

## FROM THE PAST

by Cheech Iero

Some hobbyists collect rare stamps. Some enjoy old coins, and some people get a kick out of restoring antique cars. So why not old drums? Because of a current resurgence in this fascinating hobby, MD paid a visit to Newington, Connecticut to investigate the impressive collections of Mssrs. Charlie Donnelly and Trevor Davis, two of the country's leading experts in the area of vintage equipment. Let's start by focusing on the drummer's primary instrument; the snare drum.

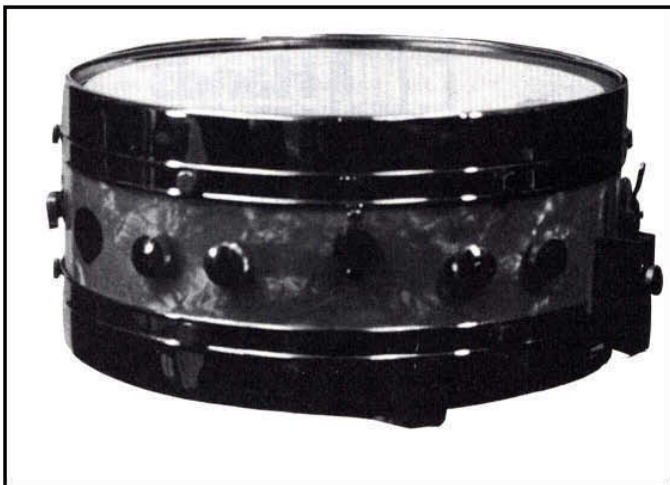


1) "They just don't make 'em like that anymore," was Charlie Donnelly's description of this Leedy *Full Dress* snare drum, circa: 1925-30. Complete with maple shell, red and gold diamond trim and gold plated rims and lugs, this specialty item sold for around \$65.00 in the "good ole days."

2) The *Rocket* by Gretsch is a 6 1/2 X 14" drum. It's a rare one since there weren't very many made. For some reason the drum didn't catch on and Gretsch discontinued manufacturing the item around 1935.



3) Claimed by some to be the finest drum ever made, this 1940 Leedy snare is 5 X 14". It sports brass hardware, gut snares and a mahogany shell with maple reinforcement hoops.



4) It's a good thing drummers didn't throw away their drum keys when this Leedy-Ludwig *Knob Tension* drum came out in 1950. It caught on about as well as the Edsel. Leedy-Ludwig stopped making this drum in 1951.

5) Somewhere between 1930 and 1938 Leedy made this deep 8 X 14" dual snare drum. Note the two sets of snares. One on the snare side, and another under the batter head.



6) A unique feature of this old Ludwig snare drum was its dual snare throw-off. One set of snares was made of gut, the other of wire. This special item allowed the drummer to play with both sets of snares on, or individually.



7) This sea green pearl snare drum was manufactured by Slingerland around 1928. The hardware is all brass with ten lugs and the original gut snares and calf skin heads are still on. Mint condition!

