My wife Pam & I collect sewing machines and related items. Over the years we've-she refined our MY hobby to streamline our MY spending and to accommodate available space. We-She set goals for ME to follow when purchasing sewing items. When possible we'd-I would FOCUS on them! (Note: the preceding paragraph was edited by Pam - she's a jokester!)

My shopping/ collecting rules are:

- Specialty badged, uniquely marked machines, or those sold at World Fairs, Expositions, etc.
- ❖ Strong emphasis on Singer Featherweights (they're smaller and take up less space)
- ❖ Items and memorabilia to help tell a fuller story of our machines
- A Machines and memorabilia with ownership documentation that bring our collection to life .

Each piece in the collection has to have a purpose or a reason for being there...think space! �

Birthday machines - a great way to build a connection between the machine and us and ours &

Don't be afraid to glean or to upgrade the collection - no need to duplicate...think space!

In this article I'll show you how we've done on our Birthday machines and provide a glimpse into our thinking when sourcing specific items/machines to add to our collection. We've been blessed with five daughters and finding a "Birthday" Featherweight for each would be a daunting task to say the least. Without revealing their ages I want to share how we're doing so far and possibly a little hope to those wishing to find their own <u>Birthday Featherweight</u>. So much for our Pam's "remember our space" goal!

One of the charms of collecting Singer sewing machines is that production run date or birthdate information exists. This is the date assigned by Singer for the next group of a particular machine model to be produced. Knowing a machine's serial number, thus its Birthdate, allows the owner to date their treasure with the ultimate goal of finding a machine with a significant Birth year, Birth month, and Birth date. In some cases this might be expanded to include an "Anniversary" of any other of life's events? Finding a machine made the year you were born or in the month or the impossible, the day you were welcomed into the world would be the *Dream Machine*, the Holy Grail!

The first step in our finding <u>Birthday Featherweights</u> for was to know the dates Singer assigned to the production runs of the Model 221. Featherweights were made in both Elizabethtown, New Jersey and in Clydebank, Scotland so we had to arm ourselves with dates from each to give us half a chance at coming close!

There were 60 USA assigned 221 production runs (and an unlisted one) and 40 British assigned production runs. We keep these dates handy and have a good idea of what we're looking for to add to our collection but also what to skip over; again we don't need duplication. We're after unique machines with unique stories to tell. For our birthdate group our second step is to match up our daughter's birthdates as close as possible to production run dates assigned to the 221 either by year or month or

Jessica - our 1st daughter born Feb. 27th - After a 3 year search, we found a very nice 221 from the 58th American production run assigned Feb. 27, 1956 AM399612. It's a special American-made machine, having been special ordered with a 230-240 volt motor to enable it to be used around the world and it was. The previous owner worked for Standard Oil Company and would be stationed in Turkey, Germany, Iraq, India, etc. It was a Win-Win, a Feb 27th special daughter and a Feb 27th special Featherweight!

Jennifer - our 2nd daughter was born July 24th. There are no production runs assigned to Featherweights on her birthdate but we've come close with a beautiful July 22nd (birth-month) 221K4 from Louth, England EH372732 with ownership documentation/ history.

Jamie - for our 3rd daughter born Nov. 2nd we found a Featherweight born in her month and with a date of Nov. 27th, 1934 assigned to the 3rd production run of Featherweights (we felt that was by divine providence i.e., 3rd daughter - 3rd production run) Serial # AD785735, a beautiful early school-bell machine! In the meantime, I'm still searching for the perfect match, an ET061345 to ET071344 "Red "S" 221K machine with a birthdate of Nov. 2nd, 1961..they made 10,000 of them, it can't be that hard! Someday, someday we'll hang a tag on Jamie's match!

Cassidy - our 4th little girl was born Sept. 23rd and we found the perfect match in a beautiful machine AD999777 born the same date Sept. 23rd, 1935 albeit 50 years before Cassie! It is a mint early Featherweight, again a school-bell model! When I asked the Doctor that delivered Cassie after his examination, "Doc, how is she?" His words were, "She is Perfect!"

Bethany - our baby girl was born Oct. 3rd. Again divine providence stepped in and delivered Bethany to us on the same date of the very first Featherweight assigned production run Oct. 3rd, 1933 - Bethany has her pick of 7 that we have from that 1st production run..but I'm hoping she'll pick AD547264 our "Chicago World's Fair - 1934" badged 221, the Holy Grail of Featherweights! She would say, "It's fitting & appropriate! Thanks mom & dad." And we'll smile approvingly.

