

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

Volume IX

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Editor: Blanca Poteat R.D. #1 Dickerson, Maryland 20753

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday, September 25, at the Glen Echo Town Hall at 1:00 pm. Board meetings are open to the general membership, and anyone who can attend or has matters to bring to the Association's attention is urged to come.

HANCOCK CANAL / APPLE FESTIVAL

- October 2 Salute to Canallers Banquet Hancock High School
6:00 pm Cider Hour
6:30 Turkey Dinner Tickets: \$4.25
7:30 Program C & O Canal Visitor Center
 Ralph Donnelly Hancock, Maryland
- October 3-7 Lectures and Tours - C & O Canal Office
- October 7 Community Night 6-10:30 pm Hancock Intermediate School
 Games, Music, Square Dancing, Food, Films
- October 8 Festival Day
All day - Indian village at Widmyer Park
 by Improved Order Redmen Conococheague Tribe 84
10 am-12 Blue Grass music
11 am - Parade Main Street
10-5 pm Main Street crafts, bake sales
1-1:30 pm Square Dancing demonstration Fulton Street
1-5 pm C&O Canal Tonoloway Park
 wagon rides, early rural demonstrations, horseshoes,
 Johnny Appleseed & Smokey Bear
2-4 pm "Life on the Canal" skits by the Georgetown Players
3 pm Fife & Drum concert by Patuxent Martial Musick
4-8 pm Spaghetti Dinner Hancock High School
- October 9 2 pm C&O Canal Tonoloway Park Bike ride and hike
 7 pm Hymn sing-Hancock High School

For more information:

C & O Canal Visitor Center

Fred Banks 301-678-5463

180 W. Main Street

Hancock, Maryland 21750

Allene Hoopengardner 717-294-3758

Rt. 1

Hancock, Maryland 21750

DEDICATION OF MARYLAND HEIGHTS TRAIL TO GRANT CONWAY

On Sunday, October 9, at 3:00 pm the Maryland Heights section of the Appalachian Trail will be dedicated to Grant Conway. Memorial markers will be placed on the trail, and Ed Garvey will speak briefly.

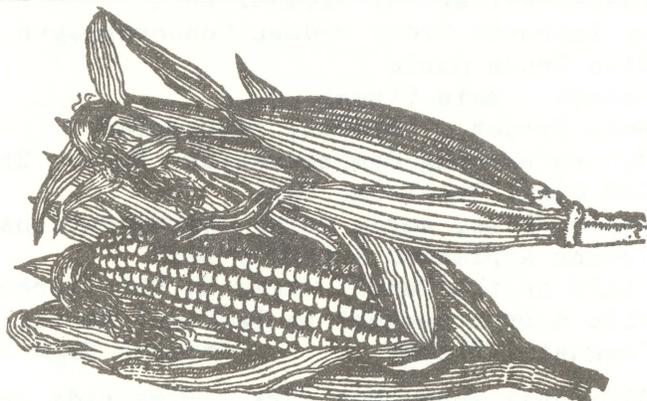
Park at the Harper's Ferry Train Station between 2 and 2:30 pm. A park service bus will transport visitors to the dedication site. (Please do not park on the narrow road near the trail.)

Grant Conway was born in Missouri in September, 1913, but soon moved with his family to Oregon. In the Cascade Mountains he developed his lifelong enthusiasm for hiking and wilderness. Grant and his brothers and sisters were orphaned when he was twelve, but he finished school and worked his way through college, earning a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Oregon and a Master's at American University. He served in World War II and Korea. For eighteen years he was an economist with the Treasury Department, then joined the Export-Import Bank.

Grant Conway served three terms as president of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and one term as treasurer of the National Appalachian Trail Conference. He was on the board of the National Parks and Conservation Association for seventeen years. One of the original nine Justice Douglas C & O Canal hikers in 1954, he never missed the annual reunion hikes. He was a Level Walker and represented Montgomery County on the C & O Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission from its beginning until his death in June 1976.

Although no formal hike is planned, C & O Canal members and friends may want to walk the Conway Trail before the dedication to honor his love and work for pathways and open spaces.

Thank you to Grant's wife, Ione Conway, for her help with this background.



NOVEMBER HIKE

Sycamore Landing to Edward's Ferry - Mile 27.2 to 30.8 roundtrip

November 5 9:00 am

Be sure to dress for the waether, including sturdy shoes, and bring lunch & water.

