

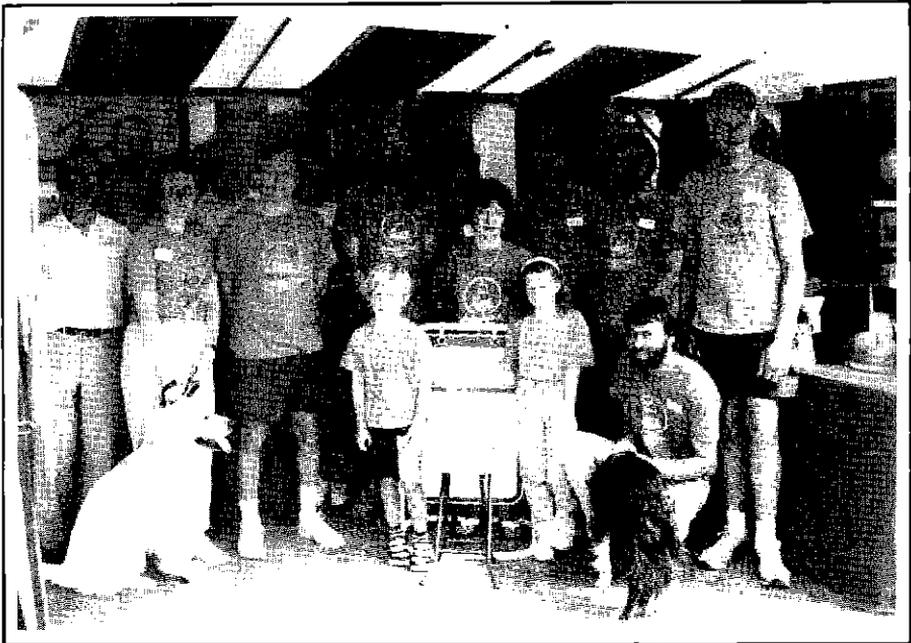
Trow

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WORKING TO RESTORE THE
COTSWOLD CANALS

No. 83

WINTER 1993

50p



Cotswold Canals
Trust

Cotswold Canals Trust

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HONORARY CIVIL ENGINEER: Roger House

THE COTSWOLD CANALS TRUST IS A REGISTERED CHARITY AND ITS AIMS ARE:-

1. The preservation of the line of the Cotswold Canals (Stroudwater Navigation and Thames & Severn Canal) and promotion of their use for recreation.
2. Promotion of the towpath as a long distance Right of Way.
3. Promotion of the restoration of the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames & Severn Canal from Saul Junction to Hope Mill Lock.
4. Promotion of the restoration of the Thames & Severn Canal from Inglesham to the Cotswold Water Park.
5. Ultimate restoration of the Cotswold Canals to navigation between Saul Junction and the River Thames.

REGISTERED OFFICE: 1 ROWCROFT, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
REGISTERED COMPANY: The Stroudwater-Thames & Severn Canal Trust Ltd
Registered in England Number 1207787. REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 269721

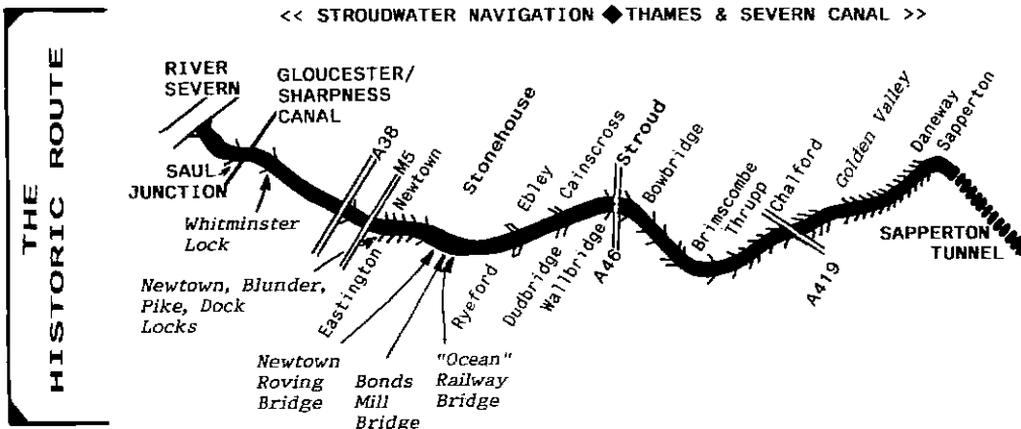
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Published by the Cotswold Canals Trust
Compilation and Layout by David Jowett
Printed by Astral Printing & Stationers
Picadilly Mills, Lower Street, Stroud
Glos., GL5 2HT. (Stroud 0453 752040)

COPY DATES
Spr: 20 Jan
Sum: 20 Apr
Aut: 20 Jul
Win: 20 Oct

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<< STROUDWATER NAVIGATION ◆ THAMES & SEVERN CANAL >>



Reflections of the General Secretary

COMMANDER NICOLAS WRIGHT

So what have we achieved this Summer? It's much more fun and stimulating to look forward, visualising future achievements, but, nevertheless, we do need to summarise what we have done. No major reopening, or no different major event, even in this our 21st Anniversary year. But don't let that put you off.

A huge amount has been done along the canal track. Items are coming to the boil together, rather than individual happenings. Take, for instance, the towing path clearance between Siddington and Ampney Brook. In many ways unsung heroes have struggled manfully to keep the route open for walkers or other users and, additionally, cleared away years of rough growth from Wildmoorway Lower Lock and Bridge so that we can actually see the next major eastern task more easily.

Boxwell Spring Lock; transformed thanks to "Dig Deep" and the WRG summer camp, but also by Trust volunteers who have continued working at the lock at other times. The operation of the Trust's O & K digger at Boxwell Spring really speeded up clearance of debris from the lock bottom but also resolved the problem of how to reinstate the large, heavy and unwieldy coping stones. A real combined effort of man and machine.

