

DOUBLE NINE



Quarterly Magazine
of

**THE POCKLINGTON CANAL
AMENITY SOCIETY**



AUGUST 1979

No 39

The Pocklington Canal Amenity Society



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PAIRONS—

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CLLR. T. E. SCAIFE, J.P., F.S.V.A.
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- also -	Mrs. V. Barron, C. R. Huitson, Miss E. Johnson, E. A. Lount, C. R. Pearson, E. Tottle.
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NOTE: Opinions expressed by contributors to this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

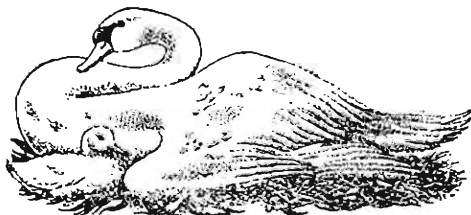
IWAAC'S CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY VISIT THE CANAL

On the warm and sunny afternoon of 15th May David Wain and Michael Render, Chairman and Secretary respectively of IWAAC (Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council), paid a flying visit to Pocklington Canal. They were specially concerned with the navigation works, of course, and found the country most pleasant during their inspection. But it was at Canal Head, where the Society has been so busy and for which we gained a Shell Award last year, that their comments were particularly interesting.

CANAL HEAD A BLUEPRINT - IT OUGHT TO HAVE MORE PUBLICITY

The work done here has been clearing, planting, repairing brick and stonework, installing seats, painting and so on; what some call, perhaps rather disparagingly, 'cosmetic' treatment. There are some volunteers from other groups (not PCAS or our local IWA) who have declined to help with such work, declaring that time would be better spent on major repairs to locks, bridges etc.

But the IWAAC visitors were most enthusiastic. They thought the site tailor-made to attract public interest and support. But they also thought both we and the Board should make FAR more of it publicity-wise. We should be going all out to 'sell' our efforts and achievements to the public! Good publicity is half the battle undoubtedly.



COMMENT - - - - -

CANAL HEAD'S PRIME POTENTIAL

The IWAAC comments underline the Society's original Canal Head Scheme put forward and agreed in our original Restoration Booklet (now out of print). Pocklington Canal is only a 'Remainder' waterway (poor thing!) and goodness knows BWB's budget has been small enough even for its 'Cruiseways'. But here we have a prime and pretty site, slap beside a main local and foreign coast route. The lock, the lock house and the old warehouse all visible from the passing cars, not to mention the pub opposite! There is so much more that ought to be done. We have said many times that if the whole area were restored fully it could demonstrate just what a working canal was like. We even have permission to fit gates and gearing to the top lock, but we need more money and manpower!

THE CANAL HEAD BUILDINGS - TIME FOR ACTION!

The warehouse, which 'makes' the Basin scene, unfortunately does not belong to us or to the Board. Mr. Horsley has been sympathetic and the building even appears to be empty now. It would be marvellous if a scheme could be worked out for its restoration and a new use (we do have ideas). If something isn't done soon it will fall down anyway and that would do no one any good.

The empty lock house ought to be restored to its original appearance outside and fully modernised inside and then used for something suitable. If it is left much longer the weather and the vandals will destroy this too! Patching it up and using it for a store just is not good enough! Come on BWB - here is a prime opportunity to implement all those fine words of Architectural Heritage Year. Or doesn't that find favour any more? In the Board's total budget this is a mere fleabite yet the resulting publicity and kudos if it were well done could do the Board tremendous good. If there is not enough in the local estimates for this then HQ undoubtedly ought to weigh in and help. This is the only BWB lock house in the whole region AND it's Georgian into the bargain!

TIME WE BLEW OUR OWN TRUMPETS A BIT MORE!

The Board HAVE done a lot of good things - opening their towpath to the public was a most important start. It isn't all that long since that notice by the gate said 'No Public Right of Way'! The Society have plenty to be proud of too, as our Chairman stressed at the AGM.

COMMENT - - - - -

Wy don't we take IWAAC's advice and inform the passing public of all this on a much larger and more compelling board by the Canal Head entrance? But we must be seen to be getting on with the job meanwhile. We must not let things drift!

CONSERVATION HAS BEEN OUR CONCERN FOR TEN YEARS

And that's another thing. PCAS has been preaching AND implementing conservation for the last ten years! And when we started it was not the fashionable affair it is today either. We are constantly sniped at nowadays by certain other groups, and in the press sometimes, simply because we set out to include boating (under proper controls) in our restoration plans. Is it a crime to try to cater for some boating alongside all the other interests? The River Derwent was a navigation from ancient times and the Canal was constructed to provide navigation. We think navigation still has a place.



COMMENT - - - - -

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON WATERWAYS WELCOMED BY SIR FRANK PRICE

After our gloomy report on closures and stoppages etc. in the last issue it is certainly encouraging to report that a number of the problem areas have been sorted out much more quickly than first expected, for instance Burnley Embankment and Foulrice Tunnel.

