

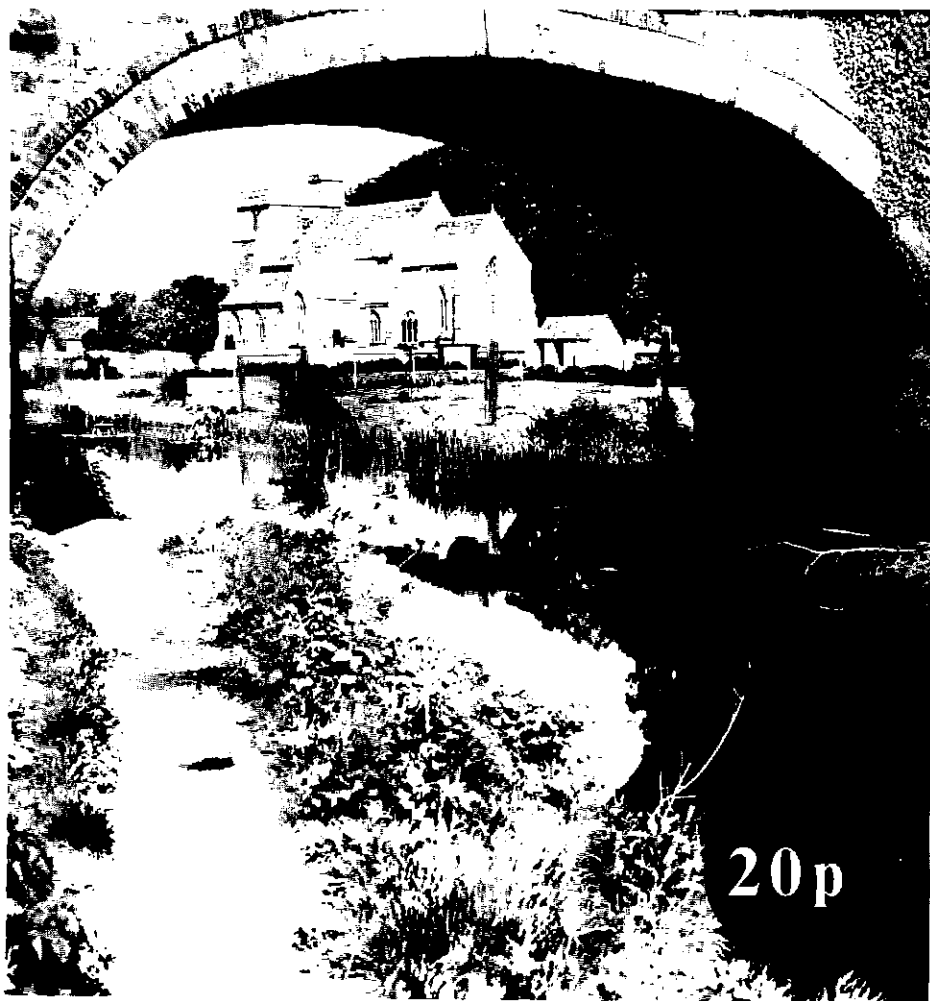
*Stroudwater, Thames & Severn
Canal Trust Limited*

THE TROW

*The Official Magazine for Members and Friends
working to restore the Cotswold Canals.*

Number 39

Autumn 1982



20p

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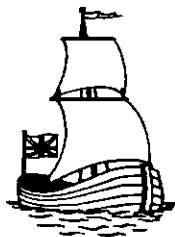
The views and opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Stroudwater Thames & Severn Canal Trust Limited.

FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION - One of the most popular views on the Stroudwater: St. Cyr's Church, Stonehouse, seen through the arch of Nutshell Bridge. (A. Bisset.

REAR COVER ILLUSTRATION - Part of the national appeal literature, shown half size. The leaflets, printed in two colours, were prepared by members of the Fund Raising Sub-Committee led by E. Hereward Phillips.

THE TROW

The Official Magazine for members of
the Canal Trust.



No. 39

Autumn 1982.

Well, apparently we have secured the route through Wallbridge in Stroud and the canal will pass under a separately-routed East-West Bypass by means of a new bridge. Welcome as this may be, we can foresee that the authorities may yet seek to make savings by restricting the channel width and/or height under this bridge, thereby severely limiting the utility of the full restoration.

Over a number of years your Editor has, on and off, tried to motivate the Trust to decide policy on gauge dimensions and on alignments of new sections of route. The arguments most often used to counter such suggestions have been that such policies could not be settled until restoration began and that, in any case, we lacked the data and expertise to make the decisions.

It can also clearly be argued that there have been more pressing needs on our time up to now, but with recent statements that restoration is about to begin in earnest, surely it is time the policies were decided. The Editorial view is that the original dimensions of the canals should be maintained at virtually any cost (although such features as Sapperton Tunnel and Smerrill Aqueduct impose severe restraints) and that the probable alignments of diversions from the original routes should be fixed in order that they too can be safeguarded against future development.

The second part of the June editorial certainly set a few people alight! In addition to two telephone calls from one of the very gentlemen to whom it was addressed (how did he recognise himself?), we received a number of letters, telephone calls and comments from members, all but one of whom supported the line taken by 'The Trow'.

Our lone critic apparently feels there is no problem, but nevertheless he supports the dissenters. He also takes the view that by printing the item, we have seriously weakened the credibility of the Trust with the authorities and with the public at large. In this he is mistaken.

He is overlooking the fundamental fact that the chief dissenter had already corresponded with the authorities and with individuals about an officer of the Trust and about Trust business. Whether or not he intended it should, there is a strong danger that some of this correspondence could be construed as reflecting Trust policy, which it does not. That is not to say that a member of the Trust is not at liberty to disagree with an officer or with policy, but there are right and wrong ways of expressing opposing views and of seeking to influence Trust decision-making.

So there is a problem and it appears to be yet a continuing one and this is unfortunate. However, we can report that the Trust Council has taken positive and effective steps to limit the possible damage that can be done.

Barry Balderstone.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Not the usual detailed commentary this time but more of an end of year review.