Although the Siddington area has not been in the forefront, clearance work will be progressed this winter to open up more of number 3 lock on the flight. At Coates, apart from towing path work, plans are afoot to improve the Tarlton Bridge dam so opening up a longer stretch of canal for boat trips.

Next year we will talk about the Daneway Portal and the Golden Valley project; this latter task being undertaken by BTCV on our behalf between locks 24 and 29 over a three year period. Further down the valley, the wall at Frampton Mansell should be progressing. Community projects organised by Stroud Valley Project at Gough's Orchard and the Old Red Lion all help to keep the track open and the towing path clear with lots of people involved who are not Trust members.

We await with interest to see how reed clearance is going on the Chalford section and, if successful, will extend this programme down the canal to create meanders through the more heavily weeded sections.

Bowbridge has received some attention to try and cure a difficult leak, and in Stroud the newly opened short length of towing path past Wallbridge Lower Lock has been improved, and is well used. Activity at Bonds Mill has been mainly concerned with fundraising and engineering discussions concerning the feasibility of installing a composite bridge. A most exciting probability with revised plans for installation around Easter next year. This is now planned to be a joint Trust, TFW and WRG project to try and reduce substructure costs on the original estimate produced earlier in the year.

At Eastington, Dock and Pike Locks are almost complete, looking most attractive and well worth a visit. Our thanks here primarily to the Tfw team who are becoming really expert at tackling difficult bricking tasks. This team is

thirsting for further action, be it at Westfield Bridge or Ryeford Double Lock. Time will tell.

Boats, whether they be Tunnel or at Eastington, have also played their part as have guided walks, particularly the annual 'Canamble', that ever popular trek 'Between Two Rivers', so much enjoyed by Clive Gunnell.

In support of all this activity, one of our most cheering successes over this period must be the very positive statement made by Gloucestershire County Council Environment Committee on 28th September. Their decision to review policies with respect to the canal showed the intention to reaffirm previous policies and stress support for initiatives being put forward by the Trust. The Trust is, of course, delighted that the principle of restoration is so strongly supported and promoted, and that the policy of providing navigable width and headroom with regard to all highway schemes involved with the canal is continued.

The Trust must now look to establish a close working relationship with the Environment Committee and particularly its members whose wards contain sections of the canal. We would also like to thank the Council Officers concerned for their help and support to achieve this recognition and also for their patience and endless time taken with canal related matters. Now we feel fully established, firmly on the map, but undoubtedly this will bring even more, rather than less, future activities for these already busy people.

Elsewhere, you will read about the 21st Anniversary Appeal, the immediate results and how the Bonds Mill Bridge replacement is shaping up. This Appeal, something really strong to commemorate, is part of the Trust's general policy of raising our fundraising profile along the canal and elsewhere. As agreed by the Council, fundraising needs to be kept on a very broad based footing with all sorts and types of ideas put forward and actioned. Some ideas may come to nothing. Others, initially put in for fun but, with a certain amount of thought and modification, could add substantial gains to the Trust's financial base. We tend, like many other small charities, to live on ready use cash, but we must now try to expand this into developing a secure income base to finance our larger tasks in the years ahead.

What else do we need to do? We are reviewing our aims and objectives to bring them into a more achievable timescale. We have also revised and, we believe, strengthened our structure by setting up the Restoration Committee and giving the Sales and Publicity Committee more responsibility and room to manoeuvre. From this we hope more public awareness and enhancement of the Trust image will emerge, which again, in turn, will build up membership numbers.

So the Anniversary Appeal set out to raise a substantial sum for the Bonds Mill Bridge rebuild, but also to build awareness. The Appeal is generally going well with now only about £10,000 needed to ensure the work starts on time. To help cover this shortfall we still need to stage a major event and to create other minor events along the canal to raise funds. Together we have thought up a list of some 48 items. Yes, many will be rejected but others, like the well tried coffee morning, could be repeated but with lots of coffee mornings along the canal at the same time!

How aware are you of our fundraising needs? Can you help us maximise our potential fundraising effectiveness? Can you think of an event that will capture the imagination, something else to help fill the coffers? We have our clear and exciting objectives, but to achieve these careful planning and smooth implementation is now needed if they are to succeed.

As 1993, Industrial Heritage Year, draws to a close we celebrate positive progress, a change of gear successfully accomplished, new support achieved and ever growing membership. Something to be proud of, something that you are all involved in. And looking even further forward, I wonder what the next 21 years hold in store? Full restoration and navigation, Millenium et al.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas.

Thanks to our Donors

The Trust is most grateful for the donations to the Trust which have been made by the following organisations during the last quarter.

Stroud District Council
Department of the Environment
R. M. Douglas Charitable Trust
Anonymous - Golden Valley/Sapperton Portals
Sapperton Parish Council
Langtree Trust
Miss J. Walker - bequest
Steel Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Shell Better Britain Campaign
Brian Bailey, Radio Gloucester (walks)
Norman Franklin Trust
Allchurches Trust Ltd.
Sir Cyril Kleinwort Charitable Trust
Firbank Charitable Trust
Saul Junction Boat Owners Club
Oakdale Trust
Inverforth Trust
Civic Trust
Tancrede Charitable Trust
Renishaw plc
Anonymous - Bonds Mill and general
His Royal Highness The Duke of Cornwall
K. and P. Southall Trust

Bonds Mill Bridge Appeal

Dear Member,

Inserted with the Autumn TROW was a letter from me to all of you seeking your financial support for the re-build of Bonds Mill Bridge as part of our 21st Anniversary Year.

My original intention was to print this letter on vivid coloured paper so that it would not become obscured by all the other papers we receive through the post. Regretfully this did not happen. May I, therefore, ask those of you who put the original letter aside for future action to action it now and send it to the Canal Trust office in Cirencester.

