

LAURENCE HOGG PRODUCTIONS

Catalogue of products

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FORMATS:

ALL DVD ARE REGION FREE (VHS VIDEOS ARE UK PAL STANDARD)

NARROWBOAT ART AND HISTORY

NEW TITLE: NARROWBOAT IDENTIFICATION

This volume is intended to give the viewer a basic knowledge of the types of working narrowboat which were once common on our waterways. It is not a definitive volume of all types and sub types of craft but a guide to features by which you can learn to understand where the boat was built and who owned it and what it did.

The film covers, Fellows Morton & Clayton, The Grand Union Canal Carrying company, Severn & Canal Carrying Company, Nursers Dock, Thos Clayton, The Northern boats, the BCN tugs, station boats, Bantocks, Admiral class and more.

I try to describe in a simple way how the boats differ and guide the viewer to the distinctive features.

The film also features plans of craft and some of the graveyards that existed with many discarded boats.

Separate to the main film is an in depth view of a Grand Union motor boat plan.

Also included is a film of a large boat parade in Birmingham to allow you to test your knowledge of what you are seeing.

Special thanks to, Keith Christie and David Kilner for archive film.

Also to: Keay family, Argent family, Jinks family, Gilbert family, Graham Berlyn, Keith Eley, The Waterways Trust, Richard Hutchings, and many more.

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Running time 91 minutes.

NEW TITLE: BRITISH CANAL HISTORY IN COLOUR

Working boats in the 1960's:

From the collection of Keith Christie we revisit an era when trade was still common on the canals and rivers of the Midlands and North West. Starting in Birmingham we are delighted by horse drawn boats, the Thomas Clayton fleet and much more. Powerful BCN tugs show their pace along with the latest then new Admiral class boats. We follow a trip down a true lost canal, the Toll End and look at what today remains of this navigation. Further North we visit the Potteries, Anderton and Ellesmere port. Much rare footage of trading boats all originally filmed in super 8 cine. Our archive has provided some more recent film showing what sites are like today, also some black and white pictures add to the wonderful scenes on film.

Working Weekend:

This is a short film which shows Peter Froud working the narrowboat "Arcturus" from Anglesey Basin (Brownhills) to Worcester with a load of coal. Shot in black and white.

Mr Milners Grand Junction Canal:

Animated photographs from the albums of Mr Milner. Dredgers, bridges, tunnels, embankments and other engineering work are brought back to life showing how maintenance was carried out.

Working boats in the North West:

From the late Ed Greenwood is a remarkable film of some of the last North West traffics to go by canal and river. We see the narrowboats of the Anderton Canal Carrying Co carrying salt to Weston Point docks, also Brunner barge on the river Weaver alongside "Duker" barge Iris Abbott. Joshers, Admiral class boats and a variety of craft enchant the viewer. This film was salvaged from a betamax master and in parts the quality is not 100% however the content is priceless.

My thanks go to Keith Christie and the late Edward Greenwood for supplying the archive films. Thanks also for the assistance from Black Country Living Museum, Richard Hutchings, Ray White, The Waterways Trust and others.

Free bonus music videos:

Produced using our archive and film blended with modern music from "Systems in Blue" these were uploaded to "YouTube" to promote the group to a wider audience both here in the UK and further afield. They have received a lot of attention. Here the two are shown in high quality. For more music and details of the group please go to:

www.Systems-in-blue.de

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"System in Blue" music copyright of Systems in Blue

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Running time: 140 minutes

A TRADITIONAL BRITISH BOATDOCK

Memories, film and images of Peter Keay & Son of Walsall

Ken Keay's "Canal Colours" book and "A boatbuilders sketchbook" reproduced through the kind permission of Judith Anne Cooper and the Black Country Living Museum.

Film of the dock and associated activities reproduced from super 8 film shot by Peter Dodds.

Additional images and film from the LHP archive.

This is a twin disc set comprising a DVD and a CD-ROM.

The CD-ROM contains high quality images of the two books produced by Ken Keay and an album of views of the site today.

Descriptions:

"Ken Keay canal colours"

16 pages of highly detailed drawings giving the exact layouts of the designs used on the BCN boats built and repaired at the dock. Invaluable to those who want to really understand the decorative designs used at this type of yard. Colour key guides allow you to colour the drawings.

"A boatbuilders sketchbook"

50 pages of incredibly detailed drawings showing the layout of various docks Keay's operated, the techniques used to work on boats, the tools used, the layout of the workshops, winches etc. A unique resource on the everyday operation of a commercial boatdock.

Both the above books were produced from sketches Ken made post retirement and are a first generation record of the way of life lived in these docks.

"Merope old boat"

Peter Dodds marvellous film of the docking of his boat at the Carl St. dock of Keays. Shot in colour and now enhanced the atmosphere of the dock comes to life on your screen.

"The Bill Revived"

Again shot by Peter Dodds this film shows how one of the "Hampton" boats was rescued for the Black Country museum. Many of these boats had been repaired at Keays during their working days.

"Carl St Memories"

Drawn from our own archive and with input from Max Sinclair we take an animated look at views of some of the activity and boats at the dock. A sequence shows Ken fitting a plank to the new "production line" tug they hoped to build in numbers.

55 minutes of film, 2 books to view on screen or print off as required.

Book images are copyright of Ken Keay and Judith Anne Cooper

Special thanks to Ian Waden OBE, Caroline Jones TWT and Tony Gregory for assistance in helping collect the data required for this compilation.

INLAND WATERWAYS 1960-70

Films from Francis Stapleton:

299 Miles & 199 locks

Part 1: Filmed in 1975. The family set out with a Cathedral cruisers boat from Worcester onto a choppy River Severn en route to the Avon and Stratford. It's up the Stratford canal to join the Worcester Birmingham canal into Birmingham. From here they head towards the Tame Valley canal, turning into the Rushall canal and on round the Daw End and Wyrley & Essington to Wolverhampton. Down the Wolverhampton 21 locks along the Staffs & Worcester to join the Stourbridge canal. On through Netherton to Tipton using the old main line to Smethwick. A trip round the Icknield Port loop and then back to Worcester.

