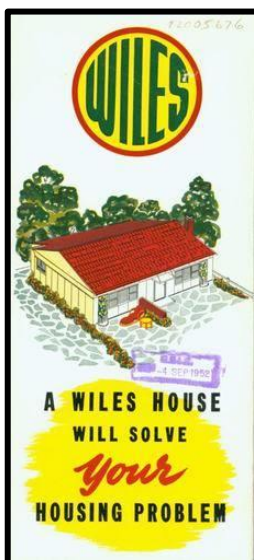
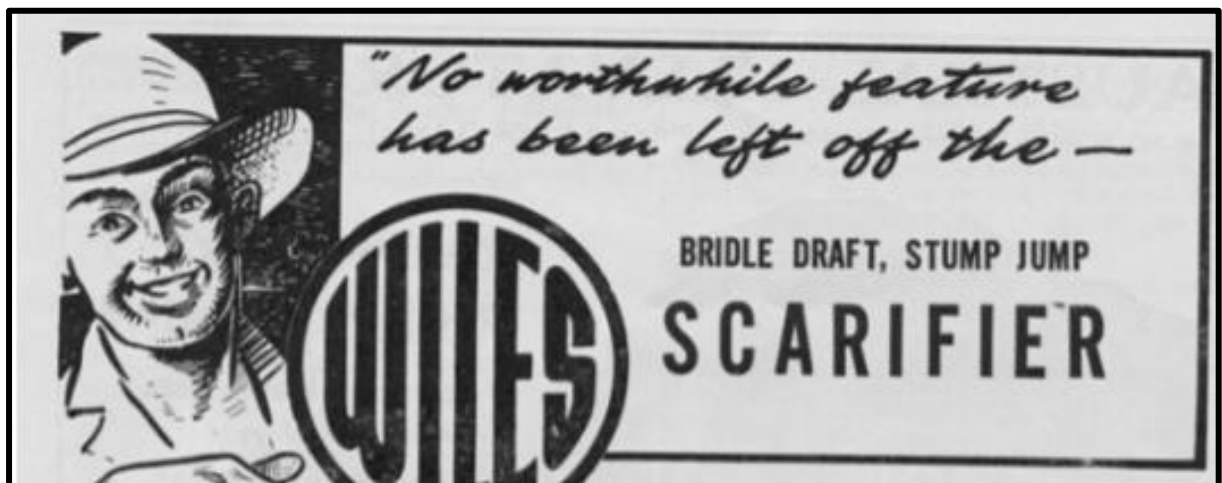


Wiles Manufacturing Company Ltd.



West Torrens Historical Society Inc.

(G. Grainger, 2023)

*Every effort has been made to provide complete and accurate information,
please advise of any errors or omissions.*

JAMES (JIM) WILES



James Fletcher Wiles [samhs.org.au]

James (Jim) Fletcher Wiles was born in Clunes near Ballarat, Victoria in June 1883.



Geelong Advertiser, 11 Nov 1905, p4

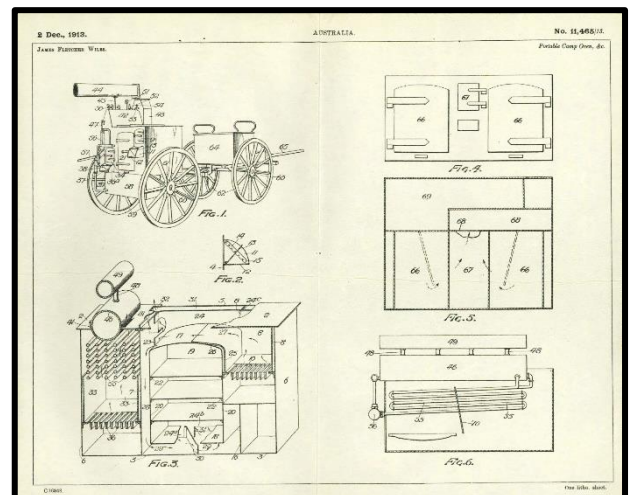
In the early 1900s he established an electroplating plant in Armstrong Street, Ballarat and after the business was destroyed by fire in November 1905, set up an engineering firm in Doveton Street South, Ballarat.

Wiles had served in the Boer War and noted during his time in the army that the feeding of large numbers of soldiers posed quite difficult logistical issues

WILES TRAVELLING ARMY FIELD KITCHEN, 1913

In December 1913 Wiles patented the 'Wiles Travelling Army Field Kitchen'.

Later known as the 'Wiles Mobile and Stationary Steam Cooker', it was an ingenious device containing steam boilers, roasting ovens, hot and cold water tanks, stockpots and related paraphernalia and could be used to quickly prepare large quantities of food and drink.



[Wiles Cooker Facebook]

The cooker could be operated in both a stationary position or put on wheels and was thus capable of rapid transportation by either by motor vehicle or horse.



Horse drawn cooker [samhs.org.au]



[Wiles Cooker Facebook]

After testing, about three hundred of the cookers were used by the Australian Army during the first world war, Wiles manufacturing them in his Doveton Street plant.



However, in early 1918 the Australian Army decided that after the war it would standardise all of its equipment to British Army methods and so discontinue using the cooker. Wiles was so disappointed by the decision that in May 1918 he sold his engineering business and moved with his family – wife (Adelaide) Margaret and six children – to a fruit block near Cadell, South Australia.

After running up almost £3,000 in debts Wiles abandoned the block and moved with his family to Adelaide in April 1926.

[Wiles Cooker Facebook]

The Wiles Cooker

**Has revolutionised Methods of Feeding our
Troops on the Battlefield**

THE WILES COOKER is now exclusively employed by the Commonwealth Government in supplying the material needs of our Soldiers in the Great War cutting out the Field Cookers of other Countries.

