During the peak period of the Murray River traffic, the lift span had to be lifted as many as three times a day for the paddle steamers. Although the lift towers were made higher at a later date to allow passage of 3-decker tourist boats, this expense was unwarranted as very few have since made the trip up this part of the river.

JACK NASON, a former grocery boy at Nixon's store, remembers that when the "Marion" became stuck under the bridge, sacks of potatoes were used to weigh it down to release it.

"At one time the Marion got stuck under the lift span and great difficulty was experienced in freeing it. Cargo steamers transported goods to the local stores, unloading at the Koondrook wharf, and sometimes at the site of the present Barham tennis Courts. When the lift mechanism failed on one occasion, eight paddle steamers were tied up at Barham and Koondrook."

PHILLIPS, GREG, writes: "One time when Ollie (Nixons) and his mother went to Barham for a meeting of the Red Cross they were puzzled when no one showed up for the meeting. After meeting a large commotion near the bridge they found all the townspeople at the river watching the hapless paddle steamer "Marion" as it lay wedged under the span of the lift bridge. futile attempts were made to lower the load by lowering pallets on board eventually the load moved when all the children went on board (to) lower the load."

"The Marion", Photo: Anne Andrew Franklin
Source: The Barham-Koondrook Historical Society

"One steamer (Hudson) lay wedged under the bridge, a large store, potatoes were used to weigh it down to release it."

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