GOING UP IN THE WORLD

A history of Simon Engineering, the development of the powered access industry and a lifetime as an engineer, by Denis Ashworth

Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

His book is an unusual combination of autobiography and history of Simon Engineering Dudley, a pioneer of the powered access industry and at one time, the world's largest manufacturer of aerial lifts.

The coffee table sized book, is highly readable and includes around 150 photographs and drawings from the very beginning of the industry. It is a 'must read' for anyone who is interested in powered access, the hydraulic equipment industry or in comparing modern day engineering challenges with those of an entirely different era.

The book is available direct from the publishers at £19.50, plus £4.50 postage and packing.

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LIMITED EDITIONS

For the second issue in a row our stalwart model reviewer lan Webb of Cranes Etc... has no new models to review. With Bauma around the corner companies are holding new releases until the show, so hopefully he will be able to return in the next issue.

In meantime publisher Leigh Sparrow has a motely collection of old models picked up over the years for one reason or another. Some of them are extremely rare - others are just old. Here is a glimpse of two of them:

Special edition Demag HC100.

The first is a 'special edition' Demag truck crane mounted on a four axle Faun carrier, painted in bright pink and carrying the signwriting for what I believe was a one-off conference and exhibition called the Internationale Hebezeug Ausstellung - IHA - which roughly translates as International Lifting Exhibition. It was held in Recklinghausen, Germany from 25th May to June 3rd 1974. The model is made by NZG to its usual 1:50 scale. The real crane was a 35 tonner and featured a four section 39 metre boom and telescopic counterweight, which while small had an amazing extension range.

The Grove TM2500 - 1982

My second model is hand made in brass and clearly of a larger scale. It was made in the UK by Beejay models of Brighton, and is a Grove TM2500 launched at Conexpo 1981, initially with a 225 tonne maximum capacity but quickly uprated to 250 and then 275 tonnes following a competition with Liebherr to have the world's largest telescopic crane at the show. In those days cranes such as this could actually lift their maximum capacity - albeit at a three metres radius. The TM 2500 featured a 53.3 metre five section trapezoidal boom and was one of the first telescopic cranes with a pinned boom, a system the company dubbed 'Trap-Lock', after Grove's patented trapezoidal boom. In real life the

Trap-Lock system was dreadfully unreliable, at least at the start. Maximum tip height was 81 metres using the swingaway extension topped by an offsetable jib.

I believe that only 12 units of this scale model







were ever made - one or two painted in customer's colours. It was supplied in a display case, and I am pretty certain does not work. it was designed purely as a prestigious static display model.