

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

President: Bonnie Troxell, 612 Montgomery Ave., Cumberland, Md. 21502

Level Walker Chairman: John Howard, 10598 Jason Ct., Columbia, Md. 21043

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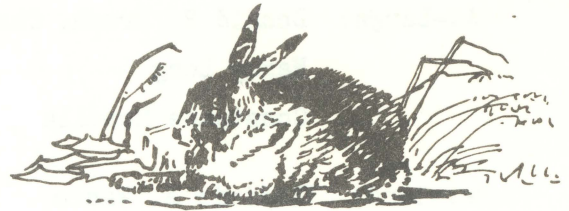
Editor: Barbara Yeaman, 104 Valley Rd., Brookmont, Md. 20016

LOCK HISTORY WALK

Saturday, January 29, 9:30 a.m.: Meet at parking lot at Riley's Lock, Seneca, Md. Walk to Violet's and Pennyfield Locks and hear a discussion of the interesting history of each lock and its environs. Return to Seneca for a brown bag lunch and join the NPS Park Ranger for his group tour and talk of the Seneca area at 2 p.m. Hike distance 6 miles.

TUNE - UP FOR THE ANNUAL HIKE

Saturday, March 26, 9:30 a.m.: Today we should see and enjoy signs of spring. Meet at Lock #38 opposite Shepherdstown, W. Va., and walk to Mountain Lock for a brown bag lunch. Depending on the weather and hiker's mood we can continue on to Dargan Bend in the afternoon. Ken Rollins will narrate some of the natural and man made history in this section. Distance 6 to 10 miles.



ANNUAL DOUGLAS REUNION HIKE

Saturday, April 30: Plans are yet to be finalized, but the Annual Hike this year will take place the last Saturday in April, and will begin at White's Ferry and end at Point of Rocks. The banquet will be held somewhere in the Sugarloaf Mountain area, probably Barnesville. Congressman Joseph Fisher of Virginia will be a featured speaker. We hope to arrange camping for Friday evening, and have yet to arrange a place for the business meeting before the hike. Now that Congressman Morris Udall is Chairman of the House Interior Committee perhaps we can celebrate dedication of the Canal or some part of it to Justice Douglas with this year's hike. In spite of our testimony in support of such dedication last year, the bill failed at the last minute before Congressional adjournment in October.

C & O ASSN. BOARD MEETINGS

The Williamsport Canal Club was host to the C & O Canal Association Board Meeting in November. We met before the official meeting to inspect Lock House 44 to determine whether it would be a suitable Level Walker's Headquarters. The exterior has been well preserved by the NPS, but the interior would require a great deal of work to be made habitable. After the meeting, "Hooper" Wolfe sent me a copy of a tape recording of the 1958 Canal Asso. meeting that included a talk by Justice Douglas and several other charter members. I have made a copy of the tape for our association files and perhaps we can play it at the annual meeting if there is enough interest. Thanks "Hooper"!

Some Board Action in 1976:

- ** Letter to the Park Service requesting an alternative mowing policy along the towpath that would take into consideration blooming and fruiting times for preservation of wild flowers.
- ** Supported Ken Rollins for membership on Canal Commission to fill Grant Conway's term.
- ** Questioned desirability of construction of a wood and concrete bike bridge from Lock 15 to 250' downstream. An impact study is now being prepared by the Park Service to ascertain if there may be an alternate solution less damaging to the rocks and scenic beauty of this exceptional wide water area.

NEW C & O CANAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Secretary of the Interior, Kleppe announced the appointment of a new C & O Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission in December. These new appointments replace the old Commission whose term expired November 1976. They will serve a five year term of office expiring in 1980.

At-Large; Donald R. Frush, Chairman
Nancy Long
Constance Morella

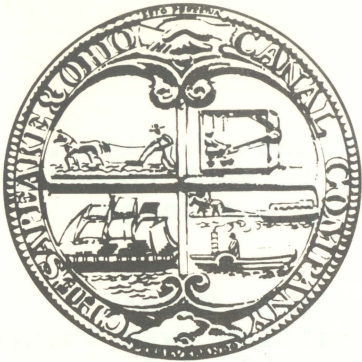
D. C.: Lorenzo W. Jacobs, Jr.
Rockwood H. Foster

Maryland: Vladimir A. Wahbe
James B. Coulter
R. Lee Downey
John C. Frye
Bonnie Troxell
Ronald A. Clites
Kenneth S. Rollins
Edwin F. Wesely
James H. Gilford
Minnie Pohlmann

Virginia: Dorothy Grotos

W. Va.: Dayton C. Casto, Jr.
Silas F. Starry

We congratulate them all and wish them well in their new appointments, and at the same time would like to thank the members of the first Commission for their outstanding performance in advising and establishing priorities set forth in the Park Service' C & O Canal Master Plan.