It has also been stated in Parliament recently (late July) that BWB are to remain a separate entity and not be merged with the Water Industry. Sir Frank Price says this gives the Board and their staff renewed confidence for the future. It also reassures firms who have invested capital in waterways. Much remains to be done but the Board has been given additional money and, Sir Frank says, "are determined to forge ahead with the duties laid on us by Parliament". We wish them Godspeed.

NORTH WOLDS REPRESENTATIVE FOR POCKLINGTON CANAL SOCIETY

Members will recall that Councillor Derbyshire of Pocklington was, until his death suddenly last winter, the North Wolds Representative for PCAS. He was always prepared to ask questions and to voice his own opinion, but there was throughout a very happy relationship between him and the Society.

So it was with some surprise, to say the least, that the Society received a letter from North Wolds at the end of May stating that they had decided that their new representative would be Mrs. J. M. Burnett, B.A., of The Elms, East Cottingham.

The Society Committee discussed this nomination at some length and came to the conclusion that the majority of the Borough Council could not be aware of the true situation as regards the local waterways. So the following letter was sent to North Wolds. We thanked them for their letter and told them our Committee had discussed it and said:

"We think your Council may not be aware that Mrs. Burnett is the Secretary of a group called 'Consyder', an organisation which has made very clear its objection to restoration of navigation on local waterways.

We feel sure that your Council will appreciate that we would wish to have a representative who is known to be sympathetic to our cause."

At the time of writing this 'Comment' (early August) we have not

received a written three weeks ago our phoned by a Hull he had been present at a North Wolds meeting. He under-Burnett had been and that Councillor lington would be place. This would be put to the next full Council meeting.



reply. But two or Chairman was tele-Journalist who said the previous evening Council committee stood that Mrs. asked to stand down Ivor Loney of Pock-asked to take her

It would be premature to make further comment until we have official information. But, if the Council have indeed re-considered the matter as it would appear, then this is a most satisfactory outcome to our letter.

STOP PRESS

On the very day of going to press, a letter has indeed arrived from Bridlington confirming that the matter "has been considered by the Borough Council along with the views of Cllr. Mrs. Burnett, and the Council has decided to withdraw the appointment of Cllr. Mrs. Burnett as its representative on the Society and that Cllr. I. J. Loney, 44 Algarth Road, Pocklington, be the appointed representative in the future."

We thank the Borough Council and are grateful to them for re-considering this matter. And we welcome Cllr. Loney as their representative with whom we shall be in touch in due course.

WORKING PARTIES

APRIL

-- A very cold and windy day but those hardy souls who turned out were rewarded at the end of the day by the sight of four well made seats at Canal Head and also one at the second lock. These seats are there for the public to use and so are sited for the best views of the countryside. A special word of thanks to all those people who donated money for this project. We still have some left for more seats further down the canalside which will be completed in due course.

Ray O'K

MAY

-- Since the beginning of the summer we seem to have chosen some wonderfully warm Sundays for Working Parties, and May was no exception. In fact, one of us felt it was too hot to work! Well, you know what they say ... "When the cat's away ..." and our 'Tiger' (Ray) had decided to go off to a wedding.

We trimmed around the trees (which, incidentally, have taken very well), tidied up the bricks, Mr. Horne continued with the cementing and George prepared the position for the coping stone. In between all this our 'hardest worker' (well, she tries hard, don't you Val?) presented us with a lifebelt which now stands at the window of the shed should anyone fall in! Gradually it got hotter and hotter so we took a break for lunch and this proved disastrous! A hot day, idyllic surroundings, the sound of rushing water, not one lunch but two! I'm afraid it doesn't say much for the other half of the WPO. I just joined in! Still, we deserved it, or thought we did! And it didn't last long. Ray was back for the next one!

Why not take a walk along the canal one of these warm evenings and see what we have been doing? It's so welcoming this time of year and so quiet and peaceful. I am sure you will enjoy it.

Sue C.

JUNE

-- This Working Party day was also a very fine day. The last of the coping stones at Canal Head were replaced and the fence at the entrance to the Canal was painted. During the afternoon we proceeded further down the Canal to Giles Lock where we installed another seat.

R. O'K

JULY

-- Many regulars were on holiday so we decided to cancel July and have a Working Party in August instead. We did tell most people but we must apologise for failing to tell Henry Richardson, our most regular of all! We are sorry about that, Henry, it was a case of too many cooks!

AUGUST

-- BWB had a contractor doing a super job removing the weed from Cottingwith to Gardham. So we thought to use Bob's new jingles and advance from Melbourne say the weed proved too new blades. Still we of overgrown shrubs the stones by the swing took photographs. And, had time to enjoy the the wild flowers. And young eels wriggling And we had a long chat year old resident stitutional along the how he used to cut for hay to feed his days'. He lived by didn't have much time for



to meet him! Sad to much even for the fine did some useful tidying which were dislodging bridge. George and Val as well as the weed, we sun, the dragonflies and young Timmo enjoyed the in the thick green weed. with an eighty-seven taking his daily con-towpath. He recalled the canalside reeds bullocks in the 'old the Canal then. He Lloyd George though!

