

ALONG THE TOWPATH

VOLUME VI

August 1974

Number 3

GOOD NEWS!

As of May 15, 1974 the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park was unified under one Superintendent, William R. Faylor, and separated from the other parks with which it was associated. Bill Faylor had been Superintendent of the C&O Canal and the Antietam Park. He is temporarily maintaining his headquarters at the Antietam Visitors Center in Sharpsburg, Md., pending a decision on the location for the C&O Canal Park headquarters.

MEMBER ACTION

In May, several members of the C&O Canal Association participated significantly in stopping logging of the Paw Paw Bends, an area that, while privately owned now, is to be bought by the State of Maryland and kept as a wild area. Alan Franklin, Level Walker at the Paw Paw Tunnel section, received word from a friend that this logging was being conducted in a remote part of the Bends. He conveyed this to Dick Stanton and Bill Faylor, both of NPS, who investigated the location and found it to be bought by the State for the Green Ridge State Forest. Upon further investigation, they learned that the State and the owners had not yet agreed upon a price and that the State would, in December, proceed with condemnation action to acquire it.

NPS was therefore powerless to act -- right-of-way was guaranteed the owners and the State was committed to acquire it. The Association sponsored a trip to the site, in which Carl Linden, Nancy Long, John Howard, Ed Wesely, Bob Greenberg, and Barbara Yeaman participated. John, a trained forester, wrote a paper criticising the methods used and described the erosion problems that were certain to result. Further investigation determined that no environmental paper on sediment control had been filed with the State, thereby giving the State legal recourse. However, the State was slow to act until a telegram was sent by Senators Mathias and Beall and Congressmen Byron and Gude. This telegram produced immediate action and within a few days the State had stopped the logging. A new offer has been made by the State and is being considered by the owners, an outdoor club.

Kudos are in order to Alan Franklin, Bob Greenberg (who took over following up possible recourse because Alan did not have time), and John Howard for reporting the problem, following it up with appropriate parties, and writing a report that should have been done by the State. Of course, our four Members of Congress deserve our gratitude for having forced the State to take action before the logging was completed. This action seems a good example of what the Association, through both its members and its citizen/political operations can do to help protect the Canal and its environs.

As a result of the above, the Association has formed a "Watchdog Committee" to follow up on reports of similar activities affecting the quality and character of the Canal. The members are: Ed Wesely, Chairman, (301) 653-3119; Bob Greenberg, (301) 229-4141; Bill Davies (703) 532-7588; Nancy Long (301) 229-0196; and Bruce Wood (301) 229-5182. Call any of the members if you notice something you believe violates the objectives of the Park.

HELP

The Association expects to soon lose its legal advisor, Smith Brookhart, to other parts. Since we are occasionally in need of legal advice on a level well below that of the Supreme Court, we would greatly appreciate the offer of a lawyer's services. If any of our lawyer members is willing to assist us, please contact Carl Linden, (301) 229-2398, 6406 Ridge Drive, Brookmont, Washington, D. C. 20016.

ADVISORY COMMISSION NEWS

Next Meeting: August 24, 1974; 9:00 a.m., Mather Center (NPS), Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

The Commission has two more new members: Henry Miller, Paw Paw, W.Va. 25434; and Anthony (Tony) Abar, Chief of Program Planning, Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland 21404. They represent West Virginia and Maryland, respectively.

May 25, 1974 - Harpers Ferry - The Commission discussed the Paw Paw Bends logging operation (see Member Action, P. 1), heard the Army Corps of Engineers present a vastly revised (and improved) proposal for the estuarine pumping station above Chain Bridge in the Potomac (the original proposal was 30 feet high, this is eight feet; concrete before, native rock facing this time, etc.), and the Fairfax County Park Authority reported on a development proposal for River Bend Park, upstream of Great Falls. Land acquisition is now 60% complete with 713 ownerships purchased. Carl Linden reported on the 1974 Justice Douglas Hike. An historical study of the Catocin Aqueduct was presented. Reports on the volunteer work performed (3500 volunteer hours to date) and the status of the Master Plan followed. There was also a report on the status of the Cumberland Canal Boat project.

STUDY HIKES

An Historical Study Hike was led by Tom Kahn on June 22 between Dargan Bend and Lock 38. This hike was announced in the last newsletter on an erroneous date and so was participated in by only a dozen hikers. Our apologies for the confusion about the date of that hike. The dates of the hikes noted below are fixed unless prior notice is made. We had a very interesting and leisurely walk with Tom, climbing around both sides of the Canal, exploring culverts, and investigating little-known or nearly invisible aspects of the area. It was a good hike enjoyed by all participants.

