

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

Volume XV

October 1983

NUMBER 4

1983 CANAL HERITAGE WALK DETAILS

The Association's 1983 Canal Heritage Walk--a hike accompanied by expert interpretation--will take place on October 29, 1983 beginning at 10 AM, and will traverse about ten miles of canal, from Hancock (mile 124.3) to the berm road leading to the Woodmont Rod and Gun Club (mile 134.6). Transportation for hikers from the Woodmont Club area to Hancock at the termination of the hike will be provided. Hikers desiring lunch should bring their own (there are restaurants and grocery stores in Hancock). Special provision for camping has not been arranged for this event; persons wishing to camp may use the hiker-biker sites at Little Pool (mile 120.6) or White Rock (mile 126.5), or the drive-in sites at McCoy's Ferry (mile 110.4) or Fort Frederick (mile 112.5); check with the Park Service before depending on camping at McCoy's or Ft. Frederick. After the hike there will be a social hour with cash bar (reservations not required), followed by a dinner (for those making reservations), with further interpretation offered by a speaker. Hikers will start out from Hancock, a town with warehouses (and an outhouse) on the canal and once a center for transportation along the National Road, the canal and the railroad. Proceeding upstream, participants will encounter the "Devil's Eyebrow," a large and noteworthy anticline in Bloomsburg sandstone, the remains of the Round Top Cement Mill (attesting to the quality of the product used also in many of the canal's structures), a number of caves, Lock 53, the mouth of the Little Cacapon River, Lock 54, the remains of Dam No. 6, Guardlock No. 6 and Lock 55. Sharing their knowledge of the historical and geological features with hikers will be Ralph Donnelly and Bill Davies. These experts will be willing to lead willing followers away from the towpath to explore culverts and caves.

Drivers should park in the parking area next to the canal at the foot of Pennsylvania Ave. in Hancock. Participants willing to assist with transporting hikers to Hancock at the end of the hike are needed, and are requested to arrive at the parking area by 9 AM.

The social hour will begin at 4 PM at the American Legion on Main Street (US 40), one-half mile east of the intersection of Main Street and Pennsylvania Ave. The dinner will begin at 6 PM at the same location. Industrial archaeologist Tom Hahn will share with dinner attenders his thoughts on the significance of the Hancock-Woodmont section of the canal.

A form for making dinner reservations is included in this issue of Along the Towpath. The cost of the dinner is \$7 per person.

Directions: Exit I-70 at US 40 (Main Street) at the east end of town; follow Main Street west, 1/2 mile past the American Legion on the right, to Pa. Ave. Turn left on Pa. Ave., and proceed two blocks to the parking area and the canal.

exploration

Excerpts and Interpretations from the Preliminary Report

THE MOORE VILLAGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS¹

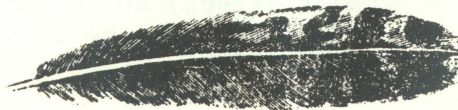
From John F Pousson, NPS

In 1894 Gerard Fowle discovered a variety of sites of prehistoric (prior to about 1700) civilization in Allegany County, Maryland². In the 1950s, Henry T Wright located an Archaic period (7500-1000 BC) site and an early historic site near the C&O Canal in Allegany County², and, in 1963, Edward Larrabee concluded that there was an "area of intense occupation" near the Canal². In 1976, Russell G Handsman, investigating the area singled out by Larrabee, discovered a late prehistoric site which he named the Moore Village site after the owners of the tract on which it was located².

There are numerous prehistoric sites in Western Maryland older than Moore Village. Although there is as yet no evidence for more than a transitory presence of Paleoindians (10,000-7500 BC) in the area², there is abundant evidence for stable occupation by increasing populations of Archaic indians at many sites², including Wright's site near the present line of the canal. The final prehistoric interval, the Woodland period (1000 BC to about 1700 in Western Maryland), saw the rise of complex economies and a widespread network of trade accompanying a more sedentary way of life².

The Monongahela division of the Woodland culture, influenced strongly by Mesoamerican civilization, appears to have had highly developed ceremonial systems centered on complexes of platform mounds. The presence of Monogahela indians in Western Maryland is well established, and it is possible that the Moore Village was a Monongahela village. [The Monongahela village hypothesis could, of course, be rejected if the characteristics of the Moore Village site were not those of a Monongahela village.]