Part 2: Filmed in 1973 aboard a Canal Cruising Co boat. Stoke on Trent to the Caldon, then up the Leek branch, returning through Harecastle to Anderton, using the unique Thurlwood steel lock en route. Then to Middlewich, across to Chester, a trip to Llangollen, a look at Welsh Frankton before the run to Autherley. From here its up to the Trent and Mersey with a look at Armitage tunnel before returning to Stone.

Camping boat trip

Shot in 1974 aboard Union Canal Carriers "Admiral Class" motor "Lindsey".

Newbury scout troop take a run to Lapworth and down to the Avon. How times have changed, boats have weedhatches now! See the fun of camping boat holidays as they were.

Bert Dunkeley and Prince

Bert Dunkeley was chairman of the Coventry Canal Society for years and often made a camping boat style trip with friends. In this 1977 film Bert heads into Birmingham to visit the city, and see some of the main line. The trip returns via the Digbeth branch and up to Salford Jcn through Garrison locks. Enjoy a trip aboard a wooden Samuel Barlow motor with a trusty Lister JP2.

Film from Mrs June Ringer:

Voyage into England

Come aboard a wonderful classic canal cruiser for glimpses of our waterways as they were in 1962/3. The Oxford canal, working boats at Braunston, the Coventry and Northern Oxford, bow hauling on the Northampton arm, the Ashby canal, Atherstone locks, Armitage tunnel, evocative scenes at Harecastle tunnel, the potteries at work, Shelton steelworks, the Macclesfield canal and finally the Peak Forest canal.

Total running time 1 hour 45 minutes.

The above films are all shot on 8mm and super 8 cine film. The quality varies but the content gives the viewer a visit to a quieter waterways scene so different from today.

WATERWAYS IN TRANSITION – Yesterday once more... 2-disc set (Price £19.95)

A look at the years at the end of carrying and the metamorphosis to pleasure use.

Waterways in the 1960's

Malcolm Fletcher's wonderful colour film takes on a trip around the country. Brentford, the Potteries, Norfolk broads, Foxton and early IWA National Rallies at Macclesfield and Blackburn. Finally Braunston with lots of working boats.

Waterways Moments

The first film by Sarah Edgson from Norton Canes Boatbuilders. A charming glimpse into our waterway past with a prime selection of classic pictures. Sit down with a glass of wine to watch this one.

3000 miles on the flat

John Hodgkinson's unique first boat, a ex British Waterways flat. This boat covered a vast part of the system and showed it was possible to boat on a budget. Happy days.

Still in business

The story of High Line Yachting. Today there is only a handful of "original" waterway business's left still operating from their original locations. We look at High Lines development and transition to today. Also includes the story of Boatmans Cabin Co and the Ruston CD2 diesel.

Getting Afloat

In 1960 British Waterways introduced their own fleet of hire boats. We take a look back at these early conversions and new build boats.

Waterway Adventures

David Kilner's film shot from early holidays on the canals. See Ernie Thomas hire boats, Stourport, Birmingham and a variety of other waterways. See commercial traffic still in action on the Grand Union and BCN.

Pamela

Hostelcraft operated the horse drawn boat "Pamela". A converted Bantock we follow the boat on trips showing that horse drawn boating was a little special. Derek Walkers film captures the everyday life of "Jim" a fine Birmingham canal horse.

Running time: 2 hours 42 minutes

Some of the footage has been copied from Super 8 and 8mm film.

The quality is varied but we have included as much film as was possible to not lose rare sights.

Special thanks to Malcolm Fletcher, Chris Clegg, David Kilner, John Bolsom, Ike Argent, John Jinks, British Waterways and John Hodgkinson.

BRITISH WATERWAYS ARCHIVE – Yesterday once more... 2-disc set (Price £22.95)

Nine black and white and colour films from BW archives, producers include BTF and Edgar Anstey. There is much to be seen here to delight the waterways and narrowboat enthusiast.

Disc 1

"There Go The Boats" 1951 – commercial carrying

"Barging Along" 1944 – wartime commercial boating

"Grand Union Canal" 1934 Canal promotional film

"Take To The Boats" 1962 – early canal hire and trip boats

Disc 2

"Inland Waterways" 1950 – London to Birmingham run

"Waterways Our Heritage" 1979 – cruising the Midlands

"World of The Waterways" 1969 – a students view of the waterways

"Gentle Highway" 1970 – end of commercial carrying

"A Civilised Adventure" 1985 American view of UK canals

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Running time 230 minutes.

WORKING BOATS – Yesterday once more ...:

An appreciation of working canal boats and the "boat people" who lived aboard these unique craft. Covering many aspects of their life, including:-

The boatmen's strike of 1923, Wide boats on the southern Grand Junction Canal, Grand Union Canal Carrying Company Educational Filmstrip, East Midlands scenes, John Jinks 23 tons from Anderton, John Jinks photo collection The BCN, Working boats on the Thames, Josher styles and other significant boats, Joe Skinner with "Friendship" on the Oxford canal, "The final solution" – the old ways die out

Made from archive film, both colour and black and white, archive stills and filmstrip.

This film is made up of film provided by David Kidney and Francis Stapleton. Stills are from the Jinks family, the Argent family, Keith Eley, British Waterways, LHP archive and other unknown photographers.

Written, produced and narrated by Laurence Hogg.

Running time 72 minutes.

WORKING BOATS II – Yesterday once more...:

During the 1960s the once all-powerful Birmingham Canal Navigations system was existing with just a few remaining traffics. The thousands of boats working had reduced to just a few; with little hope of improvement the remaining traffic worked with worn out boats and little maintenance.

In this film you will see some of the last working boats that plied the BCN, sights and images now lost forever. Starting with a look at Stewart and Lloyd Coombeswood works with its large fleet of joeys, we then approach Birmingham along the last few miles of the Grand Union Canal. Sampson Road depot is our next stop with a look at the Saltley and Nechells area. In West Bromwich we join a horse boat being worked up Ryders Green locks before moving on to Walsall and boarding a Thos Clayton motor boat "Towy" for one of the final runs from Walsall gas works to Oldbury.