August 'Extra' - woodwork needs painting at Cottingwith so some of us are having an extra day on that, a week later. Some will be at Howden Show. See you all in September! SMN

FUTURE DATES 9th Sept. 14th Oct. 11th Nov. 9th Dec.
- and don't forget the CANOE AND DINGHY CRUISE on Sunday 23rd Sept.
(See Back Cover).

- POCKLINGTON CANAL PROGRESS REPORT -

Canal Head Improvements - The levelling, tree planting, replacement of brickwork and coping stones on the Basin, the new seats and Jack Gibson's new notice board have made a tremendous improvement to the whole area. The Society had hoped this season, at last, to remove the ground weeds and reseed with grass. We have intended to do this before but always been prevented by dredging or other works. This time we were all set. A very competitive estimate was obtained for coping with the weeds by a local contractor. However, delays whilst the Board made various checks allowed the growth to reach overpowering proportions (assisted by the rain!) and the final blow was further dredging. So, once again, all the excellent efforts of many volunteers is lost under the overgrowth. This, of course, is only temporary. In fact, Henry has already made a great improvement by cutting back as much as possible. But it is disappointing all the same. Next Spring we really do intend to deweed and reseed!

The Dredging - This has been necessary because of the blocked 'feed', the pipe which brings the water to fill the canal under the main road. The worst part, Henry says, being where it runs alongside the buildings. Of course dredging is required to clear the Basin but the present machine cannot reach right over to the far side so the Basin is still silted in parts.

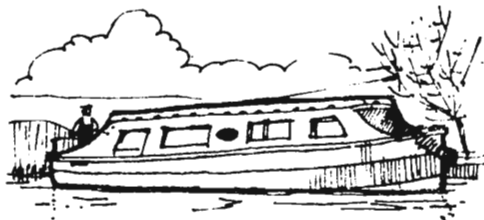
We could do with the American machine Richard Walton was shown in Hull Docks recently by a friend. It could probably clear the whole of Pock Canal of weed in a couple of days and the under-road pipe would be a mere bagatelle, as they say! The only problem is a small matter of what it costs! PCAS Committee wondered if we couldn't persuade them to arrange a little free demonstration on the Canal!

Particularly for Boaters

Canal Direction Sign at Cottingwith - At the other end and for boats, BWB have now reached agreement with the Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust on a new sign. It bears the BWB logo across the top and the YNT Wheldrake Ings Nature Reserve across the base, with Pocklington Canal clearly signed and arrowed across the centre. This should end the confusion for visitors who previously gained the impression sometimes that they could not moor and were not welcome on the Canal.

Cottingham Lock Paddles - B&WB have recently made an inspection of the lock machinery and, with safety very much in mind they say, they have decided NOT to remove the large fixed windlasses there. They consider that, if they "remove the large windlasses operators will be tempted to use smaller and lighter windlasses which are not up to the job. They are inclined to slip off the clough gear and there is always a fear that the sudden loss of resistance will 'catapult' the operator off the head or tail boards and into the canal, or, worse still, into the lock itself."

"Also," they say, "if the windlass is detachable, there is a temptation for the operator to short circuit the desirability of winding down paddle gear by allowing the rack and pinion mechanism to spin freely. This can cause extensive damage to clough doors and buckle the clough stalks. We recognise the vandal problem but think the safety requirements are marginally paramount. Therefore in the near future we will lock the clough gear with handcuff locks and publicise on the Board's lock operating circular that padlock keys are required to open the lock."



Note: Keys will be available from the Board at Castleford and from Selby or Castleford lock-keepers at a cost of £1.07 inclusive of VAT. The same key will also unlock the padlocks on the locks on the new gates to the towpath in each direction at the bottom of Cemetery Lane. Existing licence holders will be provided with their key but, the Board warn, replacements will have to be paid for!

Cemetery Lane and Towpath Gates - As many of us have good reason to know the towpath between Cemetery Lane and Cottingwith Lock can be VERY tricky to navigate in wet weather! (Thoughts of last year's Rally!) It seems that some thoughtless people, probably not members of PCAS or the Boat Club, have been driving along there in wet weather and making the path impassable for those who genuinely need to use it. Also Cemetery Lane is used, or rather abused, like a speed track. As usual it is the selfish minority who create difficulties for the rest of us! So the Board are putting a second gate which will be kept locked. (Keys as above for authorised users).

Gerald and Carol Alden, who now own the property at the top of the Lane have generously offered parking for members in their yard if required. This is when you do not actually need to take your car down. Thanks Gerald, and we are sure that members will be most grateful.

Clearance of (water) Weed on the Canal - As promised, BWB have brought in a contractor to clear the weed from the navigable stretch between Cottingwith and Gardham. This has just been completed (early August). They promise to do this next season and regularly. But more boats up and down would also help considerably!



MONEY SPINNERS - HAVE YOU ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

Have YOU any of the following you no longer need? Could you give them to us to convert into money? SCRAP METAL (including collections of ring-tops from canned drinks - these make more than ordinary metal); SILVER FOIL of all kinds; BOOKS (especially good condition paperbacks but ALL kinds welcome); OLD COINS (all 'silver' coins 1946 and earlier; also old pennies only for the years 1950, 1951 and 1953).