Pam - the mother of our girls was born on *July 25th*. Of the 100+ Featherweight production runs, none had birthdates that fell on *July 25th*! I struggled with what I would do as she was the reason for our collection of Featherweights. We-I had a dilemma! As close as we-I could come would be a month-match but not the *25th of July*! In 2020 providence took a step in my direction. *Colin Schroeder, a fellow collector/ artist* from Minn. contacted me with a proposal. He was planning to sell but preferably to trade (BONUS!) a very very rare *Singer 301 Slant Needle "Centennial Limited Edition"* advertised by many as the "Big Sister of the Featherweight." I knew very little regarding the 301 but my curiosity had me researching. I found a website created by Ray Wyberski, the reigning expert that told the story of the *Singer 301 Slant Needle* and how it was created specifically for Singer's 100th Anniversary! http://www.singer301.com/about/default.html

The very 1st production run of the 301 that *Colin* was offering in trade was dated *July 25th*, *1951*. A very rare 301 too. Of the first 1,000 made, 500 would be *soft beige* and 500 assembled in *black*. These would be adorned with the Singer "Century of Sewing Service 1851-1951" badge a year before the 301 was introduced as a standard model in 1952. Those special machines would be advertised as the "Best Sewing Machine in the World" and be called the "Anniversary Model Singer." A very rare limited edition model. According to Ray's website as of this day in the spring of 2021, 15 are known in soft beige and 25

in black. Pam's new birthdate machine would be in soft beige, the rarer of the two. (Update to follow).

"Birthdate Featherweights and Our Girls"

Our Collection - Singer Model 221 Featherweight

Pam & J.C. Elliott

I rummaged around for odd items that Colin may be interested in. Text-messaged pictures and finally hit a couple nerves on his want-list. We swung a deal and an arrangement to meet in Moorhead, Minn.

I made the road trip to Fargo, ND across the Red River (my brother Bob and his wife Dawn live there) Colin drove up from Southeastern Minn. to meet me (yes with our masks on) in a *Hardee's* parking lot in Moorhead, Minn. to swap machines and gab! Pam was not born in 1951, much much later in fact, but she now has a special Singer assigned on her birthday! 1400 miles, a Hardee's loaded omelette biscuit and a senior coffee, and 69 years after the machine was made! 40 years after I began my search!

* Update

I continued my search this following year and by chance on Father's Day 2021 I spotted on eBay a somewhat tarnished hard to define black 301 with a somewhat aged and neglected case on eBay but, and this is huge, laying on the case in the pictures was the "green manual" only issued with the very earliest 301's! Better yet, the machine was offered with a "Buy It Now," option. I hit the button! Not quite knowing what I was purchasing. Pam's next birthday was just 6 weeks away!

After my purchase was confirmed a closer examination revealed that the machine was in fact a Black "Centennial Limited Edition", the Holy Grail of 301 collector's. She would now have one in each color! Lucky Pam!

Ada - finding an exact Birthday match for my mother would be a challenge in that Singer did not assign a production run of Featherweights to Dec. 6th, Ada's birthday. But in her case we found a great match, one that she would be proud to own! On Dec. 5th, 1939 Singer assigned serial numbers AF371856-391855 from which some very special if not unique, 221s would come, including the first batch of "Golden Gate Exposition - San Francisco 1939", our "Top-of-the-Arm" Singer decal 221 with the Corduroy Tool-Organizer, and our 1st run "Crinkle" Featherweight. Ada would have been proud to add a day to her life to be joined with any of them.

Miles - my father was born March 17th, St. Patrick's day. He would wear a bright green plastic derby hat on his birthday and whatever green he could dig out of his closet or the junk drawer! To find a match we again had to search across the pond. We found it in a 222K Free-arm made in Clydebank, Scotland just miles from Dad's ancestral home at "Hermitage Castle" in the border lands between England and Scotland, and we found an exact match....EN134670 - born March 17th! Dad was always a free-thinker, now he has a free-arm to match!