The Wolverhampton level was still active; we see Elements were still moving coal from Anglesey Basin and Leigh and Lycett were still trading in Willenhall. Caggy was moving natural gas pipes along to Wednesfield, whilst in Coseley Mattys yard was still a "boat museum" in its own right. Back in Walsall we see Keay's dock at work, repairing bottoms in a wooden motor boat. This film captures the raw hard nature of boatbuilding – in winter!

Finally a glimpse of the last working boat built on the BCN, the H F Truman, the founding boat of the Walsall Youth Leaders Council, we see the early days and its eventual fate at the hands of British Waterways.

Running time 65 minutes.

WORKING NARROWBOAT RESTORATION:

The Narrowboat is the traditional boat of the English Canals, seen today as the "British boat". This film follows the development of the type, its variants and construction techniques. The craft are described in full as well as the unique way of life. Much use is made of archive footage and stills.

Running time 60 minutes.

THE NARROWBOAT STORY:

The Narrowboat is the traditional boat of the English Canals, seen today as the "British boat". This film follows the development of the type, its variants and construction techniques. The craft are described in full as well as the unique way of life. Much use is made of archive footage and stills.

Running time 60 mins.

THE NARROWBOAT BUILDERS:

This is a compilation of two linked films:-

a) Boatyards:

We look back at the differing yards which built narrowboats. From shipyards like Yarwood's of Northwich, to side slip yards such as Sephtons. Today this infrastructure which maintained and built these craft has all but disappeared, luckily in a few places the traditional skills are still being used and taught to maintain preserved craft. Much use is made of archive footage and stills.

b) The Last Boatdocks:

A few traditional boatyards from the days of commercial narrowboating held on into the 1970's. Keay's, Gilberts, and Tooley's being three, which never really departed from their original wooden boatbuilding. The Allen brothers diversified into steel and lasted a little longer. We look back at these survivors, the characters and a way of life, which just petered out. Marvellous, original colour film shot at Keay's brings the past to life, if only just a few years ago. Much use is made of archive footage and stills.

Running time 98 minutes.

TRADITIONAL NARROWBOAT DECORATION:

This is a compilation of two linked films:-

Welcome to the world of traditional narrowboat decoration. A two part study of the two main aspects of this folk art. The two films presented here were originally released as "Floating Castles" and "Traditional Transformation" (see below). This volume is a digital re-edit of these films to form one extremely comprehensive volume allowing the beginner to tackle these wonderful folk arts.

a) Floating Castles:

A highly informative film presented by Tony Lewery on how to paint Roses and Castles. Step by step, blow by blow Tony describes the painting of a boatman's water can from start to finish. Paints, brushes, mixing techniques and tips are all described enabling the viewer to set out and "have a go". Use of archive pieces and stills demonstrate the art as embellished by the former master painters of the boatyards.

b) Traditional Transformation:

Another instructive volume featuring Tony Lewery, a sister volume to "Floating Castles" this film deals with the "Scumbling" or "Graining" of wood as seen in boatman's cabins. The techniques are fully shown, together with the oils and special products needed for this art.

Running time 2 hours 50 minutes.

BRAUNSTON - THE NARROWBOAT VILLAGE:

This is a compilation of two linked films:-

a) Braunston and its narrowboats:

They call the town "The centre of the Waterways". Today the phrase could not be more suited as Braunston is now the home of many well respected inland marine businesses. From the coming of the Oxford Canal the town developed a canal-orientated theme. It became an important transshipment centre which developed with the linking of the Grand Junction Canal. It also became a boatbuilding town and home to some of the most famous of historical businesses to be found on the canals. This video looks through archive photographs of the town's past and the events which made the waterway history of Braunston. Through modern film the present and the relevant past form a linked

backdrop to this centre of the waterways. The magnificent Braunston Boat Show is visited with all its spectacle of historic boats, shows and fireworks, which all centre around the town's superb marina development.

b) Braunston – The Last Great Boat Show 1999:

1999 saw the end of the long running and well loved Braunston Boat Show". Of particular interest were the boat parades and in response to many requests we are proud to be able to let those memories flood back through this film. This production is a tribute to all those who made this marvellous event so wonderful.

Running time 93 minutes

CHRIS COBURN AND "PROGRESS"

CARRY ON UP THE LUNE!!

The epic trip of 1995. "Progress" heads North to venture to the Lancaster Canal via the canals, River Mersey, Irish Sea, River Ribble, River Lune, Glasson Dock, the Irish Sea again and the River Dee on return to Chester. The whole of the Lancaster is cruised and a visit made to the disused (at present) Northern reaches to Kendal. Spectacular scenes on a never to be forgotten trip, the first Narrowboat past Blackpool Tower!!

Running time 249 minutes

A CANAL TOO FAR!

Probably the most adventurous of all the Coburn cruises! The 1996 cruise, from, the Thames, through the Kennet and Avon, to the Bristol Avon and docks. Out to Avonmouth, then to the River Parrett and Bridgewater docks. Returning via Watchet to access Ilfracombe harbour in Devon. Whilst en route we have visited the Chard, Wilts & Berks, Somerset Coal and Westport canals, whilst traversing in a dingy the Bridgewater and Taunton! Then it's across to Swansea, up the Tawe before returning up the coast to the River Wye via Cardiff docks. We get stranded on the Wye before making for the docks at Sharpness, navigating both the un-navigable and navigable Stroudwater canal. Once out of Gloucester we make up the Severn and attempt to go as far as Bewdley beyond the head of official navigation! Once on the Staffs and Worcs we look at the Stour branch and then venture onto the BCN. Non stop action, lots of exciting cruising and a bit of humour, don't miss it!!

Running time 140 minutes

WASH AND GO ("Progress on the weir!!")

