LEVEL WALKER PROGRAM
LAUNCHED; PLANS ANNOUNCED

At "press time" - March 28 - the Bill to establish the C & O Canal National Historical Park had cleared one more of the obstacles in its course. On March 22, after several delays related in part to the Civil Rights maneuvering, the House Rules Committee cleared it for action on the House floor. Next step: debate and vote -- expected some time after April 1. If passed by the House, attention will turn to the Senate, where it must clear the Interior Committee, then be brought to the floor and passed. It is uncertain whether new hearings will have to be scheduled before the Senate committee.

(Continued on page 2)

If some future historian wants a date for it, let's call it April 1st, 1960 - and no puns about April fools!

For April 1 sees the Level Walker program in action from Georgetown to Cumberland. When we started talking to people about it, we thought it would be hard to find 30 participants, each covering about 6 miles of Canal. Instead, we've kept chopping sections in half to meet the enthusiasm, and we start operation with 70 men along the line. Only a few sections exceed 3 miles.

Most of our readers know the plan and purpose by now, but let's re-state briefly:

Level Walkers are volunteers who are fond of the Potomac Valley and the Canal, and who are willing to "patrol" a section twice a year and report on its condition and its attractions. The condition-reports will have much value in this pre-Park period when detailed surveillance by the Park Service is obviously difficult. As the Park staff increases, attention can be turned more completely to what each section contains - in plant and animal life, in geologic interest, in historical association, and in many other fields.

(Continued next page)
LEVEL WALKER PROGRAM - continued

Since Level Walkers will not, in most cases, be accomplished naturalists, a corps of "Consultants" is being recruited. Some have already been enlisted; many others will be added as we go along. The Consultants are grouped in five categories:

- Botany
- Bird Life
- All other Animal Life
- Geology
- History

They are experts in their fields who are willing to answer questions from Level Walkers, and occasionally respond to requests to walk over the sections of adjoining Level Walkers and point out items of interest within the consultant's specialty.

The result of this collaboration should, in time, be a Nature reporting chain of considerable value, and a public participation in National Park activity that is unique.

Reports, on a simple form or by ordinary letter, will be submitted twice a year - by June 30 and December 31. The information condensed from these will be passed along through the columns of "The Level Walker", along with news of all sorts about the Canal and activities which affect it.

Organizationally, the Level Walkers are a committee of the C&O Canal Association, though many of the participants are not directly members of the sponsoring organization.

The term "level walker" is an old Canal term for one who patrolled the towpath looking for trouble in the form of muskrat leaks and such, and who did a certain amount of maintenance work. Today's Level Walker gets out of the work entirely!

The National Capital Parks program of hikes includes a series along the towpath called Level-Walker trips, but there is no connection between these and the new patrolling organization.

 Doubtless the future will bring a number of possibilities not unforeseen, but with only the presently planned activities, we predict for the Level Walkers a long and very useful existence.

YOUTH HOSTEL CHAIN

SEEN POSSIBILITY

As a result of proposals by the Level Walkers Committee, and spurred by an address before them by Justice Douglas, the Potomac Council of American Youth Hostels is surveying the Canal route for a possible chain of hostels.

Hostels are overnight accommodations consisting of separate bunkrooms for men and women (or we should say boys and girls, since youth has preference), cooking facilities, and other conveniences. Each hostel is under supervision of "house parents", usually owners of the property on which the hostel is established. AYH passes are required, but overnight charges are extremely low.

Such a chain, spaced at distances of a day's walk and located on property adjacent to the Canal Park, would add immeasurably to the utilization of the towpath.

First steps consist of acquainting the people of the Valley with the nature and value of Youth Hostels. The search for specific sites comes next - then the task of building or converting existing structures.

Level Walkers will find it possible to help this project in many ways.

CANAL BILL (continued from page 1)

So the three year Odyssey of the Park Bill continues. As most of us know, it passed the Senate once, then bogged down in the House Interior Committee. Last year a new Congress came in, and the Bill had to start all over. It survived a long series of hearings before the House Committee, where for a time things looked black indeed. It emerged with quite vigorous support of Chairman Aspinall and the Committee. Then it hit the recent log-jam in the Rules Committee. Chairman Smith threw a new curve when he voiced surprise that the Bill provided for acquisition of additional land (no news to anyone else for the last 3 years) and more weeks went by. Smith voted to send the Bill to the floor, but says he'll oppose it there.

For the next chapter, you'll have to watch your daily papers.
WORK AT DAM #3

Towpath hikers who haven't seen the section above Harpers Ferry for some time have a pleasant surprise in store. The Park Service, under direction of Superintendent Mac Dale and Engineer Charlie Blake, has completely restored the footway of the towpath in this area - the worst damaged of the entire Canal. This is the section where it was formerly necessary to detour for a quarter mile along the rocky hillside of the berm.