We can convert all of these into useful cash for the restoration. They can be handed over to any committee member. Val Barron passed on a box of books last Work Party and they made £5. Thanks Val. (Thanks to Val and Gordon for a lifebelt too, now at Canal Head).

OUR TRIP TO THE CALEDONIAN CANAL — Part Twoby FRANCIS and HILDA LOFT

Locked through Banavie again, this time with two fishing boats making for the Firth of Forth, very friendly types, offered them a tot of rum, readily accepted. George now trawling his line, determined to catch a salmon or die in the attempt! I think it is a case of the Fisherman's Prayer now:

"Lord, suffer me to catch a fish
So large, that even I
When boasting of it afterwards
May have no need to lie."

No one will believe me, but we did it! We did it! George caught a salmon and I don't know who was most surprised, the fish or us, but now to land it; we dropped the dinghy in the water, got Paula into her life-jacket, in she jumped, excitement mounting, we played it for an hour, everyone doing their bit, Paula was ready in the dinghy to grab it when it was tired. We managed it at long last, and in case no one believed us, we took several snaps to prove it; it weighed in the region of 9 or 10 pounds, this surely was the highlight of the week; for all the boasting I do not think any of us really believed we should catch one. (We did have a fishing licence, by the way). It was hours before our excitement died down and, as George had promised, if he caught one, when he retired it would be to the place he caught it, so Loch Locky, you have been warned.

DAY SIX

Weather still super; I was most surprised to see that Skipper George's hat still fitted him; I was quite sure it would be too small this morning, after the hectic day yesterday, with all the unexpected excitement; we decided to relax in the glorious sunshine, as we did need to rest after our great combined effort of landing our catch; the prayer must have done some good as I had only just written it down and it was all action stations. If I were to tell you all the suggestions that were made to land our prize, it would take me half an hour (remember we had no gaff or net); one example was to get a rope and lasso its tail; the other ideas were just as hilarious so I leave them to your imagination, I know that repeating them afterwards had us aching with laughter.

We are now back in Loch Ness, having come through the aforementioned Locks again, we have only one more to go, and we shall be back to Inverness and the boat yard.

Of course, we could still have the ultimate event of our trip, to see 'Nessie' and if my previous quote is correct, it is warm enough for her to come up to bask. I know I am the only real believer amongst this crew, but who knows, 'Nessie' or one of her family may provide the climax to our trip.

Francis is now having instruction on how to manoeuvre for a buoy, concentration now, all going fine, until his trousers slipped down to the floor (luckily he had his swim trunks underneath), but we all had near hysterics, especially George, who had collapsed on the floor, with the result we lost the buoy with our boat hook still attached; after we had regained control of ourselves, we got our hook and the buoy and got safely moored up for the night in this nice little bay. After a game of cards in which I lost badly, we called it a day and went to bed; Francis and I decided the floor was just as comfortable as the bed, so we were back where we started.

DAY SEVEN

A really lovely morning, so being a brave lot (except Francis) we decided to try a swim at the shallow edge of the Loch. Paula and George really did have a swim, but the water is very cold in Loch Ness, never higher than 42 degrees; it is said that a really good swimmer could only last ten minutes, it is so cold; I did just get my swim suit wet but only just, as I like the water a bit warmer than that. When we returned, we found Francis had put six eggs on to boil for a salad, forgot them, burnt the eggs and the pan, so we found him scouring away, trying to get the pan clean. Cooks!!!

The Loch Ness investigation was stationed in this bay. Frank Searle was there with his caravan and all his equipment at the ready; he had quite a big place there with all the newspaper pictures, etc., lots of interesting reading of the sitings of 'Nessie', dates and so forth. We did not have any talk with Frank Searle, but got some leaflets with lots of interesting information on the subject; I think the rest of the crew are half believing now.

The Loch is nearly 1,000 feet deep, 24 miles long and one mile wide, so I guess anything is possible in that vast area; by the way this

was the reason the eggs were burned, Francis had got interested in all the literature Frank Searle had on display. Oh 'Nessie', what you have to answer for!

We are now on the last lap of our return trip; we had to press on to get through the last Lock and swing bridge on time. We sun-bathed all the way down and then out of the blue we had a short but very heavy local thunderstorm, but we were not complaining, as we vacate the boat at 9 am in the morning and we have been really fortunate with a week of glorious weather.

Arrived back at the boat yard and got another nice surprise, our lovely salmon had been accommodated in a freezer at the nearest Lock to where it was caught, by a very obliging lock keeper's wife. The only stipulation was that it must be gutted, but having met up with the fishermen again at this Lock, they very kindly did it for us in two minutes flat. We had arranged to pick it up on our way home but Jim, who had been told about our catch, had very kindly collected it and transferred it to his freezer and made lots of ice to pack it with for our long journey back. Who says the age of chivalry is dead?! - Really, I think he was as thrilled as we were about it, as we were the only people who had hired one of his cruisers, to catch one.

