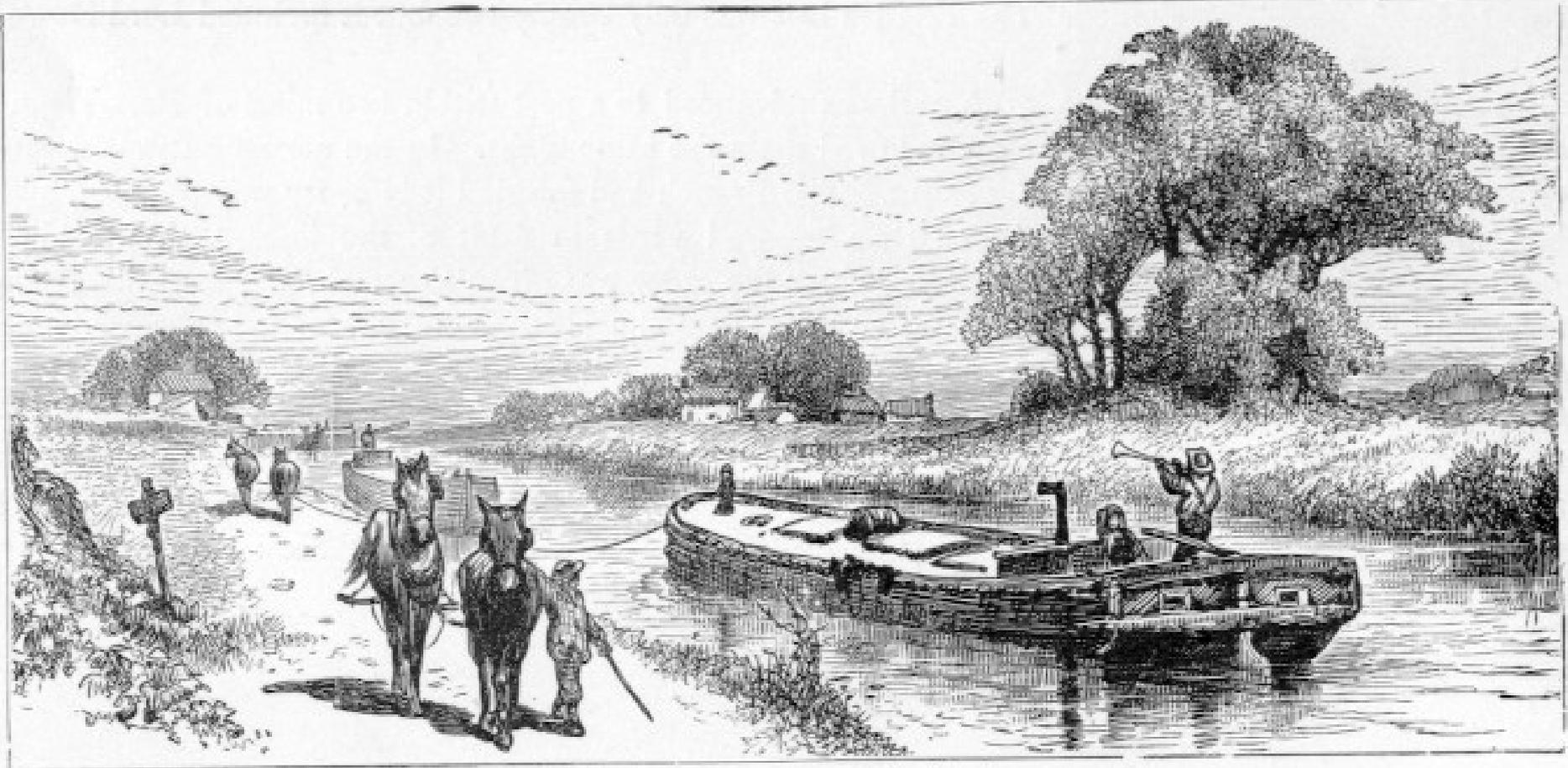


Canals are essentially, big ditches filled with water.



Canals were constructed so that heavy amounts of materials and people could be transported.



Grain-Boat on the Erie Canal.

In an age before motors, horses or mules pulled the boats along the canal.



They towed the boats along a path beside the canal called a towpath.



