



C&O Canal Association

along the towpath ...

concerned with the conservation of the natural and
historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin

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WHAT?
WHEN?
WHERE?

OUR 22ND REUNION!

1976 Justice Douglas Hike:

FRIDAY 4/23:

Annual Business Meeting: 7:45 p.m., April 23, at the Hancock Intermediate School. Business will include election of five Board members; Potomac River legislation; Canal affairs, etc...

Friday Night Camp-Out: At Tonoloway State Park, on Rt. 144 about a mile beyond the west end of Hancock. This is a beautiful, secluded spot (see map), but water may be a problem. Members who plan to camp there may want to clean up at the Intermediate school after the business meeting. (There are toilets at the park, and barring freezing weather, drinking water should be available).

Motel Accomodations: For "softies" there are a number of indoor "retreats" in Hancock and nearby Berkeley Springs, W. Va.. Make your own reservations WELL IN ADVANCE. Hancock Motel (301-678-6108); in Berkeley: Park Haven Motor Lodge (304-258-1734); Park View Inn (304-258-2210); Mountain State Motel (304-258-2523); Berkeley Springs Motel (304-258-1776); Coolfont (304-258-1793).

Friday Dinner and Saturday Breakfast: You're on your own. There are many good restaurants in Hancock.

Turn the page for more details . . .



SATURDAY 4/24:

THE HIKE: our twenty-second annual reunion since the Justice Douglas hike in March, 1954.

The hike will begin at Little Orleans, on Saturday, April 24 at 9:30 am.

If the Board approves the Hike Committee's recommendation, we plan a hike upriver that will allow two options: walking the canal towpath ten miles to the far side of Stickpile Hill (busses back to Little Orleans for a small fee);

OR, a loop hike for the venturesome: going upriver (four miles) on the abandoned Western Maryland RR right-of-way, and returning to Little Orleans on the canal towpath (about six miles). This route crosses the Potomac twice on railroad bridges, and gives a chance to explore the interesting "Doe Gulley" area in West Virginia. The bridges are safe for adults and supervised kids, and the views spectacular.

Use of the Western Maryland hinges on Board approval of a waiver that will release the Railroad from liability. Non-Association members can also use this route (they will be considered "trespassers", absolving the Railroad of responsibility for their safety). The Railroad has already approved these plans.

Hike Lunch: Lunch stop for all hikers will be at the north (downriver) end of the Stickpile Tunnel. Association members can order a box lunch provided by Weaver's Restaurant and delivered to the Stickpile site for \$2.50. It is a big lunch and would probably feed two kids: 2 ham sandwiches, baked beans, potato chips, fruit and a drink! Reservation deadline is April 19.

Shower Facilities: After the hike those who want to clean up may use the Hancock High School showers. Bring your own soap and towel. Showers are open from 4:30 to 6:30. (Hancock Hi is on Rt. 144 just west of town - see map.) No charge for showers.

Happy Hour: Cash Bar at the Park Service Visitor Center in Hancock from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The NPS Visitor Center is an easy walk (3 blocks) from the Intermediate School. See map.

Banquet: The annual C & O Canal Association banquet will be in Hancock, at the Intermediate School at 7:30 p.m., April 24. Fee for a turkey dinner is \$6.00. Persons attending the banquet must make advance reservations by Mon. April 19.

Banquet Program: Speaker will be Nathaniel Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The program will include a 15 minute slide presentation by the Park Service Historic Restoration Team, who will discuss major repair and stabilization work done on the Canal so far.

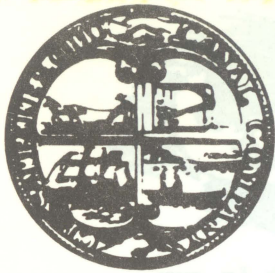
Objectives of the 1976 Hike: Last year we involved the Town of Brunswick in our Hike, and looked at a badly neglected stretch of Canal between Harpers Ferry and Point of Rocks.