As summarized by Griffin³, Monongahela village sites are located on terraces or high bottomland near major streams, or on hills or saddles between hills. Houses, as represented by postmolds, are generally circular, about 20 feet in diameter, and are arranged around a central plaza within an oval to circular palisade. Refuse and storage pits, often associated with or located inside houses, are common, and at some sites a refuse-filled ditch has been found immediately inside the palisade. The population of these villages is believed to have averaged about 100 persons. Horticulture, hunting, fishing, and gathering of edible wild plants provided subsistence for Monongahela people. Their stone and bone-working technologies were well-developed, and their pottery is generally well made. The most common stone tools are triangular projectile points, but knives, scrapers and drills are also common. Awls are the most frequently found bone artifacts, but bone or antler tubes, fishhooks, hoes, points, whistles, pendants, beads, etc., are also found. Monongahela pottery is commonly tempered with crushed limestone or shells; the most prevalent forms are globular jars with in-sloping shoulders and vertical or flared rims. The most common surface treatment is cordmarking.

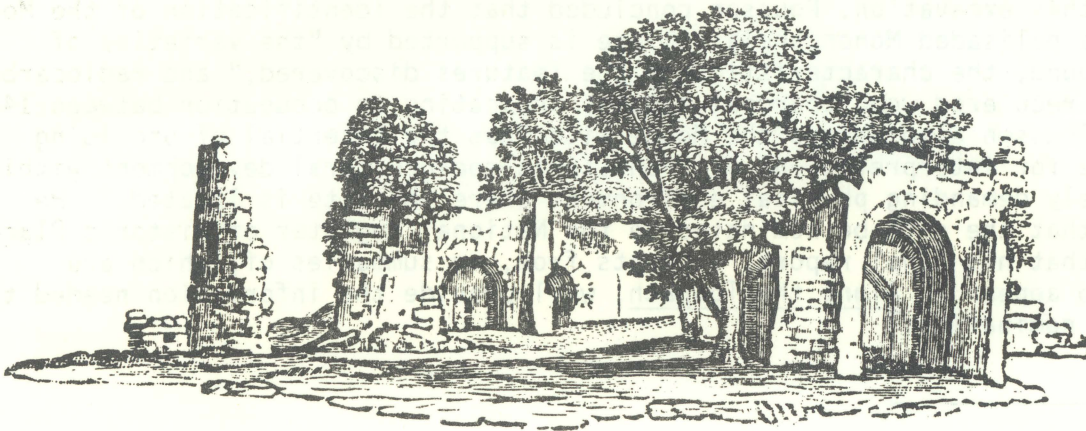


[In 1982, John F. Pousson--of the National Park Service's Denver Service Center--and a group of assistants conducted an archaeological investigation at the Moore Village site, with their objective the location of features indicative of the village's palisade and other structures, features that would be expected in a Monongahela village.

The investigators dug shovel test pits along plowed transects to determine the density of artifacts, and selected two areas which contained relatively high densities of prehistoric materials for excavation.]

During excavation, small features were sectioned as they were uncovered to secure profiles, and large features were completely relieved of fill. All excavated soils were sifted for artifacts. Artifacts, animal bones, charred ethnobotanical specimens, wood charcoal samples and large and small soil samples were recovered. Less than 1% of the area of the village was excavated.

Postmolds, the most common type of soil feature, generally consisted of yellowish-brown to brown silt loam, frequently mottled with lighter colored soil which had infiltrated from surrounding soils following removal or decay of the posts. Several trenches and pits were also uncovered; a large trench was found juxtaposed with large postmolds in high density; it is possible that these postmolds represent the position of a palisade, and the trench, in part, provided soil to embank the base of the palisade. Smaller postmolds presumably represent houses or other structures located in the village during the occupation of the site.



Stone tools and chipping debris (flakes, chunks and cores) are together the most abundant artifact variety, and attest to the importance of this material for subsistence activities. Chert and cherty siltstone, the primary materials used, are available locally from exposures of the Oriskany and Helderberg formations, which lie beneath a large portion of Allegany County north of the site. Other materials include quartz (some of which is rock crystal), quartzite, rhyolite and jasper.