1997 was the turn of the East Coast navigation's to be our aim. Out of the Nene and across and round the Wash to enter the Norfolk Broads. Virtually all the Broads are cruised before "Progress" heads down the coast to visit various rivers and Ipswich. Here we make an attempt to visit the Ipswich and Stowmarket Navigation entrance, no one advises the crew there is a tidal weir just before the old entrance..... As captured on film the boat is grounded and assumes a severe angle, emergency services become involved and the next 24 hours produces one of the most widely publicised events ever to happen to a narrowboat!!! Once off the weir the journey continues visiting Heybridge and other navigations before returning up the Thames to Henley.

En route we visit some disused navigations including the while of the Ipswich and Stowmarket.

Running time 90 minutes

THE CUT TO CAERNARFON: 2-disc set (Price £19.95)

a) Vol 1: "The outward bound journey"

The 1998 "Spirit of adventure" cruise of NB "Progress" was undertaken to highlight the plight of little used and endangered navigations, sights and restoration schemes. Its focus was the problems being encountered at the time by the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals with their crossings of the new M6 Toll road.

The outward bound journey started at Braunston and ventured Northwards via the BCN to Chester where access to the Dee was obtained. From here the boat went along the North Wales coast past Llandudno to Port Penrhyn. The dangerous passage was then made through the notorious Menai Strait to Port Dinorwic. From here the final triumphant approach was made to a reception at Caernarfon. Many historical towns, museums and sites were visited en route, gaining support for the backing of a worthy cause, the "Progress Appeal".

Running time 159 minutes

b) Vol 2: "The inward bound trip – bringing the slate home!"

Whilst at Caernarfon we made friends with the Welsh Slate Museum and discovered ties with the Midlands and so to "add" to the purpose of the voyage, we deemed to carry a cargo of slate back to the Midlands without transshipment...a first! From Caernarfon we headed through the dangerous waters of the Menai Strait to Conway, up the Conway River and then out, round the Wirral coast to the Mersey. In Birkenhead we moored with the warships and U-Boat (!) before heading off to visit the St Helens canal and the upper Mersey Navigation. The Manchester Ship canal led us to the river Weaver and the Anderton lift before a mass convoy was led up the MSC to Salford Quays to attend the IWA festival. An exciting, varied and spectacular cruise, not to be missed.

Running time:151 minutes

Total running time 5hrs 10minutes

REACH FOR THE STARS:

The beginning of this film will be familiar to those who have seen the first edition of Carlton TV's "Waterworld" series. "Progress" heads off to Dunkirk France in the midst of the 60th Dunkirk evacuation celebrations as part of an epic voyage to take the problems and plight of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals to the EEC at Brussels. The film follows the journey showing the many spectacles encountered and visits some wonderful waterside locations. Join us in the beauty of Ghent and slipping silently down the wonderful continental inclines and lifts, narrowboating in a different guise! **Running time 55 minutes**

THE COBURN WAY:

A compilation of the adventure cruises undertaken in 1995 – 2000 by Chris Coburn on NB “Progress”. The more exciting and unusual locations and scenes are combined with some “never before seen” and private footage to give an overview of what these cruises were about. This was Chris Coburn’s unique way of pushing a message of awareness home to those who mattered in the industry and outside.

Running time 70 minutes

NO PROGRESS TO HUDDERSFIELD:

In 2001 an epic cruise was planned. London to Inverness by narrowboat. This is the story of what happened. Many setbacks and accidents prevail to mar the journey before the Midlands are reached. Bad weather takes its toll and the journey is drastically altered.....

“Progress” eventually finds her way onto the Manchester Ship Canal, which is navigated, before a trip up the River Irwell into the heart of Manchester is undertaken. Then it's off to Huddersfield via the Rochdale and Ashton Canals. En route we visit the Stockport and Hollinwood & Fairbottom branches all of which *could* be restored eventually. Standedge tunnel is shown in detail and the associated attractions of the wonderful Huddersfield Canal, which is covered in full. A definite volume for lovers of waterway’s of the North West.

Running time 90 minutes

CHANNEL CROSSING:

Not an LHP Production. This is a compilation made in 1990 when NB “Progress” made the first crossing of the English channel by a narrowboat under power. Also included is footage of the tidal Severn, Wye and the Wash. Quality of film varies.

Running time 45 minutes

WATERWAY RESTORATION

THE MISSING LINKS: - updated February 2008.

(Sponsored by Birmingham International Airport)

Lichfield and Hatherton canals - the key to regeneration of the underused waterways of the Midlands.

Presented and narrated by David Suchet OBE, Vice-President of the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust, The Missing Links describes the history, background and ongoing restoration of the Lichfield Canal and the Hatherton Canal.

Once important arteries feeding in and out of the Birmingham Canal Navigations, their use fell away and it was not long before closure and dereliction claimed them, making restoration seemingly impossible. The Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust was formed to reverse this decline and once again bring these waterways back to life.

Michael Fabricant, MP for Lichfield and Trust Patron, speaks about his support for this important restoration which will revitalise the underused parts of the northern BCN, and his dream of seeing the boats return to Lichfield. The physical restoration work being carried out by volunteers is brought fully up to date to February 2008. As a bonus, a further short film after the main production tells the story behind some of the promotional aspects used to achieve the Canal Trust’s aims.

Includes archive images of Hednesford Basin, now lost and impossible to recover.

Presented and narrated by David Suchet OBE and Michael Fabricant MP

Running time 1 hour 50 minutes

NAVIGATION TO DERBY:

The city of Derby has long been served by water. In this volume, again narrated by David Suchet, we discover the waterways which gave this town the prosperity it has today. The Derwent, the Trent and the almost unknown Markeaton Brook were the first navigation’s until the Derby canal was built, this waterway with its branch to Little Eaton and connecting railway served the city well. Eventually the canal declined and was closed. Today new efforts are well advanced to once again bring the Derby canal to life, within this volume the history, decline and re-emergence of the Derby Canal is well documented.

Running time 59 minutes

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS SERIES

THE BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS (PART 1)

A cruise along the main line / New Main line from Wolverhampton to Birmingham, looking at some of the more interesting sites as we pass. Much use is made of archive footage and stills. (This was the original LHP pilot film and was replaced by part 1A).