The Hike Committee sees at least four objectives:

- The delay in defining a hike route has been from our desire to use part of the Western Maryland roadbed. This winter several members of the Hike Committee walked the railroad from Tonoloway Ridge to Paw Paw, were struck by its potential as a trail, and wanted our members to see it. After much planning and negotiation, we now think this is possible.

Address _____

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LEVEL WALKER REPORTS:

Tidal Lock to Old Boat Incline, Section 1, Mile 0.0-2.3

Miss Carrie Johnson...The towpath was in good condition. Recent improvements are the landscaping by the Georgetown Garden Club of the area at 31 St. that honors Justice Douglas, and repairs of the south bank of the Canal at 30 St. as part of a shopping and office complex adjacent to the Canal. However, as the Antiques and Artisans warehouse is now closed, the public rest-room and telephone service at that location are no longer available.

Miss Rae T. Lewis...On a sunny day in early January, there were no other visitors on the entire Georgetown section, (this is unusual), however, there was the usual collection of winter trash in the Canal (including discarded Christmas trees) but not quite as much as in some past years.

Dam No. 4 to Charles Mill, Section 33, Mile 84.4-88.1

Robert M. Dodds...Reconstruction work by the NPS has changed the appearance of this area, but a billboard put up by their personnel explain the reasons for the changes.

Foremans Ferry to Lock 43, Section 35, Mile 91.0-93.0

L. B. Lovell...From Lock 41 (Mile 88.9) to Lock 43, Mr. Lovell found the towpath hard and dry, providing pleasant winter walking conditions. Fauna observed included great blue herons and a large group of Mallards on the Potomac.

Williamsport to Pinesburg Station, Section 38, Mile 99.3-102.0

Melvin I. Kaplan...Mr. Kaplan reports Hurricane Eloise did no significant damage on this area. The NPS has purchased a number of cottages on the land between the Canal and the river. And of historical note: the Williamsport Bicentennial Celebration will be held August 26-29 and in the works is construction of an Indian village south of the west end of Conococheague Aqueduct.