Triangular projectile points and point fragments were the most frequent single type of stone tool, but a variety of notched and stemmed points were also found, several of which are likely to date to the Archaic period. Drills, knives and scrapers, mostly fragmentary, were relatively common, and several fragments of large, bifacially flaked tools, likely to have been used as hoes, were found as well. Ground stone tools were less abundant, and, for the most part, functionally less distinct, but one whole ground stone celt, and fragments of others, were recovered.

Nearly all the pottery fragments recovered were shell tempered, and most were cordmarked. A few fragments tempered with crushed rock, or untempered, were also recovered. The vessels from which the fragments derive appear to have been globular jars with in-sloping shoulders and vertical or slightly flared rims. The lips of most vessels were flattened slightly and frequently bore the impression of cord-wrapped paddles; lips were often notched with the impression of paddle edges. Two small fragments with punctuations, and one incised fragment, were the most elaborately decorated pieces, but horizontal bands of indentations were also employed in decorating the bodies of at least two vessels. One fragment of what was evidently a lug on a vessel rim was found.

One stone, vasiform pipe bowl was found, as well as one nearly whole pottery pipe and several pottery pipe fragments. Most of these pottery pipes were shell tempered, and one had been decorated with very small punctuations.

The shell artifacts recovered were nearly all beads of Marginella, ground obliquely at their tips so as to be strung or sewn onto clothing.

The bone artifacts were also mostly beads, tubular in shape, cut from long bone shafts and polished; incomplete specimens, together with waste portions of bone from which beads had been cut, were also found. A pierced and hollowed-out deer phalange, presumably an ornament, was among the other bone artifacts recovered. Also found were a bone fishhook, bone needle and awl fragments, bone and antler projectile points, antler flaking tools and antler gaming pieces.

[It is evident that this account of the features found at the Moore Village site match those enumerated by Griffin for Monongahela village sites. From the results of this excavation, Pousson concluded that the identification of the Moore Village as a palisaded Monongahela village is supported by "the varieties of artifacts found, the characteristics of the features discovered," and radiocarbon analyses of recovered wood charcoal samples indicating an occupation between 1400 and 1500. Pousson also thinks the Moore site "has the potential of providing pivotal data for interpretations of prehistoric sociocultural development within the relatively demanding physical environment where the site is located." He recommends that the site be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and writes that his final report, excerpts from, or summaries of, which are scheduled to appear in Along the Towpath, will provide the information needed to support the nomination.]

References and Notes

¹Pousson, JF, 1982 Excavations at the Moore Village Site: Preliminary Report, National Park Service, September 1982. [In accordance with the suggestion of the author, this account does not reveal the precise location of the site; he apparently fears that inexperienced persons, learning of the location, might inflict irreparable or costly damage on the unprotected site. There was no opportunity to discuss this matter with the author prior to the publication deadline for this issue of Along the Towpath. Presumably, public inspection of the site will be eventually arranged. Ed.]

²References may be found in Pousson's report.

³Griffin, James B, "Late Prehistory of the Ohio Valley," Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 15, Northeast, BG Trigger, Ed., pp. 547-559, 1978.



1984 FULL-DISTANCE DOUGLAS HIKE

From Bruce Wood

The 1984 full-distance Justice Douglas hike is shaping up well. Two full-group meetings have been held and the various committees have been set up.

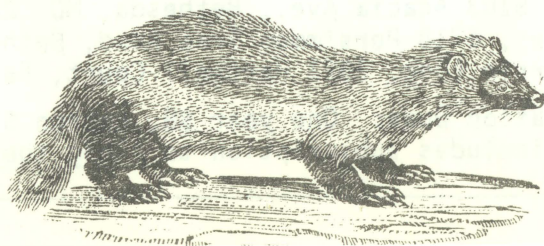
Plans call for a fourteen-day hike, beginning in Cumberland on Sunday, April 15 and ending in Washington on Saturday, April 28. A schedule has been agreed-to with the National Park Service pending a few confirmations. The hike group has begun working on such details as how much cooking they wish to do as compared to how many meals they will seek to have catered by local groups along the way. The kick-off will be in Cumberland, a midway banquet will be in Williamsport and a final banquet will be in the Washington area.

