everybody is right

The typical member of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association is a middle-aged male who lives less than 25 miles from the canal, has been a member for 3 years or more, and who visits the canal park 4 times a year or more often. He is more likely to be found in the park on weekends than on weekdays, and he usually does not bring children. His membership in the Association is based on major concerns with environmental conservation and historical preservation. He does not belong to the Association in order to meet people. He thinks $8 per year is about right for dues, and that the Association should sponsor more than two hikes and at least one educational program per year. He is, however, twice as likely to be interested in participating as in helping to arrange these events. Most of all, he enjoys receiving Along the Towpath, and he especially relishes the level walker reports.
MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

Included in the 1980 summer issue of Along the Towpath (Vol. XII, No. 3) was a questionnaire for Association members to fill in and return. Your editor hoped to learn who the members are and how they feel about the Association and its newsletter.

Of course, there is not likely to be a real member with all of the characteristics, habits and convictions summarized under Barbara Yeaman's illustration on the previous page, but such a profile is easily constructed from responses to those questions with more than 2/3 of respondents in agreement.

The analysis of questionnaire data is rife with statistical pitfalls, such as: Are those members responding to the (voluntary) questionnaire representative of the membership as a whole? Did all members receive the questionnaire? Are all the respondents still interested members? Other uncertainties may suggest themselves upon further consideration. Nevertheless, keeping such possibilities in mind, the data can likely be used to advantage by Association members, Board members, officers and, perhaps, by prospective members.

394 newsletters containing the questionnaire were mailed to 162 members who had paid 1980 dues by June 19, 1980, and to 232 persons who had not by that date paid dues for 1980, but had paid in at least one of the years 1977, 1978 or 1979. The number of responses was 99, or about 25%. Several paid-up members are organizations; many of the 232 who had not paid 1980 dues are active in the Association.

The questionnaire contained 31 multiple choice questions and one essay question soliciting comments on the "special appeal," if any, of the Association to the member. The multiple choice questions fall into 7 categories (when rearranged from their order of appearance in the questionnaire). The questions in each category will be printed below with their original questionnaire sequence number, and the percent of responses for each choice will be listed, in descending order of magnitude. Your editor's comments, inferences or analyses will punctuate the statistical data from place-to-place. Following the data will be a selection of responses from the "special appeal" question and a summary of other issues brought to your editor's mind by recurring unsolicited comments by respondents.

I Vital and Social Statistics

1. How long have you been a member of the Association?
   d) More than 5 years 52%  
   c) 3-5 years 24%  
   b) Two years 11%  
   a) One year 11%  
   No or ambiguous response 2%

2. How did you first learn of the Association?
   a) From a member 40%  
   d) Other 31%  
   b) Hike advertisement 19%  
   c) National Park Service 7%  
   No or ambiguous response 2%

Members learn about the Association in a variety of ways. Sources listed (and number of respondents) include newspaper stories (9), presence at the conception of the Association (7), Towpath guidebooks (2), American Youth Hostel bulletins (2), information received while on non-Association-sponsored hikes (3), and even a "chance meeting" with (Association member) Tom Hahn.
3. How old are you?
   a) Under 25
   b) 25-44
   c) 45-64
   d) Over 64
   No or ambiguous response
   
   3. The high percentage of no or ambiguous responses on what appears to be so uncontroversial and unambiguous a question is primarily a result of a household responding rather than an individual. Rarely, more than one adult in a household is a member; more commonly, there is one membership for the household, but there are two responses to question 4. Most of the ambiguous responses selected both male and female. Perhaps the 7% could be called "no or family" responses; note, however, that some of the respondents specifying "female" or "male" might have chosen "family" if given the opportunity.

4. What is your sex?
   a) Female
   b) Male
   No or ambiguous response
   
5. How far from the canal do you live?
   a) Less than 5 miles
   b) 5-25 miles
   c) 26-50 miles
   d) More than 50 miles
   No or ambiguous response
   
   5. From these results, it is easy to see that 76% of members have been members for 3 or more years. Although most members are between 45 and 64 years old, the Association's membership is aging: 69% are 45 or older and only 1% (one person) is under 25. At least 60% of the membership is male. 80% of the members live near the canal (25 miles away or less), but, since the canal park is geographically extended, the 80% don't necessarily live near each other. (Inspection of mailing list addresses does demonstrate, however, that a plurality of members live in the Washington City metropolitan area.)

II Visitation Habits

6. How often do you visit the canal park?
   a) Once a week or more often (more than 51 times/yr)
   b) Three times a year or less (0-3 times/yr)
   c) More than once a month, but less than once a week (13-51 times/yr)
   d) More than 3 times per year, but less than once a month (4-11 times/yr)
   No or ambiguous response
   
   6. Should the Association try to attract more young people? Does our organization appeal to younger adults? Should we devote more effort to sponsoring activities to fill the often empty hours of the retired?

7. Do you bring children with you when you visit the park?
   a) Never
   b) Occasionally
   c) Usually
   d) Always
   No or ambiguous response
   
   7. What percent of your time spent in the park is on bicycle?
   a) Zero
   b) Less than 25
   c) 26-50
   d) 51-75
   e) 76-100
   No or ambiguous response
   
   8. What percent of your time spent in the park is on bicycle?
11. How far do you travel, on the average, to the canal for a visit?
   b) 5-25 miles  44%
   a) Less than 5 miles  25%
   d) More than 50 miles  15%
   c) 26-50 miles  12%
   No or ambiguous response  3%

22. On which days of the week do your canal park visits usually fall?
   b) Saturday or Sunday  61%
   a) No particular days  29%
   c) Monday-Friday  7%
   No or ambiguous response  3%

25. In which season do you most frequently visit the canal park?
   e) No particular season  59%
   c) Spring  14%
   a) Fall  5%
   d) Summer  2%
   b) Winter  1%
   No or ambiguous response  19%

The high percentage of no or ambiguous responses to question 25 were primarily a result of multiple responses, such as "spring" and "fall," or all seasons but one.

