

## **The Wenstrup-Peerless Garage Company**

The Wenstrup-Peerless Garage was a business that operated in Cincinnati Ohio between 1915 and 1920 (Approx). This business stored, serviced and repaired automobiles. It was located in Walnut Hills on Woodburn Avenue. It was on the site of the current of Schulhoff Tool Rental.

The garage was operated by Frank J. Wenstrup. He is listed in the 1918 Cincinnati Directory as the Treasurer and Secretary. Frank is the son of John Henry Wenstrup Jr and the grandson of John Henry Wenstrup, who immigrated to the United States in 1842

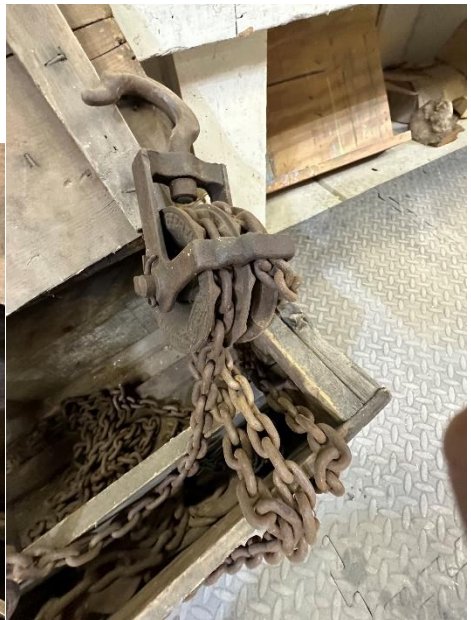
So, Why Is This So Interesting? Well, for perspective the auto industry was in its infancy then. Only 1 in 13 families in the USA had automobiles at that time (this changed to 4 out of 5 by 1929 – only 11 years later). Most automobiles were owned by wealthy people, and they likely had no garage to store them. Thus, the storage part of the business.

The way the system worked was that chauffeurs were employed by the well to do. They took the street car from their home to The Wenstrup-Peerless Garage on Woodburn Avenue, which was on the street car line. They would drive the car to the owner's homes. Then they spent the day driving the owners as they needed. At the end of the day, they would return the car to The Wenstrup-Peerless Garage for storage, maintenance and any needed repairs.

Obviously, as cars became more affordable and the numbers increased and people started to build garages, this business was no longer needed or viable. This was very much a period of time business and did not grow beyond that time frame.

Over the years, some of the tools used at Wenstrup Peerless Garage have been passed on to future generations. My dad (Lou Wenstrup) had them and I now have them. You can see pictures of:

- Winch Pulley (Block and Tackle as dad called it), which was used for heavy lifting like engines or transmissions.



- Simplex Mechanical Jack



- An early version of today's Socket (ratchet) wrench



- Creeper, just like today only wood and iron, with little or no padding (dad added the carpet)





A large “C” Clamp.



I hope this is preserved for future generations,, because this is representative of where we have all come from..

Source:

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