NAPOLEON once declared that an Army "Travels on its Stomach" (or words to that effect). The Wiles Cooker is the Soldiers' Friend!

THE WILES COOKER is being adapted for use by Squatters, Farmers and Dairyman, Shearers and Harvest Workers fed in quick time, *Steam in a few moments.* For all Dairy, Homestead and Power Purposes. Soldiers "swear by it" and so do all Farm Workers.

WONDERFUL SAVING of time trouble and temper, and of fuel for those who install the Wiles Cooker on Farm or Station.

Designed by J. F. WILES, and Patented in Many Lands

J. F. WILES, General Ironfounder & Engineer
DOVETON STREET, SOUTH
[Old Phoenix Foundry site]

Sheet-Metal and Stampings produced; General Plumbing executed; Hot Water Services supplied

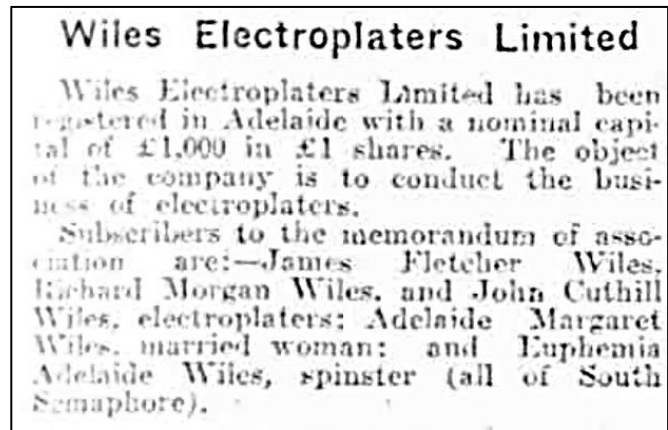
Builders' and Contractors' Work a Speciality

WILES ELECTROPLATERS LTD, 1929

In Adelaide Wiles worked successively for John Shearer and Sons, Kilkenny, the Ford Motor Factory, Birkenhead and Horwood Bagshaw Ltd, Mile End.

In April 1929 he set up Wiles Electroplaters Ltd at 10 North Street, Adelaide.

Although the business went into voluntary liquidation in October 1931 Wiles was undeterred, the next month establishing the 'Wiles Chromium Plating Company Limited' in the same premises.



News, 29 Apr 1929, p9

WILES CHROMIUM PLATING COMPANY LIMITED, 1934

In 1934 the business moved to a 0.23 acre/0.09 hectare site at 215 Waymouth Street.

With the assistance of four of his sons – John (Jack) Cuthill Wiles (1907-89), James Kenneth (Ken) (1909-86), Richard (Dick) Morgan (1911-97) and Ivor William (1916-2001) – Wiles built the enterprise into an outstanding success.



Ivor William Wiles [ancestry.com]

Although Wiles used conventional electroplating and bronzing finishes such as copper, nickel, silver, tin and zinc to decorate a variety of domestic items like crockery and cigarette lighters, he also specialised in the use of chromium.



[astimegoesbyvintage.com]

Then an innovation in Adelaide, chromium electroplating was particularly useful for supplying hardwearing finishes to products as diverse as motor vehicle parts and steel axe handles.

In 1936 Wiles claimed that his business, employing sixty workers, was 'the largest jobbing electroplating plant in the southern hemisphere'. Its advertising slogan was 'Better Work Cannot Be Done Than Ours'.

In April 1938 the company's name was altered slightly to the Wiles Chromium and Electroplating Company Limited and it became an incorporated entity.

WILES STEAM COOKERS, 1942

Wiles died in Adelaide in August 1939.

Just before his death Wiles told his sons that if there was another war they should try to adapt his first world war cooker for use in the conflict. His sons carried out his wishes.



J. Kenneth Wiles (Son of James Fletcher Wiles with Sir Cedric Stanton Hicks) [nashos.org.au]

Ken Wiles travelled on troop ships across the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans to demonstrate the cooker. By the end of the war the Wiles brothers had manufactured almost 3,000 cookers and earned close to £1 million in revenue. One of the Wiles's last wartime orders was a mid-1945 contract to supply £28,000 worth of cookers to Dutch troops in the Netherlands East Indies [now Indonesia].

Updated versions of the cooker, and a smaller model, the Junior Cooker, were used by Australian Army until 1980.

Death of Mr. J. F. Wiles

Mr. James Fletcher Wiles, chairman of directors of Wiles Chromium and Electro-plating Co., Ltd., died today, aged 57.

He was born in Ballarat, and started working on the New Era Block, near Cadell, in 1917. He came to Adelaide several years later, being employed first with the Ford Motor Co. Later he started in business on his own.

Mr. Wiles was a keen supporter of the South Park Bowling Club. He is survived by a widow, a daughter, and five sons.

News, 11 Aug 1939, p3

With vital support from nutrition expert Lieutenant Colonel Dr Cedric Stanton Hicks (1892-1976), the brothers were able, after much bureaucratic hesitation from within the federal government, to see the improved stationary and mobile Wiles steam cookers in February 1942 approved for use by allied troops throughout the Pacific theatre and elsewhere.