Well, this really is the last lap; we got all our gear packed into the car, had a lovely shower, one more night on board and then it's England and home, but I think I can honestly say we all enjoyed every minute of it, but alas, no 'Nessie', but one cannot have everything. I reckon we did better than most catching a salmon, a dream a lot of fishermen have, but have not been lucky enough to make it come true.

HILDA L. LOFT



THE 1979 ANNUAL MEETING and LUNCH - 22nd APRIL

Nearly forty members assembled on 22nd April for what is now our traditional Sunday Lunch - this time at Turpin's Tavern at Sutton-on-Derwent as the Plough at Hayton was already booked for someone else. Turpin's did us proud and everyone voted the occasion most successful. The Stall did a good trade before lunch, taking £16.89, and the raffle made £17. Our thanks to all supporters, including the staff at Turpin's.

The AGM

Further members arrived for the meeting proper at 2.15 pm. Apologies were received from David Higgins (cruising the Lancaster Canal) and from Eleanor Johnson.

Chairman's ReportNeed for Cash!

Our Chairman, Richard Walton, welcomed everyone and then reported on the activities of the past year, pointing out that our chief need was still for hard cash! Many members and friends had found ways of raising this. We had had Rose Welburn's second walk for £50; £50 from IWalk; £250 from 'Anonymous' and some £300 from the Stall, plus many other contributions. But the Councils are still hard up. We ourselves have almost enough for Thornton gates, but what we need is a wealthy benefactor to pay for three new swing bridges!

Sorting Out the Propaganda

A good deal of noise and propaganda has been put out by anti-restorationists, including the local group calling themselves "Consyder". Much of it was one-sided and inaccurate.

The Society has much to be proud of

Richard looked back and said it was worth recalling just how much this society had in fact achieved during its ten years. As he stressed that the improvements benefitted ALL kinds of users. Navigation was important, including that of the Derwent, but we were trying to promote the use of the canal whatever people's interests.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

David Tomlinson presented a healthy set of Accounts and thanked all who had made this possible. The Auditors were thanked and re-elected. (Note: Copies of the year's accounts are available on request to anyone who would like to see them).

Elections

All four officers were re-elected.

Of the old Committee Barry Colley left to live and work in Devon (sorry I said Cornwall in the last '99!' Ed.) David Duke is now at Bampton, between Flamborough and Filey. Due to an error last year all the committee had to be voted for this time, instead of four carrying on for two years. And, just to complicate matters further, we didn't get four with more votes than the rest! There were six! So the results are:

New Committee Val Barron, Sue Crooks, Eleanor Johnson, Eric Lount and Margaret and Raymond O'Kelly will serve for two years; and Charles Huitson, Bob Pearson and Edwin Tottle will serve for one year.

UNRULY COMMITTEE?

In the course of his Chairman's Report at the AGM Richard flourished aloft a new gavel. "I have been a committee member for many years and I was impressed by the way the last Chairman controlled the meetings," he said ...

I have had is that at the
sented with this gavel!



"The degree of success
last meeting I was pre-
I will try to do better!"

(The gavel was presented by Sue Crooks). Richard nevertheless went on to thank the Committee for all their hard work. They had made his job easy, he said.

MORE THANKS

Thanks for another gift from Bob Pearson, this time a set of new jingle blades for the weed.

And thanks to our artist members, A. Horne and Bill Parker, for handsome donations from the sale of some of their pictures this Spring. Both Mr. Horne and Mr. Parker entered pictures in the Pocklington Arts Society Exhibition at Burnby Hall and both sold pictures to the benefit of PCAS. Thank you both for these most generous contributions.

PCAS FAMILY OUTING TO THE LOUNT'S FARM AT FLAMBOROUGHSUNDAY 17th JUNE

Carloads of us rolled up on all roads leading to Flamborough. The weathermen had arranged a 'Summer's Day' for the occasion.

On arrival, Eric was spotted down the field checking on the campers' welfare but soon joined us in the garden for cooling lemon drinks after our long drive!! "Please help yourselves," Doreen invited the gardenful of visitors then, and twenty five of us trooped in to behold tables laden with 'goodies' to delight our lunchtime appetites. Doreen, Alison and Nana had been hard at it preparing these tasty morsels and, to prove we were at the seaside, real fresh crab - Oh, the succulence of it! -

Away across the fields on a gentle stroll we went, towards Danes' Dyke. Yes, the corn was growing well we all agreed, except the patch that had been flooded through the winter! How easy to forget that awful winter when the sun is shining and we were all so thrilled to be out in the fresh air - not a woollie to be seen.

Eric's cows came across to inspect us and wonder at the company Eric keeps. A very quizzical look on their faces as we ambled on. There was Marigold and Kirsty, Onyx and Phyllis. The first letter of each cow's name reminds Eric where the cow came from, as in Marigold from Melbourne and Phyllis from Frodingham! Oh men, that's what he said but I'm still trying to work it out!

