

The Elusive and Stylish “Dandy”

John Lambert



The “Dandy”

“Dandy” Commercial Parer

Collectors who appreciate the commercial apple parers no doubt can recall when they first saw a Bonanza. I certainly do. I was browsing a local flea market on the town square when I spotted one for sale but as weak as my knees were at that moment, I could not part with the \$130 they were asking back in the early 80s. As intriguing as that Bonanza was then, it amazes me that they would introduce the Dandy (Fig 1) at about the same time but later toss aside its production in favor of the Bonanza.



Fig. 1

The “Dandy”

Desire and Rarity

As popular as the Bonanza was, to my eye it just does not have the allure of the Dandy. I have considered the possibility if the tables were turned and the Bonanza were as scarce as a Champion. Would it then appeal to me much more? Probably, but hypotheticals in collecting are just that. The reality is the Bonanzas are plentiful and Dandys are almost unobtainable. Therein lies the attraction for the collector. (Note; the seldom seen early Bonanza (Fig 2) with the more slender legs and sawtooth paring arm spring adjustment is a close second to the Dandy. They are as rare as the Dandy and quite desirable.)



Fig. 2 Early Bonanza

Part of the Dandy's (Fig 3) appeal are the spindly legs, the highly embossed flat upper frame casting, and the exposed brass tube that surrounds the fork shaft.



Fig. 3 "Dandy" Embossed Flat-Top Frame

Of all the large parers I have used, none works with the ease of the Dandy. Its carriage is propelled by a double worm gear, one (Fig 4) to pull the blade towards the forks and a second (Fig 5) to push the cored apple away from the forks at twice the speed to drop it.

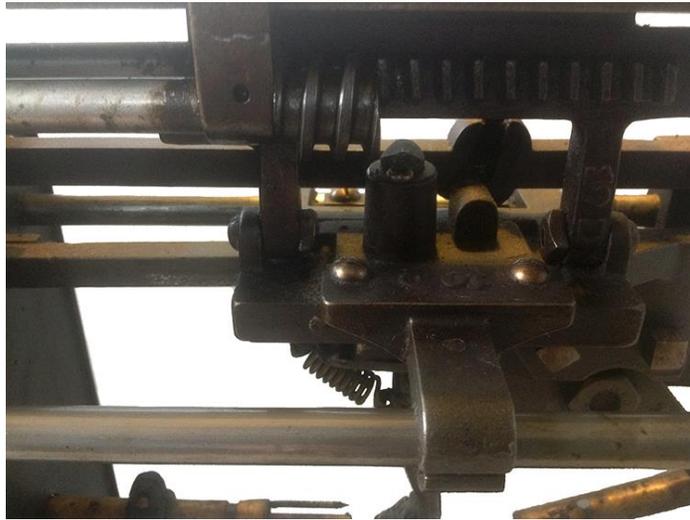


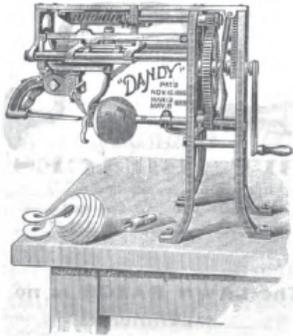
Fig. 4 "Dandy" Worm Gear



Fig. 5 "Dandy" Reverse Worm Gear

According to the *Iron Age* magazine the Dandy sold wholesale for \$90.00 a dozen or \$7.50 each in 1891 and still appeared for sale at the same price in 1899, giving it a full 10 years of production. This fact causes me to ask a question I have asked many times. Where have they all gone? Interestingly, the Bonanza sold for \$60 a dozen or \$5.00 each, while the Eureka was a steep \$16.00 each ([Iron Age, July 16, 1891, p. 115](#)). The sizable price difference between the Dandy and Bonanza no doubt hurt sales of the former and caused its demise since it offered no real advantages over the Bonanza.

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Fig 6 [Goodell August 20th, 1891 Iron Age Advertisement](#)

“Dandy” Mechanism

The “Dandy” is equipped with a paring blade, coring tube and slicing knife; accomplish all operations in 3 turns of the crank. It has the “dangling leg” core ejector and the unique 3-nail fork design held in place by brass rings. This fork design was patented May 8, ‘88.

The paring action is accomplished by the right hand worm gear rotating against a vertical toothed rack. This rack is hinged and can lean left or right to make contact with first one worm gear and then the other. At the completion of paring, the rack leans slightly left and contacts the left worm with a less vertical pitch, causing the rack to return in half the time it took to advance.

The Dandy requires 2 turns of the crank to complete paring and 1 turn to reverse and drop the cored apple. It is a marvelous thing to observe. Despite its poetry in motion action, its life was short and Goodell made the choice to market the efficient Bonanza instead of both, making acquisition of the Dandy something

even the advanced collector can celebrate. Only a dozen or so have been reported in collections.

The Collectors

On a person note, some 15 years ago I was contacted to appear on a cable TV show on FX called "The Collectors" or something quite similar. It was not taped, but shot and broadcast live. They came to my home early one morning to set up, we walked through my 5-7 minute bit where I said I wanted to demonstrate the White and the Climax. I could see anxiety in the face of the capable young lady who stood by my side and would coach me through the piece. I assured her it would look great on TV. When that peel flew off the apple when I used the White, you could hear the exuberance from the live hosts back in the studio in New York. They fired a few questions and my brush with fame was over. However, 6 months later I was called and told to stay by my phone the next day at noon. At noon the next day, the host, John, called me and said "We are live right now. I just wanted to let you know that we selected you as "Collector of the Year." That was a real honor in my mind because I had watched every episode and knew how hard it would be to top the guy who collected blow torches and the guy who collected the paper sanitary wraps from toilet seats in motels! But the best part had occurred just after the original show aired.

One hour after the crew left, my phone rang. A couple from NY had watched the show, looked up my phone number, called me and asked "Would you be interested in a Dandy still in the original box?"

Indeed I was. That Dandy has had a good life over the past 15-20 years. It has only been out of the house a couple of times and has been pampered the way it

deserves to be. It will have a good life when I am gone because my 8-year old granddaughter, Laney, will own it sooner than I care to think about on this sunny Spring day.

I hope all who read this will have some good luck of their own. Get out there and make it a “Dandy” year.

Happy hunting,

John Lambert

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Bibliography

Goodell Company [Advertisement]. (1891, July 16). *Iron Age: A Review of the Hardware, Iron and Metal Trades*, 48 (3), p. 115.

Goodell Company [Advertisement]. (1891, August 20). *Iron Age: A Review of the Hardware, Iron and Metal Trades*, 48 (8), p. 74.