A picture of members' use of the park is strongly etched by these data. 77% visit 4 times per year or more often, 78% usually do not bring children, 75% are not on bicycle more than 25% of the time, 69% travel less than 25 miles to the place in the park they have chosen to visit, 61% visit on weekends, and 59% in no particular season. One can hypothesize that, although the Association member works during the week, he lives near the canal, so that he can frequently repair to it, especially on weekends. It is also interesting to compare the responses to questions 5 and 11: 19% live more than 25 miles from the park, and 27% travel more than 25 miles to visit the park. Evidently, a modest percentage of the membership travels further than it needs to in order to get to the park, perhaps to visit a more interesting or less familiar section or to see a specific feature, such as Four Locks or the Paw Paw tunnel.

III Reasons for Membership

12. To what extent is your membership in the Association based on an interest in historical preservation?
   c) A major concern  71%
   b) A minor concern  20%
   d) Almost entirely  9%
   a) Not at all  0

13. To what extent is your membership in the Association based on an interest in environmental conservation?
   c) A major concern  76%
   d) Almost entirely  12%
   b) A minor concern  11%
   a) Not at all  1%

14. To what extent is your membership in the Association based on an interest in physical activity?
   c) A major concern  57%
   b) A minor concern  33%
   d) Almost entirely  5%
   a) Not at all  3%
   No or ambiguous response  2%

15. To what extent is your membership in the Association based on an interest in meeting people?
   b) A minor concern  61%
   a) Not at all  19%
   c) Almost entirely  16%
   d) A major concern  2%
   No or ambiguous response  2%
To 80% of Association members, membership is based on at least a major concern with historical preservation, and to 88%, a similarly strong concern with environmental conservation. Members are more divided over the importance of physical activity as a basis for membership, but 80% regard meeting people as at most a minor concern in belonging to the Association. There seems to be no doubt that members look to the Association for leadership and strength in pressing the concerns of historical preservation and environmental conservation. This conclusion is supported by both the data and various remarks to that effect in the essay question. Just as strongly, responses to question 15 suggest that members don't turn to the Association to meet people.

IV Association Events

18. How many hikes should the Association sponsor each year?
   a) One 10%
   b) 2 or 3 56%
   c) 4-6 22%
   d) More than 6 2%
   No or ambiguous response 10%

19. How many educational programs should the Association sponsor each year?
   a) Zero 2%
   b) One 13%
   c) 2-3 54%
   d) More than 3 16%
   No or ambiguous response 15%

20. How many general membership meetings should the Association hold each year?
   a) One 41%
   b) Two 42%
   c) Three 6%
   d) More than 3 3%
   No or ambiguous response 7%

21. How many general membership meetings should the Association hold each year?
   No or ambiguous response 10%

22. How many Association events a year would you participate in?
   a) Zero 2%
   b) One 17%
   c) Two 35%
   d) More than 2 29%
   No or ambiguous response 16%

23. How many Association events a year would you participate in?
   No or ambiguous response 46%

24. How many Association events a year would you be willing to help arrange?
   a) Zero 46%
   b) One 32%
   c) Two 8%
   d) More than 2 4%
   No or ambiguous response 10%

25. How many Association events a year would you be willing to help arrange?
   No or ambiguous response 10%

26. How do you compare the Association's annual reunion hike with other towpath events you participate in during the year?
   a) About the same 19%
   b) Better than others 18%
   c) Much better than others 17%
   d) Not as good as others 2%
   e) Much worse than others 0
   No or ambiguous response 43%

The questions in this category produced a large number of no responses. Many of the members not responding to question 31 had never participated in the annual reunion hike. In view of members' reasons for membership, it is reasonable to conclude that a sizable minority of members does not participate or wish to participate in Association events, and continues its membership because it views the Association as a political force for preservation and conservation.

Turning to the data in this category, most respondents would like to see the Association sponsor 2 or 3 hikes and 2 or 3 educational programs, and hold one or two general membership meetings per year. 81% of the members would participate in at least one Association event per year, but 46% would be unwilling to help arrange such an event. 44%, however, would be willing to help arrange events, and these members represent a sizable resource to the Association, should we want to expand our sponsorship of events, as most members would like. As for the annual reunion hike: obviously, enjoyment varies. Perhaps we are devoting too much effort to the preparations for this event.
V Level Walkers

9. Are you a level walker now?
   a) No 61%
   b) Yes 36%
   No or ambiguous response 3%

   Have you been a level walker in the past?
   a) No 59%
   b) Yes 35%
   No or ambiguous response 6%

Although more than one-third of the members are, and have been, level walkers, there are still members (as demonstrated by their comments on the questionnaire) who do not know what level walkers do, nor whom to make contact with to inquire about becoming a level walker.