No additional applicants can now be accepted until we begin to seek deposits, as more prospective hikers have signed up already than the campsites can accommodate. When we advise that deposits will be accepted, anyone wishing to hike is welcome to send in a deposit, but present applicants will be given first chance on space and, after the deadline has passed, additional applicants will be accommodated up to our estimated maximum, presently set at 50 hikers.

Anyone is will be welcome to hike with the group and to do their own thing for meals and overnight accommodations. If you wish to stay in motels the entire way, we have people doing that and arranging for transportation on a daily basis. No payment to the Association is required to hike along in this manner, but please let us know when you will be with us so we can anticipate you. If you wish to backpack all your own things and camp with the group, you will be welcome to do so as the park and its facilities are open to all. Again, no payment to the Association is required. The most restricted campsites will be in remote hiker-bikers, so some people may have to camp in the woods if space is tight.

We anticipate the total cost of everything will be between a "dollar a mile" (\$185.00) and \$250.00 per person including room, board and transportation for two weeks, and less costly choices will be available. We will be able to separate out the cost of transportation to Cumberland, the Cumberland and Williamsport hotels and the banquets. We will also have a one-week charge so someone can hike either week with the group.

Whether you are on the hike list today or can join for only a few hours, we look forward to seeing everyone and their friends on this hike - set the dates aside and join us for as much as you are able!



The Wolverine or Glutton

CORRESPONDENCE

I should [like to] note that the longwindedness of the [Advisory Commission's] discussion of river access for paddling paraplegics [Along the Towpath, July 1983, pp. 9-10] came because the issue was raised at the last minute without due preparation. Commissions and bureaucracies don't like that. (Neither did I as CCA's representative.) Second, I like the listing (p. 15) of names, addresses and phone numbers. I'd urge you to add Swain's Lock's number: 301-299-9006.

John Seabury Thomson
Chevy Chase, Md.
July 27, 1983

CORRECTION: The telephone number for the Canal Clipper at Great Falls is 301-299-2026, not -2096, as was incorrectly reported in the July 1983 newsletter.



Along the Towpath is published in January, April, July and October by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association, a non-profit organization, P.O. Box 66, Glen Echo, MD 20812-0066.

Editor is Robert Greenspun, 413 W. Windsor Ave., Alexandria, VA 22302. The editor welcomes correspondence and contributions. Requests for publication of advertising should be sent to the Board of Directors at the Association address.

Production and Distribution Assistants are Michele Carsrud, Rita Hirrlinger, and Emmie Woodward.

Association officers for the 1983-1984 year are:

President: Bruce Wood, 5703 40th Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781

First Vice President: Bill Davies, 125 W. Greenway Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22046

2nd VP & Level Walker Chmn: Lyman Stucker, 2811 Farm Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302

Secretary: Kay Seward, 5103 Acacia Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814

Treasurer: John Chandler, 6718 Persimmon Tree Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

Information Officer: Orrin Long, 3321 Hartwell Court, Falls Church, VA 22042

Association Dues: One year \$8, patron \$15.

Membership includes subscription to Along the Towpath.

REPORT ON ASSOCIATION-SPONSORED VOLUNTEER PROJECTS
JULY-SEPTEMBER 1983

From Joan Paull

Crowd Control at Georgetown Concerts: At least one volunteer was present at all six concerts. The volunteers kept people away from the barge loading and unloading area and answered questions. Perhaps the most important contribution was indirect, as Association volunteers made it possible for a park employee to return to more substantive duties.

Cleaning and Cataloging: Five volunteers participated in two programs at Ferry Hill. One project consisted of brushing and preserving iron artifacts, and the other of cleaning historical documents. At least one document cleaner was distracted by a desire to read a document she was cleaning--an 1862 report to the Canal Company. These programs will be repeated this fall.

Removing Intruding Vegetation: Kent Minichiello's group of volunteers has successfully completed work on Locks 51 and 52. Michele Carsrud's team at the Alexandria Aqueduct has removed the sumac stumps from the prism that were interfering with planting of a ground cover; other work at the aqueduct has included removal of vegetation, trash, and saplings which were too close to the base of the aqueduct.