The Annual General Meeting and Walk Awards Presentation will be taking place on the 25th September 1982 at a new venue, The Old Library Meeting Room, Lansdown, Stroud. The Presentation commences at 3.30 p.m., when we hope to see all those who made that little extra on behalf of the Trust receive their Prizes. The Treasurer and I, having marshalled at Puck Mill and enjoyed our chats with walkers of all ages, hope to renew some acquaintances.

The Annual General Meeting commences at 4 o'clock. There is no limit on numbers and we promise a welcome to all members. Let's have standing room only!

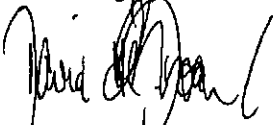
This has been a difficult year for the Trust but, against all the odds, a very great deal has been achieved and this is our reward. We are now in a stronger position than ever before.

The amount of work carried out by our volunteers and visitors over the last twelve months has been extraordinary when you consider that the new plant compound and workshop have been erected and commissioned, the dredger has dredged, the Ryeford pedestrian bridge has passed vessels again, and the tip site is now being prepared. The political scene has been enlivened by a major somersault by Stroud District Council with regard to the future of the canals in its area. With the customary support from Cotswold District Council and increasing interest from the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee, there has thus been extensive co-operation at both ends of the Canals. We have ourselves, in the main, been operating as a team although there have been minor hiccups to overcome.

We are currently organising the BBC Television Appeal under the directorship of Rob White and starring Anthony Burton, to be shown nationally on BBC 1 at 6.35 on Sunday 17th October. This is believed to be the first time such an appeal has been made on behalf of a Canal Trust. Our separate major national fund-raising appeal which, it is hoped, will generate Three Quarters of a Million Pounds over the next decade is rapidly approaching its launch with the new team under Ted Phillips.

The prospects for the future look increasingly promising. Let us hope that by next year there will be even more progress to report.

I cannot end without expressing my thanks to all those who have borne with me during my current ill-health.



DAVID H. BOAKES.

HELP WANTEDCOUNTING MONEY - THE BBC APPEAL

Sunday 17th October will be a big day in the history of the Trust - BBC

Television will devote its national evening "Good Cause" appeal to raising funds for our restoration project.

This means that on the following Tuesday, 19th October, the Trust will have

its own mail-bag, anything from 500 to 1000 letters, each of which has to be opened, the name and address of the donor and the amount registered and a receipt dispatched. There is likely to be a fairly voluminous post the next day, Wednesday 20th October, after which the numbers of letters will rapidly diminish.

In order to cope with this we shall need about six volunteers on the Tuesday and Wednesday and one or two after that. As the post is being sent to our registered office at 1, Riveredge, Framilode, arrangements are being made to use a small church hall nearby from about 10.00 a.m. on the Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Canal Trust has an obligation to the BBC and the donors to deal with this post promptly and efficiently. Please help us in handling the post-bag.

If you can spare the time, let either David Boakes (Tel. Gloucester 740525) or Ted Phillips - the fundraiser - (Tel. Gloucester 740621) know, and they will send you directions how to reach the Church Hall and can arrange for one or two people to be collected and returned by voluntary transport.

This BBC Appeal is likely to result in anything from 500 to 2000 letters and from £5000 to £20000 in donations - something worth helping with!

E. Hereward Phillips.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Stroudwater Thames & Severn Canal Trust Limited to be held in the Old Library Meeting Room, Lansdown, Stroud, Gloucestershire (adjacent to the County Library) at 4.00 p.m. on Saturday 25th September 1982.

The business to be transacted at the Meeting shall be as follows:

1. To receive the Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the Report of the Council.
3. To receive the Accounts and Auditors' Report.
4. To fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
5. To vote on the proposal:- "That the Membership Fees be varied in the following particulars, viz-

Adult Membership Fee raised from £2-00 minimum to £4-00 minimum;

Family Membership Fee raised from £3-00 minimum to £5-00 minimum;

Pensioner Membership Fee raised from £1-00 minimum to £2-00 minimum;

Youth Membership Fee raised from £1-00 minimum to £2-00 minimum;

Affiliation Membership Fee raised from £3-50 minimum to £6-00 minimum;

Life Membership Fee raised from £50-00 minimum to £100-00 minimum, the actual sum to be individually determined by the Trust Council at the time of application. A minimum age limit of 18 years applies, no upper age limit.

Note: Adult Membership, Family Membership - over 18 years;

Pensioner Membership - over 60 years;

Youth Membership - under 18 years at date of application;

Affiliation Membership - Clubs, Youth Organisations, Women's Institutions, Canal Trusts, etc.

6. To elect Members of Council.
7. Any Other Business.

DAVID H. BOAKES, CEng., MIMechE.

Secretary to the Trust.

NOTES

1. In accordance with Paragraph 42 of the Trust's Articles of Association, the following Members retire in rotation:

John Barlow	Alan Jones	Jon Willis
-------------	------------	------------

 The above have indicated that they wish to offer themselves for re-election. Additionally, Mrs. Sue Hilton, whilst eligible for re-election, has indicated that due to business commitments she does not wish her name to be put forward.
2. Notice of intending proposals for membership of the Trust Council shall be forwarded to the Secretary in writing not less than 14 days before the date of the Meeting, together with the agreement in writing of the person proposed. Application Forms are obtainable from the Secretary from the Trust's Registered Office at 1, Riveredge, Framilode, Gloucestershire GL2 7LH. A stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.
3. Voting rights - all classes of Membership, except Junior Membership, confer one vote. Junior Members have no voting rights since such members cannot be held liable under the Trust's guarantee.
4. Any member entitled to be present and to vote at the Meeting may appoint a proxy, who must be a voting member of the Trust. The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing and shall be deposited at the Trust's Registered Office, 1, Riveredge, Framilode, Gloucestershire, not less than 48 hours before the time of the Meeting.
5. Proxy forms may be obtained from the Secretary on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

STROUDWATER THAMES & SEVERN CANAL TRUST LIMITED.

Council Members' Report for the year ended 31st March 1982.