VI Association Administration

16. How do you feel about $8 dues?
   a) Too much 11%
   b) About right 78%
   c) Too little 7%
   No or ambiguous response 4%

17. Do you feel you understand what your dues are used for?
   a) No 15%
   b) Have some idea 41%
   c) Not very well 15%
   d) Yes 29%

21. Are you familiar with the functions of the Association's Board?
   a) No 42%
   b) Have some familiarity 31%
   c) Have good idea 13%
   d) Am familiar 13%

Not many members (11%) are complaining about high dues, even though 30% have little or no idea what the dues are used for. Evidently, members have confidence in the stewardship of their officers and Board members, although 42% are not familiar with what the Board does. Members support the Association at the financial level determined by its leaders. A question suggested by these data is: Would the members desire to have a better understanding of the Association's budget and the duties of its leaders, or, as is often the case, do we choose to commission our leaders to use their best judgment in advancing our causes, so that, individually, we may pursue other interests?

VII The Newsletter

26. Do you enjoy receiving Along the Towpath?
   a) No 0%
   b) Occasionally 10%
   c) Usually 87%
   d) Yes 0%
   No or ambiguous response 4%

27. Do you enjoy the level walker reports in the newsletter?
   a) No 0%
   b) Rarely 1%
   c) Occasionally 12%
   d) Yes, my favorite part 32%
   e) Never 0%
   No or ambiguous response 4%

28. Would you like to see more excerpts from relevant newsletters of other organizations in Along the Towpath?
   a) Yes 73%
   b) No 21%
   No or ambiguous response 6%

29. How many times a year would you like to see the newsletter published?
   a) Don't want newsletter 0%
   b) When there's noteworthy event 13%
   c) Four times or fewer 59%
   d) Five times or more 24%
   No or ambiguous response 4%
30. **Along the Towpath**, currently sent third class at non-profit organization rates, costs 3.1c* per copy to mail, and takes up to three weeks to be delivered. Would you be willing to pay 15-30¢ per issue for first class mailing?

a) No 53%  
b) Yes 44%  
No or ambiguous response 3%

*Recently raised to 3.5c.

Nearly everyone like the newsletter. For those who don't participate in Association-sponsored events, the newsletter provides a regular reminder of their memberships. For most members, the level walker reports are the most savored part of the newsletter. The controversial issue is third-class vs. first-class postage. The Association officers and Board members voted in August 1980 to send Along the Towpath first class because of, among other reasons, complaints by members of not receiving issues or receiving them too late to attend events announced in them.

### The Most Popular Responses

#### Individual

The five individual responses that were selected by at least 2/3 of respondents are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question &amp; Response</th>
<th>Short Description</th>
<th>Percent Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26d</td>
<td>Enjoy newsletter.</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16b</td>
<td>$8 dues about right.</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13c</td>
<td>Env. cons. major concern in membership.</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28a</td>
<td>Relevant excerpts in Along the Towpath.</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12c</td>
<td>Hist. pres. major concern in membership.</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Combined

The following responses, when combined as indicated, represent the selections of at least 2/3 of the respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question &amp; Responses</th>
<th>Short Description of Combined Meaning</th>
<th>Combined Percent Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26cd</td>
<td>Enjoy or usually enjoy the newsletter.</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27abc</td>
<td>At least occasionally enjoy level walker reports.</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13cd</td>
<td>Environmental conservation at least a major concern in membership.</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19bcd</td>
<td>The Assn. should sponsor at least one educational program per year.</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27ab</td>
<td>Enjoy level walker reports.</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24bcd</td>
<td>Would participate in one or more events.</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5ab</td>
<td>Lives less than 25 miles from park.</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12cd</td>
<td>Historical preservation at least a major concern in membership.</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15ab</td>
<td>Meeting people at most a minor concern in membership.</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18bc</td>
<td>The Assn. should sponsor 2-6 hikes per year.</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6abc</td>
<td>Visits park 4 times per year or more.</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1cd</td>
<td>Been a member 3 or more years.</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3cd</td>
<td>45 years old or older.</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Special Appeal of the Association (Question 32)

In this, the only essay question, members were asked to document the "special appeal," if any, to them of membership in the Association. Many respondents addressed this question, others digressed from the subject after addressing it briefly, and still others seemed to ignore or disregard the question, and wrote about the canal, the park, suggested activities or park facilities, or some problem they felt particularly notable.

Your editor has divided the responses directed toward the "special appeal" question from the others, the latter to be called "remarks." Listed below, in no particular order, are first excerpts from the "special appeal" responses, and then excerpts from the "remarks." Some phrases and sentences are printed verbatim, others are summarized. Similar thoughts couched in different words are grouped together in a single phrase or a sentence or two, with the number of concurring opinions in parentheses. Your editor is solely responsible for the selection and summaries, and apologizes to anyone whose thoughts have been misunderstood or taken erroneously out of context.

What is the special appeal, if any, of membership in the Association?