Old RR Station to Dam No. 5, Section 40, Mile 105.0-106.8

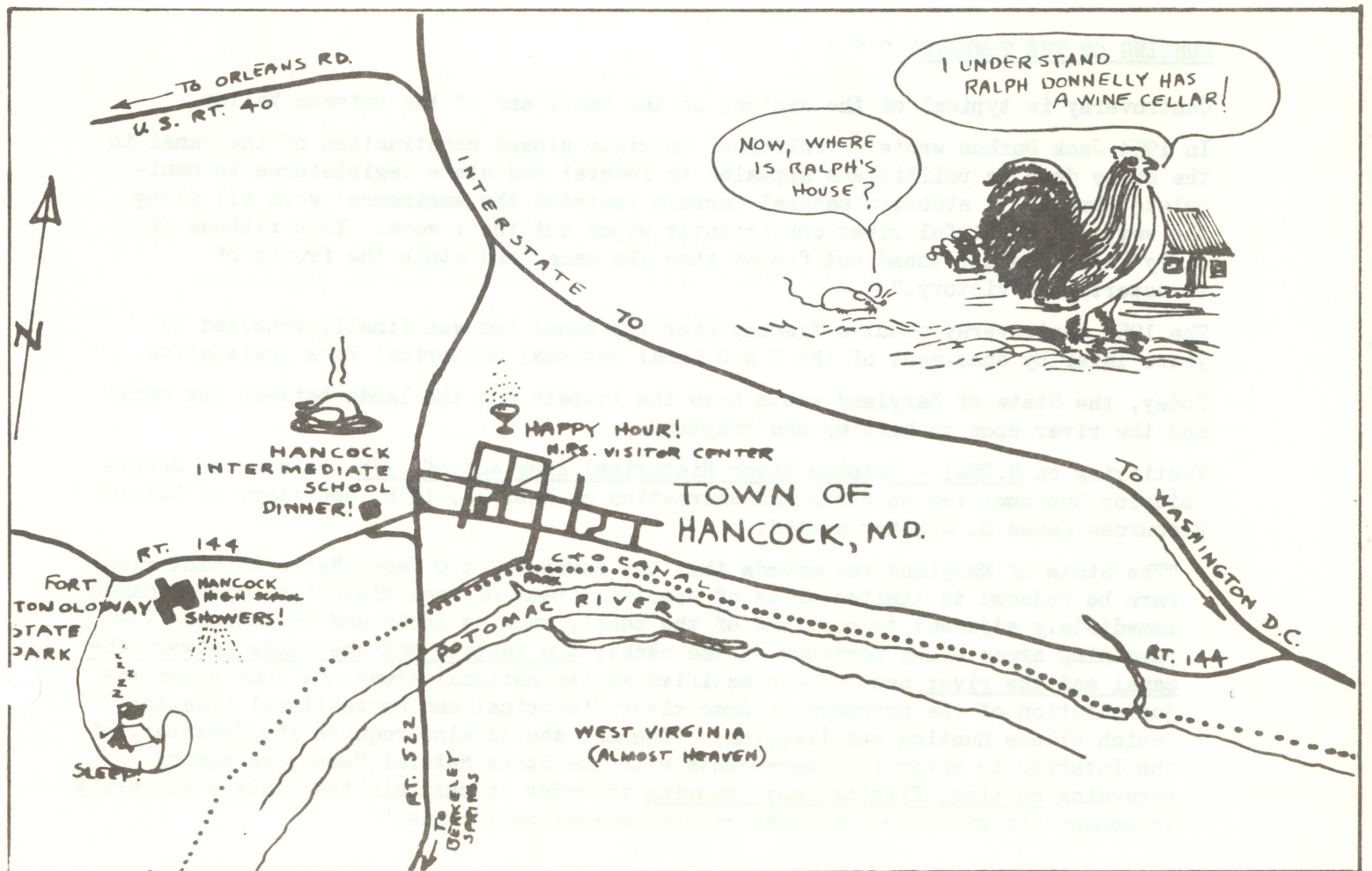
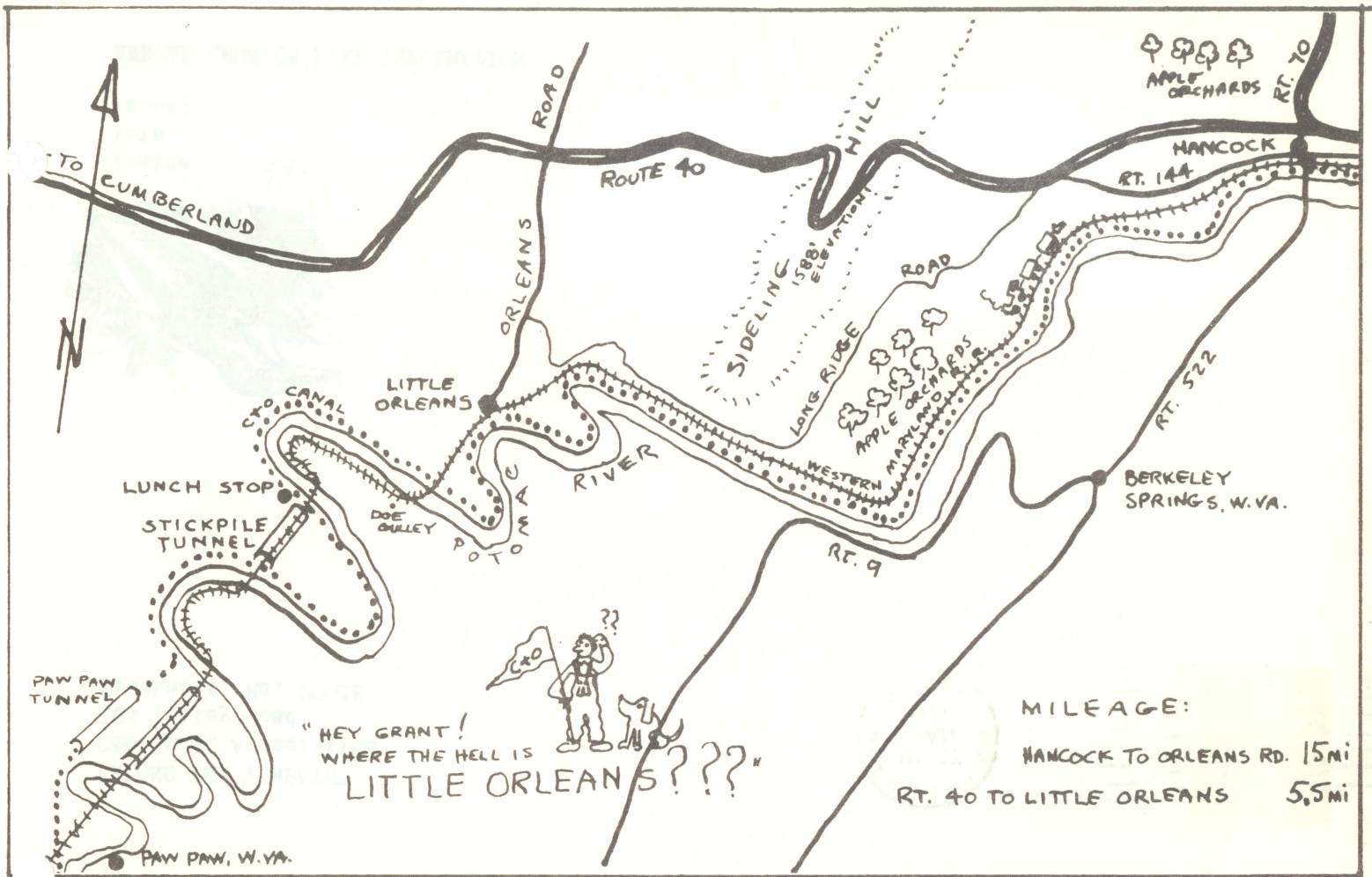
Geo. W. "Hooper" Wolfe...Mr. Wolfe reports that Dam No. 5 has been well restored on this well travelled area of the Canal. (Weatherwise, however, on Groundhog's Day this year the temperature was 1° above zero).

