

# Acasters of Goole

Part II

The Rawcliffe wharf on the Aire & Calder Navigation.

**If the trading situation for carriers during the 60s and 70s had been difficult, they were even worse when Graham Acaster took over control of the company.**

The sand, aggregates, wire and coal contracts had all terminated, but the sulphur to Hull continued along with about 150 tonnes of paper a month along the Ouse to York, for the Herald newspaper, and work, although reduced, for BOCM-Silcock, that was boosted with occasional loads of cocoa to Rowntree Mackintosh at York.

Since then, after the completion of the improvements on the Sheffield & South Yorkshire Navigation, regular sub-contract work for E. V. Waddington Limited was undertaken.

In all, just sufficient work to keep a few men busy, but nothing like the maximum number of thirteen men that had been employed only a short time previously.

At the moment only members of the Acaster family are employed, and include Graham and two of his three sons, Karl and Ellis. When the demand exists for an additional skipper, Wilfred, although enjoying his

by  
**PETER L. SMITH**

The work has proved to be a most profitable operation for the company, and the increased use of the largest coastal vessel craft, is expected to expand. Because of this regular work with sea-going vessels a new high superstructure has been fitted on *Little Shifter* to give the skipper increased visibility.

background

Some of the barges in their fleet have interesting backgrounds, but none more than *Dunbuck*, one of their largest motor barges. The vessel was built as a dumb barge to transport

on the Board's Commercial Waterway network including the Sheffield & South Yorkshire Navigation, where his vessels were employed a number of times last year transporting loads of pitch in bulk.

The pitch was loaded at the Croda Limited, Kilnhurst Wharf for movement by barge to Goole Docks. Here the consignments, including 400 tonnes in February for France and 300 tonnes in April for Iceland, were transhipped.

In addition to the regular movement of 150 tonnes a month of imported paper to York for the Herald newspaper, a few loads of British paper from Rawcliffe wharf on the Aire & Calder have been carried. While occasional work for the BOCM Silcock Group mill at Selby is most welcome.

In control of one of the few general cargo carrying companies, Graham is looking ahead to the future, prepared to adapt to cater for specialist requirements with a current fleet of barges that are capable of carrying many thousands of tonnes weekly on

## SOBRIETY PROJECT PERMANENT BASE

**During a visit to Hull on 5 March Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince and Princess of Wales went to Albert Dock where the expedition boats *Sobriety* and *Eden* had been brought from Goole to Hull by the Sobriety Project specially for the occasion.**

The Sobriety Project was set up in 1981 under the auspices of Goole Grammar School through Bob Watson, a part-time teacher there. It is financed by grants from various organisations including the Grammar School, Boothferry Borough Council and any sources of local grant aid that Bob Watson, who is secretary of the Project can tap.

Help in kind has come from businesses, charitable trusts, individuals; from Associated British Ports and from the Board's Repair Yard at Goole, which has helped with technical advice on the refurbishing of the project's boats.

The Sobriety Project's main aim is to advance the education of young people resident in Yorkshire and Humberside through the provision of two restored traditional Humber keels *Sobriety* and *Eden*, based in Goole.

*Sobriety* has been providing adventure holidays and day trips on northern inland waterways for some years now, for handicapped and deprived adults, for elderly people, special schools, guides and scout groups.

She originally traded between 1910 and 1937 using the traditional two square sails with burgee. Her sister ship *Eden* was acquired by the Project in 1985. She is a former BWB Leeds & Liverpool Canal workboat and has recently undergone a refit. She was commissioned this April.

The Sobriety Project was presented

to the Royal couple by the secretary Bob Watson and his wife Jenni. Gerry Turner, the Board's Castleford area leisure officer, presented Prince Charles and the Princess with a specially prepared edition of Peter White's imaginative plan for a site that is being developed on BWB land between the Aire & Calder Navigation and the Dutch River at Goole around the area of an existing marina.

BWB design

Part of this land is being developed by Manpower Services Commission scheme, due to start this year, and will provide a car park and a landscaped picnic area. The landscape setting has been designed and planned by Chris Bolton, the Board's landscape assistant. The Board are providing a permanent base in this area for the Sobriety Project with moorings for *Sobriety* and *Eden*.

Peter White is presenting his initial design for this base to the School of Architecture at the Humberside College of Higher Education. He hopes that they will be able to develop this and use their expertise for the construction to be carried out by local labour force under their supervision. Peter's exciting design should capture the imagination of young people.

It incorporates a capsule-like cluster of spaces, which he suggests could be formed out of redundant transport