Spontaneity of conversation with people of like mind.
Just having Association activities (provides for public education).
Seeing fellow members in a commonly appreciated setting.
A mixture of the environmental, historic and physical.
Organized events provide the discipline to get up and go.
Renewing of old friendships and meeting new members and making new friends.
To "watchdog" the National Park Service (7).
During long (canal) trips, much information can be exchanged.
Along the Towpath is why I belong! - Definitely - Enjoy (the newsletter) (2).
The Association is more fun because I meet and get to know other members. I pay my ATC dues and hike the AT when I can, but have never met another member!
Quiet relaxation of getting out to hike, meet people, study and photograph nature.
Canal is a refuge, a place without traffic, an educational environment. Our entire family just loves it.
Fresh air, exercise and camaraderie.
Membership provides a source of information. Reunion and group hikes are boring and noisy.
Association with people knowledgeable about the canal.
A group of people who care deeply about history and environment.
Meeting people, finding out what's happening in the Park, sharing beauty of nature with others.
Being a member gives me a sense of "belonging" to the canal and a wider perspective of it. I really like the people who belong to the Association!
Sense of responsibility to support the Association so that the canal will be maintained.
Canal followers are fine people - an interesting group.
Association affords the opportunity for people to express themselves and work together.
Fellow members are hikers, historians and conservationists with a special interest in the canal.
Enjoy company of hikers, new parts of towpath and publicity.
I love the annual reunion hike and banquet. Also like level walker reports.
Associating with people concerned with preservation, maintenance and appreciation, I meet interesting people and learn things I didn't know.
I enjoy the outdoors, the people and the things we talk about. I always come alone but do not feel out of place among those who are with others.
To share views about life and the joys of the canal.
I'm most interested in Association functions which involve developing a
point of view (on NPS proposals, etc.).
I like the human, relaxed camaraderie. The people in the Association are
kindred spirits even though they come from different professions and
social milieux.
An opportunity to learn.
To be a level walker and to contribute something for the use I make of
the canal.
To be with people who care for the canal and its traditions; to learn; to
enjoy comradeship of good friends.
Being part of a group that protects a precious resource.
To combine an interest in hiking with concern for the conservation of an
historical and natural area. What makes the Association special is
the people.
The Association is for when I like the Canal with a group.
An organized, scheduled hike, with transportation back to the starting
point, and a halfway lunch stop with drinks available.

Remarks (Comments, questions, suggestions, complaints, etc.)
The Association should always include a hike with any activity.
Send a formal request for dues (4).
Include short biographies in the newsletter of canal or Association
personalities.
Mail copies of Towline to members.
More interpretive programs (2).
More short hikes throughout the year.
List towpath detours in Along the Towpath (1).
Have a second general membership meeting in the afternoon.
List (in the newsletter) ways to get to the canal by public transportation.
I do not know what a level walker is supposed to do.
Want to receive Along the Towpath more promptly (3).
A reduced membership rate (say $12) for couples.
How about a bike trip on the upper reaches of the canal with one-way bike
transportation?
I'd like to become a level walker (1).
Can someone help with transportation from Baltimore?
Association meetings are particularly strung-out and boring.
I am a patron, but was dropped from the Along the Towpath mailing list
for 1-2 years.
Would like to know budget in major sections.
The Association may be somewhat elitest; the reunion hike is an ingroup
thing; I'm intimidated about attending; it's like breaking into a
private club.
How about access for horse trailers; a campsite for people with horses?
Organize trail crew type groups for maintenance and NPS assistance.
Include in the newsletter articles on history, engineering, archaeology,
flora and fauna (associated with the canal).
Organize cross-country skiing along the towpath.
Hiking the canal, to a dedicated hiker, is a drag and a bore.
More daytime/weekday activities for older people.
Don't mail first class. If it's urgent, try the telephone and make personal
contacts.
Each of us subjects these quantitative and anecdotal data to his or her own scrutiny; conclusions, inferences and suggestions that emerge from the contemplation of these data are likely to be helpful to our Association. Particularly interesting is reconciling the quantitative data with the anecdotal. For example, to most members the opportunity to meet people is not an important factor in Association membership, yet the joys of being with people and sharing feelings constitute much of the reported special appeal of membership.

One respondent, a long-time resident of the Potomac valley, chose to respond to the essay question with a description of some of his memories of life along the Canal during its operating days. For the historians and the romantics among us, here is his story:

As a product of the Potomac valley, and with several generations behind me in Appalachia, the C & O Canal is a part of me. I feel that I own part of the Canal, and no doubt the Canal owns part of me. One of my earliest "babe-in-arms" memories was my father carrying me under an aqueduct (near Cumberland) with a huge water leak that was frightening to me as a baby. I can distinctly remember the mules and the canal boats moving along, with the mules in one end, and the shouting Irish families in the other. As a boy I was forbidden to go through the Paw Paw tunnel when I stayed near my grandmother's house at Magnolia. Recently, I found where my grandfather loaned money with a canal boat and mules as collateral. The note gives the name of the boat, the owner and the mules.

As a young man I was a member of the Washington Canoe Club, and used the Canal as a highway to the Sycamore Island Club. I knew some of the old lock keepers and boat captains who continued to live on the Canal property long after the canal operations ceased. The names Crampton and Dempsey and Fletcher and Ames will always be fixed in my mind as a part of the Canal. I courted my wife in a canoe on the canal and on the Potomac River. All my children learned to swim in the Potomac, as I did. Even today I must visit "my favorite rock" near the Little Falls dam that is accessible only by towpath.
NEW C & O CANAL-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

The C&O Canal Boatmen, 1892-1924, Thomas F Hahn IA, The American Canal and Transportation Center, Shepherdstown WV, 1980, paperback, 5½" x 8½", 84 pages, 23 historical illustrations, $4.75. Longstanding member Tom Hahn has written an intriguing account of life among the Canal boatmen and their families during the last 30 years of Canal operation. Tom provides needed background and commentary, but allows the boatpeople to speak for themselves on nearly every page. The photographs and illustrations are clear and sharp. Using written and recorded interviews with the boatpeople, their own publications, the publications of other researchers and his own work, Tom permits the boatpeople to tell us about trip preparations, food, social life, education, the cargo, the boats and boating, in their own words. Canal aficionados will discover anecdotal evidence for ghosts and snakes on the towpath, and, as for the famous tavern at Lock 33, in Clifford Swain's words: "There's no such thing as the Salty Dog Tavern."