The schedule for future study hikes is noted below (none are scheduled during summer). A few general guidelines should be noted: All hikes (unless noted) will be one-way walking hikes covering approximately ten miles of the towpath. Each will have a specific topic around which the hike will orient. Lunch should be carried on all hikes since we expect most to last much of the day. The pace will be leisurely, off-towpath walking will be completely optional. We will meet at one end, drive some cars and all participants to the other end and walk back. Drivers will be returned to their cars following the hike. Please meet at the designated meeting place; logistical problems may result if people meet us at the opposite end. An optional camp-out will usually be available following the hike (on Saturday night). NPS regulations prohibit sleeping in vehicles at most camping areas, so tents are required. Occasionally we may use Hiker-Bikers, in which case the gear must be carried for some distance. If a Hiker-Biker is to be used, the hike notice will advise that. No advance reservations are required so every participant is responsible for his (her) own lunch, transportation, camping food, cooking equipment, and camping gear. Because no reservations are required, we will have no way of knowing who will be joining the hike and so any transportation arrangements must be made by you if you need transportation. The above is all the hike information there is -- please do not call me to re-iterate it, I have several other Association-related and personal things to accomplish. Please plan to save this information and the hike details if you plan to join the hikes.

September 28 - Historical Study Hike. Meet 9:30 a.m. at Monocacy Aqueduct parking lot. Hike begins at Catoctin Aqueduct. Leader Ed Wesely. Bring lunch. Optional camping at Indian Flats Hiker-Biker near Monocacy Aqueduct Saturday night -- must carry in camping gear.

October 19 - Annual Level Walker Hike. Meet 9:30 a.m. at Thompson's Boat House (Tidal Lock) at intersection Rock Creek Parkway and Virginia Avenue, D.C. Hike begins there, goes to Lock 5, and returns to Tidal Lock. Leaders: Rae Lewis (History, etc. Section 1) and Marilyn DeLoach (Natural History, etc. Section 2). Bring lunch. No camping option arranged. No restaurant meeting as in prior years.

November 16 - Geology Study Hike. Meet 9:30 a.m. at Oldtown (Lock 70) NPS Parking lot near Maryland Route 51. Hike begins at North Branch. Leader Bill Davies. Bring lunch. Optional camping at Spring Gap drive-in camp area Saturday night. No water in camp area.

December 14 - Natural History Study Hike. Meet 9:30 a.m. at Great Falls Tavern near Potomac, Md. Hike begins at Seneca Aqueduct. Leaders Ruth and Ed Smith. Bring lunch. Camping permit for Marsden Tract will be requested, for group camping.

NOTES

In the remarks about the Twentieth Justice Douglas Hike contained in the last newsletter, I failed to note that Congressman Hansen of Idaho joined us on the last day and that Blair Bower hiked the entire distance, starting with us and ending with us but having to miss some days in between due to business obligations. He hiked at a faster pace than we did in order to cover the entire distance.

No decision has yet been made on the badge material due to a need for additional votes. Please let us know your preference if you have not voted. The ballot was included on the last page of the May 1974 newsletter.

Inquiries have been made about the Association's officers. They are the same as noted previously, their tenure being three years and having been elected in 1972. Elections will again be held at the 1975 business meeting. They are: Carl Landen, President; Alan Franklin, First Vice-President; Bruce Wood, Second V-P. and Level Walker Chairman; Nancy Long, Secretary; and Douglas Greene, Treasurer.

TOM HAHN ADVISES

He will be revising Section Two of the Towpath Guide this autumn. Corrections, additions, suggestions welcomed. Send them to Tom at P.O. Box 638, Glen Echo, Md. 20768. Revised Section One is available from Tom for \$2.50.

He has some C&O Canal Association Window Decals available for 25 cents and a self-addressed envelope - send to above address.

A ten page catalog of canal publications is available from the American Canal and Transportation Center, 809 Rathton Road, York, Pennsylvania 17403.

LEVEL WALKERS

We have lost one of our most active and best Level Walkers, Ray P. Teele. He passed away in February, 1974. His wife, Marion, has moved to Fort Collins, Colorado. He is definitely missed by his many friends in the Association. His reports are also missed.

Orville Crowder, a founder of the modern day Level Walkers and active Appalachian Trail Conference member, passed away August 6, 1974. He had been a patient in the Charles Town, West Virginia hospital.

On a cheasier note, there has been a record amount of activity since the annual hike. A total of 96 people or families are now assigned to the 69 sections into which the Canal is divided. Only one section remains unassigned - Spring Gap to North Branch, mile 173.4 to 175.5 - and a number of sections have two level walkers assigned to them.

