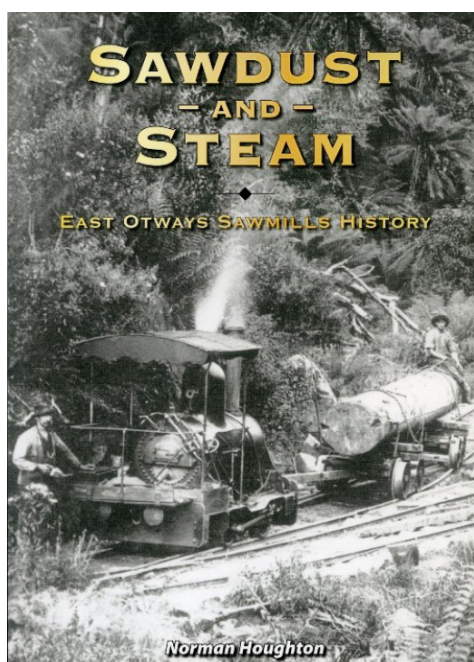




BOOKS by NORMAN HOUGHTON

A selection of books by historian Norman Houghton OAM, available at the Colac & District Historical Society.



Sawdust and Steam

Sawdust and Steam is a full history of the timber industry in the East Otway Ranges. It covers all the sawmills that have operated there from the 1850s to the early 2000s. Areas include Forrest, Gerangamete, Barwon Downs, Deans Marsh, Benwerrin, Barramunga, Tanybryn, Apollo Bay, Wye River, Kennett River and Lorne.

The mill sites and timber tramways are fully mapped to show the positioning and routes. There are more than 200 photographs included showing the mills, tramways, locomotives, tramway tractors, horse teams, winches and mill crews.

234 pages (B & W) — \$45 + postage

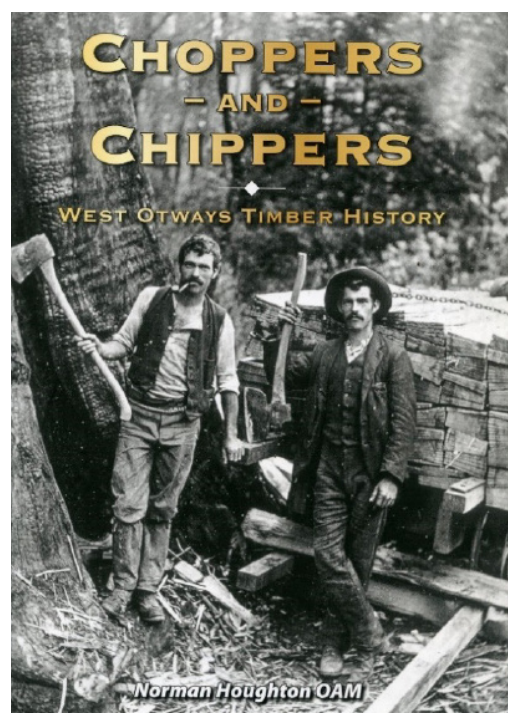
Choppers and Chippers

Choppers and Chippers is a history of the timber industry in the West Otway Ranges. It covers all the sawmills that have operated there from the 1850s to the early 2000s. Areas include Colac, Barongarook, Kawarren, Gellibrand, Carlisle River, Lavers Hill, Irrewillipe, Wyelangta, Beech Forest and Olangolah.

The mill sites and timber tramways are fully mapped to show the positioning and routes. There are more than 200 photographs included showing the mills, tramways, tramway tractors, horse teams, winches and mill crews.

There is mention of forest management over the years, landscape conditions and the policy debates that led to the cessation of native hardwood logging in all of the Otways in 2008.

224 pages (B & W) — \$47.95 + postage



Rail Centre Colac



***Rail Stations in the
Colac Otway Shire
1877 to 2014***

Norman Houghton

Rail Centre Colac

Rail Centre Colac is a history of all the 64 railway stations and sidings in the Colac Shire from 1877 to modern times. It covers the mainline from Birregurra to Colac to Pirron Yallock and the branch lines to Alvie, Cressy, Forrest and the narrow-gauge line to Beech Forest and Crowes.

The stations' histories are explored looking at why they were installed in the first place, who used them, what traffic they generated and why they closed.

Photographs are included for most stations, as are statistics.