The Best from American Canals, Thomas F Hahn editor-in-chief, The American Canal Society Inc., York PA, 1980, paperback, 8½" x 11", 88 pages, 150 illustrations, $6. This book describes itself as "a compilation of interesting and little-known facts about our former 4000-mile canal system in this country, written by today's leading canal historians. It is supplemented by a number of well-written and informative articles on the still operating canals in Canada, Ireland and England..."

Both books are available from The American Canal and Transportation Center, PO Box 310, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Please add $1 shipping charge; in West Virginia, add 3% sales tax.

THE SUPERINTENDENT IS LEAVING

William R Failor, Superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park for 8½ years, is leaving that job to become the Chief of Interpretation, Recreation and Visitor Services for the National Capital Region, in the Region's headquarters in Washington. The new appointment begins January 12, 1981. Best wishes in your new job, Bill, and thanks for all the cooperation you've given us over the years. Those of us who have known you during your tenure as Canal Park superintendent hope you won't use your moving-up as an excuse to keep you away from Association events.

NEW POLICY ON ASSOCIATION DUES

In view of the facts that half the membership did not pay dues in 1980 and that some members have requested that they be billed for dues, treasurer Emmie Woodward, with the approval of Association officers and Board members, will institute a new dues collection program, starting this calendar year. Dues are payable on January 1st and (in January) Emmie will mail a specific reminder of that fact to each member. For 1981, all persons paying dues in at least one of the preceding four years will receive notices. Members are expected to pay by March 1st. If you don't pay by that time, your name will be removed from the membership list. Please do your best to send in your 1981 dues by March 1, 1981, whether you last paid dues in 1980 or 1977.
THE 27TH ANNUAL REUNION HIKE

The 27th annual reunion ("The Justice Douglas") hike will take place during the weekend of April 24-26, 1981. It will probably be somewhere between Williamsport and Hancock. A hike chairman will be appointed at the Association Board meeting on January 11, 1981, at 1 pm in the Glen Echo town hall. If you are interested in helping out with any phase of the 1981 reunion hike, please come to the meeting.

C&O CANAL NHP ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING (OCT. 18, 1980) NOTES

Development Concept Plans

Great Falls - The Commission was concerned that public comments may not have been addressed adequately in the NPS "Finding of No Significant Impact" report for this Plan. Mentioned in this regard were the public's comments on the proposed parking lot on the Gold Mine Tract, the wood-deck walkway at Widewater, and the proposed demolition of two non-historical buildings. After determining that no fiscal year 1981 funds are available to carry out the Plan, the Commission established a subcommittee to again review the Plan with Park Service planners. The subcommittee is to provide a recommendation in writing to the Commission before the next Commission meeting on what position the Commission should take on the Plan. Association members Nancy Long, Ken Rollins and Ed Wesely are on the subcommittee.

Williamsport - This Plan began with fiscal year 1981. The Plan is for Segment 19 of the General Plan (Lock 44 to Hagerstown Water Treatment Plant - 1½ miles of canal). The Plan involves preparation of a recommendation by the Park Service concerning restoration of the canal and historic structures, degrees of rewatering, visitor traffic, and what to do with the railroad lift bridge, the loading basin and the Cushwa warehouse. $40,000 is available to do the study. The Plan is to be adopted in its final form in Dec. 1981. One public meeting on Plan development was to be held.

Cumberland/North Branch - This Plan will be released to the public shortly for review.

Wayside Exhibits

Installation of 15 interpretive exhibits along the towpath from Georgetown to Seneca has begun.

The Abandoned Western Maryland Railroad Right-of-Way

The National Park Service sent an "option paper" to the Morgan County Commissioners, specifying the options the Park Service has in acquiring the abandoned right-of-way. Morgan county will assemble its interested citizenry for comment, and then, presumably, will give the Park Service its opinion on the options. The Park Service has deferred acquisition of the right-of-way until it hears from Morgan County. Morgan County had bitterly complained to its state and federal representatives about the acquisition plan. (See a related article elsewhere in this issue.)

Catoctin Creek Crossing

The Park Service has acquired a "bailey bridge" from the US Army. The bridge was scheduled to have been installed last fall across the Catoctin. The aqueduct collapsed in the early 1970s.
Horse Access

The Commission approved a proposal to establish horsepeople's campsites at Edward's Ferry, White's Ferry, Monocacy River and Antietam for a one-year trial. Horseback riding without a permit (rarely issued) is prohibited from Georgetown to Swain's lock (mile 16.6), but is permitted elsewhere.

In Case You Were Wondering

The Park Service removes handles from water pumps at campsites in areas which could become inaccessible by water-testing personnel during winter storms. The reason is that the Park Service does not permit water to be pumped unless it is tested twice a month. Handles are replaced in mid-March.

Other Items

There will be a meeting on the establishment of a controversial towpath parcourse in Georgetown; the Chessie System may approve a proposed Park Service walkway in Cumberland from Baltimore street to the Canal terminus; the towpath below lock 30 is deteriorating because of vehicular traffic to and from the Brunswick town campground; Montgomery County plans to compost 400 tons/day of sewage sludge at a site near the towpath just below the Dickerson power plant.

A WESTERN MARYLAND POLITICIAN & LAND DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAW PAW BENDS

Member Mel Collins has provided Along the Towpath with a copy of a newspaper story by staff writer L Eugene Goodrich in the Cumberland Evening Times of October 3, 1980. The story implies that Maryland state Delegate Cas Taylor (D-Allegany, Washington) is unhappy with the proposed Park Service acquisition of the Western Maryland Railroad abandoned right-of-way. Taylor is said to have stated:

'There has got to be a limit as to how much land we are going to permit the federal government to own in this country. I know that when you oppose anything about the Canal you're painted as anti-American, anti-apple pie and motherhood by its supporters. But I still say there is a limit as to how far we are going to let the feds go in real estate matters.'