Ft. Frederick to Ernestville, Section 44, Mile 112.4-114.5

Jane and Harold Larsen...Walking the area on February 16, the day was warm--temperature about 70°--but they noted a good deal of brush and litter needing to be removed and muddy places and bike-tire ruts on the towpath. Birdwatchers were encountered who reported sighting about 20 species in the hour they had been walking.

Mile 120 to Hancock, Section 47, Mile 120.0-124.1

James C. Bryant...The towpath and Canal were in good condition on four walks in 1975. Tonoloway Aqueduct is still closed, although stabilization work is making progress.



Inside
this
Issue:



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HUNTING ON THE TOWPATH? ? ?

Controversy is typical of the history of the canal and of the Potomac Valley.

In 1954 Jack Durham wrote: "Political intrigue slowed construction of the canal in the early days as politicians appealed to federal and state legislatures to manipulate grants. A stubborn natural terrain resisted the engineers' work all along the way, and a willful river consistently wiped out their work. Thin ribbons of early railroads stretched out faster than the canal and stole the fruits of transportation victory."

The 1954 controversy about a freeway over the canal bed was finally resolved 17 years later by enactment of the C & O Canal National Historical Park legislation.

Today, the State of Maryland would have the towpath and the lands between the canal and the river open to hunting and trapping.

Testifying on S.2561 - Potomac River Historical Area Act of 1975, before the Senate Interior Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation on Feb. 24, 1976, Secretary of Natural Resources James B. Coulter stated:

"The State of Maryland recommends that the current C & O Canal National Historical Park be reduced to limited areas of specific items of real historical significance immediately adjacent to portions of the canal, such as locks and buildings. The remaining areas along portions of the canal, the towpath and the lands between the canal and the river should be classified as recreational areas and come under the jurisdiction of the proposed Potomac River Historical and Recreational Area Act." (which allows hunting and trapping) "The Act should also require the Secretary of the Interior to enter into agreements with the State Natural Resources agency regarding hunting, fishing, and trapping in order to maintain the State's authority to manage the wildlife resources on the recreational lands."