Running time 70 minutes

THE BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS, MAIN LINES LOOPS AND BRANCHES. (PART 1A):

The story of the two BCN main lines. Telford straightened out Brindley's twisting contour canal to form a main line which at times is doubled. The loops formed by Telford's cut still in some cases remain in water and navigable, others are hidden from the world and some are difficult to trace at all. There were major branches which fed the main lines, again some are still extant, others but a memory. In this volume we trace all visible remains to show as much as possible of the two main lines. Much use is made of archive footage and stills which allow the viewer to see what the scene was like when functioning as a trading waterway.

Running time 100 minutes.

THE BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS, CANALS NORTH OF THE MAIN LINES. (PART 2):

In this volume we examine the Walsall Canal, the Rushall, the Daw End, the Cannock Extension and the Wyrley and Essington. These formed the nucleus of the waterways North of the BCN main line. The extensive branches around West Bromwich and Wednesbury are detailed and every remaining major artifact to be found is shown, since this film was shot some parts of the derelict canals have been lost. Much use is made of archive footage and stills which will show you in detail what the commercial days of these canals were like. Included is colour movie footage of Thos Clayton tanker boats and Joey boats.

Running time 104 minutes.

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS, CANALS SOUTH OF THE MAIN LINES. (PART 3):

The Dudley No 1 and 2, the Pensnett, the Stourbridge Extension and the associated branches are all covered in this volume. Journey with us into Gosty Hill tunnel and come out into the now vanished steelworks, look at the remains of the ill fated "Two lock line", today with a lock sloping down a hillside! Much use is made of archive stills to bring the old boatyards and the like to life.

Running time 90 minutes

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS, THE CANALS OF CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM. (PART 4):

Birmingham is the principle large town of the Birmingham canal navigation system. The waterways were responsible for the development of much of the industry of the city and in the past brought much prosperity to the town. Today the city centre hosts one of the most regenerated waterfronts to be found anywhere in the world, with major international venues lining the once unknown water route. In this video we approach the city from three different directions and examine what there is to be seen along the routes, using archive views to relate the rich history of these navigations. After an extensive look at the loops and branches of the city we leave along the Worcester Birmingham Canal to reach the Northern Stratford Canal at Kings Norton.

Running time 91 minutes

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS, NARROWBOATS OF THE BCN (PART 5):

One unique aspect of the BCN was that the internal fleet of craft differed to the accepted long distance craft seen elsewhere. The BCN was populated by a massive quantity of "Day boats" or "Joey Boats" designed for short haul daily runs and in some cases being double ended so negating the need to wind. There were the "Railway boats" engaged on railway boats working from the Railway Basins, the "Gas" boats carrying liquid chemicals, the "Hampton" boats which were up to 86ft long etc, etc. The boats were not all horse drawn as the "BCN Tug" evolved, these short boats were capable of hauling many craft in trains and were very efficient, today's boat builders think they imitate these craft, in reality I doubt anyone today would like the real BCN tugs! Massive amounts of archive help bring these lost craft to life. The BCN boats were once the most numerous of all, today but a handful survive.

Running time 60 minutes

JOURNEYS ON THE BCN, DUDLEY TO WALSALL:

Aboard narrow boat "Barnet" a Grand union unconverted motor we head off for Walsall. Our route is along the old main line, down Factory locks and along the New Main line to Pudding Green Jcn where we take the Walsall canal to Walsall. Along the way we examine a large number of the old arms which are visible, also some which are no longer so visible. A look back is taken to traffics now just a memory and we muse at the future for this underused destination. Also includes "The Canals of Walsall" – a short film which concentrates on the waterways which immediately surround the Borough. We appreciate the lost skills of the boatmen and boat docks which once served this centre of the leather industry.

Contains archive stills.

Running time 107 minutes.

JOURNEYS ON THE BCN, THE WYRLEY ROUTE:

In the early 1950's the Wyrley and Essington WAS the most profitable canal in the country! The massive movement of coal from the Cannock coalfields went on day and night, huge 80ft plus long boats 8ft wide were built just to work the 453ft lock free Wolverhampton level, on which this trade worked, within a few years, it was to become a silent back water due to the cessation of mining. There is much still to be seen and through following the route, via a re-enactment of a loaded boat train and aboard a single motor, we discover the Wyrley route. A major loss joining this route was the through route of the Bentley Canal, this late constructed waterway is examined in detail. Its loss was an appalling waste of money and a public asset. Once again with the use of archive the past begins to be awakened.

Running time 58 minutes.

THE MISSING LINKS: Lichfield and Hatherton canals - the key to regeneration of the underused waterways of the Midlands.

A complete overview of the history, use, decline and continuing restoration of these very important links in the Midland canal system.

Narrated by David Suchet and featuring Michael Fabricant, MP for Lichfield, this volume describes the history, background and restoration of the Lichfield Canal and the Hatherton Canal. Once important arteries feeding in and out of the Birmingham Canal Navigations, their use fell away, it was not long before closure and dereliction consumed a large part of the waterways courses, making restoration seemingly impossible. The Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust was formed to reverse this decline and once again bring the waterways back to life. This battle was not without its problems; through this film you will witness what it takes to not only restore and protect the canals, but the gigantic battle that can evolve when Government thinking goes the wrong way! David Suchet's timely involvement and creation of an appeal in his name, altered the course of thinking along many lines, problems evolved to success and obstacles became through routes and enemies became colleagues.

Modern and archive images combine to tell this unique story. As a bonus, a further film after the main production tells the story behind some of the promotional aspects used to achieve the Canal Trust's aims.

Presented and narrated by David Suchet OBE and Michael Fabricant MP

Running time 1 hour 50 minutes

INLAND WATERWAYS FILMS

PAINTED BOATS - NEW DVD RELEASE FROM ORIGINAL FILM MASTERS

A romantic film which is part documentary and uses real canal workers and boatmen

ESSENTIAL VIEWING FOR ANY WATERWAY ENTHUSIAST

STARRING JENNY LAIRD, BILL BLEWETT, ROBERT GRIFFITH and MAY HALLAT

PRODUCED BY MICHAEL BALCON, DIRECTED BY CHARLES CRICHTON

This is the story of a romance between two boating families. One family has a traditional horse drawn narrowboat working for the Samuel Barlow company, the other a new motor boat working for the Grand Union Canal carrying Co. The young girl's father doesn't like "them new fangled motor boats", "tearing down the banks and stirring up the mud"! So is content with the horse boating. Its wartime and the men get called up and with events of the time it eventually leaves the women to run the boats. It's a wonderful film in its own right but the really great thing is the characters who are used as extras.