The article did not say whether Taylor opposed the right-of-way acquisition, nor did it mention citizen or other political support for Taylor's position in Maryland. The West Virginians' fervent opposition is, of course, another matter. In this regard, consider another paragraph in the same article:

"In the Bevan Bend, nearest Paw Paw, the WMRR right-of-way slices the land in two, serving 294 acres of land purchased in 1978 by the Tuscarora Land Company and presently being subdivided into smaller tracts, ostensibly for homes. Of Tuscarora's initial investment of $200,000 for that 294 acres, $204,000 has been realized from the resale of 82 acres."

Readers are referred to the last issue of Along the Towpath for background information on the right-of-way acquisition.

Mel suggests that the Association advertise in Western Maryland the advantages to a depressed area, especially the economic advantages, if any, of the proposed acquisition.
GETTING TO THE TOWPATH: TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

Members outside the Washington metro area have requested information concerning how to get to the Canal other than by driving themselves. Bradley Haigh (703-642-5366) has volunteered to serve as a contact point for Association members inside or outside the Washington metro area. He will refer members outside the metro area to other members in their areas, hopefully facilitating carpooling.

Regarding public transportation, metrobus connects Georgetown and Glen Echo with the rest of the Washington metro area; Amtrak and Chessie System connect points in the Washington-Rockville-Point of Rocks-Brunswick-Harper's Ferry-Martinsburg corridor; Amtrak also extends to Hancock and Cumberland; local West Virginia government buses connect Martinsburg and Shepherdstown; and Greyhound serves Hagerstown, with transfer there to a bus for Williamsport.

EDUCATION: Politics of Conservation

The US Department of Agriculture Graduate School is offering a seminar course in ways citizens can influence government and private agencies to achieve desired conservation goals through legislation and regulation. Guest speakers from both the public and private sectors will be heard. Classes meet at USDA (12th ST and Independence Ave, SW, Washington) on Tuesdays from 6 to 9 PM, starting January 13, 1981. The cost is $36. For information call 202-447-5885. The USDA Graduate School is also offering courses in ecology, bird life and plant identification this winter.

COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Dates of Association-sponsored events are enclosed in boxes.

January 9, 1981 - Goodbye party for Bill Failor, 6 PM, Sheraton Hotel, Dual Highway, Hagerstown. If you are interested in this event and this notice reaches you in time, call J.D. Young (301-739-4200) of the Park Service for last-minute reservation information.

January 9, 1981 - C&O Canal Association's group night at the National Symphony, 8:30 PM, Kennedy Center Concert Hall, Washington. Association members can purchase tickets for good seats at a discount. The program features works by Lalo and Dvorak. If this notice reaches you before the concert, and you want to attend and have not yet made reservations, call treasurer Emmie Woodward (202-785-8100) during working hours.

January 10, 1981 - Level walkers' meeting and hike (to Falling Waters), 10:30 AM, Williamsport Town Hall. All Association members welcome. Prospective level walkers are encouraged to turn out. Call level walker Chairman Lyman Stucker (703-549-3527) for carpool or other information.

January 11, 1981 - Association Board meeting, 1 PM, Glen Echo Town Hall. All members welcome. Members interested in helping arrange the 1981 reunion hike please attend.

February 22, 1981 - Interpretive towpath hike, 1 PM - 3 PM, Great Falls. This hike is sponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Sierra Club, and will focus on the winter life of plants and animals. Fee for nonmembers of ANS is $6 for adults and $5 for children 16 and under. For more information, call the ANS at 301-652-5964.
March 8, 1981 - Interpretive hike on the towpath and the Billy Goat Trail, 9AM-1PM, Great Falls. This hike is another ANS/SC-sponsored event. A geologist will discuss the falls, "pothole alley," folds and faults, and rock formations. $8 fee for nonmembers of ANS.

March 15, 1981 - ANS/SC interpretive towpath hike, 1PM-3PM, Carderock. Hike leaders will point out spring peepers, robins, skunk cabbage and other signs of spring. Fee for nonmembers of ANS is $6 for adults and $5 for children 16 and under.

March 28, 1981 - Level walkers' hike, 10AM, White's Ferry. Hike to Monocacy and back. Return transportation will be available for those wanting to hike only one way. Call Level Walker Chairman Lyman Stucker for further information.

April 24-26, 1981 - The 27th annual reunion (Justice Douglas) hike, membership meeting and banquet, probably at a location between Williamsport and Hancock. Details in the next issue of Along the Towpath.

First Saturday of Each Month - Towpath hikes sponsored by the Upper Montgomery County YMCA, and led by Association member Richard S Will. For information call Dave Johnson, 301-948-1062.
LEVEL WALKER NOTES

In this issue you will find the updated Level Walker roster. We have a new format - let us know at the next meeting how you like it. Save it for future reference. We will publish additions in the newsletter so you may keep it "up-to-date."

Very good level walker reports have been submitted which will be included in the next issue. However, it has been a long time since we have had a report from some sections. Write to us.

We continue to receive interesting reports from "Butch" Henley on the walk from the West Coast. Joan Paull sends us this recent report:

"Gained More Than We Gave Up". These are the words of "Butch" who is one of 41 of the original 50 who left San Francisco in April of 1980 to Hike-A-Nation. The group is now in the woods of Arkansas with some snow and temperatures of 10° or less some nights!

