

## 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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### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, March 13, 1977, 1 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., NPS Mather Center, Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

It is felt by many of the Officers and Board Members that we have too little chance to meet as a whole group - get to know our newer members - discuss questions about the canal, Level Walker problems, if any - current environmental activities, etc. Therefore, we are planning two general membership meetings a year. The Annual meeting will be held as usual the Friday evening before the Annual Justice Douglas Reunion Hike in April. A second meeting is planned for sometime in October.

To test the response to this idea we have scheduled a general meeting in Harpers Ferry, Sunday March 13 at 1 o'clock. If the meeting can end at 3:30 our time will correspond with the Amtrack schedule from D.C. to Harpers Ferry and return. See information following agenda.

### AGENDA - MARCH 13 MEETING

Welcome - - - - - Bonnie Troxell, President  
Notes on History of C & O Assn. - - - - - Ken Rollins  
Level Walker Activities - - - - - John Howard  
Recent Activities, Watchdog, Legal, Legislative - Ed Wesely  
C & O Commission and Association Relationship  
with NPS - - - - - Nancy Long  
1977 Reunion Hike - - - - - Ed Wesely  
Association Reorganizational Changes, By-Law,  
Treasurer, Membership Chairman - - - - - John Chandler



### MEMBERSHIP DUES STILL DUE

1977

The appeal for renewal of membership dues brought a healthy response. Doug Greene tells me however that many have yet to respond. If you wish to continue your membership and continue to receive "Along the Towpath", fill out this form and mail it, 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL MEETING INFO (CONT.)

(round trip fare)

A \$6.00 bill will purchase a rewarding one hour train ride along the canal and Potomac River and bring you to Harpers Ferry with an hour to spare. Climb the hill to Bolivar Heights to the Natl. Park Service Mather Training Center and participate in the 2½ hour meeting (as long as any meeting should be). Leave at 3:30, hike back down the hill to Harpers Ferry Station, catch the 4:30 Amtrack return train and arrive Union Station, D. C. at 5:38 P.M.! Sound like a good idea? I think so. There is an earlier train up and a later train back. These trains also stop at Silver Spring, Rockville and Brunswick. Call Amtrack for more information. (800-523-5720)

Lv. Union Station, D. C.

9:25 A.M.

11:00 A.M.

Arr. Harpers Ferry

10:30 A.M.

12:05 P.M.

Lv. Harpers Ferry

4:30 P.M.

8:20 P.M.

Arr. Union Station, D. C.

5:38 P.M.

9:40 P.M.

Explore Harpers Ferry before or after the meeting. Bring a lunch or buy snacks on the train or in Harpers Ferry, and pray for good weather. Too bad Amtrack can't carry bicycles. See you on the train!

## TUNE-UP FOR THE ANNUAL HIKE

Saturday, March 26, 9:30 a.m.: A reminder for the hike announced in the last issue. Meet at Lock #38 opposite Shepherdstown, W. Va., and walk to Mountain Lock for a brown bag lunch. Enjoy the signs of spring after a long cold winter. Hike will continue to Dargan Bend (weather and hiker's mood permitting) and Ken Rollins will narrate some of the natural and man made history in this section. Distance 6 to 10 miles.

## WINTER HIKE & TALK WITH RAY RILEY

Undaunted by the high wind and low temperatures of January 29th, a few stalwarts joined Lyman Stucker on the hike he planned from Pennyfield Lock to Riley's Lock. The day began warm enough as we gathered around the oil heater at the home of Raymond Riley, an octogenarian who was born in the lockhouse at Riley's Lock. Mr. Riley and his wife delighted in showing their snapshot collection as well as reminiscing about life as it was at Riley's lockhouse when Mr. Riley's father was lockkeeper.

The hiking began at Pennyfield's under blue skys and a warming sun and gratefully the wind had left. Winter along the canal is a special time and rarely has it been better than this year. January 29th was a wintery day stark, beautiful, memorable.

## UNDIGESTED LEVEL WALKER REPORTS

Whenever space allows, and beginning with this issue of Along the Towpath, John Howard and I plan to publish a selection of full undigested Level Walker Reports. The digests are useful, but too often the heart is edited out of the reports in the interest of brevity. When I became Along the Towpath editor, a few Level Walker reports were mailed to me for forwarding to John Howard. I found them well written, and entertaining as well as informational. I will try to select reports of particular interest and scattered as much as possible throughout the 185 miles. Let us know if you approve and whether the idea merits more space.

Sect. 54 146.6 LOCK 59 to LOCK 60 Nov. 14, 1976

Doris M. Bailey & Dorothy A. Johnson



Dusting of snow in area around the towpath.

The Stickpile RR Station or Green Ridge RR Station is no more. Evidence of fire. Lock 59 and 60 status quo. The wet Fall weather has watered most of this section.

