

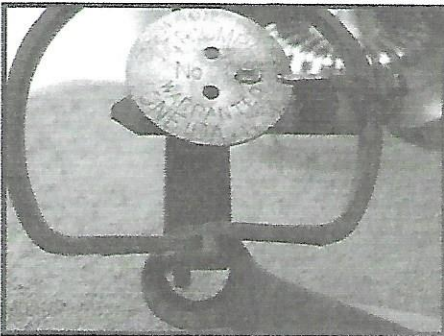
Triumph Bend

The first Triumph's that I ever purchased were two 42X Ranger double long springs. The first thing I thought to myself was how was I going to straighten out the bends in the springs without damaging the trap especially with the pivot locks not allowing the springs to be removed. At that time, I was unfamiliar with Triumph traps. After a little research, I found that this was not needed as the springs were supposed to be that way.

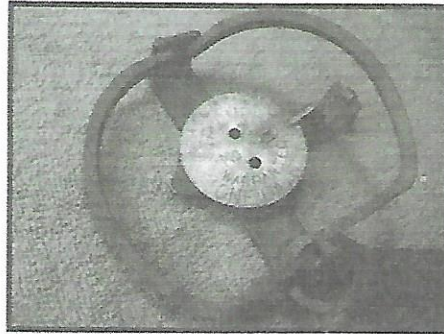
Outside of stamping, no other unique trap feature is as widely known and recognized as the Triumph spring bend. The bend was developed as a way to keep the loose jaw flat with the jaw under the dog. It also corrected issues with trap functionality and patent infringement concerns at the time.

The early springs of the Oneida Game Trap Company (OGTC), later renamed the Triumph Trap Company, were regular straight springs. There was a flaw in the early design of the straight springs and traps. When the spring was turned up toward the dog while the trap was set, the jaw would actually bend up allowing the pintle to be partially pulled out of the hole in the base. The spring would then rest against this pintle and not allow the spring to expand when the trap was tripped.

Set Pintle



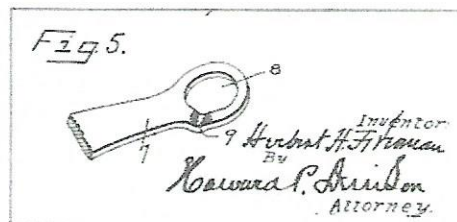
No Fire Pintle



As to be expected at the time, competitors used this to their advantage when trying to sell their traps. They would intentionally set Triumph traps and bend the spring up to show the store operator that the Triumph traps were faulty. I have tried to repeat this with the early Triumph traps I have with straight springs. I have found that not all traps with the straight springs will do this, but some do.

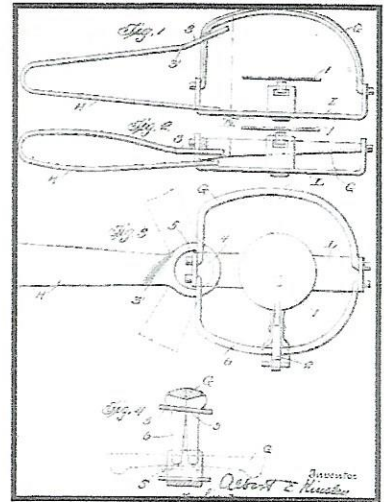
To correct this, the springs were bent up straight across the spring. This bend passed through the top spring eye at the end of the hole away from the trap. This may have corrected the problem with the functionality of the trap, but created a legal issue with Oneida Community Limited (OCL). OCL stated this was an infringement upon their Freeman patent and requested that springs not be made that way. The bend made a dent on the right side of the spring which looked like the crimp on the spring under the Freeman patent.

Freeman Patent Infringement



Freeman Patent

The resolution was to place the bend below, not through the eye, and at an angle instead of straight across the spring. The placement of the bend created a selling point that the springs could be set at any angle to the base while still keeping the loose jaw flat with the rest of the trap. The spring bend was patented by Albert E. "Bob" Kinsley while he worked for the Triumph Trap Company.