Lyman Stucker 703-549-3527

Beverly Rhodes 202-363-8187

Last Minute Addition.....

Minutes of the C & O Canal Association Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Bonnie Troxell at 10:30 am on June 18, 1977, at the Canal headquarters near Shepardstown. Also present were Bill Davies, Alan Hedin, Nancy Long, Ken Rollins, Ed Wesely, and Bill Failor.

Bill Failor was asked to describe the mowing policy. He said that the whole towpath is not mowed. Mowing is mainly in heavy use areas and where residents are adjacent to the park.

The Association expressed its concern at cutting too many dead trees.

The dumping of debris from the railroad near Hancock was brought to Mr. Failor's attention.

The possibility of rules for bicyclists in the Washington area was discussed, including limiting speed and having a warning bell.

Variations in the level of water at Wide Water were discussed. The water level had to be lowered recently to fix seepage problems.

Problems with detours along the towpath were discussed. During construction, detours are established for legal and safety reasons but it is recognized that they are frequently ignored.

Bill Davies brought up problems at Tonoloway Ridge where future mining by Pennsylvania Glass and Sand may affect the park.

The Land Heritage Program and its benefits for the C & O Canal was described by Bill Failor.

Problems with the road near Harper's Ferry and foot traffic across the railroad bridge were discussed.

Alan Hedin

NEXT MEETING: Glen Echo Town Hall, Sunday, September 25, at 1:00 pm.

On the agenda is discussion of the Wide Water area, the recent Canal Commission meeting, and the June meeting with Bill Failor.

NEW APPOINTEES TO DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary

Robert L. Herbst, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks

William J. Whalen, Director, National Park Service

Ira J. Hutchinson, Deputy Director of the National Park Service

U.S. Interior Department
Washington, D.C. 20240

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS HOLD MEETING WITH PARK SUPERINTENDENT

Association Board Members and Officers met with C & O Canal Park Superintendent William Failor on June 18 to discuss matters of concern to the Association, and to exchange information about current Canal Park issues.

Those present for the meeting held at Park Headquarters at Ferry Hill were: Bonnie Troxell, Bill Davies, Alan Hedin, Nancy Long, Ken Rollins, and Ed Wesely.

There follows a summary of items discussed:

Mowing Policy: The Superintendent stated that mowing is generally undertaken after the spring flowers bloom, and then only in those areas of the Park which receive the heaviest visitation. He said that mowing has been curtailed in the last few years due to a lack of maintenance personnel.

Tree Removal: Failor indicated that, in general, only dead and/or hazardous trees are removed from the Park. Dead trees which do not threaten the safety of visitors are retained for the benefit of wildlife.

Candoc Drainage Project: Placement of drain pipes from the Candoc area of Cumberland to the Potomac River is expected to begin toward the end of the summer. This project, to be undertaken by the City of Cumberland, is expected to alleviate the continuing problem of storm water emptying into the Canal through existing drainage pipes carrying run-off from city streets. The environmental assesment for the project has been completed.

Bicycle Use on the Towpath: It was suggested to the Superintendent that the Park draw up a set of rules for bike riders using the towpath, to include such items as setting a speed limit for bikes, requiring all bikes to be equipped with warning bells (particularly those bikes provided by Park concessioners), requiring that bikes be walked on the narrow sections of the towpath below Key Bridge in Georgetown, and placing caution signs in the Widewater area.

Widewater: The Superintendent reported that the gabions (wire baskets filled with small stones) placed in the breaks at Widewater are not working as expected, and, as a result, water has been seeping out in large quantities. He indicated that the two breaks which recently occurred have been repaired, and that water is back in the Widewater section. The environmental assessment for the new construction of a wood deck walkway over the rock outcropping in this area had not been completed at the time of the meeting; the construction of the walkway was begun without the necessary environmental assessment for new construction. (Ed. note: The assesment has now been completed, and is available for public review at the Ferry Hill Headquarters and at the Great Falls Tavern.)

Aqueducts: Aqueducts not yet stabilized are those at Licking Creek and Conococheague Creek.

Vista Clearing: It was suggested that the Park develop a plan for limited vista clearing in order to provide views of the Potomac River at certain carefully-selected points. It was stressed that such a plan should be carefully drawn, and it was agreed that the Association meet with the Superintendent to review the plan before it would be implemented.