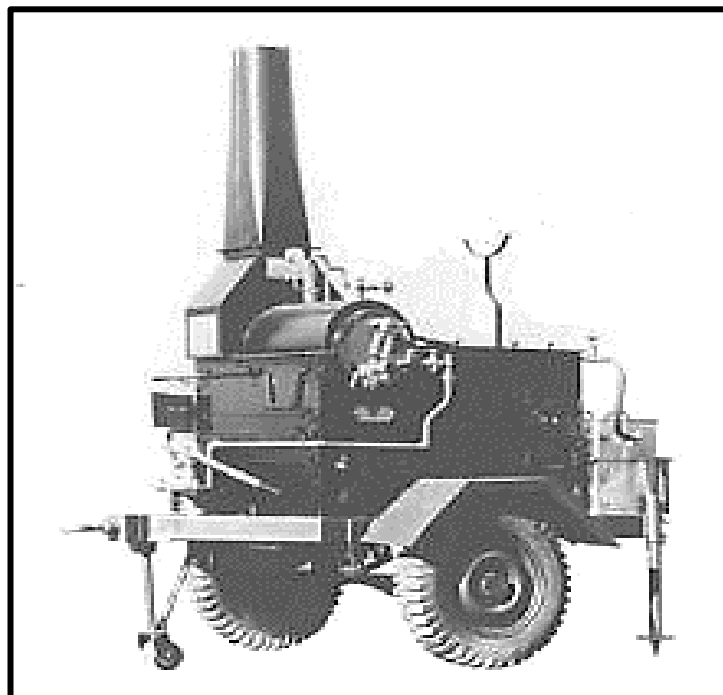
MILE END SOUTH SITE, 1941

Anticipating Army approval, in 1941-42 the Wiles brothers had bought or leased land on Birmingham Street, Mile End South (eastern side of Pymbrah Road) in order to build a factory to manufacture the cookers. The land was close to Adelaide and to rail links. Production of the stationary cooker began there in mid-1941, the mobile version following the next year.



Mile End South, 1949 [West Maps Public]

The Wiles's continued buy land at the site after the war; by May 1952 they had accumulated just over five acres/2.02 hectares there, with property on the north and south sides of both Manchester and Birmingham Streets. As a consequence of the Birmingham Street purchases, in late 1949 the West Torrens council sold a portion of the street to the Wiles brothers for £275. At the company's peak in the early 1950s its factory floor space covered around 2.75 acres.



Wiles Junior Cooker [samhs.org.au]



Wiles Chromium Company 1940-1942 [SLSA BRG-213-207-5-708]



Wiles Chromium Company 1940-1942 [SLSA BRG-213-207-5-710]

DIVERSIFYING, POST WORLD WAR 2

After the war, with Ken as managing director, Dick as works director, Ivor as sales director and Jack as a general director, the Mile End South site of the Wiles Chromium and Electroplating Co. Ltd transitioned dramatically but seamlessly into new areas of production. To better reflect its forthcoming change in product range, in mid-June 1945 Wiles had been renamed as the Wiles Manufacturing Company (the name change was not formalised until May 1950).

From early 1946 the company began to focus on two enterprises: the production of seeding and tillage implements, including harrows, ploughs, scarifiers and fertiliser and seed drills, and the manufacture of a range of prefabricated kitchen units, each including a sink, stove, refrigerator, hot water service and steel cupboards.

In an early success, in mid-1946, when it employed around two hundred workers, Wiles won a £100,000 contract to supply agricultural implements to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency.

(In the late 1940s the company also developed a prototype of a new, light motor vehicle based on the German DKW car. Despite extensive road trials around Adelaide the car never went into production).



DKW 1950s-1960s [myautoworld.com]

WILES MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED, 1950s

In the early 1950s the company flourished. A key change for Wiles in these years was its mid-1949 decision to move from the manufacture of prefabricated kitchens to the production of entire steel structures including small industrial buildings, houses, garages, cisterns, wheat bins and water tanks.

At a time of acute postwar housing shortages Wiles focused particularly on the production of prefabricated homes. (Australia's first all-steel prefabricated house had been assembled in Melbourne in nine days in April 1947). Wiles bought much of the plant and machinery required to manufacture its new steel products from the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation. Wiles's change of direction was initially a resounding success.

In 1952 Wiles made three sizes of prefabricated steel houses. The smallest size, costing £850, consisted of three rooms, steel panel insulated walls, steel roof tiles and fittings including a bath sink, stove, tank stand and wash trough. The house could be constructed by four workmen in a week.

WILES Ready-to-Erect **LATTICE FRAME** STEEL BUILDING FRAMES

120 05679

IMPLEMENT SHEDS
SHEDDING SHEDS
ALL TYPE FACTORY BUILDINGS
GENERAL PURPOSE BUILDINGS

- 20 FT. SPAN. 18 ft., 12 ft. and 14 ft. columns are available spaced at 12 ft., 4 ft. and 10 ft. centres.
- 30 FT. SPAN. 18 ft. and 12 ft. columns spaced at 12 ft., 4 ft. and 10 ft., 14 ft. and 16 ft. columns spaced at 12 ft., 4 ft. centres only.
- 40 FT. SPAN. 12 ft. columns spaced 12 ft., 4 ft. and 10 ft. centres, 14 ft. and 16 ft. columns spaced at 12 ft., 4 ft. centres.
- 53 FT. SPAN. 12 ft. columns spaced 12 ft., 4 ft. and 10 ft. centres, 14 ft. and 16 ft. columns spaced at 12 ft., 4 ft. centres.

Greater structural strength—Less upkeep—Lower initial cost—Standard sections for easily erected extensions—Speedy erection by unskilled labour. These are some of the important reasons why more and more industrialists, graziers and farmers are erecting all manner of buildings in steel. A large proportion of them are products of the Wiles Manufacturing Company, who have specialised in steel building construction for nearly 25 years. Wiles Steel Buildings are the answer to your building problem.

WILES STEEL BUILDINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN BATTEN TYPE, TRUSS TYPE, IN STANDARD GARAGES AND COTTAGES. ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE AND FULL PARTICULARS AVAILABLE ON APPLICATION.