Kinslev Patent

Early springs were twisted by hand and later a jig was made for consistent placement of the bend. This was not mechanically perfect as the person still had to put the spring in the jig correctly using a gage. If the spring was not placed in the jig correctly, the bend location would move. This human error is why the bend is not in the same place on every spring.

As many of you know, the OGTC lost a lawsuit to the OCL and the use of the word Oneida on their traps resulting in the name change to the Triumph Trap Company. Not to be outdone, a lawsuit was initiated by Triumph against the OCL for their Victor Giant trap

which was a copy of the 115 High Grip long spring.

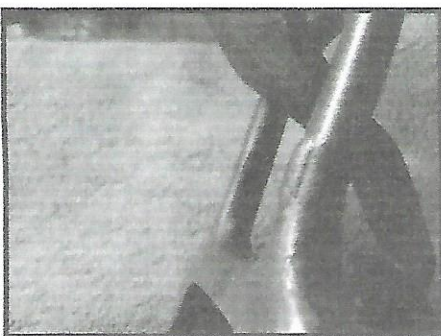
115 vs Giant



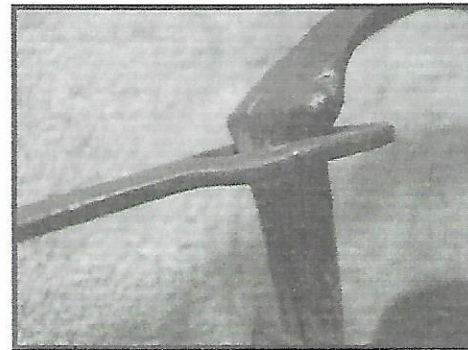
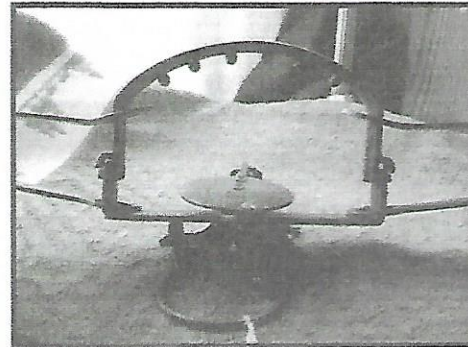
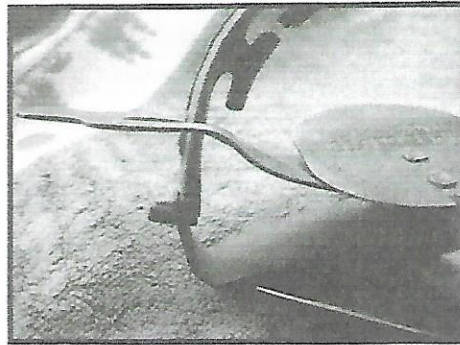
The main point of this lawsuit was the patent held by Kinsley on the bend. The courts found in favor of Triumph saying that OCL could sell the Giant traps that had already been constructed, up to 8,000 dozen. OCL could manufacture and sell traps with any springs as long as they only left set 45 degrees before raising the loose jaw. Also, OCL could not use the term "Left Set" or any synonymous term in advertising or sales ad.

Triumph was very cognizant of keeping the loose jaw flat with the rest of the trap in all their traps. They made their under spring and coil spring traps with this in mind as well. Although not patented, there is a noticeable bend in the under spring and a bump in the levers of coil springs to facilitate the loose jaw laying flat.

Bump Coil Lever



Under Bend



I encourage members who have information contrary to what I have discussed to email me, phone me or respond in the magazine. Please note that I relied heavily on the following documents for information in this article: Transcript of Record, US Circuit Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, Northern District of New York, Triumph Trap Company vs. Oneida Community LTD, Volumes I and II. Nov 6, 1922.

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1/2 page	\$ 40.00 per issue
1/4 page	\$ 20.00 per issue
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October issue	- Sept. 20
December issue	- Nov. 20

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