The Council submit their Seventh Annual Report to the Members of the Stroudwater Thames & Severn Canal Trust Limited. The following have served as members of the Trust Council during the past financial year:

John Barlow	Sue Hilton	David Pillinger
David Boakes	Alan Jones	Michael Reynolds
Kenneth Burgin	David Lewis	Richard Veevers
	Jon Willis	

The Registered Office of the Trust remains at 1, Riveredge, Framilode, Gloucestershire. The principal activity of the Trust has continued to be the restoration of both the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames & Severn Canal. There have been no contracts in which any Council Member had a personal interest, neither has the Trust had any employees during the period under review. There are no charges outstanding over assets of the Trust such as would require registration under the Companies Acts. The year has been one of quiet but steady progress within our financial constraints as far as physical restoration has been concerned.

The main emphasis has continued to be in the Stroudwater area, with its

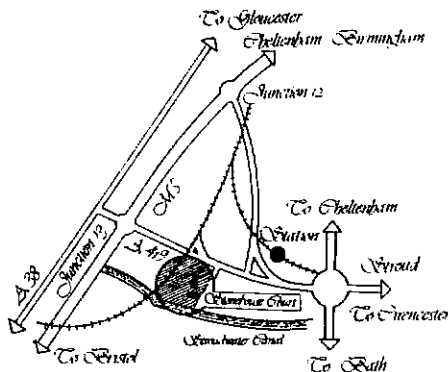
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Canal Tokens in 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " clear acrylic presentation
case - £3.00 each (£3.50 by post). Sets of eight
reproduction 1900s Canal Postcards - 75p per set
(£1.00 by post) Trade Enquiries Invited.

concentration of plant and facilities, including the new plant depot at Eastington, and the continuing financial assistance from the Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation, but increasing effort is producing useful results on the Eastern End of the Thames & Severn Canal in the Cotswold Water Park. Minor works have continued at Daneway, and it is to be hoped that this Portal may soon complement our previous work at Coates.

With regard to the political scene your Trust Officers, together with many friends both inside and outside the Waterways Movement, have fought a long and hard battle to preserve the route of the Canal through Stroud. The success of this campaign will have a long-term effect on the whole restoration project. The separate negotiations with County and District Councils and Landowners to secure the route for restoration have continued.

Possibly for the last time, the Annual Sponsored Walk has been the Trust's main source of income, closely followed by the proceeds of our Sales Stands, and the utilization of these funds has once more produced results out of all proportion to their size.

The Trust Council has authorised a long-term National Fundraising Campaign and already much of the groundwork for this has been carried out.

During the year under consideration, the Trust Council granted the following Honorariums in recognition of the extraordinary volumes of work they had carried out on behalf of the Trust: David H. Boakes £250; Jon Willis £71.

Finally, your Council wish to express their appreciation for the assistance and support received from you, the Membership, over the past year.

MICHAEL R. REYNOLDS
TREASURER

DAVID H. BOAKES
SECRETARY TO THE TRUST

1982 STROUD & DANEWAY SPONSORED WALK

The Awards are to be presented to Prize Winners on Saturday 25th September 1982 at 3.30 p.m. at Stroud Old Library Meeting Room, next door to the County Library in Lansdown (immediately prior to the A.G.M.).

The Winners are:

Senior (Youth) Group, The Waller Trophy - 1st Kempsford Guides	. £126-15
Junior Group, The Elliott Trophy - Eastcombe Cubs £104-22
Adult, The Whitbread Trophy - I. Ross of Kempsford Guides (!)	. £ 70-91
Under 16 - Yvonne Warman of Ebley (winner for 1981 and 1980)	. £ 37-00
Under 12 - Charlotte Woodward of Cheltenham £ 10-50
Family - No Entry	
Special Category Award of the Boat Enquiries Trophy - National Childbirth Trust, Glos. Branch £121-24
Dog, The Wooffer Trophy - Jason Jephcote (nee Hollands)	. £114-00

This was not our best walk ever, with only £959-00 received so far. The possible reasons are discussed under Fund Raising but is anyone has got a guilty conscience we are holding another October Walk this year, this time based on Cricklade. Details are included with this issue, so please come - it is great fun and a chance to view progress east of the tunnel; and we do need that income.

We do thank our walkers most sincerely and congratulate the Winners, especially those who keep coming back! But how about some new winners.....

FUND RAISING

by Want.

WALK TOTAL DOWN?

And how have we done this quarter? Well, not too badly
.... but then again, not too well.

There is only £959-00 in from the May Sponsored Walk at the time of going to press, which could be described as disappointing. However, it does appear that there was a bit of a goof with the sponsor forms, as the corner cut-off had part of the Treasurer's address on the reverse and this may be a source of difficulty to non-members when sending in their monies, especially if they have lost the rest of the booklet. It would also appear that the production of the booklets 3 weeks later than in 1981 has cramped the style of some of our regular supporters. But the main factor must undoubtedly be the dreaded recession, which has only now begun to take effect in many instances. We must hope that, as is usually the case, more will trickle or better still pour in.

Advertising in the Walk Booklet netted about £60-00. The Editor tells me we should get an increasing income from advertising in the Trow from now on - ask the Advertising Manager for details, all you TYCOONS - as well as from retail sales outside the membership.

We have received a donation of £100-00 from the Worshipful Company of Car Men "in recognition of the Trust's noble endeavour to restore our Country's ancient waterways" - Thank You, gentlemen.

And the total for the quarter? Just into four figures at £1119-00, which could be described as poor (not the word the Treasurer actually used) for what is usually our best time for securing that much-needed commodity FUNDS. Since this column was reinstated in the December 1981 issue, the figures for funds raised in each quarter (excluding income from the Sales Section) have

Tryclops Ltd. Present

INLAND WATERWAYS ON FILM 1911 to 1945

A Programme of Rare Archive Films on Canals including
ICE-BREAKERS ON THE GRAND JUNCTION (1911)
THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL (1913) BARGE THROUGH LONDON (1924)
PRINCE REGENT CANAL (1924) KENNET & AVON CANAL
SCENES FROM 'PAINTED BOATS' (1945) CANAL PRESERVATION

Introduced by Film Historian John Huntley

AT

The Cotswold Playhouse, Parliament Street,

STROUD

ON

Wednesday 20th October 1982 at 7.30 p.m.

All seats bookable in advance £1-60 from Starline Travel London Road
Stroud or by post from Tryclops Ltd 115 New Barn Lane Cheltenham
- on sale from 20th September. Tickets on door (if available) £1-80.