At the same time I would thank those of you who have responded so magnificently to this Anniversary Appeal. The total so far stands at nearly £2,000, a most welcome boost for this major project. Nevertheless, we still have £10,000 to find to ensure the re-build by next Easter.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,
Bruce Hall

B. N. G. Hall
Chairman, Cotswold Canals Trust



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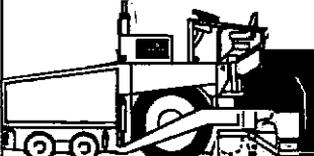
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Restoration Update

Compiled by KEN BAILEY

As you may have read in the last Trow the Trust has established new committees in order to spread the workload and involve more members in forward planning and running of the Trust. One of those groups deals with restoration matters, meeting monthly at the Trust Office - see dates page. They are open to anyone who wishes to become more involved with the 'back-room' side of restoration. Currently, meetings are attended by about a dozen people with Ken Burgin being Chairman whilst I record the minutes.

With the exception of Boxwell Spring Lock which is the subject of a separate article, the main points of discussion are summarised below:-

Reed Clearance. Colin Stride, with the support of his employer, Monsanto, has now obtained approval from the both the NRA and Gloucester Wildlife Trust to carry out spraying trials to kill off selected areas of reed growth. His initial trials have now been started in the Chalford area, in particular at the rear of Chalford Chairs works and outside the Roundhouse. Work involves treating a strip of reed up to a third of the width of the canal. This is primarily aimed at creating a clear water meander through the reed to improve water flow whilst leaving the wildlife relatively undisturbed.

Whitminster Lock. Geoff Houlson carried out survey work at Whitminster in mid August and using that information I was able to generate drawings of the existing area and also a proposal for a new lock, bridge and connection to the river. These were subsequently sent to the Landowners, NRA and BW, for their comment and to allow further discussions into detailed requirements for the area to get under way.

Restoration of Daneway Portal. Proposals for the restoration work on the portal have now been drawn up and submitted to English Heritage for their comment and approval. Once this is gained it is hoped that the task can be put out to tender.

Inglesham Lock. Ken Burgin and Roger House have recently visited Inglesham to look at the problems of the area and to come up with various alternatives. It is hoped that their proposals can be discussed with the Landowner shortly.

Bonds Mill Bridge. Plans are now fairly well advanced for the replacement of Bond's Mill Bridge. The Designers, Maunsell Structural Plastics, have now produced a project timetable and outlined the tasks which the Trust is to carry out. Some of the work has already been undertaken including a trial excavation alongside the new foundations and also a detailed topographical survey of the immediate area. This information will allow Maunsells to produce their detailed designs and, when approved by the Trust Council, will start manufacture of the new structure. For the Trust part a temporary access will have to be put in and then the old bridge deck removed. The work is on a fairly tight timescale and will require quite a few volunteers for specific weekends for certain parts of the project. If you would like to help please leave your name, address and phone number with the office so that we can let you know the exact dates of each operation.

Bowbridge Lock. It has been thought for a while that a considerable amount of water was leaking from the canal in the Bowbridge area as the level of the pound above the lock had fallen some 18" during the summer months. The local residents offered to investigate the problem if the Trust could supply advice and also the materials to carry out the work. The water was discovered to be leaking into the spill weir culvert just below the lock wing walls. Bruce Hall and Bill Evill transported a quantity of scaffold, plywood and polythene to the site where the residents constructed a temporary dam across the head of the Lock. It was then possible to lower the water sufficiently to determine that the water was escaping through the downstream wall of the paddle recess. A more substantial dam construction now has to be built so that the area can be fully drained and the leak repaired fully.

Puck Mill Dry Stone Wall. Trust Volunteers have constructed a temporary scaffold footbridge across the head of Puck Mill Lower Lock to enable an Employment Action team to bring in stone for the rebuilding of this wall. Some stone is being purchased new whilst other has been salvaged and transported from Boxwell Spring Lock.

Pike Lock/Dock Lock. Both Volunteer and Employment Action work parties have continued to work in this area. Pike Lock is now complete with the exception of

New steps under construction at the tail of Dock Lock



concreting a new top cill and mitre which will be carried out by volunteers shortly. The rebricking of the main chamber of Dock Lock is almost complete leaving the copings to be refitted. The lower wing walls and steps are also now well on their way. So far in the region of 13000 bricks have had to be replaced and near 16 tonnes of sand has been used! The towpath below Dock Lock has been considerably widened in order to provide vehicle access to the lock from Meadow Mill Weir. When properly surfaced the towpath should be a vast improvement on the previous narrow and overgrown path.

The Trust were recently complimented on the general state of the towpath, by a gentleman in an electric wheel chair who had travelled from Meadow Mill Weir through to Stroud. The only problem he had encountered was with the litch gate at Bonds Mill. This hopefully can be sorted out when Bonds Mill bridge works are carried out.

Plant & Equipment. Discussions have taken place with regard to moving the Tug, Dredger and Mud Barges from their present locations as problems still exist with organising a suitable site to crane these out although a number of alternatives are under discussion.

The O&K excavator was recently moved from Eastington to Boxwell springs to carry out work there. The Trust's small car trailer has recently been overhauled and repainted by Richard Attwood. and is currently being used to transport tools for the members working parties. Volunteers are being sought to maintain an inventory of all the Trust's handtools so a record of all items and their location is available to help planning work sites.

Driver Training. No progress has been made on organising training courses due to pressure to carry out work in particular "difficult" places and also the need to carry out maintenance work on the equipment.

Golden Valley Preservation Work. A plan has now been agreed with the Bathurst Estate and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust for the clearance of the top six locks in the Golden Valley over a three year period, but not, it is stressed, the top lock outside the Daneway pub. It is planned that work starts in January on two of the chambers with labour from BTCV being supervised by the Trust.

Wildmoorway Lower Lock and Eastern End Tow-paths. Keith Harding, George Smith and the 'Thursday Evening Gang' have spent most of the summer trying to keep the tow-paths along the canal from Siddington to Eisey in a walkable condition. They have also done a considerable amount of 'scrub bashing' around Wildmoorway Lower Lock both to make it more visible from the Spine Road and also to allow the work required on the lock and bridge to be accessed more easily.