During an interview for the Tulsa World Newspaper, one of Butch's hiking buddies, Bruce Ohlson, said that the trip will cost 8¢ a mile. (Mostly for socks and shoes). The article pointed out several interesting things about the trip. One was that Butch had the honor of having had the largest blister so far on the trip. It was 5 inches by 2 inches across! It had to be surgically removed from the bottom of her foot. She rested a few days and then hiked to catch up with the group.

On Thanksgiving, the North Face Company furnished a complete turkey dinner for the hikers. The group was thankful for good health and the opportunity to see our great country.

Some of the highlights of the trip have been the Rockies with the Continental Divide, the desert, Medical Museum in Kansas, Will Rogers Memorial in Oklahoma, and the halfway celebration near Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Although most of the hikers have left their families and jobs for a year, they feel that they have gained more than they gave up.

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Our next Level Walker meeting and walk will be Saturday, January 10, 10:30 AM Town Hall, Williamsport, MD (Bring bag lunch). We plan a walk to Falling Waters - weather conditions may alter length of walk. See you there! Everybody welcome!

Our March walk will be March 28 from Whites Ferry to Monocacy. Meet at 10:00 AM in the parking lot. We will shuttle back those who do not "round-trip". This will be our "tune-up" for the Spring annual walk.
**LEVEL WALKERS DIRECTORY - DECEMBER 1980**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Miles from</th>
<th>Sect. Washington</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0 TIDAL LOCK TO OLD BOAT INCLINE</td>
<td>Carrie Johnson, 3219 1st St., N. Arlington, VA 22201 301-229-2388 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 OLD BOAT INCLINE TO LOCK 5</td>
<td>Jeannie Wilkins, 4007 61st St. Brookmont, MD 20016 301-229-1922 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0 LOCK 5 TO CABIN JOHN CREEK</td>
<td>Phillip Stone, 3023 Macomb St., N.W. Washington, DC 20008 202-966-0220 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5 CABIN JOHN CREEK TO LOCK 14</td>
<td>Dulany Davidson, Jr., 7809 Sycamore Drv. Falls Church, VA 22042 703-573-3453 17</td>
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<td>9.4 LOCK 14 TO CROPLEY</td>
<td>Robert Greenberg, 7012 Braeburn Pl. Bethesda, MD 20034 301-229-5644 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3 CROPLEY TO GREAT FALLS (LOCK 20)</td>
<td>Helen Johnston, 4909 Bayard Blvd. Washington, DC 20016 301-229-7443 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.3 GREAT FALLS TO SWAINS LOCK</td>
<td>John Anderson, 205 Skyhill Rd., #3 Alexandria, Va. 22314 703-823-1853 20</td>
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<td>16.6 SWAINS LOCK TO PENNYFIELD LOCK</td>
<td>Al Stanley, 9935 Cottrell Terr. Silver Spring, MD 20903 301-439-4769 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.6 PENNYFIELD LOCK TO SENeca</td>
<td>Cathy Douglas, 4852 Hutchins Pl., N.W. Washington, DC 20007 301-229-5633 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.8 SENeca AQUEDUCT TO TEnFOOT ISLAND</td>
<td>Peggy Lawson, 10801 Spring Knoll Drv. Potomac, MD 20851 301-469-7942 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.0 TEnFOOT ISLAND TO SYCAMORE LANDING</td>
<td>Sylvia Heflin, 822 Grant St. Herndon, VA 22070 703-437-7473 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>27.2 SYCAMORE LANDING TO EDWARDS FERRY</td>
<td>Charles Ostot, 5124 N. 33rd St. Arlington, VA 22207 703-538-5446 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.8 EDWARDS FERRY TO FT. HARRISON ISLAND</td>
<td>Constant Southworth, 4800 Fillmore Ave. #544, Alexandria, VA 22311 26</td>
</tr>
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Sect. Washington

Miles from

27 69.4 ANTietAM AQUEDUCT TO SHEPHERDSTOWN
Kenneth Rollins, 113 Valley Rd.
Brookmont, MD 20016 301-229-1513
Mary Hoffman, 4436 Chesapeake St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20016 202-363-1705

28 72.8 SHEPHERDSTOWN TO LOCK 39
John Frye, Gapland, MD 21736 301-432-8878

29 74.0 LOCK 39 TO SNYDERS LANDING
Eugene Maddex, 64 Lebanon Hills Drv.
Pittsburgh, PA 15228 412-343-2626
Reynold Sawatsky, 10569 Tolling Clock Way
Columbia, MD 21044 301-730-6241

30 76.7 SNYDERS LANDING TO LOCK 40
Harold Cramer, Sr., 718 Pamela Rd.
Glen Burnie, MD 21061 301-761-2768

31 79.4 LOCK 40 TO MARSH RUN CULVERT
Harold Cramer, 578 Millshire Drv.
Baltimore, MD 21217 301-987-9588
William Cramer, 7219 Oriole Ave.
Springfield, VA 22150

32 81.6 MARSH RUN CULVERT TO DAM 4
Edith & Marvin Wilkerson, 2234 N. Trenton St.
Arlington, VA 22207 703-527-4573

33 84.4 DAM 4 TO CHARLES MILL
Joseph N. Rowe, 1105 Woodland Way
Hagerstown, MD 21740 301-733-4863

34 88.1 CHARLES MILL TO FORMANS FERRY
Victor Conrad, Route B, Box 236
Hagerstown, MD 21740 301-739-0479

35 91.0 FORMANS FERRY TO LOCK 43
H. A. Thornhill, P.O. Box 72
Carlisle, PA 17013 717-243-5281