Purpose of the work was to carry out a trial re-watering project. Late last summer it was possible to canoe from Lock 31½ to the guard lock at Dam No. 3. It looked quite watertight to us. The work extends downstream to the notoriously flooded area opposite Harpers Ferry, where a heavy job of brush clearing revealed the complex stone work of Lock 33, and the ancient river lock where boats once entered the Canal from the Shenandoah.

HARPERS FERRY WEEK-END

Some 14 hiking clubs are joining in a mammoth hiking week-end at Harpers Ferry, April 8-10. This is the second year for what promises to be an annual affair. Last year a whopping 303 people turned out. Several Canal hikes are on this year's program. One goes up to Antietam Village, visiting an orebank and a quarry along the way. The Hancock and Williamsport Canal Clubs are participating.

C & O CANAL ASSOCIATION REUNION

The annual reunion of the "Justice Douglas" hike of 1954 is scheduled for the week-end of May 6-8. This year the hikers will camp out at the Cardinal Club, and hike to Cumberland the next day. If anyone does the entire distance, he'll be covering 22.2 miles, enough perhaps to satisfy even the sturdy limbs of Justice Douglas.

The route, interestingly, covers the extreme upper end of the towpath -- the portion skipped by the original Douglas hike. It includes the industrialized Cumberland section, where we once feared the Park property might be abandoned as unsuitable. It now seems that the Park, as it should, will continue to the very end of the Canal, or what is left of the end since completion of the flood control works there.

WHO HAS WALKED IT ALL?

We'd like to compile a list of those who have walked all of the towpath. Have you? Drop us a line with a brief story of how you did it -- in what year, and over what period of time. We mean every inch of the towpath, now! That refers to the complete 184.5 miles from the intake lock in Cumberland to the tidal lock at Georgetown.

CANAL BIKE TRIPS

As far as we know, no one has ever bicycled the entire towpath. Several groups are interested in doing so, and are now straining at the leash -- we mean handle-bars -- waiting for weather that will permit it.

A group of 12 from St. Albans School, Washington, led by Chaplain Craig Eder, tried it in March, found the towpath hopelessly snow-covered, and settled for a road-biking trip from Harpers Ferry to Washington, stopping overnight at the Seneca Youth Hostel.

The Youth Hostelers have two attempts in their plans. One is a strong man's special - all the way in one continuous trip. The other is a series of three bike trips on separate weekends, connecting so as to cover the whole Canal. They will take careful notes of towpath condition from a biker's viewpoint, and we'll pass the report along through the Level Walker.

CANAL LOSES A FRIEND

The March death of Senator Richard L. Neuberger was a sore loss to the Canal, as it was to conservation forces generally. Dick Neuberger was a regular hiker on the Canal Association reunion trips, unrolling his sleeping bag to join us under the stars, and adding depth and meaning to our towpath chats.