A STAND WILL BE MANNED BY STROUDWATER THAMES & SEVERN CANAL TRUST LTD.

been:- Oct to Dec '81 - £1045; Jan to Mar '82 - £761; Apr to Jun '82 - £145; Jul to Sep '82 - £1119. This is a grand total of just £3070 for the year: the main sponsored walk in 1981 raised nearly £2900.

APPEALING DEVELOPMENTS So it is quite clear that we need a Ted Phillips and his arrival on the scene comes not a moment too soon. (Could we please not have so many of these cliches? - Ed) [Yes - if we can have fewer of these INTERRUPTIONS - Writer].

Some idea of the very high standard of the appeal publicity material can be gained from the illustration on the rear cover. I have seen and read the full set, and can assure members that no conceivable way for donors to skip painlessly through the mechanics of giving us their support in a form which really counts and can be counted has been overlooked. Next steps are the two receptions outlined in the June issue.

Ted and our Secretary, David Boakes, spent two very long days, the 14th and 15th of August, acting as guides to Anthony Burton (of 'Past Afloat' fame) and a 5-man BBC London TV crew under Director Robert White during a very thorough appraisal of most of our route between Cerney Wick and Saul Junction. Sadly, there was not enough time to include shots at Lechlade as had been hoped, but particular attention was paid to our progress at Cerney Wick Lock, Sapperton Tunnel, the section above Wallbridge Upper Lock in Stroud and the site of dredging operations at Ryeford. In addition, a visit was made to the only working length of our canals between Walk Bridge and the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal at Saul Junction: the narrow boat 'Narrow Escape' of Albert Benbridge will probably feature prominently in the shots taken here. Watch out too for other well-known faces in some of the other sequences.

Incidentally, Albert is a long-time member of Saul Junction Boat Owners' Club and a familiar visitor at 'The Moorings'. He does not seem to be a member of the Trust, however, and I have prepared a personalised Membership Application Form for presentation next time I meet him.....

Members are asked to note that Michael Handford is no longer serving on the Fund Raising Sub-Committee. All relevant communications should be addressed to the Fundraising Organiser or the Secretary to the Trust - addresses in the Centre Pull-Out.

SALES SECTION

The Trust's first essay into publishing, Trevor Robert's "A Canal Walk Through Stroud", is proving encouragingly popular and will undoubtedly repay the frightening costs of production as well as justifying the risk always present with such ventures. Indeed, Trow readers are recommended to get their orders in smartly if they want to be sure of a copy.

Elsewhere in this issue, mention is made of the disappointing result from this year's sponsored walk. Fortunately, against this can be offset the more than satisfactory results of our sales effort this season - we have made several hundred pounds already with a number of promising venues still to attend, and it looks as though we will end the year with a better balance than for some time past.

We still need more donations of items to sell - what about all those old canal (and railway) magazines you have always been going to throw out? Bring them along to a venue if you cannot get to Stroud - or we can collect.

R.O. Nott (Sales Manager).

DIARY DATES

WORKING PARTIES at Thames End are now every Wednesday evening while the light lasts, also weekdays by arrangement and weekends as shown. On the Stroudwater, every Thursday evening and Sundays as shown.

- September 4 IWA Gloucester Branch Barbeque at Tewkesbury Marina Yacht Club, Bredon Road, Tewkesbury, 7 p.m. (Graham Ettles, Carlton House, 117, Leckhampton Road, Cheltenham. Tel. Cheltenham 512802)
- 4- 5 Away Working Party - Basingstoke Canal
- 11-12 Thames End Working Party - Cerney Wick
- 11-12 Visiting Working Party from London WRG
- 12 Stroudwater Working Party
- 25 Annual General Meeting, Old Library Meeting Room, Lansdown, Stroud. 4.00 p.m.
- 26 Stroudwater Working Party
- October 2- 3 Thames End Working Party - Cerney Wick
- 10 Stroudwater Working Party
- 10 Thames End Sponsored Walk from Cricklade Leisure Centre 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. - Details with this issue
- 19 & 20 Post Room for T.V. Appeal at Framilode - volunteers required, details from Ted Phillips
- 20 Canal Archive Films with John Huntley at Cotswold Playhouse, Parliament Street, Stroud. Details from Tryclops Ltd., 115, New Barn Rd., Cheltenham, Glos
- 23-24 Thames End Working Party - Cerney Wick
- 24 Stroudwater Working Party
- November 7 Stroudwater Working Party
- 13-14 Thames End Working Party - Cerney Wick
- 21 Stroudwater Working Party
- December 4- 5 Thames End Working Party - Cerney Wick
- 5 Stroudwater Working Party

Thames End Evening Meetings are held at the Crown Inn, Cerney Wick, on the second Tuesday of the month, Summer and Winter, at 8.00 p.m.

Additional dates will be worked as necessary - details on request, see below.

VENUES, TIMES & CONTACTS

Stroudwater Working Parties meet at Eastington Plant Depot (O.S. Map Ref SO 786061) on Sundays at 9.45 a.m. - a Trust Officer will be in attendance until 10.00 a.m. and directions to the day's work site will be posted on the compound gate - and on Thursday evenings at 7.00 p.m.

Thames End Working Parties - phone Ken Burgin for information... before he leaves home for the work site on the day!

Daneway Work Site is between Daneway Inn (O.S. Ref SO 939034) and the Western Tunnel Portal.

continued overleaf

Accommodation with catering is available for those wishing to stay overnight (groups and individuals), but adequate notice is essential, please.

For fuller information on working parties or to confirm, please contact: Stroudwater - Jon Willis; Thames End - Ken Burgin; Plant & Equipment - Alan Jones; Work Camps, Away Visits & Deneway - David Pillinger.