WILES LATTICE TYPE BUILDING FRAMES

STRONG, RIGID AND PERMANENT WILES STANDARDISED CONSTRUCTION METHOD MAKES POSSIBLE ADDITIONS WITHOUT INCONVENIENCE AT ANY TIME

Wiles' Lattice type buildings are engineered to exacting specifications. Standard interchangeable sections enable accurate assembly by unskilled labour. The complete Wiles range of steel buildings have been designed and thoroughly proved and are manufactured in standardised types allowing for the production to your requirements of almost any type of building.

Special features are:—

- Strength and rigidity without excessive weight.
- Designed to comply with State and Commonwealth Building Codes.
- Wind bracing in side and roof where necessary.
- Welded channel steel Lattice type side columns.
- Welded channel steel eaves beams, if required.
- Welded channel steel Lattice type rafters.
- Welded channel steel Lattice type and wall columns.
- White Ant and Borer proof.
- Strong, durable and fire resistant.
- Purlin and girt brackets adjustable to suit individual requirements.
- Foundation bolts for each column, also all bolts for steelwork assembly.

STRENGTH HIGH QUALITY STEEL CHANNELS, ALL WELDED FOR MAXIMUM RIGIDITY. ALL BOLT HOLES PRE-DRILLED AND EXACTLY MATCHED. FINISHED IN ROOF-PROOF STRUCTURAL RED PAINT.

WIND BRACING. STEEL BRACING IS EMPLOYED FOR ABSOLUTE RIGIDITY OF THE COMPLETE STRUCTURE.

BASES COMPLETELY RIGID. WELDED TO SLATES SECURED AND BRACED BY 2 ASSEMBLY BOLTS. ALL HOLES PRE-DRILLED AND MATCHED FOR EXACT FIT.

ROOF. ALL WELDED HEAVY GAUGE STEEL PLATE. SECURED BY 4 STREET POUND-TON BOLTS.

PURLIN AND GIRT BOLTS SET SQUARELY. FIXED BY HEAVY GAUGE BRACKETS. CAN BE FITTED IN ANY POSITION AND SECURED FOR ROUND WALLS, WINDOWS AND ROOF.

MANUFACTURED BY WILES MANUFACTURING CO. LTD., MILE END SOUTH, HILTON, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Wiles Manufacturing Co. Ltd, Steel Buildings, circa 1955 [collections.museumsvictoria.com.au]



Wiles Manufacturing Co. Ltd, Farm Buildings, circa 1960 [collections.museumsvictoria.com.au]

Larger homes of 655 square feet/60.9 square metres and 755 square feet/70.1 square metres sold for £1,300 and £1,450 respectively.

By mid-1954, when the Mile End South plant reached its peak employment of 450 workers – the company had an active sporting and social club – Wiles had manufactured around two hundred prefabricated steel houses, 4,500 steel garages and ‘thousands’ of steel cisterns for water closets.

The agricultural implement side of the business also did well, in mid-1952 accounting for around one half of Wiles’s output.

In August 1952 Wiles’s Mile End South factory, including land, buildings and machinery, was valued by the company at £850,000. In the 1950s Wiles also had a sales, service and spare parts division in Elizabeth Street, city.

Wiles’s profits reflected its burgeoning success: in 1951-52 the company recorded a record net profit of £59,115, with sales up 45.6% from the previous financial year.

Seeking funds for further expansion, in June 1951 Wiles converted to a public company with nominal capital of £300,000.

In 1952-53 and 1953-54 Wiles Manufacturing earned the still excellent net profits of £46,867 and £47,867 respectively. In December 1953 Wiles shareholders approved an increase in the company’s nominal capital to £500,000. By early 1954 the company had distribution outlets in every state and had begun assembling its own prefabricated production plants in Revesby, Sydney, NSW and Brisbane, Queensland.

<h2>Plucky Action Restricts Fire</h2> <p>ADELAIDE, Sun.— Damage by fire at the Wiles Manufacturing Company’s extensive electroplating works at Mile End last night was restricted £20,000 through the plucky action of 18-year-old Air Training Corps Corporal Geoffrey Durward, of Richmond, who forced himself into the building which was on fire.</p>	<p>Durward rolled a 44 gallon drum of petrol from the fire and when firemen arrived he directed them to the danger spots.</p> <p>Three firemen were injured and a fire engine damaged through contact with a tram on the way to the fire which is believed to have started through an electric oven being turned on.</p> <p>The plant’s 400 employees will not be thrown out of work as the damage was mainly confined to the office and canteen sections.</p>
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News, 4 Aug 1952, p1

In June 1954 Wiles announced the finalisation of an exciting £250,000 deal with the Oliver Corporation of Chicago, USA: Wiles would distribute Oliver's farm machinery in South Australia and the Northern Territory while at the same time manufacturing some of Oliver's tillage and cultivation products to suit Australian conditions.




*"No worthwhile feature
has been left off the —*

**BRIDLE DRAFT, STUMP JUMP
SCARIFIER**



19 and 21 tynes sizes for
early delivery.



Available in five sizes:—

13 tynes ..	6ft. 6in. cut
15 tynes ..	7ft. 6in. cut
17 tynes ..	8ft. 6in. cut
19 tynes ..	9ft. 6in. cut
21 tynes ..	10ft. 6in. cut

●

"WILES" also make:—

SPRING TYNE COMBINES
RIGID TYNE COMBINES
DISC DRILLS
MOULDBOARD PLOUGHS
TWIN DISC PLOUGHS
TWIN DISC SEEDERS
STUMP JUMP AND
TRAILER HARROWS
CULTI-PACKERS

- Sloping tynes allow trash to pass through, preventing chokes and lightening draft.
- The spring and angle steel frame is electrically welded throughout for rigid strength and lightness.
- Interchangeable wheelboxes and axles with dustproof oil caps and pressure-gun lubrication.
- Shares are available in 5in., 6in., 7in., 8in., or 10in. widths; 6in. is standard.
- Equipped with improved type, quick-action levers for even-depth cultivation.
- Independent transport lift levers are incorporated on both front standards.
- Wheels are high with varying width steel tyres. Pneumatics, if required.
- Forward tractor levers or rear levers and seat are optional.