Ebley Infill. It is hoped that soil samples will be obtained shortly from a number of points along the infilled section of canal from just above Ryeford Double Lock to the western end of Ebley Mill. This work is necessary in order to determine the exact make-up of the infill and hence the sort of site required for its disposal. With that information and discussions with the County Council Waste Disposal Authority it may be possible to apply for a Derelict Land Grant to cover the cost of its disposal.

Member's Evenings

1994 will mark the start of regular Member's Evenings for the darker months. There will be a talk by an invited speaker, a Canal Trust news update, Canal Trust Sales and Publicity and light refreshments. The day will be the fourth Thursday of each month at the Subscription Rooms in Stroud starting at 7:30pm and ending at about 9:15pm.

The dates for your diaries are 27th January, 24th February, 24th March and 28th April. There will be an entrance charge of £1 per adult, under 16s free. The first evening will feature a slide show of the Cotswold Canals as they were and the IWA National Waterways Festival.

Thames End Activities

Report by ROBIN HALLIDAY

The chief work party activity over the last quarter has been on the tow-path from Cricklade Wharf down to the Water Park. Great inroads have especially been made at Wilmoreway Lower Lock near the Spine Road. Most of the work was carried out on Thursday evenings - many thanks go to George Smith and his Merry Men. The end of British Summer Time obviously curtailed this activity.

October should have seen the removal of the dam close to the mouth of Sapperton Tunnel. Stop planks had been installed to hold back the normal autumnal level of eight inches, a dumper had been booked and sufficient members were prepared for a weekend of hard work. However the elements intervened in the shape of the wettest October for many years with the eight inches rising to four feet! The high levels are encouraging for the forthcoming Boat Trip season which should hopefully be well under way by the time this TROW is published

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"Dig Deep" at Boxwell Spring Lock

Co-ordinator *NEIL RITCHIE*

24-25 September. Newbury Working Party Group: Being relatively local, the weekend team arrived on Saturday morning rather than Friday evening. A surprise visitor for them was the Trust's O & K Excavator which helped extract the coping stones from the bottom of the chamber and cleared the invert. The excavator was almost a surprise for those of us involved in its transport from Eastington since the low loader was only finally confirmed on the previous Wednesday and even as late as Friday afternoon we had no driver. Thanks are nevertheless due to Cheltenham Surfacing Ltd for the loan of their lorry for an evenings work. Thanks also to Franklins at Sisters Farm, South Cerney for storage facilities. And please ask Ken Bailey for tips on driving an 8 ft wide vehicle down a 7 ft track!

Over 150 blocks were laid on the main nearside wall and further progress was made on the offside lower wing wall, particularly in the area of the culvert outlet where the original lintel was in a poor state and needed to be completely replaced. Newbury WPG were justly proud of their new mugs (1 pint capacity?) but even using the Trust's "hospitality unit" (a huge stainless steel teapot) as a kettle we were hard pressed to get them all filled in a single session. Despite these little problems the weekend was largely successful with all coping stones being lifted from the bottom of the chamber and the invert exposed for most of its length. Fred and Olive Bailey did sterling work cutting back willows along the access track.

2-3 October. Kent & East Sussex CRG: A heart-stopping experience was had on Friday evening when it appeared that only three volunteers were going to turn up and at 10.30pm I was going home a disappointed man when a fourth person arrived. Hardly an auspicious start to a weekends work. By Saturday morning the numbers were looking better since a few more had drifted in during the early hours of the morning. Judith & Eddie almost ended up on the Neath & Tennant in South Wales having lost concentration on the M4 at 1.00am. KESCRG eventually produced seven workers who were supplemented by several of our own members as well as Robert and David who enjoyed the Summer Camp so much that they just had to come back. The first coping stones were placed into position and the main structure of the nearside wall was **finally completed**. No more big blocks to lay for a while! One wall of the spillweir has received attention with a large portion of brickwork being removed along with a large stump from a blackthorn tree whose roots were creating havoc. As the lower wing walls were growing in height so they were backfilled with concrete making a well bonded structure.

Major achievements for the weekend could be clearly seen in the new culvert lintel, cast in situ by Brian and Judith, the new brickwork in the spillweir and the first coping stones laid in the main wall. The last DIG DEEP weekend this year is on 20/21 November but keep an eye on the "Diary Dates" and if you can manage a few hours we would be delighted to see you at one of the working weekends at South Cerney.

OPPOSITE: The Gentle Giant - replacing the coping stones at Boxwell Spring Lock

Cooking the Books

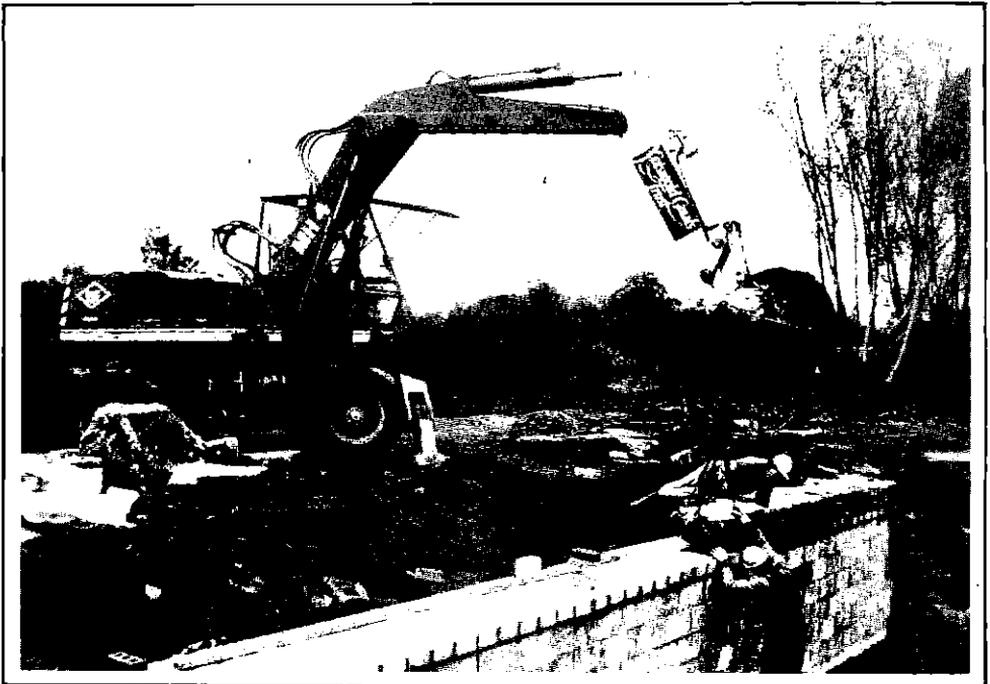
MAUREEN POULTON

As part of the Trust's fundraising activities, I am going to produce a cookery book for sale at events attended by the Trust's sales team.