36 93.0 LOCK 43 TO FALLING WATERS
Same as Section 35

37 94.4 FALLING WATERS TO WILLIAMSPORT
 Walter Teach, 234 Potomac St.
 Williamsport, MD 21795 301-223-7900
 Sylvia Geller, 1665 Parkcrest Cir., #101
 Reston, VA 22090 703-471-1083
 Ellen Holway, 6214 Wagner Lane
 Bethesda, MD 20016 301-229-4257

38 99.3 WILLIAMSPORT TO PINESBURG STATION
Melvin Kaplan, 1 Fenton Ave.
Williamsport, MD 21795 301-582-2165

39 102.2 PINESBURG STATION TO OLD RR STATION
Paul Hauck, 19701 Beall Circle,
Poolesville, MD 20837 301-972-8580

40 105.0 OLD RR STATION TO DAM 5
George "Hooper" Wolfe, P.O. Box 108
Williamsport, MD 21795 301-223-7941
Carroll Morgan, 10404 Buckboard Pl.
Potomac, MD 20854 301-299-6482

41 106.8 DAM 5 TO LOCK 47
Lynn Clippinger, 803 Newington Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21217

Miles from

Sect. Washington

42 108.6 LOCK 47 TO McCOYS FERRY
Hagerstown, MD 21740 301-739-4043

43 110.4 McCOYS FERRY TO FORT FREDERICK
Karen Gray, 825 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
#304, Washington, DC 20037 202-333-6947
Orin Long, 3321 Hartwell Ct.
Falls Church, VA 22042 703-560-5433

44 112.4 FORT FREDERICK TO ERNESTVILLE
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Larsen, 1314 Kurtz Rd.
McLean, VA 22101 703-356-1809

45 114.5 ERNESTVILLE TO LICKING CREEK AQUEDUCT
Brad Haigh, 4926 Herkimer St.
Annandale, VA 22003 703-642-5366

46 116.0 LICKING CREEK AQUEDUCT TO MILE 120
William E. Davies, 125 W. Greenway Blvd.
Falls Church, VA 22046 703-532-7588
Thomas Stevensen, 5725 Denfield Rd.
Rockville, MD 20851 301-881-3420

47 120.0 MILE 120 TO HANCOCK
Mr. & Mrs. James Bryant, 7115 Wilburdale Dr.
Annandale, VA 22003 703-256-4161

48 124.1 HANCOCK TO ROUNDTOP HILL
John Howard, 10598 Jason Ct., Faulkner Ridge
Columbia, MD 21044 301-730-4489
Walter L. Keefer, Rt. 1, Box 199
Clear Spring, MD 21722

49 127.3 ROUNDTOP HILL TO LOCK 53
Ralph French, Rt. 1, Box 220
Princess Anne, MD 21853

50 130.0 LOCK 53 TO DAM 6
David Palmeter, 1819 H St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20006 202-466-3842

51 134.1 DAM 6 TO SIDELING HILL AQUEDUCT
Emmie Woodward, 9017 Old Dominion Dr.
McLean, VA 22102 703-759-3940

52 136.6 SIDELING HILL AQUEDUCT TO LITTLE ORLEANS
Dale Jackson, 607 Stonington Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20902 301-593-6977

53 140.9 LITTLE ORLEANS TO LOCK 59
William B. III & Florence Canfield
5307 Paltmough Rd., N.W.
Washington, DC 20016 202-338-1553
Odr. John Urquhart, USN Ret., Box 4176
Chevy Chase, MD 20015 301-656-0474

54 146.6 LOCK 59 TO LOCK 60
Doris Bailey, 703 Rosemont Ave.
Frederick, MD 21701

55 149.7 LOCK 60 TO GREEN RIDGE STATION
Robert Woodall, Jr., 8252 Carleigh Pkwy.
Springfield, VA 22152 703-569-9341

56 151.2 GREEN RIDGE STATION TO LOCK 61
Jeremy F. Parker, 6222 Broad St.
Brookmont, MD 20016 301-229-2578
This painting is a re-creation of the Francis Scott Key Mansion in Washington, D.C. as the artist envisions it may have appeared in the heyday of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal seen in the rear of the house. The painting, a watercolor, is the latest in a series by Earl Minderman, Washington area artist, entitled "Vistas and Vis­ions - Today and Yesterday on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal.

This mansion was built in 1802 and was in the possession of Key and his heirs from 1805 to 1843 when it was sold. The house was on "M" Street, just west of Key Bridge which connects the District of Columbia with Virginia across the Potomac River.

The author of the words for "The Star Spangled Banner" lived in this house for many years and his nine children were born there. He greatly resented the disturbance caused by the construction and operation of the C & O Canal in his backyard. The Canal was started July 4, 1828. Key also opposed the construction of an aqueduct designed to carry canal boats over the Potomac to Virginia and carried his case all the way to the United States Supreme Court where he lost. (The Chief Justice, Roger Taney, was a brother-in-law.)

In its latter years, the Key Mansion was allowed to deteriorate badly. In 1907, Admiral George Dewey, "The Hero of Manila Bay," led a group seeking to purchase and restore the Mansion but they failed to raise the necessary funds. The end of the historic Mansion came in 1949 when it was torn down to make way for a freeway.

LEVEL WALKER CHAIRMAN - Lyman Stucker, 2811 Farm Road, Alexandria, VA 22302 - 703-549-3527
Thomas Bridge's patented machine for lifting containerized cargo from one canal level to another. The bucket, below, was filled with water, lifting the cargo via the two, wheeled cranes on the platform above. The ratchet and crank, at the center, is a safety device.

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