Billie Jo my older sister born Sept. 14th was out of luck as there were no production dates matching her birthday until..wait for it...along came another offer from Colin Schroeder of Minn.! He had for a possible trade, a Singer Model 68 cabinet. This find was not just any old Featherweight Model 68, it was the rarest of the rare, a Model 68 with the lift mechanism! (Read that last sentence again) there are maybe less than 10 known to exist in collections! The inventor of this unique cabinet exclusive to Featherweights was Daniel Henry Chason, one of Singer's more notable mechanical engineers having designed the tension device and foot controller of the Featherweight. Daniel's patent for the #68 table was applied for on - that's right Billie Jo's birthday Sept. 14th! In this case the exact year! We have another winner!

Mr. Chason passed away less than 10 months after applying for the patent, his final patent. It would be another 5 years before his lift design and cabinet would be made, advertised, and sold. He would never see its potential, but Billie Jo would! We are so happy to have it in our collection.

Robbie & Bob, my younger siblings we call the twins, born on December 19?? Let's just say that they are proud owners of "Centennial" Featherweights with the blue and gold badge that says "A Century of Sewing Progress 1851-1951".

Thelma & J.C., my maternal Grandmother and me - We share the same birthday *Sept 19th* and once again providence was in play in finding our Birthdate Featherweight. Ours would perfectly align with a special Featherweight! It's the exact match to the date of the Post-World War II *Blacksides* machines assigned by Singer with a production run date of *Sept. 19th!* Darla Trenner, my mentor and renowned writer/ researcher of Singer Featherweights, provided me with the "Blacksides" to share future birthdays with Grandma and me. My personal favorite machine in our collection.

(To find your Birth-date/ Birth-month/ Birth-year machine see the following Production Run chart)

* JE - Canadian Featherweights have no assigned specific Production Dates assigned or known. This included both Beige/ Bisque & Black JE machines

"Birthdate Featherweights and Our Girls"
Our Collection - Singer Model 221 Featherweight
Pam & J.C. Elliott

	221 Elizabethtown, New Jersey, USA						221 Kilbowie, Clydebank, Scotland					
	Pre fix	Sequence	Quai 1		Ye ar		Pre fix	Sequence	Quai 1		Yea r	
1	AD	541546 - 551545	10,000	October 3rd	1 9 3 3	1	EE	000152 - 152720	500	August 25th	194 7	
2	AD	720746 - 730745	10,000	September 10th	1 9 3 4	2	EE	452721 - 453220	500	December 24th	194 7	
3	AD	781846 - 791845	10,000	November 27th	1 9 3 4	3	EE	458241 - 459240	1000	January 22nd	194 8	
4	AD	880156 - 890155	10,000	March 18th	1 9 3 5	4	EE	573424 - 578423	5000	May 14th	194 8	
5	AD	937406 - 947405	10,000	June 24th	1 9 3 5	5	EE	802479 - 807478	5000	September 21st	194 8	
6	AD	996956 - 999999	3044	September 23rd	1 9 3 5	6	EE	853479 - 863478	10,000	December 10th	194 8	
6	AE	000001 - 007000	7000	September 23rd	1 9 3	7	EF	154176 - 164175	10,000	May 23rd	194 9	

					5	<u> </u>					
7	AE	054366 - 064365	10,000	December 30th	1 9 3 5	8	EF	278731 - 288730	10,000	August 17th	194 9
8	AE	076516 - 086515	10,000	March 25th	1 9 3 6	9	EF	558931 - 568930	10,000	November 7th	194 9
9	AE	207616 - 222615	15,000	July 13th	1 9 3 6	1 0	EF	688016 - 698015	10,000	February 14th	195 0
1 0	AE	294041 - 309040	15,000	5-Nov	1 9 3 6	1	EF	700569 - 710568	10,000	April 24th	195 0
1	AE	407941 - 422940	15,000	15-Mar	1 9 3 7	1 2	EF	907629 - 917628	10,000	July 19th	195 0
1 2	AE	536641 - 556640	20,000	June 11th	1 9 3 7	1 3	EG	072001 - 082000	10,000	October 9th	195 0
1 3	AE	770591 - 790590	20,000	December 8th	1 9 3 7	1 4	EG	302861 - 312860	10,000	December 18th	195 1
1 4	AE	973541 - 993540	20,000	May 24th	1 9 3 8	1 5	EG	343861 - 353860	10,000	February 15th	195 1
5	AF	070706 - 090705	20,000	October 10th	1 9 3 8	1 6	EG	433821 - 444820	11,000	March 29th	195 1
1 6	AF	161806 - 181805	20,000	February 15th	1 9 3 9	1 7	EG	637821 - 647820	10,000	May 16th	195 1
1 7	AF	244106 - 264105	20,000	July 11th	1 9 3 9	1 8	EG	703321 - 713320	10,000	July 17th	195 1
1 8	AF	371856 - 391855	20,000	December 5th	1 9 3 9	1 9	EG	957781 - 967780	10,000	October 17th	195 1
1 9	AF	477181 - 497180	20,000	April 10th	1 9 4 0	2 0	ЕН	132547 - 142546	10,000	February 29th	195 2
0	AF	571881 - 596880	25,000	August 15th	1 9 4 0	2	ЕН	236097 - 246096	10,000	April 28th	195 2
1	AF	740751 - 760750	20,000	January 7th	1 9 4 1	2 2	ЕН	370347 - 380346	10,000	July 22nd	195 2
2 2	AF	863951 - 883950	20,000	April 1st	1 9 4 1	2 3	ЕН	625778 - 635777	10,000	October 8th	195 2
?	AF	907451 - 942450	Unliste d	May 14th	1 9 4 1	2 4	ЕН	890433 - 900432	10,000	March 4th	195 3