The concept of the book is that it should contain members' favourite recipes, not necessarily those which are suitable for cooking whilst on board, although 'narrow boat galley' recipes would be most welcome.

The success of this book will therefore be dependent on a good response from as many members as possible. Please feel free to submit as many recipes as you wish. To enhance the appeal for canal enthusiasts, appropriate, possibly witty, thumb-nail sketches and titles for the recipes would be appreciated, e.g. 'Cut and Come Again Cake'. However, lack of a title should not deter submission of recipes.

All members "donating" a recipe will be acknowledged in the book, when published. Please send your or your family's favourite recipe/s, in whatever form, to Maureen Poulton at the Trust Office in Cirencester.



Your Trust Needs You!

The Trust Council has recently undertaken an exercise in "Brain-storming" to produce as many ideas as possible for raising money and raising the profile of the organisation. Nothing was ruled in or out and the following are some of the ideas that were generated. Some have been tried, many haven't.

If you feel that you could help put one of these ideas into practice, or indeed if you have others, please contact the Cirencester Office where Nick or Maureen will be pleased to hear from you.

1. Raft Race - programmes - raffle of donated gifts.
2. Splash & Mini Trail Boat Rally
3. Sponsored Walk (together with others - Willow Trust?)
4. Boat Trips - £2 per adult - children free for Rover ticket
5. Canamble and other walks
6. 200 Club
7. Tunnel Boat Trips - including Kings Reach to Tarlton Bridge
8. Bowls Tournament with National Champion
9. Major Musical Concert with well known musician
10. Large Raffle - Trust and outside involvement
11. Sponsored Marathon Runner
12. Trust picture exhibition
13. Brains Trust about future restoration projects
14. Mail-shot to Trust members
15. Mail-shot to local areas where activities are taking place
16. Talks - charge a reasonable amount - £25?
17. Christmas Cards
18. Temporary Gift Shops - shopping malls etc.
19. Sponsorship of fundraising events
20. Official reception/dinner
21. Increase distribution of sales items
22. Auction of donated items - silent or auctioneer
23. Jumble sale or Car Boot Sale
24. Coffee mornings
25. Boat Treasure Hunt
26. Canal Quiz
27. Fashion Show
28. Displays in theatre/cinema/museum foyer
29. Darts competition
30. Garden Fete
31. Employment of fundraiser
32. P.R. - open days - posters - informative literature - workshops
33. Sponsorship for "front-end" costs
34. Sponsorship of major works or equipment
35. Youth involvement - "Waterways for Youth"
- 36 etc - Your ideas!

Member's Workparty

Organiser RICHARD ATTWOOD

The 1993 scrub clearing will end with a festive bramble bash and bonfire at Ham Mill Lock. Meet no earlier than 9:30 on **Thursday 30th December** for a not-too-strenuous bout of fight-the-flab lasting for a few minutes or a few hours.

Ham Mill Lock is at the end of Ham Mill Lane off the A419 at Thrupp, next to Carpet of Worths factory and almost opposite Phoenix Antiques.

The plan to exhaust our working party members continues starting at 9:30am or whenever you get out of bed on Sundays.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 12 December | Bourne (Brimcombe) canal clear-up to light bonfires and drink cups of tea. Meet at the entrance to Critchleys factory. |
| 9 January | Puck Mill canal clearup to clear scrub above the upper lock and drink more cups of tea. Meet at Puck Mill, down the track under the railway viaduct from Frampton Mansell. |
| 30 January | Ebley Infill clearup to clear, once again, brambles and small trees. This year we hope to have mechanical help and, maybe, a cup of tea. Meet on the canal bed down the lane by Tamwoods in Ebley. |
| 20 February | St Mary's Lock clearup - a compact scrub clearance with cups of tea. Meet in layby at King & Castle, Brimcombe and walk up towpath. |
| ?? March | IWA Canal Clearance Weekend - date yet to be announced. Watch this space for details of cups of tea! |

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The Longest Day

Report by ROGER HIGGS

I wonder if you remember June 11th this year when the skies darkened and the promised rain fell and rivers burst their banks over much of the country? Well, my own gloom gathered as I watched the torrents of water running across the road, sealing the fate of my latest money raising venture; that is had "the team" not agreed to "go for it" come what may on June 12th!

Back in November 1992 I had tentatively sent out a letter to the parents of Gastrells School, where I am a teacher, outlining my plan to walk the Cotswold Canals between the Rivers Severn and Thames to raise money for a number of causes. Hidden somewhere in the letter, after my request for volunteers to join me in training and on the walk itself, I mentioned that the walk was to be 37 miles long and I intended to cover the distance in just one day! However, a meeting of about 20 parents, teachers and friends led to the beginning of "Severn-Thames 1993", with a training programme of some 120 miles ranging from 10 miles along the Sharpness Canal just before Christmas, to a more strenuous 25 miles along the Wye Valley in May. So the team was formed and remained with just slight alterations, perhaps brought about by the planned 2.30am start on June 12th.

So it was that we came to be gathered at Framilode Church on a rather dark potentially very wet Saturday morning, the good folk of Framilode having been warned that we were not a convention of cat burglars! Our numbers had dwindled to 17. So without further ado we were off into what should have been the lightening eastern sky, but was instead a rather dark rain-laden sky!