They go to Nursers yard at Braunston and Mr Nurser is Mr Nurser! The scenes in "The Boat" at Stoke Bruerne are real and show many well known boaters. You will also see some snippets of documentary, again with real boats and families.

Running time 57 enjoyable minutes of nostalgia at its best.

UNIQUE COMBINED OFFER FROM LHP

PAINTED BOATS - DVD + GRAND UNION EDUCATIONAL FILM CD (Price £19.95)

New DVD release from original film masters together with a new CD based on an original grand union canal company educational filmstrip and booklet

"LONDON TO BIRMINGHAM BY CANAL" CD

Originally produced as a filmstrip for South Hertfordshire schools around the same time as "Painted Boats" was made Common Ground filmstrips were extensively used in schools, this one was made in conjunction with the Grand Union Canal Co and the Carrying Company. "Royalty class" motor boat "William" is paired with "Town class" butty "Roade". The family are Mr & Mrs Powell with their two children Louis and Sylvia. They load steel billets and head for Birmingham. 42 images follow the journey and these are accompanied by some 40 pages of text which explain the journey, the lifestyle and the background to the waterways. Together on the CD we have added some pictures of the main locations used in the film "Painted Boats" The CD can be viewed on your PC or laptop from which you can print all the pages and pictures. You can also view the images on a dvd player if you wish.

This is a unique combination DVD-CD offer and is not available from any other source

THE BARGEE VHS ONLY - £19.95 (Limited stock)

STORY & SCREENPLAY by RAY GALTON and ALAN SIMPSON; DIRECTED by DUNCAN WOOD

HARRY H. CORBETT and ERIC SYKES star in this saucy 1960s British comedy classic, alongside a first rate supporting cast that includes RONNIE BARKER, MIRIAM KARLIN, JULIA FOSTER, DEREK NIMMO and RICHARD BRIERS.

Hemel Pike (HARRY H. CORBETT) is the Casanova of the canals, with a girl at every lock. As he and his cousin Ronnie ply their trade in a narrowboat up and down England's beautiful waterways, Hemel breaks hearts wherever he goes. Then he meets Christine, the lovely daughter of a lock-keeper. But even Christine's obvious charms can't hold Hemel for long and he's off again...

Only now Christine's pregnant, her lock-keeper father is furious and he's threatening to close down the canals and create the largest canal traffic jam the world has ever seen ... unless the guilty party owns up and does the decent thing.

WATERWAY REFLECTIONS:

This is a compilation of three videos on one disc:-

a) Waterway Reflections:

A selection of short films. "Nighttime stoppage in Birmingham" follows an overnight gate replacement at Farmers Bridge. A load of timber is taken from Brownhills to Tipton, by Freddie Heritage on "Atlas". The Queen visits Walsall Wharf. Ivor Batchelor on "Mountbatten" has a bad trip on the Wyrley with Carlton's "Waterworld" team in place!! "Waterworld" in action with Chris Coburn on the Lichfield canal. The delivery of the very large last organ pipe to Symphony Hall Birmingham by narrow boat. The Historic boat parade at the Inland Waterways Exhibition 2001. Finally a very special small film, "This is History", narrated by David Suchet. Specially produced to celebrate the governmental changes to planning guidelines introduced in 2001 following extensive campaigning based around the problems encountered by the Lichfield and Hatherton in regards to road crossings. Running time 64 minutes.

b) Birmingham Canal Navigations Diary

A series of short films dealing with a varied selection of events and happenings on the BCN, from the new Lichfield Canal Aqueduct to the destruction of canalside property. The wonderful shows to the products of BW workshops. A film telling the true nature of events as they happened on the BCN.

Here we see "Ice-breaking in Birmingham"; "Boat Parades 2002 - 3"; "Birmingham Harbourmaster"; "Birmingham Canal Festival"; "BCN Commercial Traffic"; "New Bradley Boat"; "Warehouse Demolition"; "20 Tons to Stourbridge"; "The Lichfield Canal Aqueduct". Featuring David Suchet. Released 2004. Running time 80 minutes.

c) Working for the Company:

John Jinks was a boatman loved by so many, until his untimely death in 1996 he was working for BW in the North West. We join John transporting 23 tons on the Trent and Mersey Canal. An open day with a difference at Walsall Locks during a stoppage, BW tug "Nansen II" taking a load to Tipton and a visit to Bradley Workshops of BW complete this film. Running time 45 minutes.

Total running time 189 minutes (over 3 hours!)

WORLD OF WATERWAYS VOLUME 1:

This is a compilation of two videos:-

a) Boater's Gathering (At The Black Country Museum)

Every two years working narrowboats both preserved and still working gather together at the Black Country living Museum at Tipton near Dudley, West Midlands. A huge variety of craft are present representing the rich carrying background our canals have to offer, From Tankers to tugs, "Joshers" to "Admirals" all are present. In this volume we interview crews, describe the boats and even take a trip out on the Old Main Line on a tug with a train of boats in tow. Very varied with some archive material.

b) Anderton Re-Opened!

March 26th 2002 saw the Anderton boat lift restored to traffic. We celebrate the restoration and look back over the colourful history of this "Cathedral of the Waterways". Archive and modern footage combine to remember this unique day. A tribute to this event and all those who repaired and re instated it to such a high standard for so many years to come.

Running time 88minutes

THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL

Two films made in 1997/8 aboard vessels on the MSC.

a) Tug Story: The first film shows a typical day in the life of two MSC tugs and their crews. We not only enjoy the scenes aboard the tugs but also go on board a vessel under tow. We meet the pilots and witness the everyday operations of movements on this grand waterway.

b) The 250 Ton Crane: Purpose built in Holland this wonderful steam electric crane is still in very original working order. We follow life aboard over two days as the replacement of lock gates is undertaken at Latchford. Interviews with the crew and a full tour of the crane allow the viewer an unprecedented look at this machine and how it operates. Tugs of course are on hand for towage and other duties.