Fall Volunteers Wanted

A. Scheduled Projects with Leaders

Document Treaters to help Park Curator Lee Struble on October 4, 1983 and November 19, 1983 at 10 AM. Call Joan Paull, 301-384-8584, to arrange a car pool to Ferry Hill (Shepherdstown).

Trail Improvers to assist Bob Woodall on October 12, 1983 (raindate October 19, 1983) with three small pathways at Carderock (mile 11), at 9 AM. Come any time before 12:30 PM with your own shovel and bucket or wheelbarrow. Call Bob, 703-569-9341, for further information.

Painters to help Bob Woodall on October 12, 1983 (raindate October 19, 1983) at Lock 20 (next to Great Falls Tavern), at 1 PM. Come anytime before 3 PM. Materials will be supplied by the Park. Call Bob for further information.

Vegetation Removal Crew to assist Michele Carsrud on October 15, 1983 (rain date October 16, 1983) and November 12, 1983 (raindate November 19, 1983) with further work on the Alexandria Aqueduct. The remaining vegetation needs to be cleared from the prism and the ground prepared for planting a ground cover. Work will begin at 9:00 AM. both days. Call Michele at 301-495-8585 (eves) or 301-937-2806 (days and weekends) for further information.

B. Nonscheduled Projects with Leaders

Trail Camouflagers to help John Anderson in the Great Falls area. Call John to arrange day and hours (703-823-1853).

Painters to help Al Stanley and Joan Paull paint the pumphouse at Swain's Lock.

Iron Brushers to help Lee Struble with artifacts at Ferry Hill.

C. Projects in Need of Leaders. Here is your opportunity to lead. Call Joan Paull, 301-384-8584, to volunteer either as a leader or a follower.

"Adopt a Park" People to do a small amount of weeding and mulching in mini-gardens along the Canal in the Palisades District.

Project Manager to direct the planting of seedlings or grass in the Carderock picnic area.

Project Leader to paint the exterior cinder blocks at the Carderock comfort station.

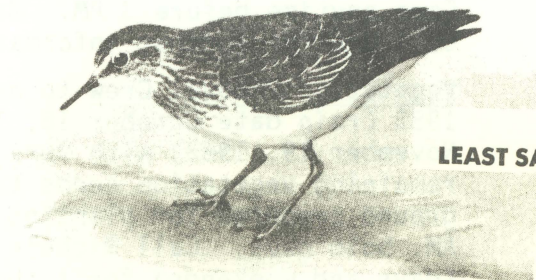
Photographer to take pictures of the erosion problems and other natural damage in the Palisades District of the Canal.

Seamstress to make dresses and aprons for the ladies who work on the park barges. All materials and supplies needed will be furnished by the Park.

Brick "Relayers" to re-lay small patches of brick by the lock at the Great Falls Tavern. This must be done on a weekend.

Seamstress to make calico or gingham bags for the crew on the barges to use to carry their two-way radios.

Vegetation Removal Crew to clear the drydock at Lock 35.



LEAST SANDPIPER

NOTES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST RELATING TO THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE C&O CANAL COMPANY

From Josephine D. Allen and Tom Hahn

On June 24, 1824, not long after the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company was organized, its Board of Directors resolved that "the President be empowered to procure a permanent seal for this company and in the interim that a plain seal, if necessary, be employed to authenticate the public acts of the corporation."¹ A temporary seal was subsequently employed; however, it was not without design. It carried the head of a greyhound and the motto: "SPERO MELIORA," ("Hope for Improvement").²

A few months later, Benjamin Chambers, engraver, die sinker and copper plate printer of Washington, D.C., with an established business on Pennsylvania Avenue during the period 1822-43,³ made the first official seal of the C&O Canal Company. This seal, for which Chambers was paid \$30.00, was adopted September 3, 1828.⁴ On the same day his bill was presented for payment "for the seal press." Both of these bills were paid from the "contingent fund."⁵ According to local engravers, it is quite likely that Stabler's press turned out Chambers' seal. Also it is quite likely that Stabler learned the art of seal engraving in Chambers' shop.