Sales Section

THE THAMES & SEVERN CANAL (in photographs) by David Viner ..	£2-30
A CANAL WALK THROUGH STROUD by Trevor Roberts (publ. by Trust)	£1-25
BOOK OF CANAL TUNNELS by John Gagg	£0-50
OBSERVER'S BOOK OF CANALS by John Gagg	£1-95
SEVERN ENTERPRISE - story of the Beachley to Aust ferries ..	£2-75
CANAL BOAT COOKERY by Iris Bryce	£0-80
IMRAY'S WATERWAYS MAP OF ENGLAND	£1-25
BARTHOLOMEW'S MAP INNS OF THE COTSWOLDS	£0-40
TRUST ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY REPORT	£2-50
TRUST HANDBOOK & GENERAL GUIDE (reprinted)	£0-60
BLACK & WHITE DRAWING OF TUNNEL HOUSE suitable for framing, approx 8" x 6"	£0-25
TRUST SET OF 4 COLOUR POSTCARDS (Tunnel House, Daneway Inn, King's Reach and Chalford Roundhouse)	£0-28
PACK OF 8 STROUDWATER/THAMES & SEVERN NOTELETS (4 different scenes, with envelopes)	£0-40
PACK OF 6 SOUTH CERNEY LOCK NOTELETS (with envelopes)	£0-30
TRUST BADGES	£0-15
TRUST CAR STICKERS	£0-20
TRUST BALLPOINT PENS	£0-15
TRUST SWEAT-SHIRTS deep yellow, incorporating Trust logo - a few only in Medium, Large or Extra Large sizes	£6-50
TRUST COMMEMORATIVE BRASS CELEBRATING RESTORATION OF COATES PORTAL - limited issue of 200 - now only 25 left	£5-00
PACK OF 6 TRUST CHRISTMAS CARDS - one design per pack, snow scene or floral theme (with envelopes, please state choice).	£0-59
PACK OF 4 SHEETS OF GOOD QUALITY CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP	£0-55
BACK NUMBERS OF 'THE TROW':	
Nos 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 to 34	£0-10
Nos 35 to date	£0-20
No 2 - photocopies to order only, so some delay likely ..	£0-50

MORE DIARY DATES

October	6th	Illustrated Talk on Canals at Tewkesbury Marina Yacht Club, Bredon Road, Tewkesbury, 8.00 p.m.*
	28th	Talk "Canals Are My Home" by Iris Bryce at Cheltenham Central Library, Clarence Street, evening.
November	27th	Navvies-style Supper Evening - entertainment and bar with hot food, time and venue to be announced.*

* are Inland Waterways Association Glos. Branch fixtures. Details on all three from Graham Ettles - address in Diary Dates proper on prev. page.

WORKING PARTY CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

DANEWAY Although work here does not carry the highest priority at the present time, there has been considerable further progress. The site is more-or-less self-contained, making it ideal for work camps. The one in June produced useful results in spite of unhelpful weather with about half the work required to reinstate the offside bank walling, about 17 yards in all, completed. This involved removal of the damaged work complete, with most of the concrete to the new retaining wall placed and a start made on the new stone facing. It is hoped to have finished the latter on the 14th and 15th August, leaving only the heavy stone copings to replace later.

One of the major problems at this site is access, since all materials have to be transhipped at the nearest public road over 400 yards away. Over 40 tonnes were moved in by dumper during the Work Camp by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers - time-consuming work but which leaves no tangible evidence on site of its execution (except for the volunteers' blisters? - Ed).

OPEN MEETING At the open meeting held by the Trust recently at Sapperton Village Hall, some 30 members of the local populace were given a brief outline of the waterway's history followed by a discussion of its present condition and the exiting possibilities for the future.

WALKING (MAINLY) IN WILTSHIRE Now that matters are progressing nicely in the Water Park area, the Thames End Branch are organising their own Sponsored Walk to help meet the heavier drain on funds from the increased levels of restoration work.

The walk will start from Cricklade Leisure Centre between 9.30 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. on the 10th October and will follow an 8½ mile circular route to the north along the lines of the Midland & South Western Junction Railway, Thames & Severn Canal and back to the start via the North Wilts Canal. Look out for the northern portal of Cricklade Tunnel, buried in a garden near the start, for the unusual brick bridges over the old railway (why were they built like that?) and for the fascinating layout at the junction of the North Wilts and Thames & Severn Canals.

200 walkers are required to make the exercise worthwhile - there is no upper limit! Shared Sponsorship on a 50/50 basis is available to other bona fide charities - a Sponsor Form/Poster is enclosed. Please display this as a poster in a prominent position if you can help in no other way.

David Pillinger.

THAMES END BRANCH WORKING PARTY REPORT

This has been the busiest quarter since the Branch was formed in terms of restoration work.

At the end of May, London WRG helped spoon out the last of the mud from Cerney Wick Lock. At the beginning of June, a week was spent working on the canal with the help of Bristol University Canal Club. Having started to dismantle an obviously defective length of lock wall on the towpath side, it quickly became apparent that all of the brickwork above the waterline had parted company with the wall behind over the entire length of the lock. It was the same story as has happened on other canals including the Basingstoke, as we saw in the course of one of our visits there. The first 9 inches of brickwork had been replaced, probably at the turn of the century, but the new work had not been keyed into the original behind.

There is only one remedy, so by the end of the week about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the wall was down. Since then, reconstruction has begun using a mixture of cleaned original bricks and new bricks. The chamber does have an annoying habit of filling up with water so constant pumping has been necessary when work is in progress, this situation being due to the high invert level of the pipe crossing through the causeway which replaced the road bridge over the tail of the lock. We have been greatly helped here by the loan of a deceptively small pump by Godwins of Quenington, to whom we are very grateful. The Trust's tower scaffolding has also been used to good effect in the lock, being a good deal easier to handle than the conventional type.

Our vintage cement mixer has, after a rest of two years, at last been persuaded to run, and in the right direction too. It joins the Priestman Cub in our working plant fleet.

Work has continued on the towpath in the length between Cerney Wick and Letton Junction, this work with the small footbridge in the Spine Road to Cerney Wick section having assumed even greater importance with the proposed sponsored walk in October looming.

Current working parties are based at Cerney Wick Lock. Details are in Diary Dates, but please check with me in case of last minute changes. Further weekends will be worked as necessary and working parties will also be held on Wednesday evenings while the light holds. In addition, weekday dates can be arranged for anyone who can attend - the opportunities for you to help are limitless. For instance, we are desperately looking for groups and individuals to prepare the towpath for our walk - light and heavy clearance is available!

Ken Burgin.