There was not any current in the canal...



...but one hundred tons in a canal boat
pulled in a canal...



...could be pulled faster than one ton in a wagon over land.



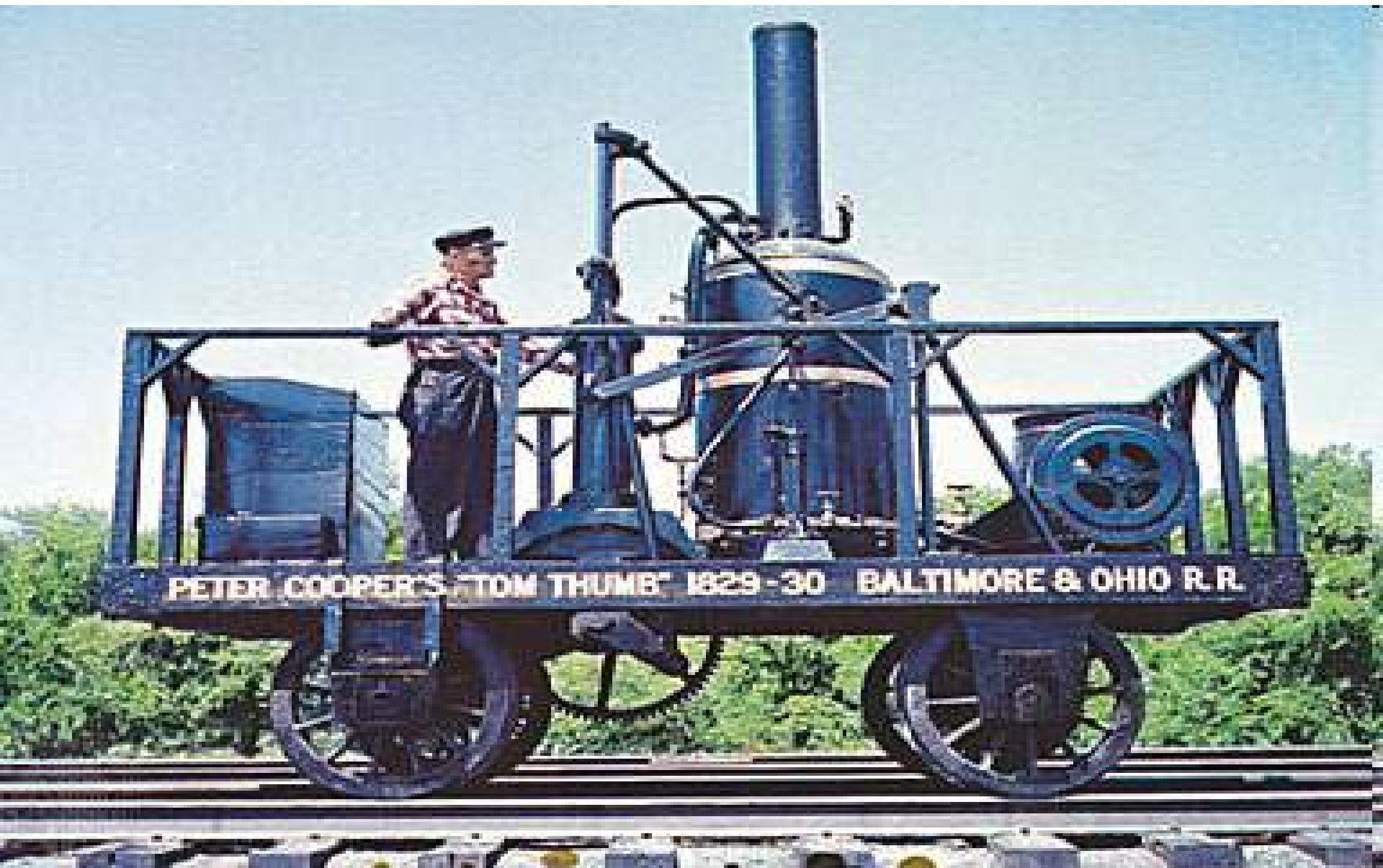
A drawback was that they could not be used in winter when the water was frozen.



People began to look for other methods of hauling large amounts of goods in all kinds of weather.