A learned gentleman was heard to compliment Eric on "a tray set of udders"!! We townies are still pondering on that one too! Does it perhaps make milking time easier?

Back in Doreen's garden, a breather, but not for long. We are off to the 'real' seaside. In convoy we made for North Landing. A proper little invasion by PCAS. Down the steep slope for most, straight down the grass bank for the agile and into the Lifeboat House. A great little boat, and I always have that queer feeling, "I hope you stay right there in your little house, at the ready, on call, but no launching please!"

Down to the bottom and onto the beach. North Landing was a magnificent sight. The sun, very hot by now, tempted hardy members into the sea for a paddle. They soon discovered the North Sea in June to be very, very, very cold and took instead to the rocks and rockpools and a scramble round the point. There, high on a white

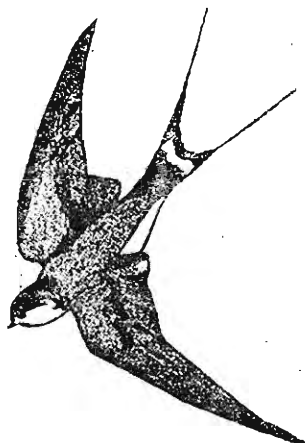
rocky ledge, we saw puffins observing us with a very similar look to that of those cows back at Danes' Dyke. Perhaps it was the hat!!

"First back at Westfield Farm put the kettle on!" someone shouted. Kettle boiling, we had a repeat performance of lunchtime, only this time some appetites were whetted by ozone and exercise and I must apologise to mine hosts for clearing the tables like a horde of locusts. Some people have no manners!

The cows were by now waiting to be milked, and, not to offend them further by our intrusion, we left Westfield Farm homeward bound and sunburnt, well fed and full of lovely scenery and hope, by now, Doreen, Eric and Alison have recovered.

As for PCAS visitors we would like to say a very big thank you for a perfect day and, please, can we do it again sometime?

by "ANONYMOUS"!



APPEAL FROM THE EDITOR!

If your favourite item has been left out we do apologise! We do try to include everything. It would help if you, our readers, would tell us your views, send in some more articles - or just little snippets of information, comments, drawings, anything you like. It would make the magazine that much more interesting. Come on, it's YOUR magazine!

RECENT COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC NEWS ON LOCAL WATERWAYS

..... from JOHN POMFRET

*** As a student, John Pomfret used to come over regularly to PCAS Working Parties cleaning out Thornton Lock. He probably has one or two old bottles dredged up out of the lock somewhere. Now working for the Northumbrian Water Authority, John is a member of IWA Region Committee and also Chairman of its Inland Shipping Committee which does an enormous amount of useful, mostly backroom work promoting and linking up the commercial side of waterways. The following is from John's Annual Report for 1978/9 ...

TRAFFIC IN THE NORTH EAST has continued at an encouraging level. Coal is still the largest traffic on the BWB waterways but oil products and sewage sludge are becoming even more important. The year saw the extension of operation of Whitaker's new tanker "Humber Jubilee" to Leeds and commencement of building of further large craft.

The effluent traffic from Leeds was extended, using the Leeds/Liverpool Canal, to take sludge from Shipley. However this traffic has temporarily ceased and is unlikely to reach the originally predicted traffic flows due to the effective closure, during winter, of the L/L Canal due to stoppages.

Various other general cargo traffics have been gained during the year on the Aire and Calder and the prospects are good, although the NALGO dispute caused some disruption to negotiations for further traffics.

On the Ouse the major traffic flows have continued to be raw materials for the animal feedstuffs industry; however the aggregate traffic to York (on the Foss), as well as regular oil and paper deliveries have continued. Materials for the confectionery industry are also taken to York and a variety of products is handled at Selby. Disruption at Hull due to failure of Drypool Bridge continued into 1978 and resulted in some interesting light-erage movements. On the waterways in neighbouring East Midlands Region, traffic on the SSYN continued to decline, while traffic on the Trent to Nottingham has shown a revival.

JOHN POMFRET

March 1979

PCAS STALL - SUMMER SEASON

The season started WET and with a petrol shortage! That was Stamford Bridge. Considering the weather and total loss of one day's trading, we didn't do too badly. The DNAA Rally at Driffield Canal Head (or River Head) more than made up weather-wise, and it was an excellent affair in every way.

Bishop Burton Open Day at the Agricultural College was a new 'fixture' for us and a most interesting and successful one. And we are most grateful to the College for inviting us.

Barmby Feast, Murton Vintage Tractor Rally and Driffield Show were all fine and sunny and we did well. Driffield especially, must have been a record for attendance and kept us busy till even later than usual.

The final fling is next weekend at Howden, a two day show this year, to celebrate their centenary.

VERY MANY THANKS to all our helpers once again. It couldn't possibly go on without you all! It's hard work but it's very worthwhile, both in interest created and in monies raised, and we think everyone enjoys themselves into the bargain. You're doing a grand job!