Copy deadline, next LEVEL WALKER: May 9.
DIRECTORY OF LEVEL WALKERS

Mt. from Washington

1.0 GEORGETOWN TIDAL LOCK to OLD BOAT INCLINE
Rear Adm Neill Phillips
3053 P St., N.W., Wash-7
North 7-7362

2.1 OLD BOAT INCLINE to LOCK NO. 5
Beverly T. Thompson
221 5th St., S.E., Wash-3
Lincoln 3-1672

5.0 LOCK NO. 5 to CABIN JOHN CREEK
Philip J. Stone
3023 Macomb St., N.W., Wash-8
Woodley 6-0506

7.5 CABIN JOHN CREEK to LOCK 14
Hillyer G. Norment
5612 5th St., N.W., Wash-11
Randolph 3-1453

9.5 LOCK 14 to CROPLEY
Robert E. Harrigan
5113 Wehauken Rd., Wash-16
Oliver 6-1165

12.3 CROPLEY to GREAT FALLS (LOCK 20)
Robert A. McAra
4113 4th St., N., Arl-1, Va.
Jackson 2-1962

14.3 GREAT FALLS to SWAINS LOCK
Dr. James W. Johnston, Jr.
217 N. Wayne St., Arl-1, Va.
Jackson 7-8860

16.6 SWAINS LOCK to PENNYFIELD
Jean A. deAlpuget
338 N. Geo Mason Dr., Arl-3, Va.
Jackson 7-5367

19.6 PENNYFIELD to SENEGA AQUEDUCT
Justice Wm. O. Douglas
U.S. Supreme Court, Wash-25
Executive 3-1640

22.8 SENEGA AQUEDUCT to TENFOOT ISL. D.
Bruce Wald
55 Galveston Pl., S.W., Wash-24
Johnson 2-8564

25.3 TENFOOT ISL. D to SYCAMORE LANDING
Grant Conway
6032 Broad St., Wash-16
Oliver 2-5163

27.2 SYCAMORE LDG. to EDWARDS FERRY
Capt. G. R. Keating, USN
Nav Rec Sta BOQ 1-18, Wash-25

30.8 EDWARDS FERRY

30.8 EDWARDS FERRY to FT. HARRISON ISL.
Constant Southworth
4000 Cathedral Ave., Wash-16
Spruce 3-3626

33.2 FT. HARRISON ISL. to WHITES FERRY
John E. Connor
819 W. Glebe Rd., Alex., Va.
Temple 6-8767

35.5 WHITES FERRY to LOCK 26
Alburn J. Kennedy
Jackson 7-5259

39.4 LOCK 26 to MONOCACY AQUEDUCT
Anson G. Courter
3052 30th St., S.E., Wash-20
Ludlow 1-0553

42.2 MONOCACY AQUEDUCT to NOLANDS FERRY
Wm. W. Richardson
153 S. Aberdeen St., Arl-1, Va.
Jackson 8-2976

44.6 NOLANDS FERRY to POINT OF ROCKS
George W. Kline
106 W. 11th St., Frederick, Md.
Monument 3-6788

48.2 POINT OF ROCKS to CATOCTIN AQUED.
Gordon Fortney
908 N. Cleveland St., Arl., Va.
Jackson 8-2968

51.5 CATOCTIN AQ. to BRUNSWICK (LOCK 30)
Herbert E. White
Dickerson, Md.

55.0 BRUNSWICK to WEVERTON (LOCK 33)
Bart Hague
1906 Florida Ave., NW, Wash-9
Adams 4-0489

58.0 WEVERTON to HARPER'S FERRY (LOCK 33)
Michael Nadal
427 N. Pershing Dr., Arl-3, Va.
Jackson 5-6995

60.7 HARPER'S FERRY to DAM NO. 3
Orville W. Crowder
Box 7119, Balto. 18, Md.

62.4 DAM NO. 3 to DARGAN QUARRY
Sterling W. Edwards, Sr.
Myersville, Md.
Myersville 2861

65.1 DARGAN QUARRY to MTN LOCK (NO. 37)
Arnold C. Mason
3200 Lorcom Lane, Arl-7, Va.
Jackson 2-3525

67.0 MOUNTAIN LOCK (NO. 37)
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<td>Kenneth S. Rollins</td>
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<td>Charles O. Bracken</td>
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<td>Roy E. Stoney</td>
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<td>A. Risley Ensor</td>
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<td>Jacob E. Berkson</td>
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<td>Victor P. Conrad</td>
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<td>Donald S. Ebersole</td>
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<td>Walter W. Teach</td>
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<td>Helvin T. Kaplan</td>
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<td>Adam J. Harsh</td>
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<td>Clarence S. Baker</td>
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<td>Henry A. Munson</td>
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<td>Frederick C. Vantz</td>
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LEVEL WALKERS - continued

