

H. DUNCAN ABRAHAM,

P.O. Box 3113, Johannesburg, S. Africa.

Serial No. ABR.14.

DOPE SHEET.

Date 10TH JUNE, 1947.

Story NEW AMPHIBIOUS CRAFT

Cameraman H. DUNCAN ABRAHAM

Length 620 FT (APP)

Location DURBAN.

Also covered by.....

Roll Number

Footage

SUMMARY OF STORY.

"Necessity is the Mother of Invention". Owing to the rigid safety regulations governing small boats leaving Durban harbour for deep sea fishing or pleasure trips, Dr. Hulett has overcome the difficulty by not using the harbour, but instead putting to sea from the ocean beach, and to simplify this he has had constructed a special type of Amphibious craft, which will launch itself and come out of the sea and run up on to dry land under its own power and the aid of ingenious mechanism. As Durban's fishing season has just opened, this boat named "Ann Phibious Ann", is doing good work, and the story shows the boat in operation with a good morning's fishing.

S T O R Y.

Owing to the dangerous nature of the Natal coast, and the treacherous seas at the Durban harbour entrance, there are rigid regulations governing the movements of small craft, the majority of which are not permitted to leave the more placid waters of the harbour, unless they are 35 feet or more in length with a covered in deck, possess twin engines and various other qualifying requirements, necessitating a heavy outlay and upkeep.

For very many years, however, it has been the accepted thing for Indian fishermen to put off over the surf from the beach in large open rowing boats, which were not covered by the harbour regulations.

To Dr. Maurice Hulett and his associate anglers, this presented a possible solution to the difficulties encountered under the harbour regulations, but, on making official enquiries, the Doctor was informed that the only boats allowed to put to sea from the beach outside the harbour were those belonging to professional fishermen. Well, said the Doctor, I'll become a professional fisherman, and so he took out a fisherman's licence, and so did his angling associates. They all became professionals, and started a club known as Veitch's Angling Association, and they built an assortment of boats designed to ride over the surf and heavy swells of the Indian Ocean, but it is not all fun pulling heavy boats about on a sandy beach, so Dr. Hulett went into consultation with a clever local engineer, named Mr. G. Struckman, with the result that, in due course, Struckman turned out a very ingenious and sturdy amphibious boat, which would launch and land itself, and could be taken home for the night.

We heard a good deal about the Military amphibious craft during the war, but the majority of these were first and foremost land vehicles, which could float and propel themselves through water when the necessity arose. This craft, however, is just the

reverse. It is essentially a sea-going boat with retractable wheels and undercarriage of a simple and ingenious design, which can be let down for use on land or drawn up, fitting close into receptacles when afloat.

The wheels, which are powered by the boat's engine, are only put into use for launching, landing and when the boat is taken home or brought to the seaside.

The boat itself is built entirely of steel welded at joints. It is 20 feet long, and weighs approximately 1½ tons. It is powered by a petrol engine, and can cruise at sea at 12 knots, and there are several watertight compartments, which render the craft unsinkable. The steering of the boat is controlled while running over the beach by means of a small sand rudder, which projects into the sand below the ordinary sea going rudder.

While fishing at Durban continues, the whole of the year round, there is however a definite fishing season in the winter months, which has recently opened when sport is best, and all anglers are keyed up with excited expectancy, awaiting the annual arrival of the enormous shoals of small fish known locally as sardines, which cruise up the coast of Natal in June or July every year in a northerly direction, and are followed by great numbers of the big fellows, large fish of all descriptions, which prey on the sardines, so that, during the visit of the shoals, there is great activity in the sea, and among the anglers of Durban and Natal.

The shots in this story, however, were taken at the opening of the season before the arrival of the sardines (the latter have just been sighted 200 miles south of Durban on their way).

The story is centred mainly around the new Amphibious craft itself, and opens with a close-up scene of people busily packing things into something, which should create a query as to what. A longer shot reveals that it is a boat that is being packed, and the still stranger spectacle is that the boat is parked outside a private suburban residence in the street. (Roll No.1, first three or four shots).

Then, from a high angle, the boat is seen coupled to a Jeep and, as soon as loading is complete, the Jeep pulls off, with Dr. Hulett at the wheel, towing the Amphibious craft on their way to the beach about three miles distant. (Roll No.1, final shots). The people appearing in the scene are Dr. M. Hulett, owner of the boat and Jeep (stout man), Mrs. Hulett, sitting in boat receiving articles being handed to her by Mrs. G. Struckman, (standing on ground), the wife of Mr. G. Struckman (small thin man), who is the engineer who constructed the boat.

The next scene is where the Jeep, towing the boat, arrives at the beach. The boat is then unhooked from Jeep, and is turned round with the bows facing the sea. A Close up is shown of one of the wheels with the mechanism for retracting the wheels. It is simple, and works on a leverage principle.