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3	AF	998251 - 999999	1749	July 1st	1 9 4 1	2 5	EJ	211989 - 216988	5000	September 4th	195 3
2 3	AG	000001 - 018250	18,250	July 1st	1 9 4 1	6	EK	203139 - 213138	10,000	February 14th	195 5
2 4	AG	526101 - 546100	20,000	September 19th	1 9 4 5	2 7	EK	986373 - 991372	5000	December 20th	195 5
2 5	AG	602856 - 622855	20,000	February 18th	1 9 4 6	2 8	EL	537735 - 542734	5000	June 13th	195 6
2 6	AG	689391 - 709390	20,000	June 4th	1 9 4 6	2 9	EM	016257 - 021256	5000	January 8th	195 7
2 7	AG	804771 - 824770	20,000	September 16th	1 9 4 6	3 0	EM	596007 - 601006	5000	August 2nd	195 7
2 8	AG	848346 - 858345	10,000	October 25th	1 9 4 6	3	EN	235134 - 238133	3000	April 17th	195 8
2 9	AG	869446 - 889445	20,000	November 22nd	1 9 4 6	3 2	EN	826834 - 829333	2500	October 27th	195 8
3 0	AG	970946 - 990945	20,000	February 19th	1 9 4 7	3	EP	256021 - 257520	1500	May 18th	195 9
3	АН	050371 - 070370	20,000	April 22nd	1 9 4 7	3 4	ES	170544 - 175543	5000	November 3rd	196 0
3 2	АН	111971 - 131970	20,000	June 26th	1 9 4 7	3 5	ES	239244 - 249243	10,000	January 10th	196 1
3	АН	193771 - 223770	30,000	August 19th	1 9 4 7	3 6	ES	648144 - 658143	10,000	May 15th	196 1
3 4	АН	316071 - 346070	30,000	October 28th	1 9 4 7	3 7	ES	873744 - 883743	10,000	August 19th	196 1
3 5	АН	413571 - 443570	30,000	January 22nd	1 9 4 8	3 8	ET	061345 - 071344	10,000	November 2nd	196 1
3 6	АН	550921 - 580920	30,000	April 20th	1 9 4 8	3 9	EV	776991 - 826990	50,000	March 3rd	196 4
3 7	АН	640321 - 670320	30,000	June 18th	1 9 4 8	4 0	EV	846*** - 99****	?		196 4
3 8	АН	799121 - 829120	30,000	October 1st	1 9 4 8	4	EW	061691 - 071690	10,000	August 6th	196 8