VERY MANY THANKS too to various donors of gifts for sale

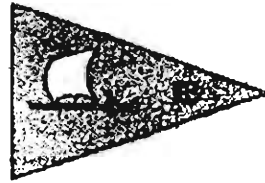
Gifts from Bill and Winifred Curle, David Higgins and Francis and Hilda Loft have been of great value, selling well, like the proverbial 'hot cakes'!!! And all clear profit too! Olive Leonard's coathangers are a much admired line always and there have been many more generous gifts. Thank you all very much.

Several gifts which don't sell on the Stall at events have been sold afterwards, books especially. So, once again, thank you and please keep up the good work!

SMN



Pocklington Canal Boat Club



"CHARLES WILLIAM" FIRST COMMERCIAL BARGE INTO POCKLINGTON CANAL SINCE THE THIRTIES

Arriving at the Canal down Cemetery Lane the view was blocked by this enormous craft. At least, riding fairly light in the water, she certainly looked enormous. "She" was the barge, "CHARLES WILLIAM", property of David Lowe, Apollo Canal Carriers, of Shipley. David Lowe and Gordon Pickard had brought her up the Derwent from Goole with a tonne of coal, intending to reach the PCBC Rally at Stamford Bridge for the May Bank Holiday Weekend.

But it rained, rained hard and long in fact! The water levels in the river rose and rose and "Charles William" was quite unable to pass underneath the old, half demolished wooden bridge by Wheldrake Ings. So, regretfully, she did not reach the Rally and had to retreat to safe moorings in the Canal (in company with several other smaller boats equally unable to negotiate the bridge and make the Rally).

She was the first laden commercial craft into the Canal, as far as we can tell, since "Ebenezer" in the early thirties. Yet these were the craft that plied regularly up the Derwent and the Canal before the War.



Helpful Farmers - "Charles William" had another adventure coming up the river. She got stuck one evening on a mudbank, somewhere near Ellerton. David and Gordon were not too optimistic! But a local farmer and his two lads came most handsomely to the rescue with two tractors, helped get her off, and refused to take anything for their trouble! Who spreads this idea that all the local farmers are 'agin us'?

STAMFORD BRIDGE RALLY - MAY BANK HOLIDAY P.C.B.C.

Despite the rain the Rally went well. And despite the efforts of 'Consyder' to turn the local people against the Rally participants! They claimed that they had put a leaflet into every home in the village. This was obviously an exaggeration. Their leaflets were verging on the libellous on the subject of boaters and the damage they were likely to cause. Happily they were proved quite mistaken in their apprehensions! And at least their leaflets did give the Rally some free publicity! In fact a considerable number of local residents expressed their interest and welcome for the event. And congratulations to the boats who somehow made it to the site! It was disappointing that so many had to make do with a mooring in the Canal on account of the high and unseasonable water level.

"OLDIES" FILMSHOW AT POCKLINGTON 5th MAY

Another contribution by Bill Parker. Unfortunately, despite the month being May, it was perishingly cold and several members who had wanted to be there were ill, so attendance was rather poor. The best films had been kept to the last but one or two missed these as they dare not keep their children there in the cold to the end. A pity because they were really vintage and most enjoyable to see again. We do apologise to all who came for the cold! We only discovered how the heating worked right at the end!! Thank you, Bill, for a good show.

YOUNG FARMERS TOUR THE CANAL

Market Weighton Young Farmers Club members had a guided tour of the Canal one evening in June. On reaching Cottingham they were able to inspect "Charles William", the first commercial barge to enter Pocklington Canal since the early thirties. Programme Secretary Linda Thackray writes: " ... the members who were present thoroughly enjoyed themselves and asked me to express their gratitude (to their guide Raymond O'Kelly), especially the one who caught the fish! Our grateful thanks for all the time and trouble you went to to make the evening possible."

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Society extends a warm welcome to all the new members who have joined us since the last issue of "99". A special welcome to our new Life Member. We are continually being asked for details about the Canal.

Will members who have BANKERS' ORDERS please check that they are paying the correct Membership Fee, namely £1 single, £1.50 Family.
Thank you very much.

R. O'Kelly, Membership Secretary

HAVE YOU CRUISED THE RIVER DERWENT DURING 1979??

If you have cruised on the Derwent during 1979 between Barmby Barrage and Sutton Lock, including the entrance to the Canal and have experienced any problems there, then BWB would like to hear from you. Precise location and nature of the problem, name and draft of boat and, if possible, date and time. Equally in the future. Statistics are being compiled on boating in the area. Please contact: BWB, Lock Lane, Castleford WF10 2LH, telephone: Castleford 554351 and ask for G. A. Turner.

THANK YOU NICK (GRUNDY)!

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Nick - a student who joined us two years ago - for the hours of help he has given to many of us concerned in the waterways world - and also for the muscle power at working parties. We will all miss you at our 'monthly digs', Nick, but Good Luck in your new career and Thanks!