Thankfully, the rain was just keeping off, but many of us were exceedingly wet shortly after setting off due to the tall soggy summer vegetation. We did however manage to negotiate the first section with the help of torches and maps, the line of torches spread out behind resembling night travelling cars on a motorway. Eventually, having peered anxiously into the darkness on the look-out for warned-about wild horses, we tried to quietly cross the footbridge at Saul Junction - not an easy task as it bounces and has a number of loose boards. Things from here were much easier, albeit just as wet and we were able to make better progress towards Wallbridge, whilst the day tried to break. At Wallbridge we first met our back-up team complete with bacon butties and hot drinks.

A pleasant, drier walk along the Golden Valley saw us reach Daneway in time for a second breakfast complete with check table-cloth and flowers in the pub garden. The landlord had been asked but must have been surprised to find breakfast now on the menu!

Next we had to climb for what was to be the first and only time and we made our way over the hill and through the woods to the Tunnel House where we once again picked up the canal and headed towards Thames Head. Our arrival there led to a section where we deviated from the actual towpath picking it up again at Siddington. In view of the wet weather of the previous week it was surprising to find the Source of the Thames bone dry, but unfortunately not so the disused railway we travelled along shortly afterwards. The railway ballast

provided a firm base for walking but unfortunately only firm beneath nine inches of very soggy soil and vegetation.

Shortly afterwards at Siddington, we picked up a further long stretch of towpath taking us towards Cricklade. Again, tall wet summer vegetation proved a real nuisance, not least in the area of the Cotswold Water Park where much of it consisted of chest-high nettles. However, our back up team came to the rescue again at the Spine Road car park, and several of us were grateful for our foresight in packing dry clothing in the support car. Dry clothing for all of 15 minutes seemed a real luxury and, what was more, we were now well over half way.

On reaching Cricklade and taking our lives in our hands crossing the busy A417 we then had to deviate from the towpath again, although following the general line towards Marston Meysey and Kempsford. After this we had to negotiate largely open countryside, except where RAF Fairford had been built over the footpath and it had not been re-instated, and several fields that had been planted with knee-high pea plants. This was the last four or five miles of a very long day and the last check-point two miles from "home" was largely ignored by several walkers pausing only to pick up a cup of tea and some jam sandwiches, but feeling it unwise to stop. The last two miles along a straight muddy track seemed to stretch on and on beside one of the Water Park lakes, before finally turning down towards our true goal - the River Thames - and never before had the murky Thames water shone so brightly, and never before was a double celebratory glass of champagne so gratefully received as not only did we celebrate the relief in finishing, but also one of our walkers was feeling her age - it was her birthday. Next year I think she may go for a quiet meal out, maybe in Lechlade, but certainly by car!

Finally after collecting all the sponsorship money on Friday 9th July we were able to present cheques totalling in excess of £1,800 to the following causes:

British Heart Foundation
Gastrells School
Save the Children Fund
Stroud Ambulance Medical Equipment Fund

Cotswold Canals Trust
St Rose's Special School
The Woodland Trust

Might I add my personal thanks to all the walkers, despite all the nasty things they said about me, all our sponsors and a heartfelt thanks to all the back-up team who not only fed and watered us at regular intervals, but were there smiling sympathetically at each check-point - we couldn't have done it without them!

The 1993 walking season will end with a festive meander around the Chalford area on Tuesday 28th December. The walk will start at 10:00am at the information sign near the Round House and will explore both canal and hillside. The walk will last 3 hours and there will be the usual charge of £2 per person with children under 16 and dogs free.

Trust Vice-President, D. J. BIRD

Obituary by DAVID ELLIOTT

Dicky Bird was born in Cheltenham and educated at Cheltenham College. During the War, Dicky served in the REME, rising to the rank of Major and serving at home and in Austria.

After the War Dicky pursued his studies to become a Chartered Surveyor and in 1953 became E. J. Rowell, the Estate Agent, Chartered Surveyor and Auctioneer with an office in Rowcroft, Stroud; a business he ran until his retirement in 1986.

When the Stroudwater Canal Society was founded in 1972 Dicky immediately became enthusiastic and soon his office window became a focus for events and sales items. As a vice-president he was always an eager ambassador for the canal restoration project, often supporting projects with a personal financial contribution.

Dicky's hobbies were many and varied, being a frequent visitor to steam railway functions, a Trustee of Stroud Museum and a supporter of Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Animal Shelter in Cheltenham.

Trust Member, Charles Gordon Stuart

Obituary by PETER T. JONES

Charles died peacefully within sight of Brunel's Hanwell viaduct on 17th September. Traveller, raconteur, chronicler and first rank collector, he spanned the fields of scripology, philately and railway ephemera in a pioneering role.

His early interest started when, as a child, he roamed London's pre-grouping rail network, scouring the scene for tickets which were to form the basis of his collection. He was educated at Sherborne where his early persuasive gifts resulted in unofficial footplate rides back to London at the end of term. The General Strike of 1926 saw Charles catapulted, with relish, into firing and driving the Great Western main line from Paddington to Slough where there were sometimes more on the footplate than in the train. Throughout the 20's and 30's Charles was fortunate in being able to pursue his wide ranging interest in the post grouping scene. Trips to Scotland were made with his faithful plate glass camera equipment and two suitcases - devoid of changes of clothing but crammed with plate glass negatives. As camera technology advanced he switched to, and never changed from, his Leica, from which he was rarely separated.

The camera recorded the engines but not the adventures - persuading retired staff on the moribund Bishop's Castle railway to fire up an engine which resulted in the near catastrophic destruction of some rolling stock as the coupling gear parted. Charles is probably the reason why a limited number of Bishop's Castle tickets are around today. Some collectors wonder why so many journeys were made on the same day - the result of Charles and a colleague

having commandeered the ticket dating machine. While he could never be persuaded to write the definitive guide to tickets - largely because he abhorred the commercialisation of any hobby - he was a regular early contributor to the Ian Allen Trains Annual, these articles reflecting his wider interest in European railways.