All Level Walkers are reminded that your assignment is not just an honor -- it is also a duty. I must receive written reports from each of you at least twice a year to know the conditions of the Canal. If I do not hear from you at least once during any 18 month period, during which three reports should have been submitted, I must assume you are no longer interested and I will assign the section to someone else, without prior notice to you. Since demand is presently high, I will soon be reviewing the files to see what assignments are open. If you are in doubt about your status, your best action is to file a report. Please send it to: Bruce Wood, 6200 Winnebago Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20016.

Recent assignments and/or reassignments include: Carrie Johnson (Section 1), William Hussman (6), John Anderson (7), Larry Harris (7), Russell Baker (10), Joseph Paull (10), Woody & Barty Kennedy (15), Robert Flynn (18), Fred Nolte (23), Jack & Dot Geary (24 & 25), The Richard Wilson Family (24), The J. Randolph Wilson Family (25), The Kenneth Robinson Family (32), The Harold Vreeland Family (33), Stanley Love and BSA Troop 1112 (42 & 43), A. Kretzer McGraw (42), John Buescher (44), John Howard (48), Ralph French (49), Betty Buescher (50), Mary Dwyer (50), Fay Whyte (51), Edith & Marvin Wilkerson (60), Mike & Bernice Sesler (64), and Robert Gormer (69).

R E P O R T S

0.0 Tidal Lock to Old Boat Incline, Carrie Johnson made "A totally unsurprising report of her section being as popular as ever, getting badly overgrown, and still needing signing. Rae Lewis updated previous reporting information. Tow Path Cycle no longer rents bicycles; Big Wheel, 337-0254, 1034 33rd St., N.W., does rent bicycles. Restoration of the towpath to Lock 5 is finished, the Canal is being rewatered.

5.0 Lock 5 to Cabin John Creek, Philip Stone reports "reasonably good" towpath, water above Lock 6, a delta of eroded soil completely blocking the canal near Sycamore Is., and work on a footbridge to replace the one at Cabin John. No litter; increased use.

19.6 Pennyfield to Seneca, Bill Clague notes that Muddy Branch Culvert is repaired (NPS advises the section is rewatered) and the towpath is in good condition. Motorcycle tracks were seen on the towpath - motor vehicles are not permitted on the towpath, please report any seen to the Park Police or National Park Service.

35.5 Whites Ferry to Lock 26, Woody and Barty Kennedy reported on a Wanderbirds trip which included their section and a chat with their Ranger, Ken Hensley. The Marble Quarry Hiker-Biker is reported as clean and there was little trash along the walk.

48.2 Point of Rocks to Catoctin Aqueduct, Marie Grenan does report much trash near the U.S. 15 bridge, people camping there (illegal), and loose timber in the canal bed. The Bald Eagle Island Hiker-Biker is in good condition. The stones from the Catoctin Aqueduct have been recovered and stored and stabilization work is proceeding.

74.0 Lock 39 to Snyders Landing, Eugene Maddex reports Lock 39 to be in good shape. Water is flowing into the Canal bed near a high wall at 76.7 and could cause problems. He generally reports good conditions and a beautiful section.

76.7 Snyders Landing to Marsh Run Culvert, The Cramers (Harold Sr., Harold Jr., and William) joined forces to report on their two sections. They report significant use, both by humans and birds.

94.4 Falling Waters to Williamsport, Mel Kaplan reports excellent towpath in the lower portion and Lock 43 is in good shape. Walter Teach reports 300 yards of stagnant water in the other end of the section, near Lock 44.

105.0 Old Railroad Station to Dam 5, Hooper Wolfe tells of good conditions and high usage. He also commented on access points on upstream while showing friends the Canal.

136.6 Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct to Little Orleans, Don Ramsey reports new NPS signs on Orleans Road. Gaps in the railings of the Aqueducts have been filled with wooden railings. A sapling is growing in the hearth of Lockhouse 57 - watch the doorway, the lintel is crumbling and the door is short. Indigo Neck Hiker-Biker is in good shape. Little Orleans drive-in campground is heavily used, but apparently most users do not use the Canal.

