

Rods

He made a number of others, including one for Denys Watkins-Pitchford (BB), Bernard Venables, Peter Thomas, John Maclean and another for himself.

changed for an unknown reason. I have been the fortunate keeper of this rod since 1970, and straightaway set about refurbishing it (it was almost falling apart and Walker was about to throw it away!). I've fished with it too, landing a number of small carp.

The following winter, Walker set about making yet other carp rod — his fourth. He wrote about this in *Angling Times* on February 25 1955, with an article entitled *Best Carp Rod — How the MkIV Was Born*.

In the article, he said: "The result was what is now known as the MkIV, so called because it was the fourth attempt. It remains 10 feet long and in two joints; the material is six-sided single-built baked split-cane. The taper is fairly steep in the lower half of the rod, less steep in the middle, and then steeper again at the tip.

"Underneath the cork handle is a very stiff section of tonkin cane, into which the split-cane is spliced. That gives a powerful lever for double-handed casting. The taper chosen enables light as well as heavier baits to be cast, and the curve taken by the rod is fine for playing big fish."

It turned out right this time, and Walker, along with a number of his angling



One of the first B. James & Son Mk. IV production models. It displays the authentic indian ink signature of Walker,

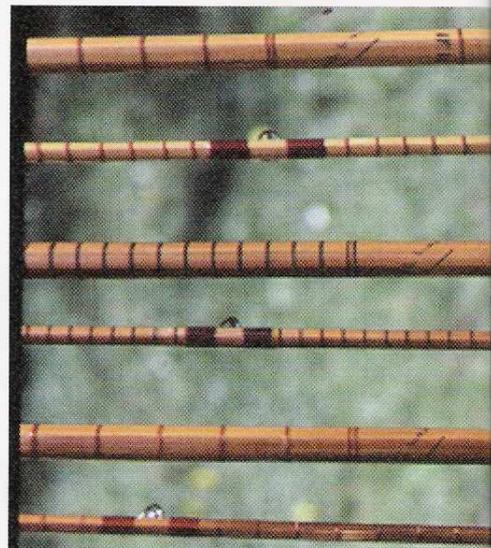
friends, was perfectly happy with its performance. He consequently made a number of others, including one for Denys Watkins-Pitchford (BB), Bernard Venables, Peter Thomas, John Maclean (who was the tenant at Bernithan Court, where Redmire Pool was situated, as well as another for

himself. A little later, he made one for Bob Richards.

These rods were all hand-built by Walker himself, though later he produced others from blanks made to exact specifications, and almost certainly supplied by Bob Southwell, one of the foremost split-cane



Birth of the MkIV! Walker's original model on the top, plus another he made for friend and fellow carp catcher BB.



From top: 1953 version: trumpet handle, hook-keeper, shoulder collar, tight intermediate whippings; 1956/7 version: a