Ollie's GARAGE

Rusty car bits have always been a problem for those of us living near the coast so it came as a very pleasant surprise to discover that a mixture of about 10 water to 1 molasses makes a fantastic rust removal bath. I have rigged up an old 210 litre drum in my back yard filled with this mixture. Into it suspended on wire hooks are various severely rusted parts from the Citroën 2CV's that a friend and I are rebuilding. From body parts to suspension and cast iron....all come out devoid of any rust and almost shiny clean. A light scrub with a wire brush and running water to remove any clinging iron oxide and molasses residue and its ready for priming and painting. If not, after a scrub put it back in the molasses for a week or two longer.

Removing rust using Molasses uses a process known as chelating. Without a good, scientific explanation, the process can be described as "Reverse Oxidation", wherein certain acids or chemicals in the molasses solution strip the oxygen from the iron oxide, leaving the iron behind. The downside is that it's slow and heavy rust can take 3 or 4 weeks to remove. Don't put aluminium, zinc or brass items in as they will be eroded and destroy your mixture. It won't take paint off unless its rusty underneath and you also need to de-grease any items first. Apparently it's effective for over 6 months and when you are finished with it you can safely pour it on your garden and your plants will enjoy it with relish, absolutely no pollution what so ever. The process is slow compared with other methods; electrolysis, various other acids and abrasives. Surface rust can be removed in a day or two, while heavy rust will require at least a couple of weeks. However, there are several advantages!

There are no dangerous chemicals. Unlike some of the other methods, there is nothing that can burn your skin or eyes by this method. There are no toxic by-products. It's effective. All oxidation will be completely removed, given enough time in the bath. The clean metal underneath will not be affected.

Have a look on the net: type "**Rust removal with molasses**" and you will discover people all over the world using this method. **Look on the last page for pictures.**

That's the bundle for now. Oliver Hart hart2@telkomsa.net

Spares Shop will be open from 10h00 to 12h00

Peter Kaminski will be at your service to help you find that obsolete part on the following Wednesdays.

June 10th

July 8th

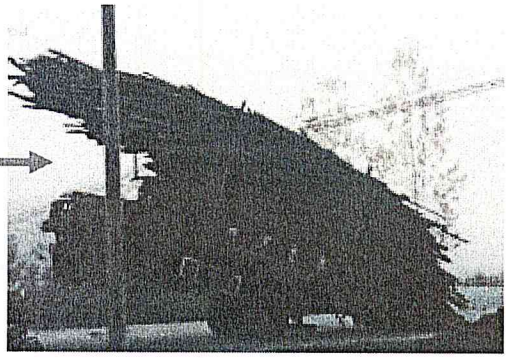
ZDDP is now in stock.

FRONT COVER

Peter Gillit has a big smile after receiving a bottle of wine after his 1968 Jaguar 420 was awarded the "Car of the day".

This page available for advert

Our chairman carting away the bamboo from the back of our club.







Thought you might like to see how effective the molasses and water treatment is.

This Citroën 2Cv brake drum (above left), was immersed in the solution for 6 days and this is the result (above right). Not completely clean yet but a week or so back in the bath should do the trick. The bare metal is not affected but obviously pits where the rust had eroded the metal will still be there although they will be totally rust free and clean. This is so much better than sanding the rust off and even better than grit (sand) blasting as no good metal is removed in the process. Even good paint is not affected. Now why is it that you only find out all the good things late in life! ***Ed.***