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EDITOR'S NOTE Ken tells me that the practice of giving precise details of meeting points in Diary Dates does not lend itself to accurate up-dating and, in any case, IS UNHELPFUL TO VOLUNTEERS - which amazes me not a little. What do our volunteers think?

STROUDWATER WORKING PARTY & PLANT REPORT

Since the last Trow was published, the majority of the work west of Stroud has taken place between Ryeford Double Locks and Ryeford Road Bridge.

The pedestrian former swingbridge just upstream of Ryeford Bridge has been cleaned-down and repainted in traditional black and white colours and preliminary designs have been drawn and approved for its reinstatement as a swingbridge. The bridge has been temporarily moved aside by the dredger to allow passage of the dredging plant, the mud barges having now been moved into position at the dredging site with the dredger.

Both banks of the canal upstream to the double locks have been cleared of dead or dangerous trees, mainly willows, and undergrowth. To assist with the removal of the timber, an agricultural tractor and tipping trailer have been purchased from the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust. These have proved invaluable for this and other transport tasks across rough ground.

The tip site has been surveyed using a venerable level belonging to Barry Balderstone's Father, the conversion of the figures from imperial to metric prior to preparation of plans and cross-sections for the planning application only adding to the fun! Over quite a large part of the area, our two intrepid surveyors were unable to see each other through the thistles and nettles even when only 15 metres apart! Swathes had to be cleared through the vegetation using a mechanical trimmer before measurements at ground level could be even considered.

The Priestman Wolf dragline excavator has been steam-cleaned and moved to the tip site where it is now being used as a dragline to excavate a 'harbour' to facilitate the unloading of the mud barges. It will also be used for this after conversion for use with a clamshell grab, but it is also intended that our 6" slurry pump will be overhauled over the winter and its ability to empty the barges assessed.

The working party over the August Bank Holiday will have started to clear fallen timber and tidy up the banks at the upstream end of the Wallbridge pound (adjacent to S & R Scrap Merchants at the Wharf in Stroud). This will be spear-headed by volunteers from Toc-H but with assistance from our own labour. The work is planned to start just downstream of the proposed new by-pass crossing and clearance by the Trust will continue towards Wallbridge Upper Lock during the rest of the year.

We still need all the help we can get and all volunteers are made welcome - why not join us? Details of working parties are, as usual, given in the centre spread together with contacts and telephone numbers. Transport can even be arranged if required.

Alan Jones & Jon Willis.

CIVIL ENGINEERING REPORT

Recent work has included the preliminary design of a new swing-footbridge for Ryeford. The Stroudwater Navigation Proprietors have now approved this and detailed designwork will commence shortly.

Another matter which is continuing to receive our attention is the finalisation of the line of the canal in the Wallbridge area in consequence of the proposed East-West Bypass using the existing canal arch under the railway viaduct. The land in this area is privately owned but preliminary discussions with the owner have been favourable, providing a mutually satisfactory line for the canal diversion can be found, particularly upstream of the viaduct. Much of this work is of course dependent on the imminent Consulting Engineer's Report which will provide us with detailed information on water supply, levels, bridge construction, etc.

East of the Tunnel, we are investigating methods of sealing leaks in the canal bed at Boxwell and near Coates. The existing puddled clay lining of the canal at Boxwell is believed to be very close to the pervious gravel beds. Tree roots and rabbit burrows could easily be causing leaks in this area so we will be considering the possibilities and costs of providing a butyl rubber or similar lining membrane for use in these difficult places. At Coates, problems have been caused in the past by water pressure behind the puddled clay forcing its way into the canal when the ground water level is higher than the canal level. If there is a high water table behind the clay puddle or canal sidewall and the canal level is suddenly lowered, then the undue pressure put on the canal bank from the outside can lead to eventual failure.

Richard Veevers.

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY WRITES

Welcome to new members:

D.F. Ball	Horsham, West Sussex.	R.I. McHenry	Nythe, Swindon.
R.C. Beagley (re-joined)	Cheltenham, Glos.	P.J. Rigby	Whitchurch, Bristol.
P.A.R. Clarke	Faisley, Renfrewshire.	N.D. Stevenson	Wootton Bassett, Wilts.
D.E. Drew	Eldene, Swindon.	C.B. Workman	Liden, Swindon.
Mr. & Mrs. Findlay	Whitminster, Glos.		

And so to the Lost & Found Department. I am sorry to say that we still have not found the three members mentioned in the March issue, and we may now also have lost Mr. R.J. Paget, formerly of 2, Kentara, Bridge Street, Cainscross, Stroud. Mr. Paget's June Trow has been going the rounds of the Post Office though it eventually failed to return which may indicate that it finally arrived safely or that the P.O. got fed up with sending it back. Mr. Paget - are you there?

Currently, I am still short of four R185 forms which have been sent to members who last year signed a Deed of Covenant with their subscriptions. If these could be returned post haste, it would be appreciated as without them the Trust is unable to make its claim for the recovery of tax.

Perhaps this quarter I should include a note on the reminder system currently in operation for those members who renew their subscriptions annually by post. Reminders go out with the Trow covering a month either side of the publication date, e.g. this time we remind members whose subscriptions are due in August, September and October. Another prompt is included the next quarter for those who forget to be reminded and after that we have to remove those still outstanding from the mailing list.

If you have a bank account, it would be a great help to us (save all those reminders being printed and sent out) if you arranged to pay your subscription by Banker's Order. The payment would then be made automatically by your bank each year and you would be saved to problem of remembering.

David Jordan.

WHAT THE TRUST IS DOINGCOTSWOLD WATER PARK

As mentioned in Working Party Reports, the pace of restoration east of the tunnel is now increasing. Contrary to the fears of some of our local politicians and conservationists, we have absolutely no desire for our work to lead to the lowering of water levels in the Water Park lakes. Nor do we want to contribute to further lengths of the River Thames above Lechlade becoming dry during the summer months.

At considerable expense, we are buying the services of reputable consultants to avoid just such problems and are confident that a combination of thorough rebuilding and the use of modern materials and methods will result in a much lower rate of water loss from the canal itself. In addition, we will most probably re-cycle much of our water in summer by pumping it back up to the summit from lower levels.

