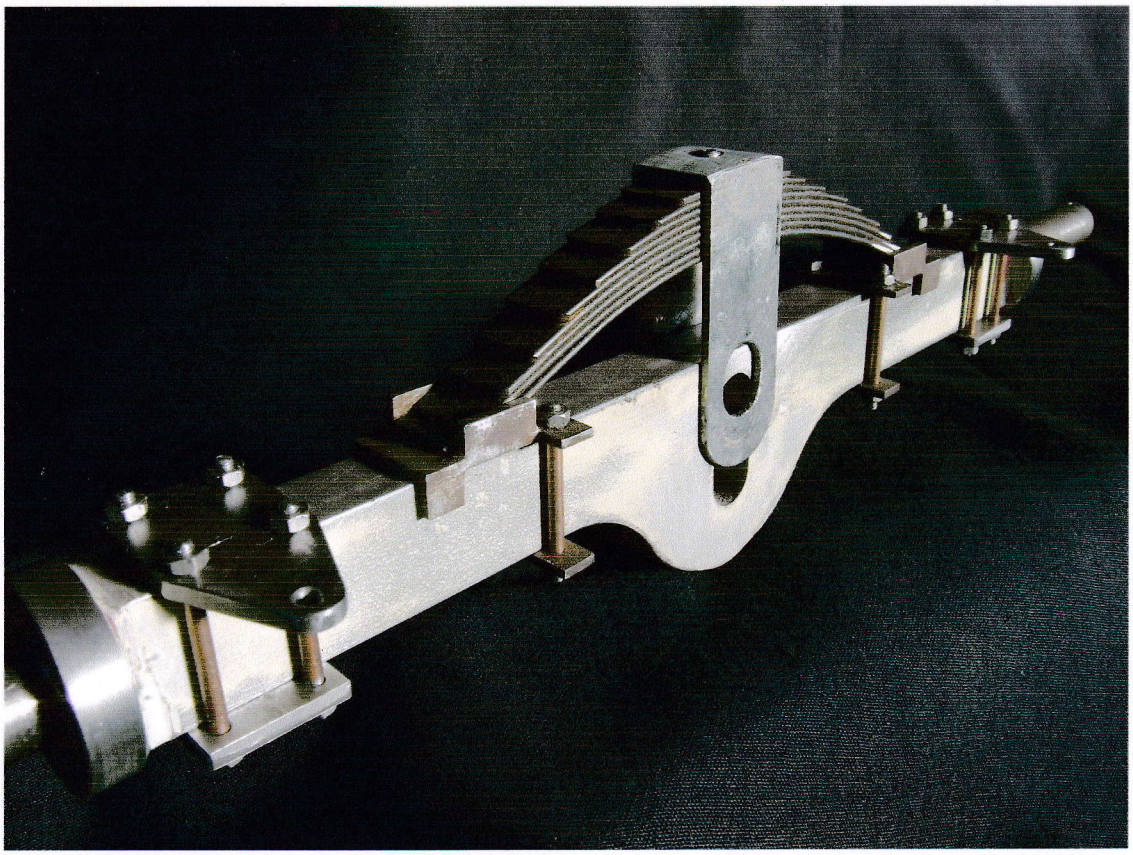
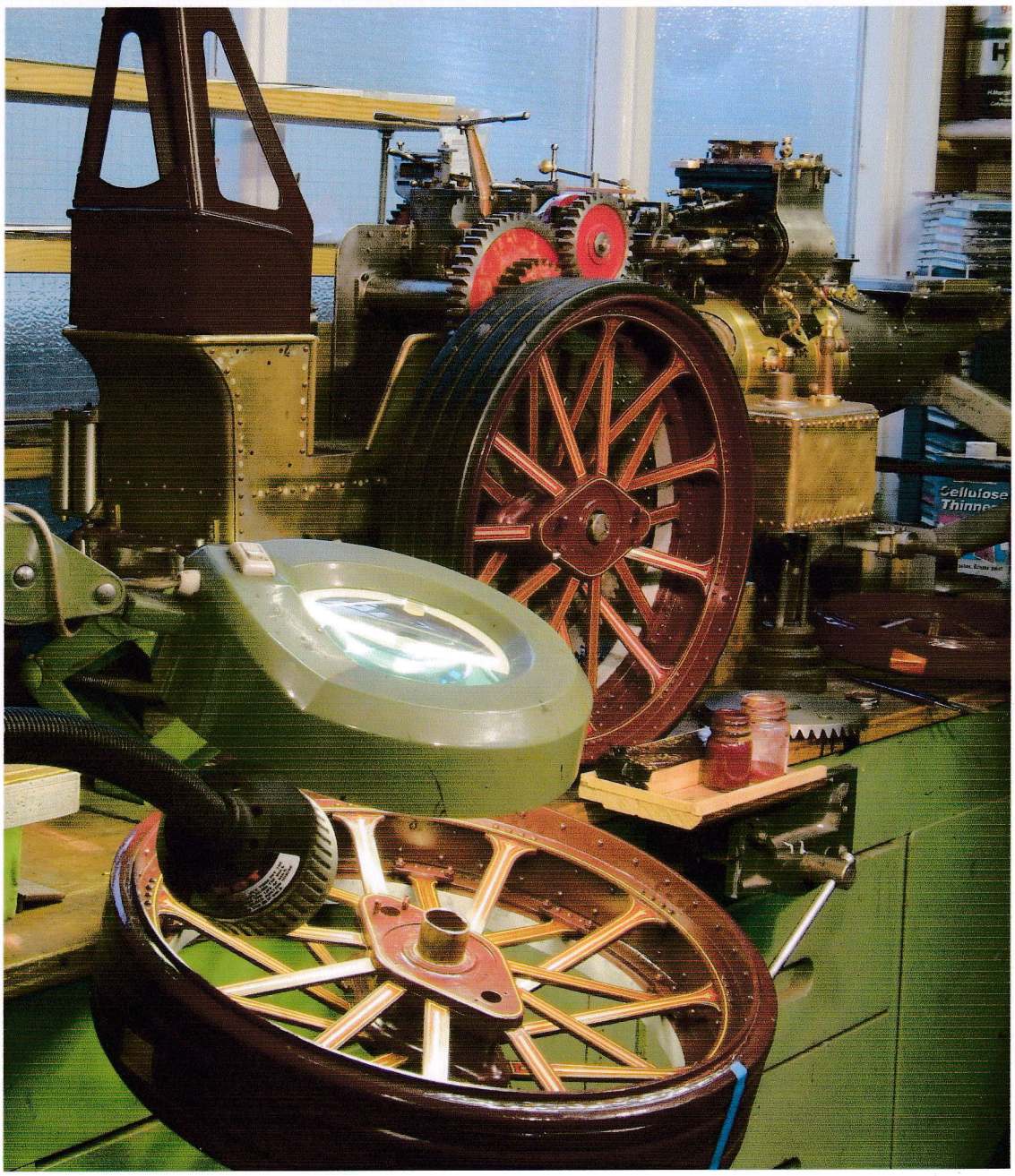
The front axle has been manufactured from rectangular section steel. Located directly above the axle, is the working leaf spring-set, the buckle of which carries the pivot pin through the enlarged centre portion of the axle.



The picture (right) shows the completed front axle prior to painting. The assemblies at each end of the rectangular section are the anchor plates for the steering chains.

Wheels
Generally speaking, wheels of full-size traction engines were built having their spokes cast into the central hub. This is not normal practice however on a model of 2 in. scale. The wheels of "Flash Gordon" have been produced by traditional methods used by model engineers. In this process, slots are machined into the face of the cast-iron hub in order to accept each of the pre shaped spokes; a cover plate is then fitted to restore to appearance to that of an integrated casting, - a painstaking job which thankfully had been completed by the time I took over the project. Rubber tyres have been fitted to all wheels, directly onto the wheel rims. This latter practice was adopted in full size only in the latter years of manufacture. Prior to this, the majority of engines were turned out with strakes.



The picture (right) shows the two hind wheels, one of which is in the process of being lined out.