Charles Mill/McMahon's Mill: Failor indicated that Mr. McMahon, former owner of this mill, is developing a camping area outside Park boundaries in this location. The Park Service has acquired the land and mill once owned by McMahon, and has removed all concession accessories.

Ferry Hill Inn: It was strongly recommended that plans to renovate the historic Ferry Hill Inn, to be used as permanent Park headquarters in the future, receive full public review. Failor agreed that this was desirable and would be done before renovation is undertaken.

Lock House 7: The Superintendent reported that the Bethesda Junior Chamber of Commerce is interested in helping to provide funds to restore Lock House 7. He stated that the Chamber is not interested in using the building for any purpose of their own, and do not attach strings to any donations they may make. They were successful in raising \$1500 for Lock House 7 at a recent auction of donated art work.

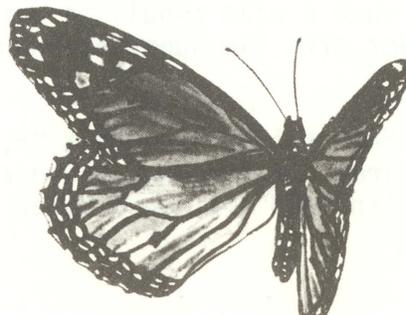
Jarboe's Store at Edwards Ferry: It was reported that there is considerable concern in Montgomery County about future plans for the structural remains of Jarboe's store. Failor stated that it may have to be torn down before it falls down, and is now in hazardous condition. It was strongly suggested that the remains be stabilized rather than torn down and removed.

Bluestone/Asbestos: The Superintendent was asked about the presence of any bluestone in the Park which may have come from the Rockville quarries where the stone was discovered to contain potentially hazardous amounts of asbestos. He stated that bluestone was scheduled to be removed from the Fletcher's Boathouse area and from the Swain's Lock area, and that no bluestone on the towpath had come from the affected quarries.

Catoctin Creek Bridge: It was suggested that this bridge, originally touted by the Park Service to be flood proof and subsequently washed out in a flood of Catoctin Creek, be replaced with a low concrete bridge structure with underlying pipes. This would enable flood waters to flow over the bridge as well as through the pipes, thus creating a less vulnerable structure. Such a bridge could be placed either upstream or downstream of the aqueduct.

Brunswick Access: The City of Brunswick uses the towpath as a vehicular access road to the municipal sewage treatment plant and to the city-owned camp ground. Several alternatives have been developed in an attempt to create an improved access, and solve a problem both for Brunswick and the Park Service. The alternatives include: 1. A road alignment between the Canal and River; 2. A road alignment immediately adjacent to the towpath on the river side; 3. Pave the towpath; 4. Obtain permission from the railroad to use the road along the berm side of the Canal and build a bridge over the Canal to the camp ground site, with access from the camp ground to the sewage treatment plant.

Land Heritage Program: The Superintendent reviewed the Land Heritage Program, which was announced by former President Gerald Ford in the summer of 1976 as a ten-year program; President Jimmy Carter has announced that it will be changed to a five-year program, and will provide \$90,000,000 for FY 1977 National Park Service purposes. Its basic provisions include: 1. To establish 1,000 new positions in the National Park Service; 2. To increase land acquisition funds; 3. To repair deteriorating structures in the National Park System. Items 1 and 3 have been funded by Congress. The Canal Park received eleven new positions, one ranger and 10 maintenance personnel. In addition, the Park will receive funds for several stabilization and repair projects involving structures in the Park. A list is available from the Park Headquarters.



LEVEL WALKERS

from chairman John Howard
10598 Jason Court
Columbia, Maryland 21044

A few reports have come in during the summer, three of the most recent being included in this Towpath issue. Others who have sent in reports include:

Joan Paull, Swain's Lock (16.6) to Pennyfield Lock (19.6) Section 8

Melvin Kaplan, Lock 44, Williamsport (99.3) to Pinesburg Station (102.0)
Section 38

Ralph French, Roundtop Hill (127.3) to Lock 53, Section 49

The Richard A. Wilson family, Dam 3 (62.3) to Dargan Quarry (65.1) Section 25

Level Walkers are reminded that a report (no matter how brief or detailed) is required at least once in 18 months. Interest in becoming a level walker, or inability or lack of interest in continuing, should be expressed to LW chairman John Howard at the address above, or 301-730-4489.

