

SMALL BOATS - BIG OCCASIONS

It's the first-ever canal rally and the narrow-boats are there in all their painted glory. But the air isn't as blue as you'd think ... Peter Scott's boat bears the name of his bird sanctuary. Son of the Polar explorer, he's vice-president of the Inland Waterways Association, organisers of the rally, which is also open to small craft. Travelling from Lowestoft in their duck-punt come Commander and Mrs. Brook.

Some narrow-boats are privately owned and make ideal homes ... Doctor and Mrs. Dickenson have spent nearly £2,000 on converting theirs.

There are more than 2,000 miles of canals in Britain and it's possible to travel from London to Edinburgh. To get the canals back to full use is the object of this unique rally. But they don't appeal to Herbert Horace Slack, who plans to sail "H.H.S," his converted pontoon across to America. He's an electro-therapist and hopes to work over there.

The cabin's a bit cluttered up, but he'd be too busy to use it, anyway. As we go to press - news comes that the pontoon has been damaged on trials. It looks as though "Pontoons only!" isn't always a winner!