In 1836 Stabler made a new official seal for the Canal Company, although similar to the original seal, the new seal had the inscription "SEAL AND PRESS BY E. STABLER" prominently across its lower face (the September 3, 1828 seal had no discernible lettering to indicate its maker). Edward Stabler was paid \$131.50 for this new official seal on March 30, 1836.⁶ On April 27, 1836 Stabler's new seal was adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors, who ordered that the September 3, 1828 seal be destroyed and the new seal "be adopted and henceforth used as the only seal of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company."⁷ The new seal (which is in the collection of the National Park Service), slightly smaller than the previous one, measures 2-1/8 inches in diameter. The devices used on the original seal denoted Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Internal and External Commerce. The design of the second official seal also symbolized these activities. The inscription; "CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL COMPANY" appears in a circle bordering the seal. Within the circle at the top, a crest of two clasped hands below the motto "ESTO PERPTUA" symbolizes the union of Eastern and Western waters accomplished by the

¹Records of the C&O Canal Company, Record Group No. 79, National Archives, Washington, D.C., "Proceedings of the Board of Directors of the C&O Canal Company, June 24, 1824," p. 4. (Hereafter shown as "Proceedings").

²Proceedings, July 5, 1828.

³Washington Directory, 1822, 1843.

⁴Proceedings, September 3, 1828, p. 63.

⁵Proceedings, October 18, 1828, p. 92.

⁶Proceedings, March 30, 1836, p. 38.

⁷Proceedings, April 27, 1836, p. 49.

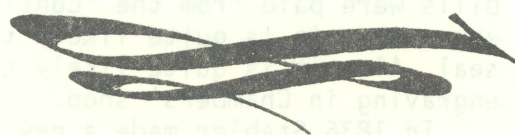
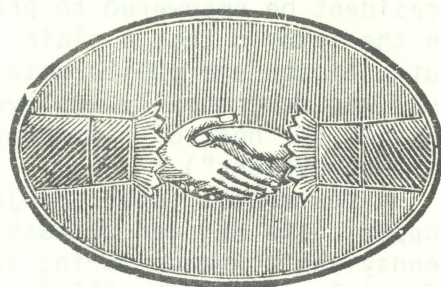
canal; a mountain at the bottom of the seal perforated by a tunnel accompanied by the motto "PERSERVERANDO" symbolizes the way this union was effected and the long continuous labor which it required. Within the circle, in the upper right field, there is a large manufacturing plant bordering a canal; on the canal in the center foreground a man on a horse is drawing a canal boat, representing national commerce. The agricultural reference is a man plowing with a single horse directly above the inscription "SEAL & PRESS BY E. STABLER," and external commerce is represented by a steamship under power on an ocean in the upper left field.

Edward Stabler made many seals for important United States Government departments during this era. In 1830, he cut out the die for the House of Representatives official seal which was used until 1912. For this he was paid \$100.00.⁸

As early as 1831, Stabler engraved a seal for the United States Senate. However, his seal was not adopted as the official seal.⁹ The Interior

Department, created in 1849, authorized Edward Stabler to design its official seal which was adopted the same year. It was used until 1913, when another seal of a similar design was adopted.¹⁰ In 1849, Edward Stabler was ordered to make a facsimile of the Treasury Seal. His seal was different from the original, but the differences were so minute that a casual observer would not have noticed them.

Edward Stabler was born in Maryland (1795) where he acquired substantial real estate¹² and where he was Postmaster at Sandy Spring from 1828 until his death in 1883.¹³



⁸The National Geographic Magazine, July, 1946, pp. 37, 40, 42.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²United States Census, Maryland - 1850, II, 694.

¹³Listed in 1828 "List of Post-Offices in the United States with the Names of the Postmasters....," published by "direction of the Post-Master General" and also listed in other official Government Registers and Directories, through the years 1828-1883, found in the Post Office Department Library, Post Office Building, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington.

NOTES FROM THE C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 18, 1983

Land Protection Plan

The "Land Protection Plan" is a Park Service-produced document containing a strategy for protecting from undesired use lands within the Park's boundary and not in Park Service ownership. Of the 5,000 acres of such lands in the C&O Canal NHP, less than 500 acres (about 50 properties) are recommended to be acquired (through "first rights of refusal, scenic easements, purchase in fee and condemnation"); the remaining lands are (or are planned to be) in state or municipal ownership (3,500 acres), or are railroad rights-of-way (1,000 acres).

