



Chairman : Brian Evans, 19 Lansdowne Gardens,
: Romsey. Tel:- 0794 517115
Treasurer : Eric Lewis, 51 Friars Croft,
& Membership : Calmore. Tel:- 0703 860384
Secretary : Martin Cripps, 42 Delamere Road,
: Southsea. Tel:- 0705 753241

NEWSLETTER No. 273 FEBRUARY 1994

MEETINGS - 1st Thursday each month at 7.45 pm.
St. John Ambulance Hall, King's Park Road, Southampton.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- 3rd February - Our Waterways Heritage by Mrs Frances Hart, Chief Executive of the Inland Waterways Association.
3rd March - Rhine-Main-Danube, a full length documentary 16mm colour film with sound approx 1hr 30m long. By boat from the Rhine to the Upper Danube by Hugh McKnight.
7th April - Return to Lock 19, Basingstoke Canal - Jon Sims.

JANUARY MEETING Roger Hardy's slide show 'Another Three Men in a Boat' dates from around 1961 and many members were interested to spot how many changes have taken place along the route. The 'three men' were Roger and two colleagues, all young merchant seamen on leave. The boat, a 26ft Thames skiff, provided them with transport and a home for the two journeys featured.

The second holiday began at Godalming, the southernmost point on the waterways and included the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, at the time the most northerly. In six weeks the 'three men' covered 1000 miles of inland water, either by rowing the skiff or hauling it from the towpath.

During these holidays there were a number of amusing happenings and problems to overcome. These were well covered by Roger's very good slides and his amusing commentary. Roger also showed us some standard 8mm cine film taken by his father at three locations during the travels when he met up with the sailors.

The skiff is still in regular use and Roger and his wife have recently completed a canal trip in France with a number of other rowers.

DID YOU ENJOY the article in the February edition of Waterways World by Jon Sims. Well come along to our April meeting and see some slides and hear a first hand report about the Basingstoke Canal.

ROYAL COMMISSION. The King has appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the canals and inland navigations of the United Kingdom - a subject which formed part of the Prime Minister's programme in his Albert Hall speech. The commission will report on the following points regarding the canals and waterways:-

1. Their present condition and financial condition.
2. The causes which have operated to prevent the carrying out of improvements by private enterprise, and whether such causes are removable by legislation.
3. Facilities, improvements, and extensions desirable in order to complete a system of through communication by water between centres of commercial, industrial, or agricultural importance, and between such centres and the sea.
4. The prospect of benefit to the trade of the country compatible with a reasonable return on the probable cost.
5. The expediency of canals being made or acquired by public bodies or trusts, and the methods by which funds for the purpose could be obtained and secured, and what should be the system of control and management of such bodies or trusts.

Does the above sound familiar to you? The clue must lie right at the start of the extract. Which King?

The answer is that this report was published in the Daily Mail on March 5th, 1906 together with a list of the 19 members of the Commission. The King was Edward VII.

LAMENT

The call of a siren temptress
Lured my man away
He took her and he tamed her
And he drove her all the way

They'd meet each morn outside the shed
And spend each day alone
Ambling along the towpath
To her deep thumping moan

She's big and strong and beautiful
In deep red finery
She won't take no for an answer
And is no match for me

They spend dirty weeks together
And sometimes weekends too
He's lost his heart, I must concede
As we dumper widows do.

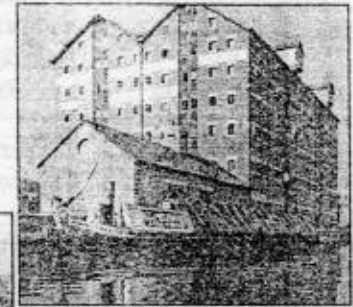
Jenny Worthington

(reproduced from 'Navvies' no.142)

CANAL CAMPS 1994 brochure is out. Do you have a son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter etc etc coming up for Duke of Edinburgh's, Queens Scout etc and need some practical work? More information from the Chairman.

THE RIVER Exhibition, National Waterways Museum, Gloucester Docks, tells the story of life on the Rivers Severn, Avon and Wye. 200 years of history comes alive as you follow the path of the people who once worked the canals. Have a go steering a narrowboat or enjoy a ride in a cart pulled by a shire horse. A collection of floating historic boats combine with traditional crafts to create a living museum with lots to see and do.

The exhibition runs daily until February 28th, 10am-5pm, but the museum is open all the year.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- February 1st-27th - British Waterways Engineering display, London Canal Museum, New Wharf Road, London N1.
- February 12th-13th - Narrowboat Decoration Course, Stoke Bruerne Museum.
- February 20th-28th - Canals 200 Exhibition at National Boat Caravan & Leisure Show, NEC Birmingham.
- February 26th-27th - Ropework & Fendermaking course, Stoke Bruerne Museum.
- March 5th - Kennet & Avon Canal Lock Open Day, Devizes.
- March 5th-6th - Boat Lettering course, Stoke Bruerne Museum.
- March 19th-20th - British Waterways Open weekend, Barrow Deep Lock, Barrow-on-Soar, Leicestershire.
- April 1st-4th - Devizes to Westminster Canoe Marathon, K & A Canal.
- April 2nd-3rd - IWA Canal Boat Rally, Manchester Road Wharf, Burnley.
- April 2nd-4th - Easter Craft Fair, National Waterways Museum, Gloucester.

KENNET & AVON CANAL OPEN DAY on Saturday 5th March.

The Devizes flight of locks is to be drained for a period of three months from January 1994 to allow the 29 locks to be re-lined and re-breasted, and special co-plastic paddles fitted. Co-plastic paddles are a direct replacement for the cast iron, steel or timber paddles used in the past. They have the advantage of an increased life span over other current materials and they are much lighter to use.

Why not go along, exercise your legs, chat to BW staff and see what is normally hidden below the water of a 200 year old canal lock.