A close-up is then shown of the stern of the boat, illustrating the manner in which the propeller is protected for shore travel, and the little sand rudder is visible sticking into the sand immediately underneath the ordinary rudder, which is clear above the sand. The engine in the boat is started up, and the propeller commences to revolve, and at the same time the boat moves forward, as the wheels have been put into gear. The boat is then seen from a side angle, as she proceeds on her way to the sea, and Dr. Hulett jumps aboard. This is followed by another shot, as the boat enters the waves and proceeds on her way to sea (Roll No.2, first part).

A cut in can be made here of shot taken from inside the boat, giving the effect of angle as seen by occupants of the boat as it enters the water, to be followed by shots from similar angle as

the boat rides the waves (Roll No.2). A further cut in shot can be made here (Roll No.4), view of boat in deep water from somewhat elevated angle, showing the retractable undercarriage being operated, and the wheels drawn up into position for sea travel. The boat is then seen on its way with further cut-ins of shots taken on board boat, and passing another club boat engaged in fishing. (Roll 2 or 3). Switch back to view of boat trolling for fish (Roll No.4), then the scene of the strike and the angler (Dr. Hulett) playing the fish (Rolls No.4 or 5). This can be followed by the landing scenes, where the boat comes out of the water and runs up the beach under its own power (Roll No.2). A cut in could be inserted here of landing operation, as seen from camera in the boat, if its any good. (Roll No. 3, last shot).

The craft now having landed, the next scene shows the morning's catch being off-loaded. A nice string of fish, consisting of "Spingers", which are a game fish and great fighters for their size, "Soldiers" and "Rocke Cod". The catch is handed from the boat to two natives on the beach. A close-up is shown of the fish, then the natives stroll off with the catch.

NOTE: There is one snag in this series, and that is that, in the fishing scenes and operating undercarriage the two ladies and Mr. Struckman do not appear in the boat, as they were not available for another trip. Should this be very noticeable, I would suggest that it might be overcome by a different arrangement of shots, making the fishing trip a separate one after the ladies had been deposited on shore, which is often done, or otherwise assume that they were lying in the bottom of the boat sick!

I would suggest that, in shot of striking and playing fish (Roll No. 4 or 5), that the part where the pier or breakwater appears in background, should be cut out, as it rather localises the operation, instead of being well out to sea.

H. Duncan Abraham

S H O T S.

- ROLL NO. 1. Close up view of people loading boat, which is in street outside home. (Shot intended as query, leaving audience to wonder what is being loaded).
- Ditto, different angle.
- Longer shot showing that it is a boat that is being loaded, and that the boat is parked outside a private residence in the street.
- Shot from high angle looking down on boat, and Jeep, in street as the last articles are put on board, and passengers climb in, and Jeep moves off, towing boat.
- Road level shot for cut in as Jeep and boat move along the street on way to the beach.
- ROLL NO. 2 Jeep towing boat arriving at the beach.
- Unhooking boat from Jeep, and turning boat round with bows facing sea ready for launching.
- C.U. of one of the wheels of boat showing retractable undercarriage mechanism.
- C.U. of stern of boat, showing propeller protected by covering cage, and the small sand rudder may be visible projecting into the sand under cage. The engine starts up, the propeller turns, and the boat moves off.
- Side view of the boat as she starts off towards the sea, under her own power, and Dr. Hulett jumps aboard while in motion.
- The boat continues on its way, and plunges into the sea.
- The boat is seen making its way out to sea.
- Boat landing under its own power. With wheels down she races towards the shore, and, without hesitation, glides out of the water, and runs up the beach towards camera.
- Camera in boat shoots scene as boat enters water for cut in with launching shots to give effect of how launching appears to occupants of boat. Boat, however, bumps heavily on beach as wave recedes and camera is severely jolted (shot doubtful)
- Various shots taken in boat as she makes her way out to sea, this is to give effect of motion of small boat in Indian Ocean with fairly heavy swell.
- ROLL NO. 3 Passing another boat belonging to the club, with the occupants busily fishing.
- An attempt to get shots giving effect of boat landing as seen from the boat (cut in for landing shots).
- ROLL NO. 4. The boat, having been launched, is now seen in deep water from somewhat elevated angle, and the ingenious retractable undercarriage is being operated, and the wheels drawn up into the snug cavity to hold them while the boat is out at sea. (The boat is slowly passing from right to left facing screen).

The boat is now seen on its way to the fishing grounds
(Passing ~~right to left~~ *to right*)

Having reached the fishing grounds, the fishing commences,
and rod and line are brought into play as the fishermen
troll their lines behind the moving boat (passing left to
right).

Ditto repeated with different focus lens.

(Different angle). The strike, a fish is hooked, and the
fight between fish and angler is on.

ROLL NO. 5.

Repeat shot of above showing the fish being played as the
boat cruises slowly along.

The boat having landed, the morning's catch is being off-
loaded. A fine catch of Slingers, which is a great fighting
fish for its size, soldiers and Rocke Cod.

Close up of fish.

Two natives carrying off the load of fish.

AM