His impish sense of humour disguised his strong intellect and wide cultural interests, embracing opera, classical music, architecture, the National Trust, canals and geology. His memory was prodigious and caused him to accept the mantle of organising numerous expeditions (of which the most notable were those for the RCTS to South African railway installations in the 60's and 70's). He still has many friends in South Africa and his appearance in the specialist railway press was regular. His organisational skills were also put to good use in pre-war Europe where his wide linguistic abilities and charm gave him ready access to areas forbidden to others.

He leaves behind him a wide circle of friends throughout the preservation movement. Through his generosity the Great Western Trust at Didcot will be able to advance their work on a library extension to the museum, where it is hoped he will be commemorated in a facility which will preserve his world class railway ticket and share collection, photographic library and other material for posterity.

The "Thames & Severn Way"

Introduced by RICHARD ATTWOOD

The Thames & Severn Way is a long distance footpath linking the Rivers Severn and Thames following as closely as possible the towpath of the Cotswold Canals.

Much of the towpath is a public footpath but for those sections which cross private farmland the Thames & Severn Way makes use of nearby footpaths or country lanes. An aim of the Trust is that one day all of the towpath will be accessible to the public.

The Thames & Severn Way begins at Framilode church on the banks of the River Severn and ends at Halfpenny bridge spanning the River Thames at Lechlade. Between them lie 36 miles of the most wonderful and contrasting scenery. Consider what can be seen along the route; mills, former railway lines, hanging woods and rushing water, the narrowing valley of the River Frome. The delightful village of Chalford, the Golden Valley, Sapperton Tunnel, the source of the River Thames, the Cotswold Water Park.

During 1994 the Trust plans to publish a guide to the Thames & Severn Way and to promote both its name and use.

The Lenghman's Cottage at Sapperton Tunnel

Poem by MICHAEL HOLLAND

We are grateful to Michael Holland who has submitted the following poem. The poem was specially commissioned for the 1991 Stroud Arts Festival at which he appeared as guest poet.

Eight Kings and Queens have come and long since gone,
But none have known this place,
Its peaceful solitude set concealed in wooded slopes.
A garden that once was,
Sprouted life to feed anothers life -
His belly and his hopes.
Rows of ordered symetry grew in profusion.
Cabbages and carrots; Artichokes waved their tail fronds
In autumn winds, competing with the wrinkled face
Against the wall of bent and nodding sun-flower.

Four tiny rooms. One open fire
Supported with warm shelter generations.
Babies cried at birth, grew up, grew old
And then departed from this same place.
Which offers now more freedom in its garden.
Moss and Elder, long gotton used to their own way.
Jackdaws seek their home
Inside the very breast which succoured others,
Without ever knowing this different life -
Of toil; Of love; domestic bliss; domestic strife.

Nature outgrows this place
And will move on.
Another King or Queen will die
In some other distant palace
Without ever seeing, and thus,
Not ever being able to regret
The demise of this proud palace
That housed its own Royal household,
And held court, for Navvies, Bargees
And Parson (but could ill afford the doctor).

Masefield lived nearby and must have been inspired
By thoughts of narrow boats that glided into view,
Then disappeared into the tunnel.
Disappeared for ever, in search of something new.

Membership Matters

Membership Secretary DES PINNOCK

This quarter we are pleased to welcome the following new members

Dr & Mrs M.S. Hockey, Cirencester, Glos
Mr M.A.A. Hanwell, Gloucester,
Mr V.A.R. Saunders, King's Lynn, Norfolk
Mr D.W. Grainger, Tewkesbury, Glos
Mr M. Lefley, Basingstoke, Hants
Mr & Mrs M.J. Aylard, Saul, Gloucester
Mr P. Watkins, Stroud, Glos
Mr J.B. Hosking, Cirencester, Glos
Mr & Mrs R.A. Bailey, Cheltenham, Glos
Mr H.C. Hunt, Stroud, Glos
Mr F.J. Green, Shipston-on-Stour, Warks
Ms J.A. Winter, Rayleigh, Essex
Mr F.W.P. Lea, Berkhamstead, Herts
Mrs R.E.A. Westover, Stroud, Glos
Mr D.M. Marshall, Abbots Langley, Herts

Mrs E.M. Lloyd, Malvern, Hereford & Worcester
Mr P.N. Hammond, Huntingdon, Cambs
Mr R.J. Coole, Swindon, Wilts
Mr A. Hoggarth, Stonehouse, Glos
Miss J.M. Reeve, Stroud, Glos
Mr P. Munns, Stroud, Glos
Mr T.W. Mason, Broughton-in-Furness, Cumbria
Mr R.D. Brotherston, Exmouth, Devon
Mr P.J. Higginbotham, Stroud, Glos
Mr & Mrs G.A.J. Smith, Stroud, Glos
Mr & Mrs D.J. Langham, Cheltenham, Glos
Mr P. Langley, Chalford, Glos
Mr W.M. Franklin, Castle Donington, Derby
Mr C. Sharp, Devizes, Wilts

Total Membership now 1071 - and still slowly rising

Here is an explanation of Mailing label codes which appear on the first line of your TROW mailing label.

The first letter is the class of membership: F = Family, A = Adult, P = Senior Citizen, S = Corporate, L = Life, Y = Youth.

Next is the membership number from 1 to, at present, 1224 (when a member lapses the number is not re-allocated).

The next letter is either M for annual money payment or B for Bankers Order.

The final number is the month in which your subscription is due: January = 1 to December = 12 (paid up life = 99).

I would appreciate a call if you know any of these details to be incorrect - especially if you do not pay by Bankers Order but see a B in the payment position (a B means you do not receive an annual reminder).

