



## Hydraulic Heaven

Note that these recordings have been edited to remove Ron Collen-Jones' commentary (except on some on-train recordings). The information he provided is included in this play-list.

### 11th May 1974:

- 1a Riding behind 1030 "Western Musketeer" as it eases slowly out of Paddington, 5 minutes late. A 2-tone emergency siren gives a nostalgic reminder of the era. We come to a brief stand at a signal, then continue slowly.
- 1b We crawl through Westbourne Park before switching to the main line, and finally getting into our stride, the Western humming beautifully.

- 2 Continuing our journey with 1030, just west of Southall, we've moved to the slow-line (60ft jointed track). After easing off the power, another Western whizzes passed our open window. Superb!

**20th June 1973, Reading:**

- 3 Hymek 7002 departs on 5A06, a train of parcels vans, of which only one was a BR vehicle: 4 LMS BGs, 2 GWR siphons, a B and 2 more pre-nationalisation vehicles.
- 4 1003 "Western Pioneer" passes through slowly with a train of 30+ coal-hoppers. Class 47 no.1643 arrives on an up express, its train including some of the XP64 experimental stock.

**26th September 1973, Reading:**

- 5 With horns sounding a fanfare, 7028 storms through on a passenger service.
- 6 We hit the hydraulic jackpot, as 7001 arrives on parcels (headcode 5007), a Western (possibly 1043) arrives (down service) in the background, and 1070 "Western Gauntlet" also comes in (up service).
- 7 7001 removes a CCT van from its train, and then propels it back again. 1070 departs.

**25th October 1973, shortly before Hymeks were due to be phased out:**

- 8a Standing alongside Hymek 7018 at Paddington and then the mic is taken aboard the leading coach.
- 8b 7018 departs Paddington on the 0805 to Worcester Shrub Hill. The horns blare as we pass through stations. We call briefly at Ealing Broadway and then get signal-checked. We receive a fanfare of approval from locos as we pass the depot at Southall. (15min. 52sec. recording).
- 9 Still riding behind 7018, we encounter thick fog and get signal-checked before arriving at Slough. Announcements are heard and another service arrives in the background. We quickly get underway again.

- 10a Our Hymek trip continues as 7018 comes to a stop at a signal on the approach to Reading.
- 10b We pull away and then arrive at Reading. The mic is taken off the train and Ron thanks the driver.
- 11 Reading: 7018 sounds its horn departing in the background, as 1050 "Western Ruler" departs on 1A88 at 1412hrs.
- 12 Reading: 1036 "Western Emperor" departs on the 1430 Paddington to Torbay.
- 13 Reading: An announcement is made, but drowned out by 1061 "Western Envoy" (0940 Paddington to Bristol) passing at speed.

**22nd September 1973:**

- 14 Paddington: 1073 "Western Bulwark" departs on the 0840 to Bristol.
- 15 Paddington: 7001/7028 back onto the "Hymek Swansong" tour.
- 16 Westbourne Park: As an EMU trundles passed, 7001 (freshly repainted)/7028 ("grotty"!) accelerate and storm passed on the "Hymek Swansong" tour, 0910 Paddington to Hereford. "That was worth waiting for", commented Ron.

**25th November 1974, north of Harlington:**

- 17 Ron was out at the Midland Main Line hoping to record the APT-E on a test run. Sadly, it did not show up, but a welcome bonus was a Western (possibly 1023?) passing on a roadstone working, heading south (at 1108hrs).

**18th September 1974:**

- 18 On-train behind 1059 "Western Empire" departing Paddington on the 0905 to Birmingham. As we gather speed, an up express flashes passed.
- 19 Still with 1059, shortly after a signal-check at Twyford, we switch to the slow line and accelerate on the jointed track. By Sonning Cutting, we are doing 78mph. 1059 then arrives at Reading.
- 20 After alighting from our train, 1059 departs Reading.

- 21a 1071 "Western Renown" arrives at Reading on a down service (1V25).
- 21b 1071 departs Reading and 47513 passes through on the up Golden Hind.

**20th June 1973, Reading:**

- 22a In pouring rain, a parcels DMU departs as 1070 "Western Gauntlet" rolls in on the 1A40 Bristol to Paddington.
- 22b The driver of 1070 winks at Ron, before pulling the controller back and making a storming standing start. "Thrashed the guts out of it", commented Ron!

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All recordings by Ron Collen-Jones  
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