They will turn to the railroads.



Railroad transportation dominated travel and hauling in the U.S. for over 150 years...



...until interstate highways were built
across the country...



...and trucks now do most of the hauling of goods in America.

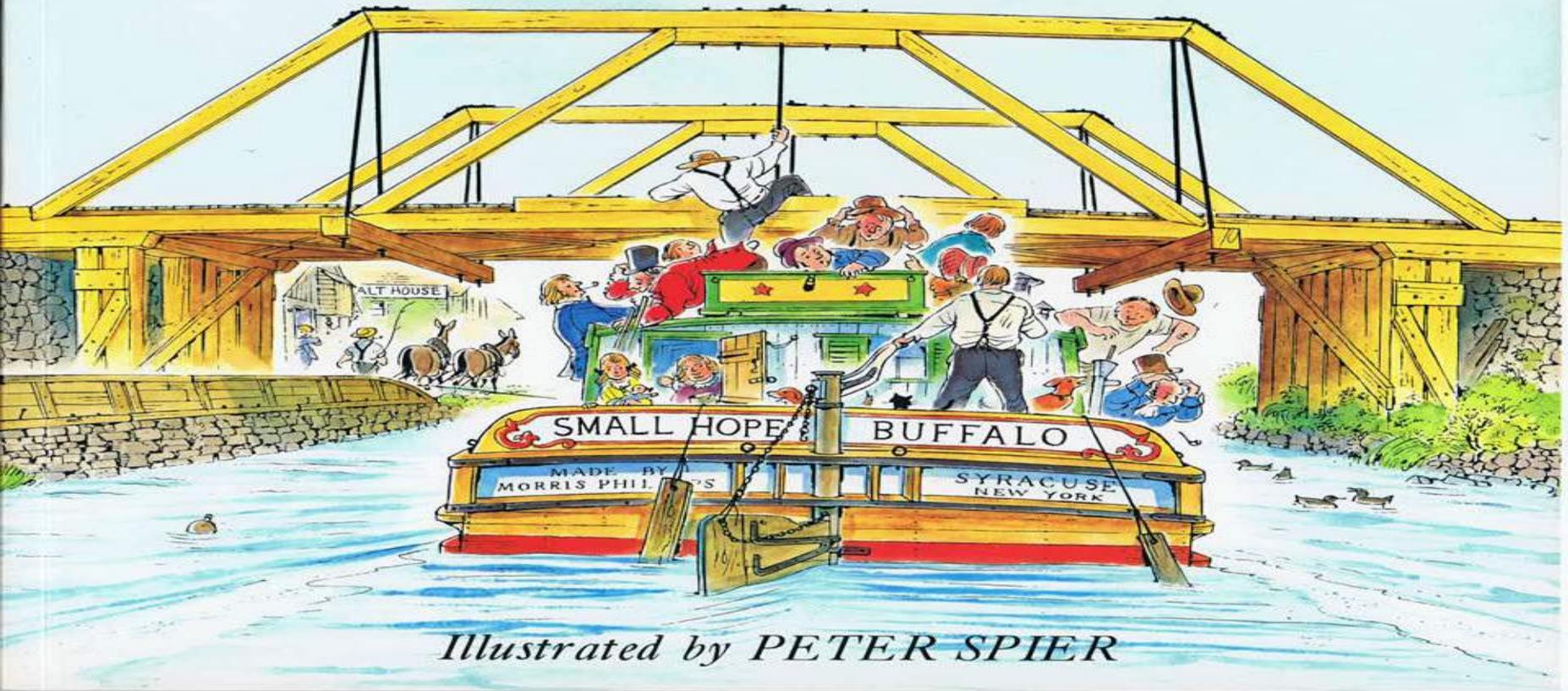


People would travel by boats called “packets” in which they could either ride on the top or inside.



If you rode on top, however, you needed to watch out for the low bridges that crossed the canal.

THE ERIE CANAL



Illustrated by PETER SPIER

LEQ: What is a canal?



Lockport, New York on the Erie Canal. This painting by John Krimmel (1786-1821) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

LEQ: What is a canal?

Man made waterway.



Lockport, New York on the Erie Canal. This painting by John Krimmel (1786-1821) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.