262 pages (B & W) — \$50 + postage

God's House

God's House is a history of all the churches ever constructed and operated in the Colac Shire. There were more than 120 such buildings in the townships and settlements that ran from Cressy to Apollo Bay and Deans Marsh to Pirron Yallock.

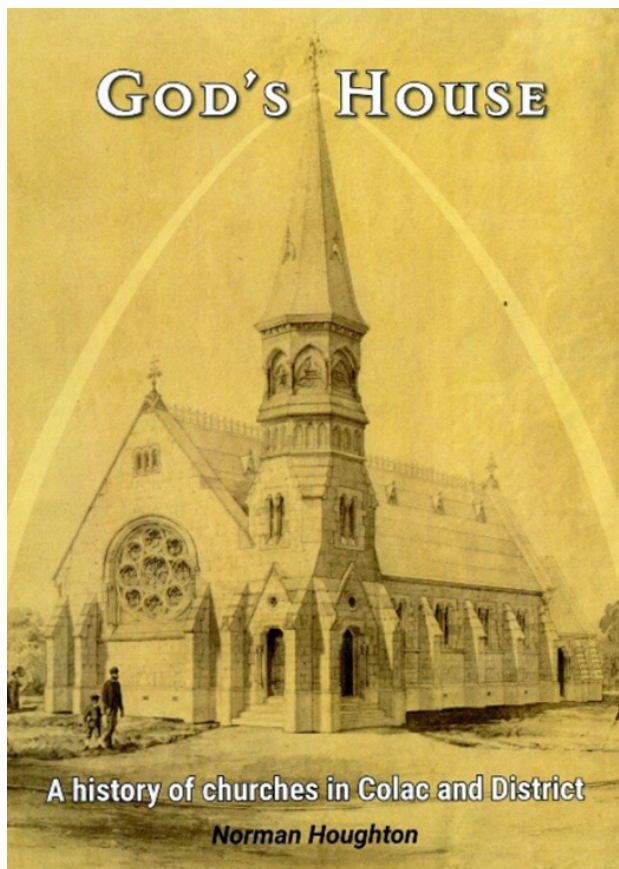
The history looks at all denominations, including Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Uniting, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventist, Jehovah's Witness, Church of Christ and the modern Pentecostal movement.

The narrative explores the architecture and character of each church, its role and place in its community, its Pastors and Ministers and what happened to it in the end.

Many churches were destroyed by bushfire and storm, others became redundant and were sold for removal or converted to other uses. Others were pulled down and replaced with larger and grander structures. A useful book for genealogists to acquire the history of the churches where their forebears were christened, married and buried from.

156 pages (B&W) — \$45 + postage

GOD'S HOUSE



A history of churches in Colac and District

Norman Houghton

A Land of Milk and Onions



*The rise and fall of mixed dairy farming
in the Colac Otway Shire*
Norman Houghton

A Land of Milk and Onions

A Land of Milk and Onions is a history of mixed dairy farming in the Colac Shire. Dairy farming was the top industry in the Shire for well over 130 years.

It generated ancillary economics to the dairy in onions, potatoes, pigs, onions, peas and fodder. The amount of milk in the Shire was processed via an extensive network of creameries and butter and cheese factories. Each locality had its share of these amenities.

For a period, Colac district grew 60% of Victoria's onions. An extensive infrastructure of marketing and transport grew up to manage this industry.

The book looks at the factories, the crops, the livestock and the economics of it all through the heyday of milk and onions and takes the reader to the end of onions and the dairy factories.

56 pages (B & W) — \$24.95 + postage

The Onion Line

The Colac Shire grew 60% of Victoria's onions in the period 1910 to 1950 with most production being centered at Cororooke and Alvie. Carting the crop to market in horse-drawn wagons over dirt roads to the nearest railway station at Larpent was a significant drawback. Eventually moves were made by local growers to have a railway installed from Colac to Alvie to service the onion industry. This was achieved in 1923 when such a railway was opened.

The railway came to be known as the onion line. This history explores the construction and operation of the railway, its role in servicing the onion and potato industry, its ups and downs and eventual closure.