Please send me details and prices of:—

.....

NAME

ADDRESS

Int.A./Jan.

WILES

MANUFACTURING CO. LTD.

Manchester Street, Mile End South, Hilton, S.A.

Agents Throughout South Australia. LU 6236

Journal of Agriculture—JANUARY, 1953. 51.

Wiles Scarifier, Jan 1953 [Journal of Agriculture]

The Waymouth Street site meanwhile continued electroplating work throughout these years, specialising in small or ornate items.

BUSINESS STRUGGLES, 1950s

The end for Wiles was surprising and swift. Its net profit for 1954-55 fell dramatically to £2,509, in 1955-56 the company recorded a net loss of £59,257, then a catastrophic net loss of £251,763 in 1956-57.

In 1957-58 the net loss was £11,973. In January 1957 Wiles had called an extraordinary meeting of its creditors. Chairman of directors, J.K. Wiles, explained that the deterioration and eventual collapse in 1955-56 of its deal with the Oliver Corporation had been a key factor in the company's crisis.

There had also been 'reverses in Western Australia' caused by drought conditions – the company 'could not easily leave the Western Australian market even if it wanted to' – and losses caused by 'writing down overvalued stocks'.

Ominously, a couple of months later Wiles removed himself from leadership of the company and he and his son Douglas took over the Waymouth Street business in their own name to begin Wiles Electroplaters Ltd there. (There was a tragedy at the business in late December 1957 when three employees died after being gassed by copper cyanide).

An additional problem for Wiles Manufacturing was that as the postwar demand for housing was gradually met the need for prefabricated housing fell.

In April 1957 Wiles sold its prefabricated steel building businesses in New South Wales and Queensland to a Queensland company. By then Wiles brand distribution outlets for its agricultural products in New South Wales and Queensland had been closed and the work handed to other companies.

There was occasional good news for Wiles during its declining years.

In March 1958 for example the company won a contract worth almost £107,500 to supply mobile steam cookers to the Australian Army.

Wiles then announced in October 1958 that it had won a contract from Wegmann and Company of Germany to produce railway coaches.

In 1958-59 Wiles recorded a small net profit of £1,463, its first profit since 1954-55. But the following financial year brought a net loss of £43,670. Despite company chairman's C.L. Bonython references to 'heavy competition', steel shortages and adverse seasons, and the prospect of firm offers to the company for the manufacture of railway rolling stock, it was clear that the company's name had been irreparably damaged.

WEBB HOLDINGS PTY LTD TAKEOVER, 1961

Several companies made takeover approaches to Wiles in 1958-60, Bonython admitting in October 1959 that 'the future of the company depends upon its ability to attract a takeover bid'.

In early January 1961 Webb Holdings Pty Ltd, a Melbourne-based radio and electrical group, secured 80% of the Wiles Manufacturing Company Limited's ordinary shares and thus ownership of the company.

Four months later Webb Holdings sold Wiles to W.A. Peterson Limited of Melbourne, a company described by one newspaper as 'a hotch potch of heavy engineering and radio renting and retail interests'.

Within in a couple of years most of Wiles's Mile End South land was sold. In early June 1963, the South Australian Farmers' Co-operative Union Limited bought Wiles's former site on the northern side of Manchester Street, which included offices, canteen and around 0.46 acres/c.0.19 hectares of factory space, for £45,000. (The site had shared a common boundary with existing SA Farmers Union property).

In February 1965 0.51 acres/0.21 hectares on Manchester and Birmingham Streets was sold to Alwin Fisher SA (Pty Ltd) of Birmingham Street for £13,500. In October 1963 Wiles's agricultural implements business had been sold to Horwood Bagshaw.

This was however not quite the end of the Wiles brothers at Mile End South.

WILES STEEL STRUCTURES PTY LTD, 1965

In February and September 1965 Ivor Wiles bought a small site formerly owned by the family company on the northern side of Birmingham Street.

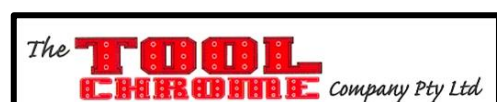
Here he established Wiles Steel Structures Pty Ltd, which specialised in the production of roller shutter doors and aluminium rolling grilles.

Ivor owned or leased the site until October 1974, when the company ceased business.

Ivor Wiles was also a state lawn bowler for South Australia and for a time in the 1980s the president of the Royal South Australian Bowls Association and a national selector.

