

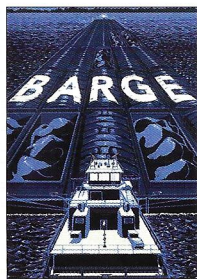
tional" family farmers. Although Wechsler enlists several famous chefs (including Rick Bayless and Dan Barber) and former *New York Times* food writer Mark Bittman to help build the case for small, organic farms playing a stronger role, most of the film focuses on the work of congenial Illinois farmer Marty Travis, whose success with a mere 160 acres is a model of remarkably productive, versatile, and profitable farming that begins with good stewardship of the soil and intelligent seasonal rotation of crops. But even more interesting is Travis's dedication to the needs and desires of food consumers in his own community and nearby Chicago. When Bayless loses a longtime source for a particular type of corn, for instance, Travis starts growing it for him. When Travis's son asks if they can revive the cultivation of maple syrup—a lucrative practice abandoned by Travis's parents during a hard time—the answer is yes. It's that kind of responsiveness that results in Travis supplying 300 restaurants and markets with his yields, and encourages him to create a cooperative with other struggling family farmers in the area. Wechsler's interviews with various researchers undercut myths that organic farming can never feed the entire world, while a scientist who had been a proponent of "big agriculture" in the 1960s now admits that it was a disastrous, community-destroying idea. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

## BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

### How They Did It: Pathways to Amazing Jobs ★★★

(2016) 17 min. DVD: \$149.95 (teacher's guide included). Human Relations Media. PPR. Closed captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62706-083-7.

Geared towards grades 7 through college, this short features four real-life young professionals who offer information about the steps they took to achieve their current career goals. Pediatrician Sasha Gaglani decided early on that she wanted to be a doctor, tailoring her courses and internships to her chosen field, with an eye towards staying close to home and family. A composer of advertising spots, musician Gene Back relies on freelance assignments for his livelihood, which affords some flexibility but also carries the inevitability of rejection. A web editor for *Harper's Bazaar*, Chrissy Rutherford is basically on call at all times in order to quickly report on current events and trends. And investment manager Ted Shuey acknowledges that his work as a bond trader requires that he live in major financial hubs, but he enjoys networking and learning from coworkers. Topics covered include college experiences (including how a broader degree may help a person fine-tune their goals down the road), finding career services resources, and pros and cons of various jobs, along with other



### Barge ★★★

(2016) 71 min. DVD: \$50 (\$125 w/PPR): public libraries; \$295 w/PPR: colleges & universities. DRA. Collective Eye Films. Closed captioned.

Do we not appreciate barges enough? A case for these 200-foot, flat-bottomed vessels playing an essential role in civilization is made by the captain of the *Mary Parker*, a towboat, which pushes along a dozen or so tightly-packed barges down the Mississippi River in filmmaker Ben Powell's low-key documentary. "When you get in your car, and you leave your driveway, guess what?" says the captain. "Concrete was probably in a barge. The tires you're rolling on, the petroleum to make them was in a barge.

Asphalt...that stuff was in a barge." He goes on to suggest that just about anything we can buy or use was once, in its original materials form, delivered somewhere by barge, and without these sometimes ugly carriers society would grind to a halt. Life as a captain or crew member has its insular pleasures: the men (and they are all men) aboard the *Mary Parker* submit to a rhythmic life of shift work with the hum of a powerful boat engine beneath their feet. Powell quickly recognizes that not a lot happens aboard a barge, aside from tasks designed to keep a lot of barges from drifting apart or crashing together. The workers live simply and leave behind domestic problems at home while on month-long trips. And the possibility for advancement is real: a six-figure income is not out of line for a veteran worker with a high school diploma. Powell doesn't make any statement here, but he is a good cultural anthropologist telling the story of a little noticed cog in the global wheel of commerce. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

helpful advice. Also featuring a PDF teacher's guide with activities, fact sheets, and learning objectives, this info-packed career guidance title is recommended. Aud: J, H, C, P. (J. Williams-Wood)

## COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

### Silicon Cowboys ★★★

(2016) 87 min. DVD: \$19.95, Blu-ray: \$24.95. FilmRise (avail. from most distributors).

Filmmaker Jason Cohen here recalls pioneers in the home-computer revolution who do not share the celebrity status/infamy of Bill Gates or Steve Jobs. Houston-based Compaq Computers was formed by a quartet of former Texas Instruments employees in 1981 who just wanted to strike out on their own (partnering on a Mexican restaurant was briefly considered). Their insanely great idea: making a "luggable" suitcased-sized portable PC that, like industry-leader IBM, ran Microsoft software—and, thanks to careful engineering, did it better than IBM. Leading the "clone" offensive, Compaq challenged IBM in the business marketplace, David-vs.-Goliath fashion, over a 10-year rollercoaster ride—at the end of which the original founders, despite their meteoric success, had either left the company or, in the case of media-friendly CEO Rod Canon, been fired (Compaq apparently lagged behind rivals like Dell in outsourcing manufacturing to cheap overseas labor, a footnote not really explored here). Viewers with fond memories of the 1980s digital revolution—when William Shatner, John Cleese, and even a Charlie Chaplin impersonator were pitchmen for the marvelous new machines—will find this to

be an agreeably nostalgic and entertaining (if also selective) slice of PC history. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

## SPORTS, GAMES & RECREATION

### Let's Get the Rhythm ★★★

(2014) 53 min. DVD: \$89: public libraries, \$350: colleges & universities. Women Make Movies. PPR.

Girls worldwide play hand-clapping games using different rhymes to tell a wide array of stories. Director Irene Chagall speaks with participants and observers in America to solicit their thoughts on the subject. Nine-year-old Eve from New Jersey says, "I think clapping games are really fun, because you don't need anything but your hands." In these games, girls roughly aged 6-to-11 face each other and clap hands in groups of two, four, or more. In conjunction with modern-day scenes, Chagall includes grainy footage of girls from the 1930s through the '70s engaging in the same sort of games. Anthropologist Rafael Pérez Arroyo says that these clapping games have been around at least since the Paleolithic era. Kids appreciate the fact that they learn from each other rather than parents or teachers (nowadays some also study YouTube videos). Khadijah Shaheed, a community liaison, notes that there is no financial barrier to participating in clapping games, which for girls attending schools with scarce resources provide a constructive way to pass the time during recess. Although some songs reinforce gender stereotypes, the girls interpret the material as they choose, and many have endless variations. Enduring favorites include "Rockin' Robin," "Miss Susie Had a Steamboat," and "Miss