20 pages (B & W) — \$13 + postage

The Onion Line

A history of the
Colac to Alvie
Railway
1923-1954



by
Norman Houghton

Closed 50 Years Ago

The Colac to Beech Forest Narrow Gauge Railway



Commemorative Booklet - 30 June 2012

By
Norman Houghton

Closed 50 years Ago

In 2012 the Colac to Beech Forest narrow gauge railway line celebrated its centenary. Amongst the celebrations was a tour along the line, which had closed 50 years previously in 1962, and provision of a book on the line. Hence the title of this book.

The publication is heavily illustrated with images showing scenes along the line and at the stations and supported with a narrative that outlines the history.

52 pages (B & W) — \$25 + postage

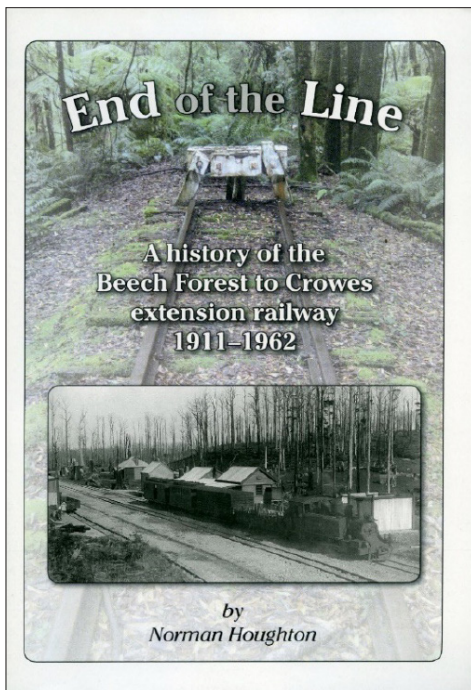
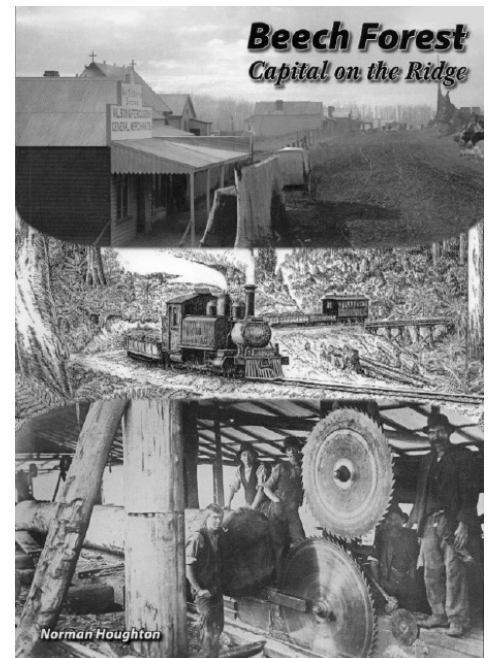
Beech Forest – Capital on the Ridge

The township of Beech Forest was established in 1884 and went on to become the capital of the West Otway Ranges as an administrative centre with its own local government, a population of 300, a railway connection with Colac, service and retail centre and possessing all the usual amenities.

This history looks at all aspects of the town and district – its businesses, railway, governance, health, sport, schools, timber industry, plantation industry, roads, farming, potato prominence, tourism etc.

The place has declined significantly since the 1960s but retains a small population and character. This history brings the old town and its people back to life.

112 pages (B & W) — \$30 + postage

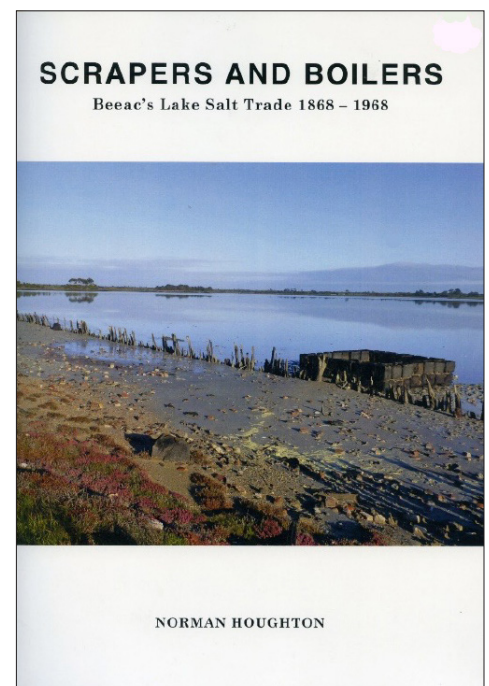


End of the Line

End of the Line is the story of the railway extension from Beech Forest to Crowes that opened in 1911 and closed in 1954.