TOOL CHROME COMPANY PTY LTD

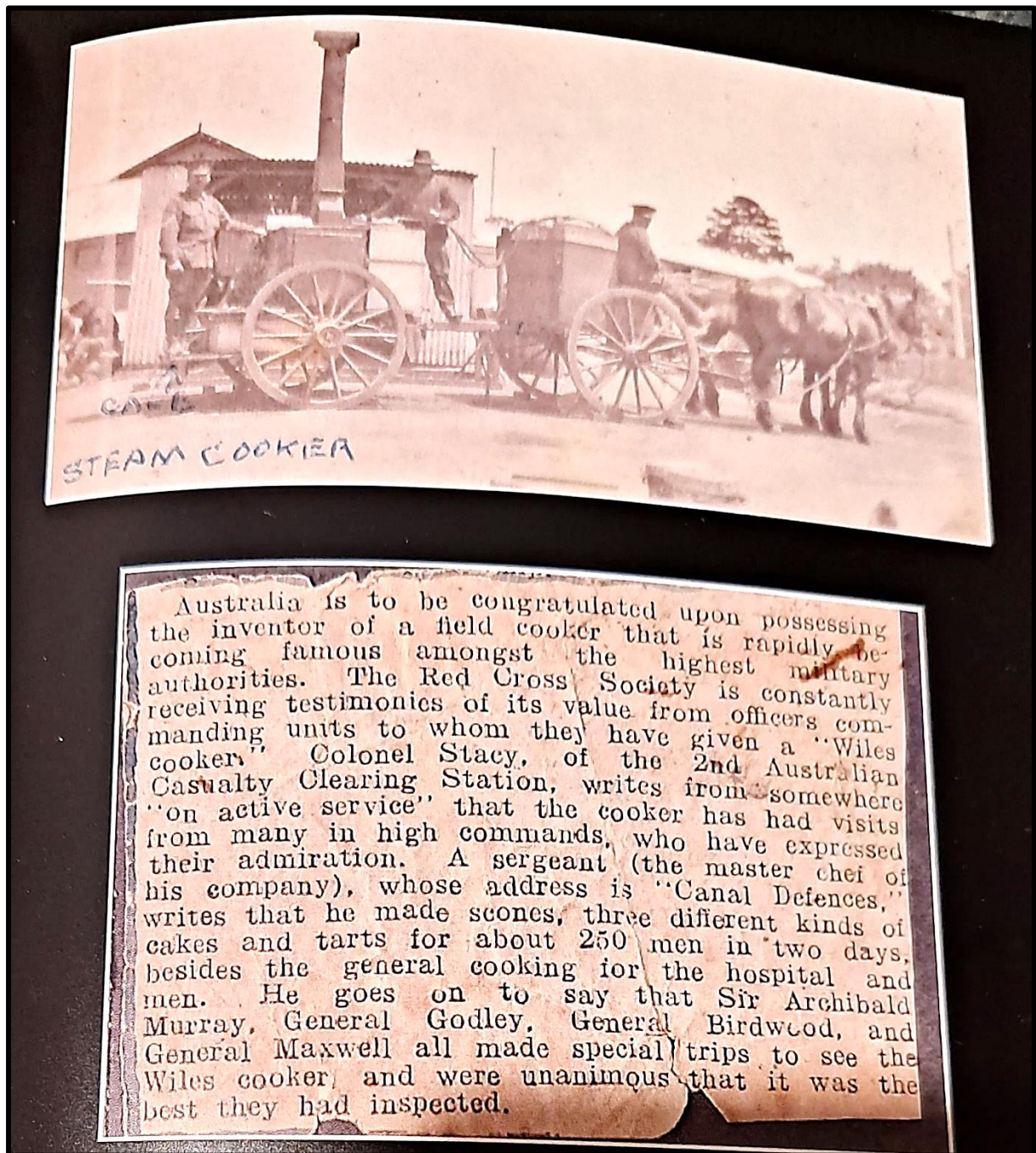
Wiles Electroplaters relocated to Hendon in the mid-1970s; later renamed as the Tool Chrome Company Pty Ltd, it is still operating at Wingfield, under different ownership, in 2023.



RESEARCH INFORMATION

Interestingly there is a Facebook page dedicated to the Wiles cooker.
“For those interested in the Wiles cooker and Army cooking in general”.

The page has the following design and instructional sheets and also shows images of a Wiles prefabricated house in Keith, South Australia.



Colonel Stacey [Wiles Cooker facebook]

BOILER UNIT Complete

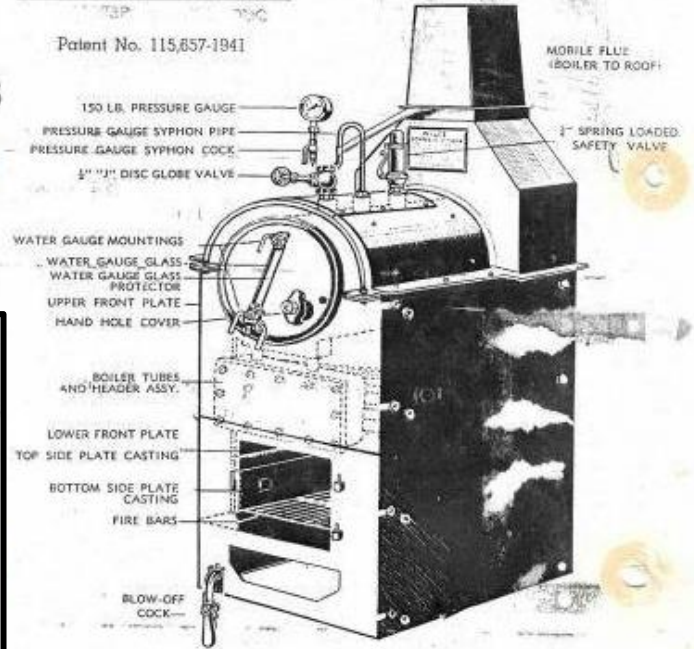
Part No. CU 1.

NOTE.—WHEN ORDERING ABOVE NO. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE SAFETY VALVE, GAUGES, ETC.