LEVEL WALKER REPORTS:

LEVEL WALKER REPORTS ARE EXPECTED TWICE A YEAR AND SHOULD BE SENT TO
CHAIRMAN: John K. Howard, 10598 Jason Court, Columbia, MD 21044
301-730-4489 (home) or 301-594-4681 (office)

Level walker reports are used by National Park Service and the C & O Canal Advisory Commission. If possible, three copies of each report should be sent so a copy can be sent to each of the above without delay. Summaries published in "Along The Towpath" are sometimes delayed because of receipt date/publishing date timing.

Level Walkers are required to be dues-paying members of the C & O Canal Association and to submit one written report, however brief, within eighteen consecutive months.

Please contact the Level Walker Chairman to:

- a) volunteer to act as level walker
- b) request a change in levels
- c) resign as a level walker

Sect. 3 5.0 Lock 5 to Cabin John Creek Philip J. Stone...Mr. Stone reports his section fully rewatered. Locks, lockhouses, and bridges are in reasonably good condition but the high water of October 10-13 did do some damage to the towpath.

Sect. 7 14.3 Great Falls to Swain's Lock Larry, Sue, and Reed Harris...The Harris family found the towpath in good repair on an inspection in late October. They also feel the Park Service should be commended for taking such good care of this heavily used area.

Sect. 8 16.6 Swain's Lock to Pennyfield Lock Joan Paull..."The towpath is in very poor condition for almost a mile upstream from Swain's and for at least a half mile down from Pennyfield's...This three mile section is not ready for biking."

Sect. 13 Edward's Ferry to Ft. Harrison Island (Mile 30.8) Napier Shelton...Mr. Shelton found minimal damage following the October flooding.

Sect. 14 33.2 Ft. Harrison Island to White's Ferry Morris Green...On Thanksgiving Day the Turtle Run H/B campground was found to be neat and clean. ("The NPS is to be commended.") However, the grocery store and snack bar at White's Ferry is closed for the winter.

Sect. 16 39.4 Lock 26 to Monocacy Aqueduct Anson Courter...October floodwaters in Monocacy did not rise to towpath level and there was little damage to work on the aqueduct.

Sect. 20 51.5 Catoctin Aqueduct to Brunswick Lock 30 Raymond Martin...The towpath in September was in fairly good condition. Although there were some potholes, it was adequate for bicycling.

Sect. 22 58.0 Weverton to Harper's Ferry Lock 33 M. and M. Heimer...Bikers beware; this area is rough on cycling. And "the little steep access road from Rt. 340 (just before the River Bridge) down to the old canal level road to Sandy Hook is barricaded."

Sect. 24 62.3 Dam 3 to Dargan Quarry The Richard A. Wilson family... After the highwaters in October the towpath was still in good condition although there was still one small washout just east of the Dargan boat launch which would be a hinderance to bikers.

Sect. 25 65.1 Dargan Quarry to Mt. Lock 37 The J. Randolph Wilson family...The towpath was still in reasonably good condition even though the Potomac had crested $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet above it around Milepost 66.5 during the flooding.

Sect. 29 74.0 Lock 39 to Snyder's Landing Reynold Sawatsky...An inspection just after the flood found serious erosion of the towpath in several places.

Sect. 34 and 35 88.1 Charles Mill to Lock 43 Leander B. (Lee) Lovell... High water left logs and debris on the towpath but except for two washes affecting it between miles 89 and 90 the flooding did no serious damage.

Sect. 38 99.3 Williamsport to Pinesburg Station Melvin I Kaplan... A walk in November found the towpath in excellent condition.

Sect. 40 105.0 Old RR Station to Dam 5 George "Hooper" Wolfe...On October 18 the area was being heavily used and in good condition.

Sect. 42 108.6 Lock 47 to McCoy's Ferry A. K. McGraw...Almost no damage from the flood. The area is very popular with cyclists including, on October 20, three men cycling from Windsor, Canada to Florida.

Sect. 47 120.0 Mile 120 to Hancock Lane S. Hart, IV...The towpath is in good condition and the campsite at Little Pool well looked after.

Sect. 49 127.3 Roundtop Hill to Lock 53 Ralph E. French..."Extensive damage was caused by the recent flood water...Bikes cannot be ridden for several hundred yards."

Sect. 52 136.6 Sideling Hill Aqueduct to Little Orleans Don Ramsey..."Towpath and canal untouched by flood throughout section."

Sect. 53 140.9 Little Orleans to Lock 59 Bill and Florrie Canfield... The length of the section was in relatively good condition, considering the amount of rain in October. "For the majority of our section, the Park Service is doing a splendid job of maintaining the towpath."