The Crowes extension tapped the resource rich Otway Ridge area with its timber, dairy, potato and livestock industries. Traffic on this part of the full length of narrow-gauge line was the mainstay of the tracks for many years. The book gives a history of each station, explains the ups and downs in passenger and goods traffic and outlines why the extension closed after two bad potato seasons.

52 pages (B & W) — \$25 + postage



Scrapers and Boilers

The salt lakes in the Beeac and Cundare districts were harvested for salt for 100 years from 1868 to 1968.

This history examines the industry and describes all the players. The largest operations were at Lake Cundare where sophisticated boiling plants were installed to form various grades of salt. The archaeological remains of these plants are explained in this amply illustrated history.

Lake Beeac was the prime scraper lake and its history is outlined.

25 pages (COLOUR) — \$15 + postage

Homes in the Hills



*Historic glimpses of Barongarook,
Gellibrand, Banool and Carlisle River*
by Norman Houghton

Homes in the Hills

This book looks at the histories of four Otway settlements, being Barongarook, Gellibrand, Banool and Carlisle River. Each place was different but had a common foundation in Otway land settlement schemes of the 1880s.

A full history of each place is given from their respective starts through to the 21st century. The strengths and weaknesses in the local economy, social life, education, sport, names of movers and shakers and so on are outlined and the various trends that changed these places over time are explained.

52 pages (B & W) — \$12.50 + postage

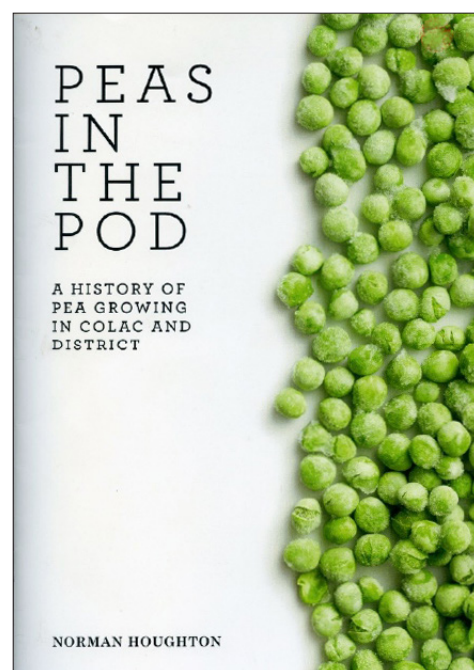
Peas in the Pod

Pea growing around Colac was big business there in the 20th century.

This history traces the development of the industry from early cultivation, picking and marketing to the era of mechanisation from the 1950s.

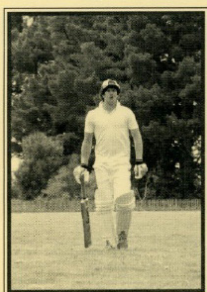
The book mentions where the peas were grown, the role of the land holder in the process, the machine and icing methods used, the rise of the trade and its ultimate decline.

20 pages (COLOUR) — \$12.50 + postage



Games at the

'Ditch'



Centenary History of Beech Forest's Ditchley Park Sports Ground
- March 2011 -

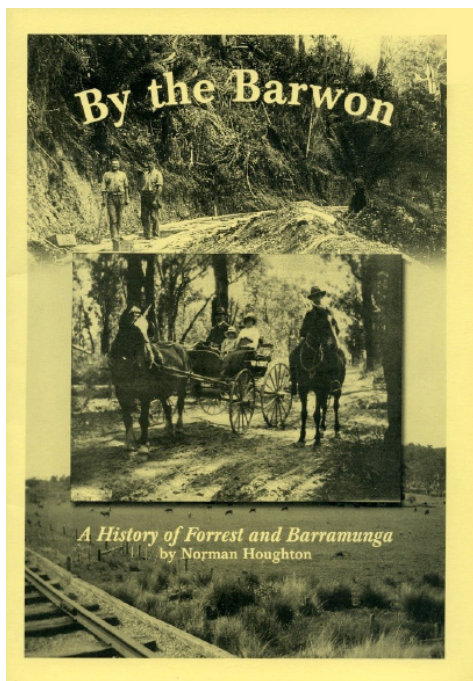
By Norman Houghton

Games at the 'Ditch'

This little book takes in the history of sport and recreation at Beech Forest. It includes horse race meetings, sports days, wood chops, football, cricket and netball. In the early days sport was played at impromptu grounds but by the 1920s a proper sports ground was provided at Ditchley on the north side of Beech Forest.