Few parts of the towpath very muddy due to thaw of frozen ground. 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. This material was also used to make a 3 ft. high road thru the canal to the farmhouse at about mile 147.5. A culvert was installed at right angles to the road under the surface. Fifteen loads of the material along side of the path as it intersects the road down to the Potomac River at about mile 150.

At the Stickpile Hiker-Biker, campsites are being extended down to the river. One Jon now at the edge of the towpath, near the water pump.

No other humans in sight. A beautiful, clear, cool day. A few hunters in the nearby woods - not near the path. Heard two trains during my 1½ hours on the path.

Critters: Cardinal, crows, juncos, chickadees, woodchuck, 3 deer (wide white, long tails). Reposing cattle in pasture today - not on path.

Sect. 14 Harrison's Island to White's Ferry Nov. 26, 1976

Morris Green

Everything appears to be in apple pie order except that the bank of the towpath, on the river side, is washed out at the culvert that is located at about mile 33.8. The NPS appears to be in the process of filling that hole; a truckload of crushed stone had already been dumped into the hole at the time of my inspection. However, the job should be finished soon, or a barricade erected around the hole so cyclists will not ride into the hole some evening when returning late to White's Ferry.

The NPS is to be commended for the neat condition of the Turtle Run H/B campground. The latrine was clean and supplied with an ample supply of toilet paper. The handle was back on the pump, which indicated to me that the water was safe to drink.

During my walk, I saw two pileated wood peckers near White's Ferry. The grocery store and snack bar at White's Ferry is closed for the winter.

Sect. 22 56.0 Weverton to Harpers Ferry LOCK 33 Oct. 31, 1976

Mildred and Mary Heimer

Two bad breaches of towpath due to recent flood - each perhaps 12' wide. One by abutment of 340 highway bridge, the other less than a mile farther west. The surface of the towpath is rough in several areas where the flood washed off the dirt surface.

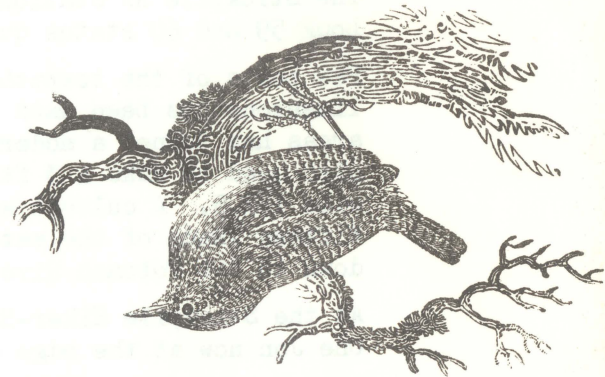
Back on Sept. 12 we noticed the pump at Blue Ridge Hiker Biker not only had handle missing (NPS?) but seemed to have been vandalized also. We forgot to notice the pump on Oct. 31 because we were busy negotiating the towpath on our new tandem bike. We did notice every breach, mudhole and rough area - a real adventure! May we recommend hiking this stretch!

On Sept. 12 moderate number of people, towpath appeared well trodden. Near the Salty Dog was much activity of putting canoes in/out of the river. On Oct. 31 light use - a Cub Scout Den and a few adults near the Salty Dog.

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.

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Plans for general meeting  
March 13, Harpers Ferry.  
Take Amtrak and leave the  
driving to the engineer.

Mr. John C. Frye  
Capland, Md. 21736



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#### LATEST ON DOUGLAS LEGISLATION

(3/1/77)

As I type this, hearings are being held by the House Interior Committee on a bill passed by the Senate last Thursday (Feb. 24). The Senate legislation was introduced by Senators Jackson, Magnuson and Eagleton and, like bills introduced last year, will dedicate "the canal and towpath of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park . . . to Justice William O. Douglas in grateful recognition of his long outstanding service as a prominent American conservationist and for his efforts to preserve and protect the canal and towpath from development." The sponsors of the bill hope to obtain the approval of the House of Representatives this week and send it to the President by the weekend. I hope they can do it.

#### NPS INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS

The National Park Service has released the Final Draft of their Interpretive Prospectus for the C & O Canal Park from Georgetown to Seneca. This is the result of intensive study by Bart Young from the Denver Service Center. Bart has done an excellent job of research (perhaps he talked to some of you last year) and written a sensitive plan proposing a combination of interpretive media to explain the natural, engineering and social history of the canal from Tide Lock to Seneca. The Park Service is seeking public reaction to the plan. There will be a copy available at the general meeting March 13 for your inspection. Copies are limited, but check with Supt. Failor (toll free number 948-5641) for the name of the nearest library that has a copy for your information. Bart proposes a combination of Self-Guide Pamphlets, Low Profile Waysides (Outdoor Exhibits), and a Natural and Human History Publication Handbook along with Demonstration Presentations and establishment of a Central Library/Collection/Preservation System, all designed to improve understanding of the canal and its environs. It is well worth your review and comment.