 200 via Ebay.nl for €15.00 and that seemed like a fair price. Would it perhaps be useful to check with the members whether there is interest in this and then place a slightly larger order together?

If you intend to order this type of adjusting screw, you can contact Herman Nobel by e-mail.

**Storage of Meccano**

Henri Goovaerts has quite a bit of stock in the field of Meccano, among other things. He has set up a beautiful system for this where he keeps everything. Below is a specially custom-made cupboard in which a number of boxes are stored.

**Forklift truck**

Ruud van der Marel from Lekkerkerk writes the following:

Attached is a nice example of Meccano (I received the construction sets from my parents around 1960) supplemented with contemporary digital technology. I recreated the forklift from a special model leaflet and equipped it with servo control. This makes the whole thing radio controllable, very fun! Perhaps an inspiration for other Meccano enthusiasts.

You can watch a video of this forklift on the MGN website.