The narrative explores all the activities at the Ditchley ground to the time of writing giving details on football matches, sports days and cricket.

30 pages (B & W) — \$8 + postage



By the Barwon

By the Barwon is a history of Forrest and Barramunga from their respective foundations late in the 19th century through to the present day. The history looks at all aspects of the two settlements, their activities, life style, shops and businesses, timber industry, transport links and timber tramways, social and cultural and education.

Fully illustrated with map showing all the sawmills in the district.

24 pages (B & W) — \$7 + postage

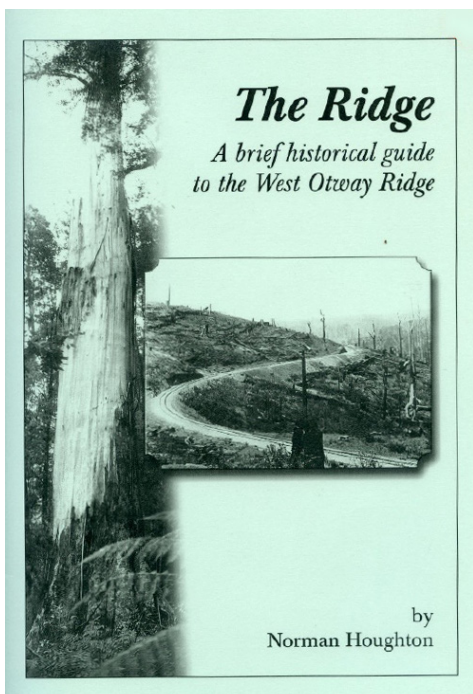
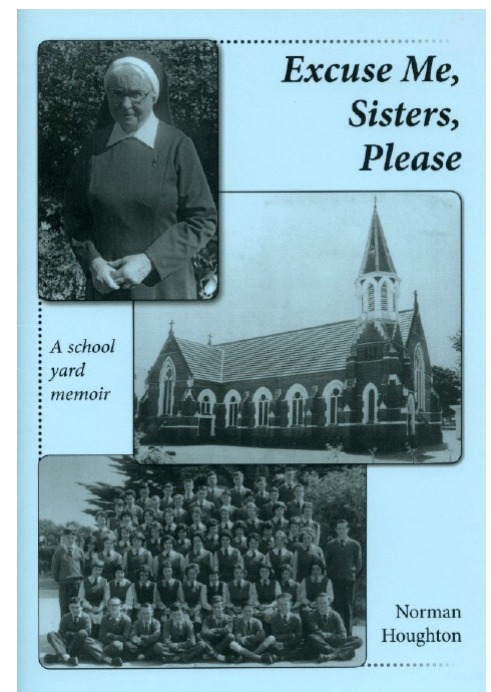
Excuse me, Sisters please

Excuse me, Sisters please is a school yard memoir from a Colac boy growing up in the 1950s and early 1960s in a conservative country town (Colac) in the conservative Catholic religion. The book was originally produced for a school reunion of the Prep Class of 1954 at St Mary's and St Joseph's schools held in year 2000.

The book looks at the forces that shaped these youngsters proceeding through the turbulent political times of the 1950s with its 'communist' perils, the practices of the Church and their impact before moving onto detailed accounts of the Class of 1954 and following them through to Year 12 in 1965.

Lots of pictures, teachers mentioned, classmates named and academic and sporting heroes recalled.

40 pages (B & W) — \$15 + postage



The Ridge

The West Otway Ridge running from Olangolah to Wangerrip is the most productive area of the West Otways and where, in the past, all the major settlements were situated.

The book is a brief guide, tracing along the Ridge and describing the features at each locality such as Olangolah, Beech Forest, Ferguson, Weeaprounah, Wyelangta, Lavers Hill, Crowes and Wangerrip.