Sect. 54 146.6 Lock 59 to Lock 60 Doris Bailey and Dorothy Johnson..."Multi-sized limestone has been used to surface worn areas of the path. Bicycle use of these areas has turned a modern 10-speed into an 1890 Bone Crusher."

Sect. 59 156.3 Paw Paw to Culvert Opposite Little Cacapon Robert Stevenson..."Physical condition of towpath excellent. NPS continuing to make repairs in this section."

Sect. 63 167.0 Oldtown to Kellys Road Culvert George E. Lomas...In spite of the heavy rain, the towpath was in good condition for hiking, and satisfactory condition for cycling."

TENTATIVE MEETING

Sunday, March 20: After discussion at the Dec. Board meeting about lack of contact with the general membership, we have made tentative plans to have an open meeting for all association members at Harpers Ferry in the NPS Mather Training Center. Time will be 2:30 on Sunday, March 20. More information in the next newsletter. Officers are finding that serving in one office for 3 years is too long, and have suggested returning to the old system of serving for one year with the option of running for the same office again if desired. This will give people a chance to serve in different capacities and also give an opportunity for more and newer members to bring fresh ideas into the association.

MARYLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

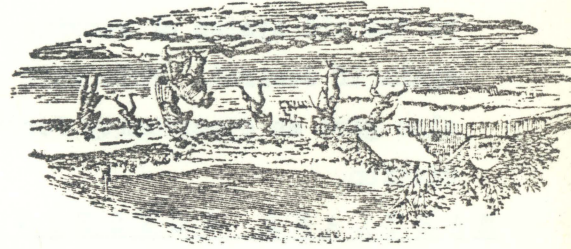
The C & O Canal Association is now actively represented in two important organizations dealing with conservation and planning for the Potomac River region. The Maryland Conservation Council is a statewide "umbrella" group of organizations like the Audubon Society, Canoe Cruisers, Potomac River Assn., Federated Garden Clubs of Md., Maryland Wildlands Committee, Izaak Walton League of Talbot County, Citizen's Coalition on Surface Mining, and the Maryland Wetlands Committee. Always active lobbying in behalf of the environment in Annapolis during the state legislative sessions each spring, they also publish a "Conservation Report" that is mailed weekly during the legislative session. It includes a summary of action of the preceeding week and a preview of action to be expected the following week. Each issue features a guest editor who describes a particular environmental problem in the state and what if any action has been taken by MCC and/or the Delegation and Senate. If you have ever been in the frustrating position of reading about a particular bill just voted down without knowing when you could have taken action to support it, the "Conservation Report" is valuable. It carries news seldom found in your newspapers. If you would like to subscribe, send \$10.00 to William Wilson, 2754 Riva Road, Annapolis, Md. 21401. (Make checks to "Conservation Report")

WATER RESOURCES PLANNING BOARD

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Water Resources Planning Board of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments elected the C & O Canal Association to membership as a regional organization representative. Ed Wesely is your delegate. Monthly meetings have been increased to 2 meetings a month in order to accomplish the work of a regional water supply and waste water management plan by March 1978 as mandated by Congress in Public Law 92-500, known as the "Clean Water Law". The Committee advises in such matters as water quality standards, land use planning, financial grants for planning and construction of sewage treatment plants, studies of pollution causes and abatement, and adds local knowledge of problem areas of the Potomac River in the Metro. Wash. area. We also assist with public information meetings and in the future will aid public hearings on the draft plan before final confirmation. Meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Suite 201, 1225 Connecticut Ave., N. W. at 11 a.m. and any of you are most welcome to attend.

Le. Ol Walker Reports
Winter Hike Schedule:
January 29 Seneca to Pennyfield
March 26 Shepherdstown to Mountain Lock
April 30 Whites Ferry to Point of Rocks
(More information inside)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



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Capland, Md. 21736

"ALONG THE TOWPATH"
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MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW DUE FOR 1977

Last week's mail brought a letter from Doug Greene, our faithful Treasurer for the last 5 years announcing his retirement as of the next annual meeting. Doug has served us well in the official capacity of Treasurer and unofficial Membership Chairman. I would like to thank him for his long term of service to the association, and wish him well in what ever new endeavor he pursues in his new found leisure time. All of which reminds me that 1977 membership dues are now due!

C & O Canal Association does not send bills for membership dues.

If you wish to continue your membership, and continue to receive "Along the Towpath", please fill out this form and mail it together with your check made out to the

C & O Canal Association to: Mr. Douglas Greene, Treasurer
10317 Brunswick Ave.
Silver Spring, Md. 20902

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Membership: Regular (\$5.00) _____ Patron (\$10.00) _____ Other \$ _____