136.6 SIDE L. HILL AQU. to LITTLE ORLEANS
   Ralph Donnelly
   Hancock, Md.
   Orchard 8-6700

140.9 LITTLE ORLEANS to LOCK 59
   James E. Ward
   12 N. Church St., Hancock, Md.
   Orchard 8-6156

146.6 LOCK 59 to LOCK 60
   William F. Wagner
   508 Boyd Ave., Cumberland, Md.
   Parkview 4-2167

149.7 LOCK 60 to GREEN RIDGE STATION
   Robert J. Taylor
   635 Balto. Ave., Cumberland, Md.
   Parkview 2-3159

151.2 GREEN RIDGE STATION to LOCK 61
   Russell Mcgaughney
   523 Pine Avenue
   Cumberland, Md.

153.1 LOCK 61 to LOCK 63-1/3
   Robert Dougherty
   10 Smith St., Cumberland, Md.
   Parkview 2-8119

154.5 LOCK 63-1/3 to PAV. PAV. (MD. - 51)
   Sterling Edwards, Jr.
   State Teachers College
   Frostburg, Md.

156.3 PAV. PAV. to CULV. opp. LITT. CACAPON
   Hollis M. Seavey
   Radio WCMY, Cumberland, Md.
   Parkview 4-5400

159.7 OPP. LITT. CACAPON to TOWN CREEK
   Frederick J. Taylor
   Box 57
   Oldtown, Md.

162.3 TOWN CREEK AQUEDUCT to LOCK 68
   Charles E. Himes
   8 Miltenberger Pl., Cumb., Md.
   Parkview 4-9076

164.8 LOCK 68 to OLD TOWN (LOCK 71)
   Isaac T. Long
   Rt. 1, Box 205, Oldtown, Md.

167.0 OLD TOWN to KELLY'S ROAD CULVERT
   Miles G. Thompson
   Thompson Buick Co., Cumb., Md.
   Parkview 2-8100

170.8 KELLY'S ROAD CULVERT

170.8 KELLYS RD. CULV. to SPRING GAP
   Patrick T. Stakem
   Mgr. Algonquin Hotel
   Cumberland, Md.

173.4 SPRING GAP CULV. to NORTH BRANCH
   Lawrence W. Hallery, Sr.
   Box 52, Oldtown, Md.

175.6 NORTH BRANCH (LK 75) to PIPE LINE
   Kenneth P. McCarty
   Valentine's Hotel
   Route 1, Ridgeley, W. Va.
   Redwood 8-8915

177.7 PIPE LINE to EVITTS CR. AQUEDUCT
   Dr. Rudolph Steinberger
   Cresaptown, Md.
   Parkview 2-6197

180.7 EVITTS CREEK AQU. to WILEY FORD
   William F. Price
   328 Cumb. St., Cumberland, Md.
   Parkview 2-4600 (even)

182.6 WILEY FORD to CUMBERLAND
   Thomas P. Conlon, Jr.
   Algonquin Hotel Bldg.
   Cumberland, Md.
   Parkview 4-6776

184.5 CUMBERLAND (Intake Lock)

--- Number of Level Walkers ---

Washington - Seneca . . . . . . . . . 9
Seneca - Harpers Ferry . . . . . . . . 13
Harpers Ferry - Williamsport . . . . . 15
Williamsport - Hancock . . . . . . . . 10
Hancock - Paw Paw . . . . . . . . . . 12
Paw Paw - Cumberland . . . . . . . . 11

Total . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 70

--- Reports ---

Level Walkers endeavor to cover their Canal sections twice a year, usually spring and fall.

Reports should be submitted June 30 and December 31. Use the standard report form if it is available; otherwise a letter will suffice. Address Chairman Orville W. Crowder, Box 7149, Baltimore 18, Md.
**Preliminary Directory of Consultants**

"Consultants" are experts in one or more fields related to the interests of the Canal towpath and the surrounding area. They are people who have signified a willingness to make occasional trips with Level Walkers of contiguous sections - to locate things of interest within the consultant's specialty. They will also help thru correspondence, answering questions or making identifications.

This list is a preliminary one only. Additional names will be listed in the next "Level Walker".

---

### Botany

- Miss Lena Artz  
  Waterlick, Va.
- David Emery  
  53 Linden Avenue  
  Mercersburg, Penna.
- Dr. Jas. W. Johnston, Jr.  
  217 N. Wayne Street  
  Arlington 8, Va.  
  Jackson 7-8860

### Birds

- Orville W. Crowder  
  Box 71h9, Baltimore 18, Md.
- Richard M. Douglass  
  511 Talbot Street  
  Cumberland, Md.
- Clark Miller  
  Inwood, W. Va.
- Fred M. Packard  
  Lee Forest, Fairfax, Va.  
  Crescent 3-2709
- Philip J. Stone  
  3023 Macomb Street, N.W.  
  Washington 8, D. C.  
  Woodley 6-0506
- Ray P. Teele  
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### Geology

- Mrs. Isabella M. Coons  
  Windsor Mill Rd., Box 282  
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- William E. Davies  
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  Falls Church, Va.  
  JEfferson 2-100h
- Arnold C. Mason  
  3200 Lorcom Lane  
  Arlington 7, Va.  
  Jackson 2-3525
- Dr. Francis J. Pettijohn  
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### Animal Life

(Other than birds)

- Dr. Charles J. Stine, Jr.  
  6305 Belair Road  
  Baltimore 6, Md.  
  Hamilton 6-3540 (Res: VA 5-0770)
- Franklin Thompson  
  1702 21st Street, N. W.  
  Washington 6, D. C.  
  (M) - Mammals  
  (R) - Reptiles, Amphibians  
  (I) - Insects

### History

- Grant Conway  
  (C, CW)  
  6032 Broad St., Brookmont  
  Washington 16, D. C.  
  Oliver 2-6463
- Orville W. Crowder (C)  
  Box 71h9, Baltimore 18, Md
- John C. Frye  
  (C)  
  Gapland, Maryland  
  General 2-8870
- Ralph Donnelly  
  (CON)  
  Hancock, Maryland  
  Richard 8-6700

(C) - Canal History  
(CW) - Civil War History  
(CON) - Canal Construction