16 pages (B & W) — \$10 + postage

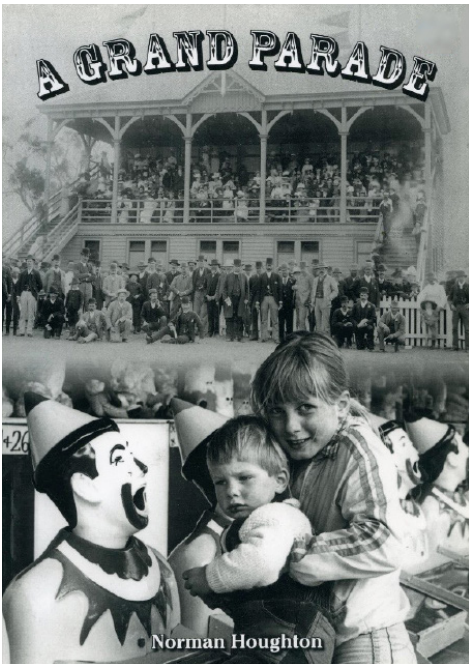
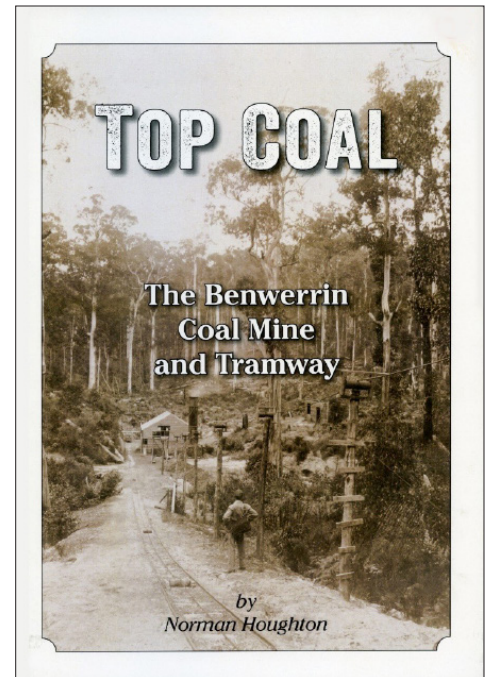
Top Coal

A deposit of high-grade brown coal was mined at Benwerrin to the south of Deans Marsh from 1899 to 1948.

The company was formed by Colac interests at first, later Geelong had an influence, to supply coal to Colac and district factories and businesses.

The company built a railway from Deans Marsh to the mine to move the coal to market. The book looks at all aspects of this business in its infrastructure, mining, operations and management.

32 pages (B & W) — \$22 + postage

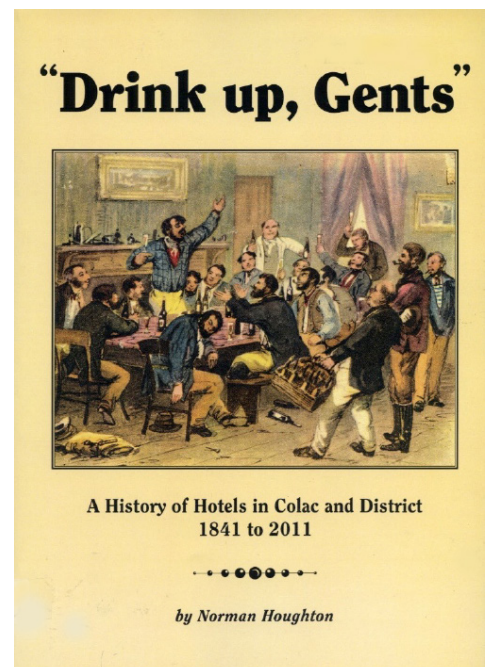


A Grand Parade

150th Jubilee history of the Colac Show, 1859 to 2009, as put on by the Colac Pastoral and Agricultural Society.

The book examines the origins of the Society, its several sites over the years, management issues, key individuals and how the Society has coped with change. The format for the Show has undergone many changes yet remains one of Colac and District's major annual events with locals enthusiastically embracing it as entrants in events and as patrons on Show Day.

102 pages (B & W) — \$35 + postage



“Drink Up, Gents”

Colac and District once hosted many hotels and wine shanties dating from the 1840s.

The book examines the context of hotels in the 19th century, why and where they were licensed, names them, locates them and gives operational details. The many closures and licence deprivations over the years are explained.

There are numerous photographs and drawings to accompany the text.

88 pages (B & W) — \$35 + postage