Mile 154.4 to 156.3 Section 58 Paw Paw Tunnel

September 6, 1977

Alan and Kit Franklin
6510 Ridge Drive
Brookmont, Maryland 20016

Date of visit:
August 28, 1977

At this time of year there are many flowering and some fruiting plants and trees. Black cherries and hackberry trees are in fruit. A number of old apple trees are scattered along the towpath below the tunnel, particularly at the locks. Among the flowers at least partially identified were American Pennyroyal, Flowering Spurge, and Jewel weed, as well as evening primrose, mullens, mints, daisies and other composites, goldenrod, a yellow trefoil, and butter-and-eggs. A small hawk flew across the trail above the South Portal, and Nuthatches and an American Cuckoo were heard in the woods near the towpath.

Mile

- 156.3 The campground near the old Section House now has a sign proclaiming that it is for canoeists only, and had a number of groups with canoes and tents. A news release posted on a bulletin board stated that the Tunnel is scheduled to be reopened in January 1978.
- 155.8 South Portal - The tunnel is closed, but a signboard has a nice map of the trail over the top. A box containing pamphlets briefly describing the tunnel and its history actually contained the guides. The piles of loose rock that have slid down from the cliffs above the Portal have been removed. The canal bed has been cleared in the tunnel and upstream to the end of the rock cut.
- 155.2 North Portal and Tunnel Gorge - Work on the stabilization of the walls of the gorge appears to be going well. The care that is being taken to avoid unnecessary damage is impressive. Apparently the work of cleaning off the rock face is being done by hand as promised.
- 155.0 Spring - The old spring house on the wall above the towpath is in the process of collapsing. There was water in the spring but no flow.
- 154.7 - 154.4 Locks 66, 64 $\frac{2}{3}$, and 63 $\frac{1}{3}$ are all mouldering but relatively stable. At each there is a stout bridge in good repair, and a sign with the lock number. There is no sign of the weed-killer that has provided a disturbing note around the locks in past years.

Oldtown Level - mile 164.8 to 167.0

Bruce W. Wood
201 I Street, S.W. #524
Washington, D.C. 20024
(202) 554-5238

August 28, 1977
(hiked and reported)

Basically, there has been no change on this level. The towpath is in good shape, with only minor potholes. The surface is firm and good for bicycling and walking.

One change I expected to find, but did not, is with the maintenance building. The old one, a metal building near Lock 71, is still standing and apparently in use (three trucks parked in front). The concrete foundation for a new one behind the hill, nearer the river, is still just a concrete foundation, absolutely no change since earlier this summer. Why not?

A small dam of small stones is across the creek flowing under the culvert located between mile 166 and Lock 69. This backs up water under the culvert so that the footings of the culvert are always in standing water. Is this NPS doing?

Where is the Potomac Forks Hiker Biker? A sign is posted along the towpath some distance upstream from Lock 68. A chemical outhouse (contradiction in terms?) stands along the towpath between the sign and the lockhouse. The pump and picnic table and cooking grill are across the canal, almost hidden in the foliage. The area behind the lockhouse that I have always assumed was the camping area is only partially cleared - perhaps enough for one or two very small tents right up against the house - the remainder of the area is growing up in small trees and high grass. There is no level place on which to pitch a tent near the pump unless one does so in the middle of the path to the outhouse. When was the trash last emptied?

Suggestions: the H-B sign be moved nearer the lockhouse. A sign be put at the footbridge across the lock indicating the pump and table are over there. Another sign be placed directing people to the camping area (especially if it is not behind the lockhouse). Why not put a or the picnic table behind the lockhouse? These signs could be as small or smaller than the lock number signs and simply need say "pump" or "Water", "table", "Camping" with a small arrow.

Town Creek Aqueduct is being stabilized. A sign exists at the road across Lock 70. While NPS must say to use Md. 51, they should indicate how far away the aqueduct is, as some hikers may not be going that far and would be able to use the towpath. Also, one may easily, without much danger, use the abandoned Western Maryland Railway bridge across Town Creek. There are no rails, there is a walkway on the north side. There are good, dry paths to and from the rr. and the towpath.