Editor's Note - I have a list which I am still adding to of methods of saving water in the operation of locks and/or use of the summit pound. To date, there are 35 ideas - perhaps I will publish this in a future issue. The flood of additional proposals from readers could prove useful. In the meantime, does anyone know what an Aerial Well is?

IMPROVEMENTS TO 'THE TROW'

As promised in the June issue, there are some further improvements this time. No doubt, however, members will notice that we still need the use of an electric typewriter capable of accepting a carbon ribbon - this issue has been put together using the Editor's aged manual portable which, even with a new nylon ribbon for the occasion, produces an indifferent result. Can anybody out there help? We do want to avoid imposing on David and Margaret

<h1>The Bear Inn</h1> <h2>Bisley</h2>	
<p>Mr. Stroud, Glos. Telephone: Bisley 265</p>	
<p>Garden - Family Room - Car Park Live Music Wednesday Evening GOOD FOOD & DRINK AT SENSIBLE PRICES</p>	
<p>Childrens dishes - Food lunchtime & evening Look out for our Specials including Fresh Fish dishes</p>	

Books, whose machines have been used for the last few issues.

Our attempts at improving the production quality of 'The Trow' are aimed specifically at increasing our sales. It is in the nature of things that members of the Trust receive four issues per year as part of the price of their subscriptions and this means that the magazine's initial cost to the Trust is in excess of £200 per issue at present. Sales of about 50 copies from our Sales Stalls plus income from advertising has averaged £14-50 per issue over the last year and we are adding to our networks of hand deliveries but we would like to balance these two figures more nearly to remove one drain on our hard-won finances.

A better typewriter, a little more advertising and, perhaps, more photograph content will complete the improvements we can run to at present. We could use more articles on related topics such as the piece on the Severn Trow in the June issue or a potted history of the Waterway Recovery Group (he knows who we mean!), line drawings or black and white photographs. Oh, and it has been suggested that a proper editor would be the best improvement of all.

What we need now are retail sales outlets. Probably these will be confined to within say three or four miles of the canals plus the nearer centres of population such as Dursley, Swindon and Highworth. So, talk to your friendly newsagent or village shop and, if they are interested, we will supply them with a modest quantity each time on sale or return - full details on request from the Acting Editor.

Please include a daytime telephone number, if possible, when submitting items for publication. Originals can be returned for a stamped envelope.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

30, Swansdown Walk,
Thatcham,
Newbury, Berks.

Dear Editor,

I note with some concern that a number of Trust positions remain unfilled. Is it not possible that Trust members who are housebound, elderly, infirm or unemployed could be persuaded to help out - particularly on the administrative side? The Trust needs as always the active able-bodied out on the canal, but it equally needs help by everyone else so that all can enjoy the cut.

So - come on, folks. Anyone willing to lend a hand?

D.S. Foxwell.

Bailiff's Cottage,
4, Manor Way,
Beckenham, Kent.

Dear Editor,

I read with considerable concern and alarm of yet another internal rift in the STSCT. Concern that, at a time when events are going the Trust's way with both Local and County Councils at last uniting to back our aims, a small dispute is getting aired in public - or even that there should be a dispute at all! And alarm that, instead of pulling together, officers and members are wasting time on unproductive disagreements.

The Trust is at last moving forward constructively on both sides of the tunnel and it is time for all Trust members to 'back the winner', the Trust itself. So less petty squabbling, please, and FORWARD WITH RESTORATION.

Roger Squires.

(Both the above letters support the Trust's view on both these matters, as The Trow has recently reflected. A further appeal on vacancies appears below and there are more in the reserve collection, details on request!

Referring to Dr. Squires' point about airing disputes in public, it is the Editor's view that the near collapse of the Trust in 1977 came about at least partly because the very great problems obtaining at that time had been concealed from the membership until almost beyond the last possible moment. This time, that will not happen. Also, one of the dissenters has himself been responsible for any bad press, not The Trow - Ed).

SITUATIONS VACANT

The following positions are not shown in the Information Section, but need to be filled urgently. Applications in the first instance to the Acting Editor, please. AND DON'T FORGET ALL THOSE OTHER VACANCIES IF THESE DO NOT APPEAL:

ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Applicants should live in the Chalford - Stroud - Stonehouse area and have telephones and their own transport. The work involves maintaining an up-to-date master membership list from information supplied in paste-on label form by the Membership Secretary and holding the information ready for consultation by local Officers (but NOT letting them get their grubby paws on it or it will never be seen again).

PRESS CUTTINGS OFFICER Similar to above, but to recruit a team of regular suppliers of cuttings from newspapers and periodicals and collate and file them for reference. Home location not important.

WILLIAM DENYER GEORGE (Continued from previous Issue)

"Somehow, even quite late on, William and Grannie managed to holiday in Switzerland because I remember William planted the garden at Amberley with little fir tree seedlings he brought back in his trunk along with alpine flower roots. He occupied his time making rustic fences and summerhouse, and using his sailor's skill to make elaborate dog whips etc from fine string. What did Grannie do? It is odd that I cannot see a picture of her doing anything at all except sit and make us all feel happy and cozy. They were certainly all unusual people, my mother of course included - part of the puritan ferment of the Victorian era just emerging into the wider world of the 20th century."

Eric's last memory of Annie is when he and his wife Phyl went for Christmas to join his parents at Carpenter Road in Edgbaston; "Grannie came up from Amberley to spend Christmas with us and we took her to the pantomime - her first and last visit to the theatre which she enjoyed enormously. She lived to see photos of her first great grandchild Robin." (Eric's son).

"This is the picture left with me, probably idealised by childish imagination. I would love to know what she was really like. All her children inherited their father's restless striving temperament and some of his fire, but Florrie was the one who inherited something of her poise, and all her special sort of gentleness which you seemed to sense immediately and all the time.

Yours,

Eric."