THIS BOILER IS INTERCHANGEABLE FOR STATIONARY AND MOBILE UNITS

Patent No. 115,657-1941

B

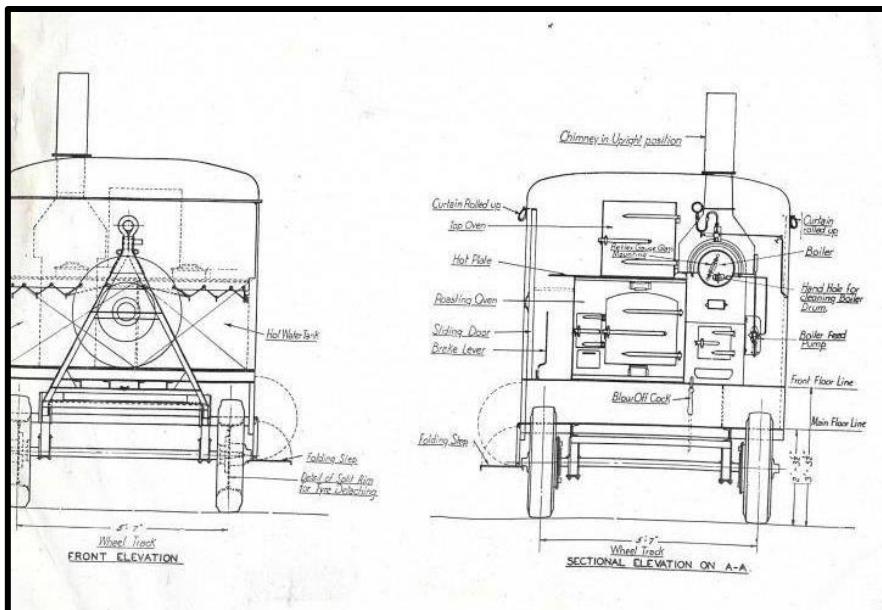
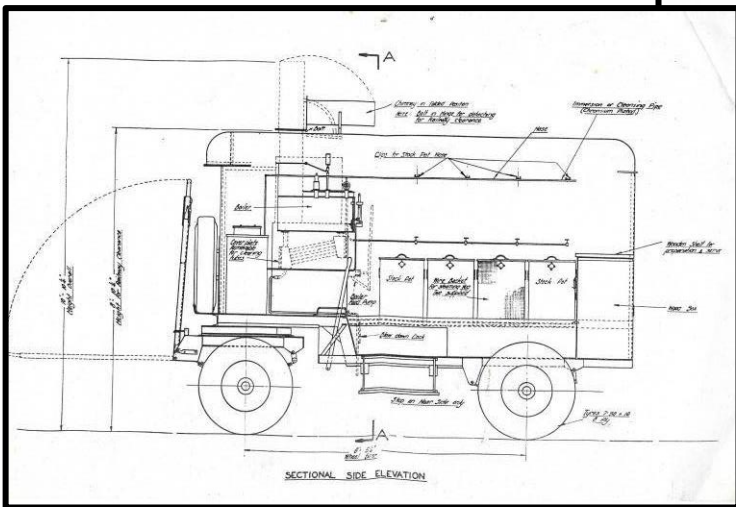


For **STATIONARY BLOW-OFF COCK** INSTALLATION it is essential to connect with $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe to nearest drain.

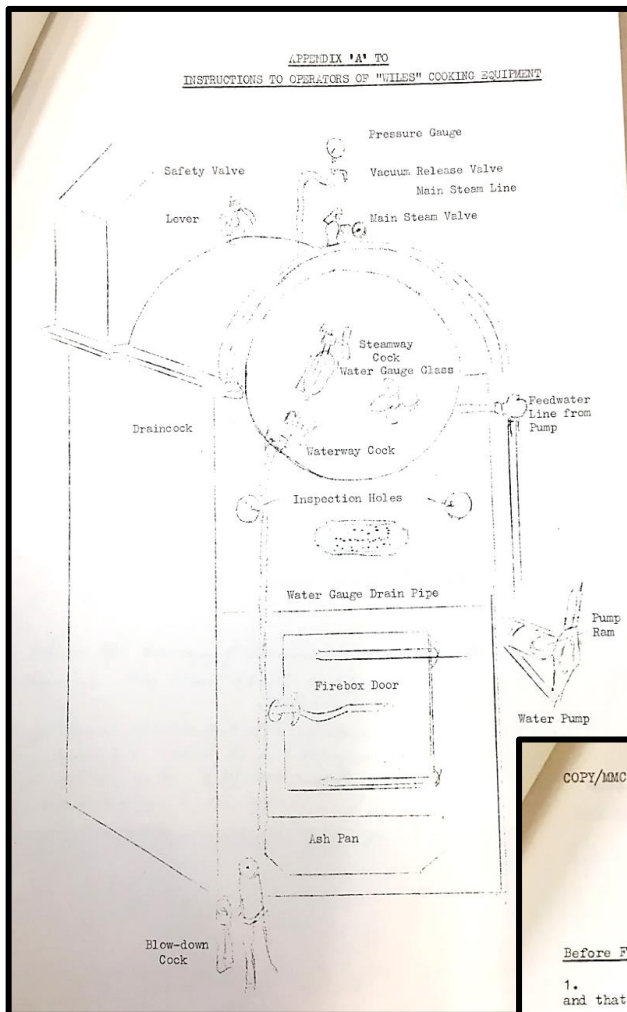
• **HEADER COVER PLATES** OF THIS BOILER ARE HELD INTO POSITION BY 12 STUDS AND NUTS FOR EASY REMOVAL FOR CLEANSING AND MAINTENANCE OF TUBES. IN HARD AND DIRTY WATER THIS MAY BE NECESSARY EVERY FOUR TO SIX WEEKS.