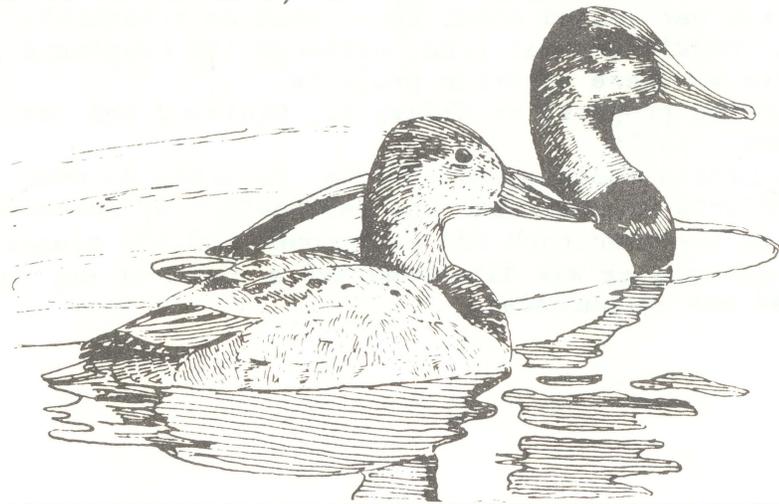
Little Pool (120.0) Section 47 to Hancock

19 August 1977
24 July 1977

Lane S. Hart IV 301-730-6285
5051 Eliot's Oak Road, Columbia, Maryland 21044

1. Physical Condition: No change from my Fall report.
2. Use: I saw eight cyclists, one couple on horseback, one fisherman, one man walking his unfriendly dog, and a park ranger. Two of the cyclists were out just for the day riding from Ft. Frederick to Hancock and back. Of the remaining six, one was heading west. This was a grizzled, middle-aged man named Alex who was on his way back to Sacramento, Calif.!
3. Nature: The most noteworthy event occurred just as I got onto the path at Hancock. A pileated woodpecker flew across the path from the Hancock side and perched on a tree limb in such a position that the sun shone through his brilliant red crest. It was a beautiful sight. Before I could adjust my binoculars for a closer view the bird flew back toward town. Twice I flushed a pair of ducks from the canal almost a mile west of Little Pool. The park ranger with whom I chatted at the east end of Little Pool said that she had seen wood ducks on the pool. Otherwise, there were cardinals, song sparrows, chickadees, towhees, catbirds, etc.

There were a number of flowers in bloom, including joe pyeweed and Canadian thistle. Other life included dragonflies, mosquitoes, several kinds of butterflies, and the familiar turtles.



The Canal Clipper Barge will operate Friday-Sunday through October 30 at Lock 3 at 30th and Thomas Jefferson Streets in Georgetown. 299-4159
 Sunday, October 9 - Celebration of the 127th anniversary of the Canal's final stretch to Cumberland, October 10, 1850.

September 25 Washington's Water
 & A two hour hike and talk on the Washington Aqueduct
 October 1 and city water system. Great Falls Tavern 2:00pm

KIOSK Washington area events of the National Park Service
 To be placed on the mailing list, call 202-426-6700
 or write the Office of Public Affairs, National
 Capital Region, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington D.C.
 20242

C & O Canal Advisory Commission Meeting

Great Falls Tavern, Wednesday September 14

- * John Jessup of the National Park Service Planning office discussed the development of Georgetown, particularly as the transition from warehouses and commercial to commercial and residential areas affect the canal.
- * Bill Failor, Park superintendant, presented information about the Land Heritage Projects for stabilization and repairs. Plans are available at the Restoration Office in Seneca. He also reported that park rangers no longer use Broncos on the towpath except for emergencies, and that maintenance vehicles are directed to avoid the towpath in wet weather.
- * James Coulter reviewed the meeting of his Planning and Development committee on June 9. Every structure or feature needing repair has been classified in "package" form by NPS, although it is apparent that these computer packages should be updated. The suggestion was made to focus attention on structures in immediate need of repair to routine towpath work.
- * Lee Downey reported on the August 25 of his Special Projects Committee. TranCare Inc. and Bob Johnson of American Youth Hostels presented plans with the Commission for a hostel at Williamsport. John Millar reported on the Canal Barge at Cumberland which is on park land under a one year agreement pending completion of the sectional development plan. A question was raised about these uses as precedents inconsistent with the park's general plan, although the consensus seemed favorable to these specific projects. Construction projects at Widewater, Oldtown, and Ferry Hill were discussed briefly. The Commission recommended that the Bethesda Jaycees continue their efforts to help with the restoration of Lockhouse #7. Access to the town park and campground and the sewage treatment plant in Brunswick was discussed and a right of way along the railroad was recommended.



SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS GUIDES

Sugarloaf Regional Trails has three trail guides in publication concerning the region along the Canal and Potomac River from Point of Rocks to Sycamore Landing. Under the direction of Ed Wesely, they are:

The Canal Trail Pt. of Rocks to Seneca - a hiking & biking trail dealing with the history of the area

Bottomlands Trail Sycamore Landing to Edward's Ferry stressing the geology of the area

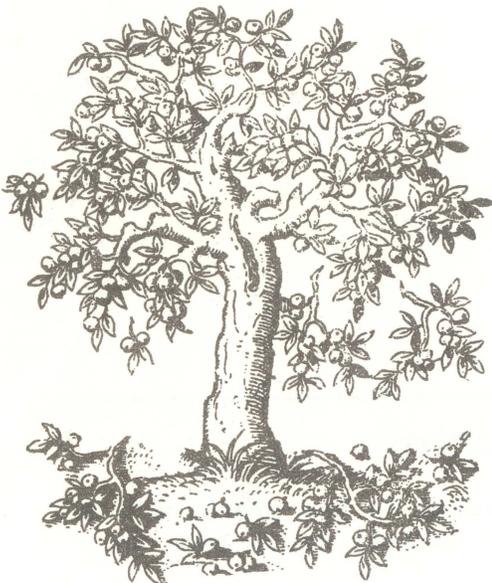
Canoe Trail Pt. Of Rocks to Edward's Ferry on the Potomac

Call the Trails Office for information : 301-926-4510

from "Behind Closed Doors" by Tom Shales, The Washington Post, September 6, 1977 concerning the recent 12 hour novel for television based on a book by John Erlichman:

"Incidental details of life in the capital are not consistently accurate.... The first chapter includes one of those walks we doubt ever got walked. Robertson and Powers start strolling among the presidential monuments, and quickly end up at the C & O Canal."

COG 208 Mini-Grants - Fourteen area groups received small grants this summer from EPA to focus attention on Metropolitan Washington COG's efforts to improve water quality. Chosen by a subcommittee of COG's Water Resources Citizens Advisory Committee, the groups included The Neighborhoods Uniting Project in Brentwood, Md., for a program aimed at cleaning up the area's water resources in the project's 12 town community. This project included a hike along the C & O Canal to encourage elementary and junior high school students to see first hand the extent of pollution in the Canal and the Potomac River.



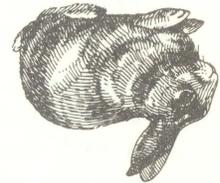
C & O CANAL BOAT REPLICA IN CUMBERLAND

Several years ago an organization was formed, C & O Canal of Cumberland Md., to build a canal boat. Money was contributed by over 50 organizations and thousands of individuals. The construction was done by the U.S. Naval Reserve Seabees unit RNMCB-23, the Army Reserve, the Sea Cadets, Allegany County Vocational Technical High School students, and other volunteers. The boat was dedicated on July 11, 1976, and officially opened for tours.

The Canal Boat replica is operated as an historic exhibit under an agreement with the National Park Service. It is located beside Lock 75 at North Branch, 5 miles south of Cumberland. The boat features a captain's cabin with furnishings of the C & O Canal period, a hay house and an on-board mule stable.

For information about the Canal Boat and its organization, contact Allegany County Tourism Office at 301-777-5905, or write to C & O Canal of Cumberland, Md. Inc., P.O. Box 522, Cumberland, Md. 21502

Mr. John Frye
Gapland Maryland
21736



Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
2¢ PAID
Glen Echo, Md.
Permit No. 2486

"ALONG THE TOWPATH"
C & O Canal Association
P.O. Box 66
Glen Echo, Md. 20768

VIRGINIA CANALS & NAVIGATIONS SOCIETY

If you would like to participate in a society devoted to the preservation and enhancement of Virginia's waterways heritage, this Society would like to hear from you, c/o Robert O. Bush

101 Hickory Sign Post Road
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL MEDAL

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the beginning of construction, this medal has the Canal Company Seal on one side and a lock scene (Lock 15) on the other. The cost is \$4.50 plus 50¢ mailing.

CANAL BOAT CHILDREN

Family life on the C & O, Pennsylvania and New York Canals 1921. The cost of this attractive and interesting book is \$3.00 plus 50¢ mailing.

Tom Hahn
Box 842
Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443