Running time 99 minutes

TRAMWAYS, ROAD, RAIL AND FARMING

Oxley2B Films presents

TRAINSPOTTING IN THE MIDLANDS VOL 1

NEW RELEASE FEBRUARY 2010

Video, film, photographs combine to give a fresh look at railways in the Midlands - entertainment and education, memories and scenes now forgotten

This volume is a new compilation of never before seen film and photographs depicting differing aspects of the railways in the Midlands.

We start by looking at a journey on the rescued Severn Valley Railway, reinstated by a massive volunteer and appeal effort. We then visit images from the late 1950's and early 60's shot by a photographer around Birmingham, Dudley and West Bromwich. Castles, kings, Black fives and a G8 Duck feature alongside early railcars and DMU, how the area has now changed!

Stourbridge is the next destination where we examine the unique and futuristic "Parry People Mover". We board the test vehicle in 2007 with John Parry on board and revisit again to see the mk2 version the new class 139 in service with London Midland.

Back to 1947 now and a fleeting visit to the Hopton incline on the Cromford and High Peak Railway where North London tank engines storm the incline, rare 9.5mm footage by Bert Dunkley.

"Duchess of Sutherland" is our next subject and we take a ride with "Vintage Trains" to Stratford where the return trip's a real blast up the ex GW main line, some exciting on board footage!

Rugby is our next stop and here we see WCML action filmed between 2004 and 2007. Class 87 Virgin trains expresses, Class 86, thunderbirds, Freightliners and much more contribute to an all action scene at Rugby.

Back at Wolverhampton it is the debut of 5079 Nunney Castle resplendent and shining on its first trip.

Railrovers in 1977!! Remember the railrover tickets? Just £30 for a weeks travel all over the Midlands. Here's a chance to see class 44 / 45 Peaks, class 25, class 37 and so much more in locations once common but now much changed. We visit Matlock, Derby, Leicester, Grantham in this sequence.

Running time 70 mins.

Oxley2B Films presents

MODEL RAILWAYS - IN THE ATTIC - IN THE GARDEN

NEW RELEASE FEBRUARY 2010

Model railway films, hints and tips, lighting buildings etc - entertainment and education

This volume is a new look at how to build and where to build a model railway.

Introduced throughout by film maker Laurence Hogg he explains and shows you the results of some 4 approaches to the hobby.

First off is a film shot over several years of a simple oo gauge railway which ran round a garden pond. Different types of track fixing were used and many types of rolling stock. What makes this film unique is that it shows the railway operating not just in the sunshine but in really frosty conditions and even snow! You can experience a unique film of a model railway operating at night in a snow fall and the next day in an almost unreal frozen environment.

Next we look at a oo/Ho layout in the attic. This is on stateside lines and the object here was to produce a film complete with sound effects of this railroad in action, many different types of loco ranging from Alco's to EMD are to be seen.

"The Rose Hill Light Tramway" was an attempt to build an electric tramway in the garden. Influenced by the Isle of Man interurban this was to be an interesting attempt, It ran, but never had any overhead - you'll have to watch the film to find out why! Wonderful sounding large G scale trams performing to the camera.

Next how not to spend a fortune on scenery and lighting! Laurence shows you how a visit to your garden can produce much scenic material for a railway. Also a really interesting approach to detailing buildings, fitting easy realistic interiors and lighting that doesn't cost a fortune.

Finally a look at the Attic railway "re invented" into a different guise.

Much to inspire the new and seasoned modeller in this volume.

Running time 70 mins.

BRITISH TRAMWAYS: 2-disc set (Price £19.95)

This is a compilation of four films on two discs:-

Tramway Archaeology, Day To Day Running And Preservation

a) Tramway Diary Volume 1:

Starting at Blackpool with a variety of cars and a strike! A week later we are back in Fleetwood whose street tramway is in full swing. The next destination is Crich with a number of cars operating. Breaking away from the living trams we go in search of "The remains of the day", this feature in our "Tramway Diaries" goes in search of what can still be found of former tramway systems long gone. In this issue we visit London, Chester, Derby and Birkenhead, examining depots, remaining track and structures. Birkenhead is visited to enjoy the new Hong Kong built trams running there. Finally a timely return to a very busy Blackpool, at the turning loops where there is plenty of action. All real sounds and wonderful scenes, just watching the trams go by!

b) Tramway Diary Volume 2:

Opening this film a ride on a Feltham tram at Crich with of course a variety of other cars, next a top deck ride on a Balloon tram from Fleetwood is experienced before we move on to Birkenhead. At Birkenhead vintage open top car No 20 is out for the day. Some special filming adds a touch of the unusual to this marvellous vintage tramcar. Returning to Blackpool the weather is getting bad and raining hard. By the time Fleetwood is visited the weather was appalling, but the sight of a railcoach churning up a wave of water was rather rewarding. "The remains of the day" section visits depots in Manchester and then goes on to Weaste depot in Salford, where some amazing survival, has taken place. The remains of the 3ft 6" gauge Birmingham system are then visited with a look around remaining depots and the transport museum housed in the former depot at Aston. Finally an autumn visit to Crich to round off the film.

c) Tramway Diary Volume 3:

We start with "Tram Sunday" in Fleetwood, this event has many trams and vintage vehicles on show. We travel on and alongside some of the preserved cars in action. Following the trams leaving Fleetwood everything grinds to a halt! A derailment of a Balloon car at Norbreck is witnessed and the re-railing filmed. We then experience open top riding on a Stockport car before making a visit to Crich. Manchester's Heaton Park tramway is next stop with a ride on all the cars operational and some unusual shots of the cars. "Remains of the day" looks at Northampton Tramway remains. Finally a real gem, a look at the prototype "Hecla" model tramway system which never saw production, this film shows the large operating layout testing out the track and overhead system.