Now here is Denny's own story as he wrote it about 1908:-

"REMINISCENCES OF AN OLD SAILOR AND GOLD-DIGGER

Whilst spending a few days at one of the South coast holiday resorts in the Autumn of 1908, and observing the various merchant vessels chiefly Steamers passing up and down the English Channel, the writer of the following reminiscences became much exercised in thought in comparing the conditions attending a seafaring life at the present day with those he experienced when he passed down that Channel on his first voyage in January 1848, an apprentice on board a small Barque of only 337 tons register, bound from London to Mauritius and on voyages immediately following; and having often been requested by his family to record as far as memory would serve the incidents of his early life of his years at sea, and of his experiences of the time he spent on the Australian Gold-fields, he resolved to endeavour to gratify their wish. On his first voyage he was accorded the soubriquet of "Denny" by all on board and he has chosen to adopt that name as applicable to the narrator of the following reminiscences:-

Commencing then with the earliest days which his memory recalls, Denny pictures the old house at home; his birthplace and the scene of the first 14 years of his life as one of plenty and indeed of luxury. He had one brother and four sisters, a loving mother devoted to her children, servants to wait upon and care for them, and two ponies for their especial use.

His brother who was the eldest of the family was placed in his eighth year in a public School (Christ's Hospital) in London, and being allowed only one period of holiday in each year viz:- during the long vacation which always commenced after the holidays of the ordinary Boarding Schools were over Denny saw little of him and was consequently debarred his companionship during the greater portion of their boyhood. Of the four sisters only one was his senior.

(To be continued)

WE GOT IT WRONG - AGAIN!

THE OLD CROCK'S DEPARTMENT

There is some improvement to report since the March issue, but in June we still had a Council member in trouble at the rear (p.2).

WOT! NO TROW?

It would appear that at least one member did not receive his copy of the June issue. We do apologize for this (he did get one eventually) and ask members to forgive the occasional lapse. Notification of missing or faulty copies should be sent to the distribution officers, please. But do remember that issues are sometimes late.

DESIGNATION OF ISSUES

From this month, we are changing the quarterly designations of The Trow to Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. This is to avoid the possibility of customer resistance to retailed copies between publication dates - for instance, it might be thought that an issue titled September is "old stock" by November.

THE THAMES END NEWS

Aimed at active volunteers working east of the Tunnel, Thames End News is a newsletter reporting progress and current planning for the restoration work in that area. It is available only at Thames End monthly meetings and gives dates and addresses of contacts also. Readers are requested not to throw it away after use but to "leave it neatly where innocent victims may come across it", a useful publicity dodge which we commend to Trow readers. Editor is Deryck Watkinson who is to be congratulated on another good idea.

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A 'token' coin
worth one halfpenny
issued by the
canal company when
copper was scarce.



THE THAMES – SEVERN WATERWAY

The Story of the "Heroic Exploit" Linking London and the West by Canal.

Described during its building as "the most heroic exploit of the century" the Thames-Severn waterway – right across England through the Cotswolds – has always caught everyone's imagination.

Discussions about the planning of such a key waterway began in the reign of Good Queen Bess, when Bristol was a famous port and the second City in the Kingdom. During the next two centuries many explored the line it could take, five Bills for its construction being introduced into Parliament in the 1680s.

At long last there was a public meeting at Cirencester in 1781, a Committee was elected, and a subscription list was opened. Later that year a Surveyor was appointed and estimated the cost at £128,000, a huge sum in those days.

Two years before that – in 1779 – the Stroudwater Navigation, with 12 locks lifting it 107 feet, linking the Severn at Framilode to Stroud, had been completed and was operating successfully, supplying the woollen mills with cheaper coal. This was adopted as the western end of the Thames-Severn waterway link.

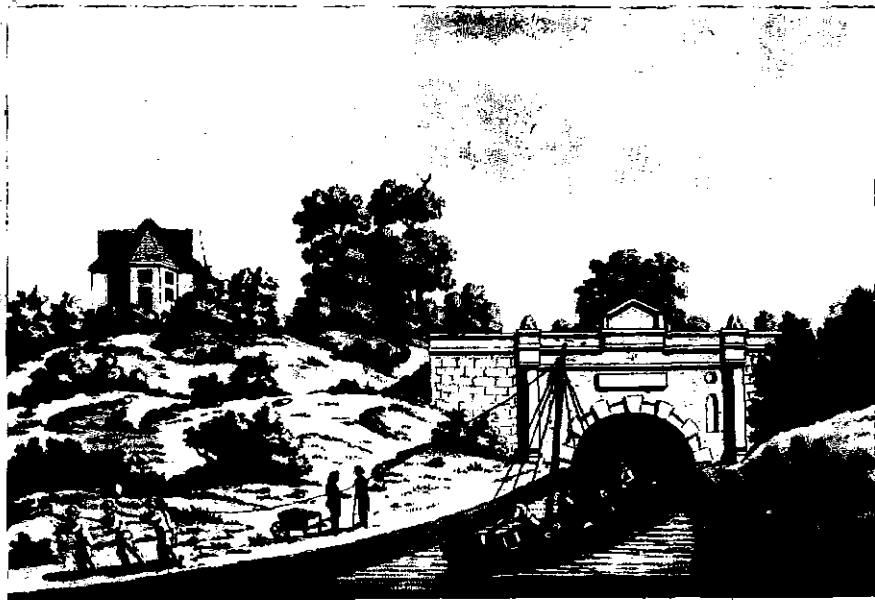
One of the first "heroic" tasks was to lift the waterway 241 feet above Stroud (a total rise of 348 feet) to the top of the Cotswolds with new locks, where it came to the most daunting job of all, – the Sapperton Tunnel.

RENOVATING THE GREAT THAMES-SEVERN WATERWAY

To make our surroundings more attractive with better facilities for recreation, there are to-day many charitable bodies performing miracles with the renovation of canals in many parts of the country.

Among the greatest of these waterways, passing through the most beautiful part of England, is the Thames-Severn, linking London with the West, opening the way to more exploration and interest for the thousands who now spend their holidays on our waterways.

Although so much of this work is done voluntarily, inevitably money is required for materials and other purposes. This leaflet tells the story of the splendid Thames-Severn link and how a growing group of volunteers ask and merit your financial help. Please complete and post the donation form at the end of this leaflet.



A rare print from 1799 (ten years after the canal opened), of the Coates (Eastern) entrance to the then celebrated Sapperton Tunnel, over two miles long. The mast of the Craft must have just been raised after the long journey through the tunnel. One feature is that it is being towed by men, their job being done later by animals.