										1	
3 9	AH	973921 - 999999	26,079	December 9th	1 9 4 8	4 2	EY	84**** - 99****	?		
3 9	AJ	000001 - 013920	13,920	December 9th	1 9 4 8	4 3	FA	098*** - 132***	?		1968 / 69
4 0	AJ	103721 - 143720	40,000	March 15th	1 9 4 9	4	FA	202*** - 288***	?		1968 / 69
4	AJ	189171 - 229170	40,000	November 18th	1 9 4 9						
4 2	AJ	348371 - 388370	40,000	January 23rd	1 9 5 0			Singer Fea	atherweigh	nt 222K	
4 3	AJ	552721 - 592720	40,000	March 31st	1 9 5 0	1	EJ	142734 - 142833	100	July 23rd	195 3
4 4	AJ	615621 - 655620	40,000	June 1st	1 9 5 0	2	EJ	211839 - 211988	150	September 2nd	195 3
4 5	AJ	781321 - 821320	40,000	August 22nd	1 9 5 0	3	EJ	219989 - 220138	150	September 22nd	195 3
4 6	AJ	887721 - 937720	50,000	October 26th	1 9 5 0	4	EJ	223639 - 223838	200	October 1st	195 3
4 7	AK	071321 - 121320	50,000	January 29th	1 9 5 1	5	EJ	225839 - 226038	200	October 14th	195 3
4 8	AK	389576 - 439575	50,000	May 10th	1 9 5 1	6	EJ	226039 - 226438	400	October 21st	195 3
4 9	AK	576776 - 626775	50,000	October 31st	1 9 5 1	7	EJ	236439 - 236638	200	October 29th	195 3
5 0	AK	745676 - 795675	50,000	February 20th	1 9 5 2	8	EJ	266639 - 271638	5000	November 18th	195 3
5	AK	984876 - 999999	15,124	August 11th	1 9 5 2	9	EJ	616272 - 626271	10,000	March 31st	195 4
5 1	AL	000001 - 034875	34,875	August 11th	1 9 5 2	1 0	EJ	908425 - 918424	10,000	September 10th	195 4
5 2	AL	158501 - 208500	50,000	December 12th	1 9 5 2	1	EK	319939 - 329938	10,000	March 14th	195 5
5 3	AL	389361 - 439360	50,000	May 4th	1 9 5 3	1 2	EK	628163 - 638162	10,000	August 16th	195 5
5	AL	524941 -	50,000	October	1	1	EL	176520 -	10,000	March 2nd	195

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4		574940		14th	9 5 3	3		186519			6
5 5	AL	689041 - 739040	50,000	April 22nd	1 9 5 4	1 4	EL	681756 - 686755	5000	September 17th	195 6
5 6	AL	900891 - 950890	50,000	January 17th	1 9 5 5	1 5	EM	234470 - 239469	5000	February 26th	195 7
5 7	AM	137761 - 187760	50,000	June 10th	1 9 5 5	1 6	EM	601007 - 606006	5000	August 2nd	195 7
5 8	AM	361036 - 411035	50,000	February 27th	1 9 5 6	1 7	EM	957021 - 962020	5000	November 15th	195 7
5 9	AM	652586 - 702585	50,000	January 29th	1 9 5 7	1 8	EN	134513 - 139512	5000	March 17th	195 8
6	AM	77106 - 821105	50,000	September 27th	1 9 5 7	1 9	EP	131001 - 133500	2500	March 3rd	195 9
						2 0	EP	541572 - 544071	2500	September 22nd	195 9
						2	EP	758473 - 760972	2500	December 18th	195 9
						2 2	ER	022034 - 024533	2500	March 15th	196 0
		221 St. John	n's Quebec	e, Cnada		2 3	ER	316034 - 318533	2500	May 30th	196 0
	JE	150000 - 162000	?		1 9 6 1	2 4	ER	900043 - 902542	2500	September 7th	196 0
						2 5	ES	165344 - 167843	2500	October 19th	196 0
						2 6	ES	352344 - 357343	5000	January 31st	196 1
						2 7	ES	522944 - 527943	5000	March 30th	196 1

"Year of Issue" for the Singer 301 and 301A

Singer Model 301 & 301A									
Singer Model:	Serial Numbers:	Manufa	actured Year & Location:						
301 (Centennial Year 1851-1951)	NA000001 to NA001000	1951	Anderson, SC (Centennial LE)						
301 (Centennial Year 1851-1951)	NA001001 to NA010000	1951	Anderson, SC (Anniversary LE)						
301 (Grand Introduction Oct 1952)	NA010001 to NA185750	1952 301)	Anderson, SC (Start & End of						
301A	NA185751 to NA353000	1953	Anderson, SC (Start of 301A)						
301A	NA353001 to NA471000	1954	Anderson, SC						
301A	NA471001 to NA500000	1955	Anderson, SC						
301A (Start of "NB" Serial Numbers)	NB000001 to NB146000	1956	Anderson, SC (NB-1956)						
301A	NB146001 to NB200000	1957	Anderson, SC (End of 301A)						
Unassigned	NB200001 to NB300000								
Totals : 301 - 185,750 /	301A - 514,250 / Grand	Total:	700,000 from 1951-1957						