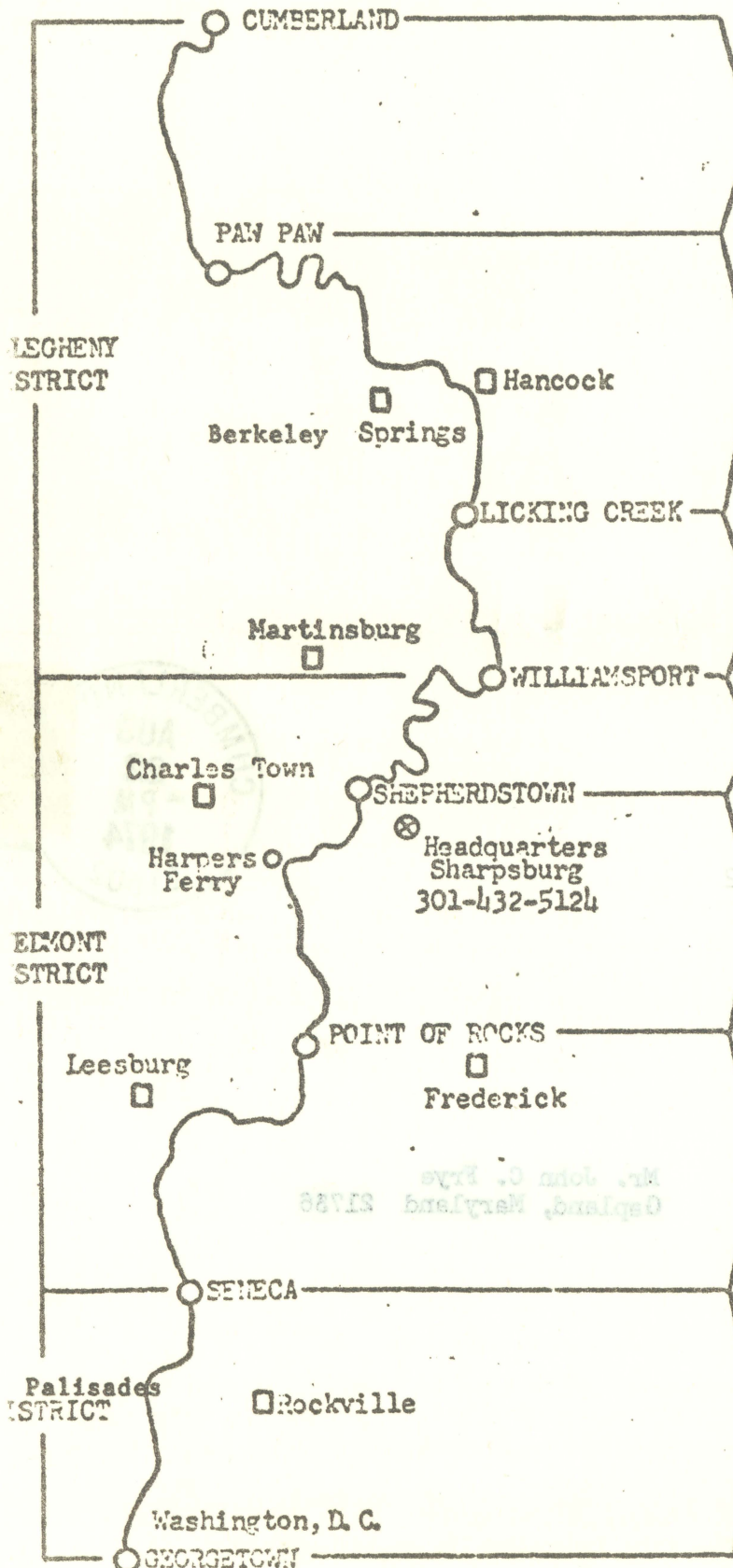
164.8 Lock 68 to Oldtown, Bruce and Sherry Wood reported on the visit during the 1974 hike. Co-walkers included the Park Superintendent, the Advisory Commission Chairman, and the 1974 hikers. Conditions were very good.

C&O Canal National Historical Park
National Park Service

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

DAYTIME - Call District Office or
Headquarters at Antietam
Battlefield Visitor Center,
Sharpsburg, Maryland
301-432-5124
(8:00AM to 4:30PM)

NIGHT- Call nearest Park Ranger or
Chief IRRM at 432-5136



Park Ranger
M. Mastrangelo
301-724-3206

Allegheny District
Oldtown Office
301-395-5519
Hancock Office
301-678-5463

Park Ranger
301-678-6366

District Ranger
J. Paro
301-842-2196

Park Ranger
P. Cooper
301-797-7318

Park Ranger
T. Bradley
301-432-6754

Piedmont District
Sharpsburg Office
301-432-2136

Park Ranger
B. Fluharty
304-725-5717

District Ranger
Harvey Sorenson

Park Ranger
K. Hensley
301-342-5164

Palisades District
District Ranger Great Falls Office
E. D'Amico 301-299-3613
703-893-5348

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Chief Warden at 432-5134

Park Ranger
W. Mansueti
301-432-3200
District Office
301-355-5519
Hancock Office
301-678-5163
District Ranger
J. Park
301-841-2196
Park Ranger
301-678-5366
District Ranger
P. Cooper
301-432-5134
Park Ranger
T. Bradburn
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