16

DIRT MEANS DISEASE



APPENDIX 'A' TO
INSTRUCTIONS TO OPERATORS OF "WILES" COOKING EQUIPMENT



COPY/MMC

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GUIDANCE OF OPERATORS IN THE SAFE
HANDLING OF "WILES" COOKING EQUIPMENT

NOTE: To assist in identification, components referred to in this Instruction are numbered, eg, Steam Valve (1); Pressure Gauge (2), and are cross-referenced with drawing attached as Appendix A.

Before Firing

1. Ensure that there is a plentiful supply of clean water available and that reservoir tanks on the Cooker are full.
2. Superficially inspect equipment to ensure that no obvious deficiencies exist (eg Safety Valve (1), pressure gauge (2), water gauge glass (3), drain pipe for water gauge (4), fire bars and side plates and handle on blow-down cock (5)).
3. Test all accessories (valves, cocks etc) before firing, to ensure that they can be operated. Make sure that drainpipes from water gauge glass (4) and blow-down cock (5) are free from blockage.
4. Check that water level in boiler is correct (half a glass) as indicated by Water Gauge Glass (3).
5. Before firing, open main steam, valve (6) (on top of boiler) and at least one other valve on steam line. This ensures that air in boiler and lines is expelled during the "warming-up" period. (Trapped air detracts from the efficiency of steam).

Firing and Raising Steam

6. Fire evenly and slowly. (Don't cram fire-box to capacity). An evenly distributed fire on the fire-bars ensures that no cold air reaches the boiler shell and circulating tubes, thereby minimising the effect of the fire, and lengthening the boiling time.
7. When all air is expelled from boiler, as shown by, first, water, and then steam issuing freely from steam line, close main steam valve (6) and valve on steam line.
8. At this stage **DON'T LEAVE BOILER UNATTENDED**. Watch needle of pressure gauge (2) to see that steam pressure is being recorded. If needle does not move within 3 minutes of steaming draw fire from box and report the matter to your immediate superior officer.
9. If satisfied that pressure gauge is operating, test the safety valve (1) for free operation, by releasing the safety valve lever (7) by inserting a screwdriver or knife etc between the lever and the body of the valve and twisting. If no steam emerges, draw the fire immediately and report the matter to your immediate superior officer.
10. When steam has reached indicated pressure of 10-15 lbs p.s.i., test blow-down cock (5) (situated below boiler housing) by turning handle smartly to horizontal position, leave open for about 2 seconds and close again smartly.

NOTE: Before carrying out this test, ensure that no personnel are in close proximity to cooker, to avoid accident by scalding. Pump water up to working level.

RECIPES FOR THE WILES ARMY COOKER

(43) STEAK AND TOMATO PIE.

Ingredients: 30 lbs. Stewing Steak, 3 lbs. Onions, 12 lbs. Tomatoes, 3 lbs. Bread or Biscuit Crumbs, Salt and Pepper.

Method: Cut Meat into 2-inch squares, braise off Meat and Onions. Place layer of Crumbs in baking dish, then layer of sliced Tomatoes, then Meat, continue sequence until dish is filled, leaving crumbs on top. Half fill dish with lightly thickened Stock. Bake for half an hour.

(44) SPANISH PIE.

Ingredients: 30 lbs. Stewing Steak, 2 ozs. Herbs, Seasoning, 7 lbs. Onions, 7 lbs. Tomatoes, 7 lbs. Potatoes, Stock, Flour.

Method: Take any Stewing Steak, roll in Flour, put in baking dish and cover with Water. Sprinkle with Herbs, season to taste. Lay alternate slices of Onions and Tomatoes till dish is nearly full. Top off with slice of rings of Potatoes. Put in oven and bake 2 or 3 hours.

(45) TOAD IN THE HOLE.

Ingredients: 30 lbs. Sausages, Yorkshire Pudding Mixture with Baking Powder in mixing.

Method: Place Sausages in boiling water for 10 minutes. Remove and place in greased baking dish. Pour Batter over Sausages and bake in moderate oven to golden brown.

Cut in pieces and serve with Brown Gravy.

(46) TRIPE AND ONIONS.

Ingredients: 7 lbs. Onions, 1 gallon Milk, 3 lbs. Flour, 30 lbs. Tripe (honeycomb), Parsley, Pepper and Salt.

Method: Cut up Tripe $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch squares, cook in Salted Water with Lemon. When partly cooked strain off Water and add Fresh Milk and Onions. Season, bring to boil and allow to simmer. Add Milk and Thickening, Seasoning, if necessary. Garnish with Chopped Parsley.

(47) TRIPE RISsoles.

Ingredients: 30 lbs. Tripe, 10 lbs. Onions, 16 lbs. Mashed Potatoes, Parsley, 4 ozs. Salt, 3 ozs. Pepper, 6 Eggs.

Method: Cook Tripe till tender, put through mincer, put Onions through mincer, add Mashed Potatoes, Eggs, Parsley, Pepper, and Salt to taste. Roll up as for rissoles, fry in Deep Fat, serve hot, with White Onion Sauce.

(48) VIENNA STEAK.

Ingredients: 30 lbs. Stewing Steak, 10 lbs. Onions, 1 oz. Mixed Herbs, tablespoon finely chopped Parsley, 3 lbs. Biscuit Crumbs, 1 doz. Eggs, Seasoning.

Method: Mince Meat and 3 lbs. Onions, add Crumbs, Parsley and Herbs, beat Eggs and work well into mixture. Shape into small flat cakes, place in Boiling Fat, fry until brown. Serve with Onion gravy.

RESOURCES

See also:

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WILES MOBILE AND STATIONARY STEAM COOKERS. By J. Kenneth Wiles (Son of James Fletcher Wiles)

Revised: November 08, 2000. Edited by Hugh Williams (Nephew of James F. Wiles)

<http://www.nashos.org.au/wiles2.htm>

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