SUE CROOKS

Please Note: Sue Crooks' address will be changed temporarily to:
c/o 3 Queen's Mead, Lund, nr. Driffield. Urgent telephone messages may be left via Middleton-on-the-Wolds 529. She is leaving Cottingham late August but moving into temporary accommodation whilst she looks for a house in the Beverley/Bishop Burton area (any offers anyone??). The house she had hoped to have earlier in Beverley fell through.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Sunday 9th September
 Tuesday 18th September
 Sunday 23rd September

Friday 28th September

Sunday 14th October
 Saturday 27th October
 Friday 2nd November

Sunday 11th November
 Sunday 18th November
 Friday 30th November
 Sunday 9th December

PCAS Working Party.
 PCAS Committee at O'Kelly's.
 Canoe and Dinghy Cruise on Pock.
 Canal - Open to all.
 IWA NH at Cottingham - 8 pm.
 Humber Keel and Sloop Slide Show.
 PCAS Working Party.
 PCAS Hallowe'en Party Canal Head.
 IWA NH at Cottingham - G. A. Turner
 (BWB) Talk - 8 pm.
 PCAS Working Party.
 PCAS Sunday Lunch at Hayton.
 IWA NH Christmas Supper.
 PCAS Working Party

NOTE: All IWA N. Humberside Branch Meetings are at the Small Hall
 in Cottingham Civic Hall at 8 pm. All welcome!

FOR DETAILS of Canoe Cruise and Sunday Lunch, see back cover -
 also for Hallowe'en Party.

"CANALS '79" SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER - LEEDS

IWA W. Riding Branch give advance notice of a waterways conference to be held in Leeds on Saturday 10th November. The theme is Northern Waterways and there will be six guest speakers. 9.30 am to 6 pm. Organised by Leeds University Canal Society, lunch and tea and coffee will be provided - cost £3. If you are interested please contact Mike Pegg, 17 King George Avenue, Chapel Allerton, Leeds LS7 4LH, telephone: Leeds 628317.

WANTED URGENTLY BY PCAS MEMBER

Secondhand dining room table and chairs; Welsh dresser or similar; washing machine; carpets; small lawnmower.

Offers please via PCAS secretaries (SMN or MO'K).

BRITISH CANOE UNION SUPPORTS NAVIGATION ON THE
DERWENT AND OTHER LOCAL WATERWAYS

Following a misinterpretation of what they had meant to convey at the Yorks Water Authority's Meeting about the River Derwent (attended by RGW in Leeds in April) the BRITISH CANOE UNION have had distributed the following statement:

"The Union and Mr. Dubber personally (their rep.) would like to see the river open as a navigation for all types of vessels. In our experience at Aldwark Bridge (on the Ouse) and other points on the Ure and Ouse and Drifffield Canal, we are unaware of any incident of the type you describe and see no reason why, with a proper code of conduct and continued goodwill, this should not be the case on the Derwent with mutually enjoyable and safe navigation."

JULY 1979

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GAS PIPES UNDER THE OUSE - "ENNERDALE H" AT YORK

The barge "ENNERDALE H" arrived in York in mid-June. She lay straddled across the Ouse just downstream of Clifton Bridge, helping to lay a new gas main under the river. A week or two earlier, in the torrential rains of May, "ENNERDALE H" was marooned in a field beside the Trent near Nottingham. Her skipper said the huge crane now on the York river bank was the same one used last month to winch the barge off that Trentside field! "ENNERDALE" brought the crane and all the other heavy gear up river from Goole, in fact. The huge gas pipes came inevitably by lorry. The pipe now laid under the river weighs fifty-four tonnes.

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TEN THOUSAND ENVELOPES!

When MRS. OLIVE LEONARD handed over the latest batch of envelopes, for this issue of "Double Nine", she told us she has now typed the names and addresses of our readers on ten thousand envelopes over the years! Not much glamour in this job! But they always arrive in good time and without any fuss or reminding. We think you deserve a very big THANK YOU! And may your typewriter never grow weary!

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Assemble 10.30 am Cotingwith

IMPORTANT!! PLEASE PARK CARS in the yard at the TOP of Cemetery Lane (courtesy G. Alden)

Visiting craft will be very welcome and we hope to arrange a covering licence for the event. Further information from R. G. Walton, telephone: Aldborough 592, or Secretary (after work).

Entry Fee: 25p per craft

7.30 pm at CANAL HEAD

Barbecue food, fun and games

Bring the family!!

-- details available nearer the time --

at THE PLOUGH at HAYTON - 12.30 for 1 pm

Sunday Lunch seems to be a popular time for many members, especially those who have to travel some way to get here. You can combine it with a wander along the Canal or a visit to friends and still get home in the light. So we decided to arrange one for Sunday 18th Nov., this time back at The Plough, simply as a social get-together for members and friends. Price will be much as before, with a Raffle and a few items on the Stall, but no speeches etc. (unless one of you feels moved to get up and make one!). So DO COME ALONG AND MAKE THIS A PLEASANT MEETING OF MEMBERS OLD AND NEW.

Pay on the day but NAMES AND NUMBERS, PLEASE, BY MONDAY
12th NOVEMBER to M. O'Kelly, 15 Chapmangate, Pocklington.
Tel: Pocklington 2687.