Bonus Film!!

d) European Tramway Diary:

This compilation starts out with an extensive visit to Lisbon, famed for its very steep tram routes. Route 28 is ridden, the famous Graca circle and the Sao Tome line. Sintra tramway is visited to take a look at the line and the derelict part to the depot at Riberia. A return to Lisbon sees us visit the Sant Amaro workshops, a wonderful experience and an education in basic skills. Next stop is Ghent in Belgium and a ride on a PCC car. Finally the new tramways of Paris are looked at, the new T1 line to St Denis and the T2 line to Val de Marne

Total running time: 3 hours 37 mins

ROVER SD1 – A Celebration

This is a compilation of three films on one disc:-

a) Rover 3500 SD1 A Personal Tribute:

Often referred to as the "last all-British car" the SD1 had a chequered career. We owned many of the V8 variants and spent many miles in the driving seat. This film charts the history and development of this range of cars and looks at variants which made it into production and some that did not. The restoration of a Vitesse is undertaken and a visit to an SD1 club rally is made. Miniature versions of the SD1 are also featured. Running time 66 minutes

b) Rover SD1 1999:

In this film we take a look at the US variant of the SD1 made in 1979 of which only around 1000 were built. A visit to the BMH collection at Gaydon is made on an SD1 club day out, we view the non production estate car. Billing Aquadrome hosts the SD1 spares day and then its off to the SD1 National rally. Finally we look at the SD1 presence at the Classic car show at the NEC Birmingham. Running time 45 minutes.

c) Rover SD1 @ 25 YEARS:

Celebrating the twenty fifth year of the SD1 car we take a look at archive images, the National Rally and some of the distinct variants of this most distinctive icon of latter British motor car production. Running time 40 minutes.

Total running time 3 hours.

ROVER SD1 - THE LAST ALL BRITISH ROVER

Rare footage combined with brochures and factory images.

"**Launch Brochures 1976**" - A compilation of images, taken from the early brochures.

"**Car Of The Year**" - Advertisement mainly shot in Monaco.

"**Tomorrow Today**" - Raymond Baxter famous at the time for "Tomorrows World" takes the viewer on a voyage of discovery in search of tomorrow's new car. Shot mainly in Birmingham and at Rover headquarters the versatile features are shown in full array.

"**TV Advertisement Shot In Monaco**" - A humorous tale of doormen at expensive hotels enjoying the features of the Rover 3500 around Monaco.

"**People and The Motor Car**" - The Rover 3500 is shown as the car for everyone, sporting styles to family motoring. Its good for all of Europe too, scenes are shot in Italy, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Included is rare footage of prototypes.

"**Brochures From 1979 & 80**" - A compilation of brochure images

"**Two More For The Road**" - Introducing the 2600 and 2300 models, a somewhat humorous film shot in France with a amorous minded 2600 driver flowing an attractive female 2300 driver, pity her husband has a 3500!

"**The New Tradition**" - William Woollard of "Tomorrows world" gives us the technical lowdown on the new car.

"**Austin Rover Jaguar Triumph**" - An advertisement from the period showing all the range of Leyland cars introducing the SD1.

"**SD1 – A Truly British Success**" - A compilation of brochure images and SD1 features reminding the viewer how advanced the new car was.

Total running time 70 minutes.

Back in 1998 I decided to make a film on the SD1. With the help given, not one but three films got made, all now on the sister volume (see previous item). These advertising and promotional films got overlooked and only recently were rediscovered in the archive. Together with animations set to music from brochures etc they have now formed this volume - better late than never! Quality of reproduction does vary but the content is priceless, I have done my best to make this an enjoyable production and with the rare glimpses of test cars (one "L" regd!) SD1 enthusiasts should love every minute.

Special thanks to Vincent Hammersley (former external affairs) of Rover group, also Karam Ram, BMIH, Jack Richter and others who helped with this and our other SD1 films

MASSEY FERGUSON TRIBUTE:

This is a compilation of three videos:-

a) Tribute To Massey Ferguson:

Massey Ferguson is a household name in farming. In 2003 the British plant at Banner Lane Coventry finally wound down and was sold off, production having been "moved" elsewhere. We take a look at the history of the Banner Lane works, which was originally built as an Aero engine "Shadow factory" in WW2. From production of Hercules Aero engines throughout the war and afterwards, in 1946 production of Ferguson tractors started. Right through until 2002 the factory built many variants of the Ferguson / Massey Ferguson tractors, until finally in 2002 the last complete tractor rolled off the line. The factory continued with sub assembly production until 2003 when the internal sale was conducted and the plant sold off. This film shows many variants of tractor produced at Banner Lane, many of which never saw a British field. Archive allows you to appreciate just what the Ferguson system gave not only to farming, but also to industry in general. An epitaph to a great piece of British industry lost.

b) Farewell To Banner Lane:

Massey Ferguson's plant at Banner Lane Coventry was latterly run by AGCO, in 2002 production of tractors ceased. This film was based on the last and previous open days held there when tours of the working factory were allowed. Apart from the spectacle of a factory in full swing, there is a plethora of vintage Ferguson tractors present. To add a little intrigue we also show you "round the back" of the factory.....where the "tour" did not go.

c) Open Day 2001:

Originally made as a private film for a few friends, this informal shot record shows a typical open day. See the "red coats" guiding tours around a very much alive plant. That is how it was, but not for much longer.

Running time 95 minutes

THE BRITISH TRACTOR SCENE VOLUME 1:

This is a compilation of two films:-

a) The Tractor Record Volume 1 – Stoneleigh International Tractor Festival:

This production shows the vast range of tractors and machinery on show at the festival. The rare, the obscure, the amazing were all there. Contains Nuffield archive footage and ploughing action scenes. Non-stop variety!

b) The Tractor Record Volume 2 – Tractors for Sale:

In this video you will see hundreds of tractors from almost every manufacturer; vintage, classic and modern machines, and every one is for sale. There are tractors on offer for every budget. Three auctions are viewed and the film contains some Bamfords archive.

Running time 126 minutes

~~~~~ END OF LIST ~~~~~