

One Last Court Case

By Scot H. Dahms

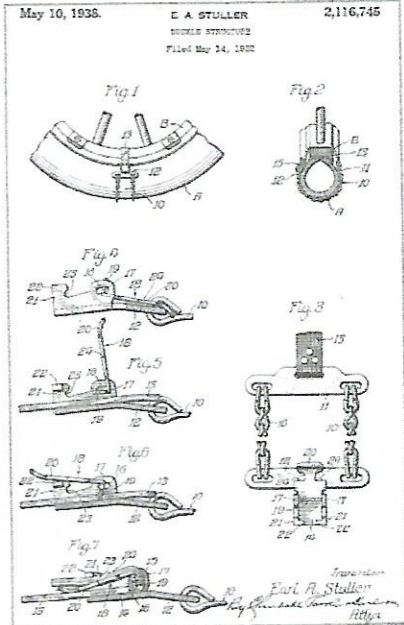
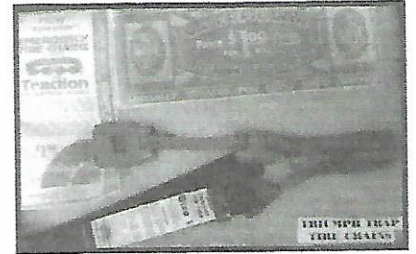
As many are aware, the Triumph Trap Company had many court battles during its existence. Most are familiar with the main three. The first is when they lost to the Oneida Community (OC) and had to remove Oneida from their trap pans resulting in the name change to Triumph. The second is when they won versus the OC and the OC had to stop producing the Giant trap. The third is when they lost to Gibbs and had to stop making the Three Jaw. One last court case finished up on February 7, 1938. This was after Triumph sold out to Gibbs and Gibbs sold out to Animal Trap Company. The court case included a past Triumph employee and the patent application had the Triumph Trap Company as the assignee.

On November 8, 1932, Francis E. Adams and, coinventor, Mr. Ennis filed an application for a patent on a buckle used on emergency tire chains for automobiles. Adams and Ennis conceived the invention on June 17, 1931. They tested the buckle with chains on an automobile on June 25, 1931. The five mile road test was from Oneida to Verona.

Earl A. Stiller filed a similar application for patent on May 14, 1932.

Stiller was an employee of the Western Chain Products Company, who is the assignee of the patent. Stiller conceived the buckle on November 1, 1930. William P. Seymour and Charles J. Collin, both employees of Western Chain, tested the buckle with chains on an automobile in February of 1931.

In early 1932, \$50,000 worth of chain with that buckle were sold by Western Chain to the Sears, Roebuck Co. Sears, Roebuck Co. was the primary customer of Western Chain with approximately one-half of the total volume of their sales.



Fotos of Famous Fur Men – F. E. Adams

This month we beg to introduce, A man who does not furs produce,
Tho' his contrivance nets 'em. He's ADAMS of the Triumph Trap.
A decent sort of hustling chap, Who sells the "Trap That Gets 'Em".
The non-slip, three-grip, Triple-Clutch. Which now is in demand so
much, By every man who sets 'em. He says that those who do invest,
In his traps always find 'em best And nobody regrets 'em.

Unfortunately, even though Adams and Ennis were quicker when going from conception to reduction to practice, 9 days compared to 4 months, Stiller was still awarded the patent for the buckle. The dates of Stiller's invention conception to reduction to practice were all earlier than Adams and Ennis', so the court could not have ruled any other way.

Sadly, the loss of this court case makes the Triumph Trap Company 1-3 in trademark and patent cases. Maybe it should not count since Triumph did not exist anymore when it was lost. Your call.

The information for this article came from the following:

-Adams et al. v. Stuller, Patent Appeal No. 3878, Court of Customs and Patent Appeals, February 7, 1938.

-United States Patent Office, Specification of Letters Patent, Patent numbers 2,116,745.

-TRAPS magazine, Issue #67, Aug 1996.

If anyone has any information contrary to what I have written here, I encourage them to email, mail, call or respond in the magazine.

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