

Collecting Vintage Drums

By "Sir" Alan Buckley

Classic Drum Museum, England

- I started collecting vintage drums some 15 years ago. The idea came when I started a jazz festival in Malvern, a picturesque town in the county of Worcestershire.
- The name of the festival was the Al Capone Hot Jazz Festival. I needed some form of art decoration so I bought a few old drums. This was a good idea and they really looked great. This was the start of collecting. After a few years, the drum collection got bigger and bigger, until at present day I have amassed 110 full drum kits and over 300 snare drums plus catalogs and books. My father, who was a very good stride piano player, put me to the piano at the age of 6. I didn't get on playing the piano but always wanted to play drums, so at the age of 8 my first drum kit arrived. Guess what it was! A Leedy, 28 inch bass drum with a traps tray and lots of traps. That was in 1944 and that Leedy drum kit lasted me until my father bought me a new drum kit in 1948. I remember going to Birmingham and selecting the kit I wanted. It was a "Beverley Genius", a white kit with two tom-toms, 24-inch bass drum, and a 6 1/2 inch brass snare drum. Thanks Dad, it looked great! It sounded great when I played the kit with my 78 rpm records on the gramophone to 12th Street Rag.
- In the 1950's, 1956 to be precise, I bought a new Ajax drum kit - White Marine Pearl, 20 inch bass drum, two tom-toms, and a 5 inch snare drum. The Ajax kit lasted me into the 90's. The next and present kit, which I bought at the Chicago drum fair, is a 1970's White Marine Pearl Slingerland. What can I say, a good looker and it sounds great. That's enough about me for the time being. In the next issue of "Vintage Drummer" I will write about American and English drums, so make sure you order the next issue of the magazine.
- That's all folks, "Sir" Alan.





Pictures From "Sir" Alan's
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