DEEDS OF COVENANT - With thanks to John Garfitt who processes the paperwork, *the Trust received a cheque for £1027* from the Inland Revenue for the tax year 92/93 resulting from some 120 members who covenant their subscription. Given the Trust's membership numbers could we not make this painless procedure yield 5 times this amount!? It only requires that you be a taxpayer and promise to pay your annual subscription for a minimum of 4 years - call me on 0452 856233 for a form to be despatched post haste! If you still have it, one was included in the Spring TROW.

Sales Order Form

	PRICE £	QTY
BETWEEN TWO RIVERS (TV Series Walk Guide)	4.50	
Canal Walks: South (Quinlan) incl. T&S	9.95	
*WS ATKINS REPORT (Saul to Stonehouse)	9.95	
*HALCROW REPORT (Lechlade to Water Park)	14.95	
*Around the Cotswold Canals (10 circular walks)	2.50	
*Churches Along the Cotswold Canals	2.50	
Discovering Canals in England (P.L. Smith)	2.50	
The Flower of Gloster (E Temple Thurston)	8.95	
The Stroudwater Canal - Vol 1 (M Handford)	3.50	
S T&S Canals in Old Photographs (Cuss & Gardiner)	7.95	
S T&S Canals Towpath Guide (Handford & Viner)	7.50	
Thames & Severn Canal (Viner)	4.25	
Working Life on Severn & Canal (Conway-Jones)	7.95	
*The Trow (all issues available)	0.50	
*Trow Binder (holds 12 issues - suits all A5 mags)	3.50	
*Map (plan and section of Cotswold Canals)	2.95	
BIG DIG VIDEO	9.95	
*Sweater - Bottle Green (embroidered logo) S M L XL	14.95	
*Sweatshirt - Grey with embroidered logo S M L XL	13.95	
*Sweatshirt - Green with printed logo S M L XL	11.50	
Polo-Sweat - Navy (embroidered buckby can) S M L XL	15.95	
*Tennis/Sport Shirt - (embroidered logo) S M L XL	11.95	
*T-Shirt -Green (printed logo) (Child £4.50) S M L XL	5.50	
*Sew on Badge - with embroidered logo	2.45	
*Tie - with embroidered logo	5.95	
*Golfing Umbrella - Green & White (printed logos)	15.95	
*Tea Towel - Cotswolds (includes Cotswold Canals)	2.50	
*Carrier Bag Holder	2.95	
*Car Sticker OR Self Adhesive Sticker	0.50	
*Pen	0.30	
*Pencil with eraser	0.25	
*Thimble - Cotswold Canals	1.95	
*Standard Mug	3.35	
*Half Pint Tankard	3.95	
*Pint Tankard	5.95	
*Milk Jug	6.95	
*Goblet	4.95	
*Coaster (specify Green or Blue)	0.65	
* denotes special Cotswold Canals Trust item		
Please tick selections sizes and quantities. Send to CHRIS JONES, THE COURTS, 27 WALTON ROAD CLEVEDON AVON BS21 6AE (Tel 0275 875714) Cheques payable to Cotswold Canals Trust please	TOTAL	
	P & P	0.65
NAME & ADDRESS	TOTAL ORDER £ VALUE	
PHONE	Win 93	

Write These Dates in your Diary NOW!

Mon	6 Dec	Western Branch Meeting
Sun	12 Dec	Members' Work Party - Bourne, Brimscombe (see p.13)
Mon	13 Dec	Restoration Committee Meeting *now meeting at Cirencester
Tue	14 Dec	Thames End Branch Meeting
Tue	28 Dec	Guided Walk - Chalford (see p.15)
Thu	30 Dec	Members' Work Party - Ham Mill Lock (see p.13)
Sun	9 Jan	Members' Work Party - Puck Mill (see p.13)
Mon	10 Jan	Western Branch Meeting
Tue	11 Jan	Thames End Branch Meeting
Mon	17 Jan	Restoration Committee Meeting
W/E	22/23 Jan	DIG DEEP (LONDON WRG) Boxwell Spring Lock
Thu	27 Jan	Members' Evening (see p.9)
Sun	30 Jan	Members' Work Party - Ebley Infill (see p.13)
Mon	7 Feb	Western Branch Meeting
Tue	8 Feb	Thames End Branch Meeting
Mon	14 Feb	Restoration Committee Meeting
W/E	19/20 Feb	DIG DEEP (NEWBURY WPG) Boxwell Spring Lock
Thu	24 Feb	Members' Evening (see p.9)
Sun	20 Feb	Members' Work Party - St Marys Lock, Chalford (see p.13)
Mon	7 Mar	Western Branch Meeting
Tue	8 Mar	Thames End Branch Meeting
Mon	14 Mar	Restoration Committee Meeting
Thu	24 Mar	Members' Evening (see p.9)
W/E	26/27 Mar	DIG DEEP (LONDON WRG) Boxwell Spring Lock

Western Branch volunteers work most weekends and welcome new workers. Summit & Thames End Branch volunteers usually work the last weekend of each month. More help is always needed!

Members can keep up to date at Branch meetings and special events. Western Branch meet at 7.30pm at the Imperial Hotel, Stroud. Thames End Branch meet at 8.00pm at the Phoenix Centre, Cirencester. Restoration Committee meet at 7.30pm at the Cirencester Office

FRONT COVER PHOTO: *Just some of the crew at the IWA National Waterways Festival, held in Peterborough in August. The sun shone and the event was a great success. This was the official cutting of the 21st Anniversary Birthday cake (thanks Ros Gregory) which was also photographed for "Waterways World". Left to Right: Des Pinnock, Neil Ritchie, Ros Gregory, Bruce Hall, Chris Lavis, Sue Mills, Richard Attwood, Bill Evill, Claire Lavis, Chris Jones, David Jowett, Bob Gregory. In front are Robert & Samantha Lavis (with cake!) and Ken Bailey.*

BACK COVER PHOTOS - ABOVE: *Nick Wright answers Steven Wright's questions on Radio Gloucestershire's "Country Matters". The hour-long programme was broadcast live from the canal at Eastington on the morning of this years "Splash", - the most successful to date.*

BACK COVER PHOTO - BELOW: *Dock Lock nears completion.*