As a way of spending less money, the Park Service has adopted a national policy of avoiding property acquisition where less expensive means of control are feasible. According to C&O Canal NHP Superintendent Stanton, all lands recommended for purchase in the C&O Canal Park Plan are "necessary primarily for towpath continuity." One of the tracts recommended for purchase includes 2,000 feet of towpath above Dam No. 4; in this situation, "condemnation is justified because the owner will not deal with the National Park Service."

River Access Improvements at Lock 6

The trail constructed by the Canoe Cruisers Association, in an effort to afford paraplegic kayakers the opportunity to gain River access at Lock 6, is in poor condition. According to the NPS, the path was built up with clay, making walking difficult owing to the slippery and muddy surface, and the path's edges are "supported" by boards containing steel rods extending hazardously above the surface. There was no report on how the "minor modification along the shoreline" (at Old Anglers Inn and Violets Lock) were working out (Along the Towpath, XV, p. 3); the work, however, was said to have "looked compatible with the surroundings."

Lockhouses, the Bridge to Great Falls and the Potomac River Basin Consortium

The Commission passed a motion requesting the Park Service to "conduct a survey of all lockhouses along the canal and recommend the most effective long-term means to protect these structures." The Commission also voted to ask the NPS to "provide a preliminary study of the impact on the Great Falls Plan of a replacement bridge [to the falls] at Olmstead Island. The State of Maryland wants to replace the bridge (washed out some years ago by a storm) and the Park Service is worried that providing additional public access to the dangerous falls will result in increased numbers of dead and injured visitors.

After discussing the possibility of the Commission joining the Potomac River Basin Consortium (an alliance of colleges, universities and other institutions interested in promoting Potomac River Basin studies), the Commission took no action on the proposal.

Paving the Berm in Georgetown

To avoid pedestrian exposure to mud during wet weather, the Flour Mill Condominium on 33rd Street in Georgetown wants to pave a section of the berm side of the canal between an entrance to the condominium and the pedestrian bridge over the canal at 33rd Street. (The towpath crossover bridge is one block west, at 34th Street.) The condominium proposes to install and maintain at its own expense brick paving between its building and the existing wall at the canal's edge and granite coping atop the canal wall.

The Park Service agreed to the project as long as it would be permitted to pass judgment on the construction details.

Financial Support for Manual Removal of Intruding Vegetation

Superintendent Stanton reported that "the Park has received \$187,000 which may be used for the hand removal of vegetation from masonry structures and the pointing of those structures after the vegetation is removed."

Other Items

The City of Cumberland wants to build a road "on or near the towpath" to replace the narrow and hazardous Virginia Avenue underpass. The State of Maryland has proposed building a new Potomac River bridge at Paw Paw.

The NPS proposes to install new interpretive signs at Great Falls, sturdily constructed "to minimize the effects of vandalism."

Elaine D'Amico, a former Park Palisades District Ranger, has been selected as the new Park Chief Ranger.



The Congressionally-authorized System of National Trails now includes the Potomac Heritage Trail. The C&O Canal towpath is a section of that trail.

Fifty-six temporary maintenance employees hired by the NPS under the emergency jobs program will work through the end of December 1983. They have been working on the aqueducts at Evitts and Licking Creeks and the Monocacy River, and on Culverts 37 and 94.

The State of Maryland will provide the money, in July 1984, to remove the boat ramp at Monocacy from its present location downstream to a former ramp location upstream of the aqueduct, and to enlarge the ramp. The Park Service supports this improvement, was to have held a public meeting on it in September 1983, and says the

project will provide "improved parking and better access." Interested readers are referred to recent issues of Along the Towpath for a discussion of the informal Monocacy Development Concept Plan, developed by NPS staff, of which this relocation is a part.

President's Column

From Bruce Wood

An active and exciting summer has now passed, with our volunteer program getting off to a good start, plans progressing for the Heritage Hike and the Full-Distance hike, and Level Walker hikes being among those activities sponsored by the Association. I hope everyone was able to get out to see the beauty of our canal in summer, while enjoying the relaxing and shady offerings available.

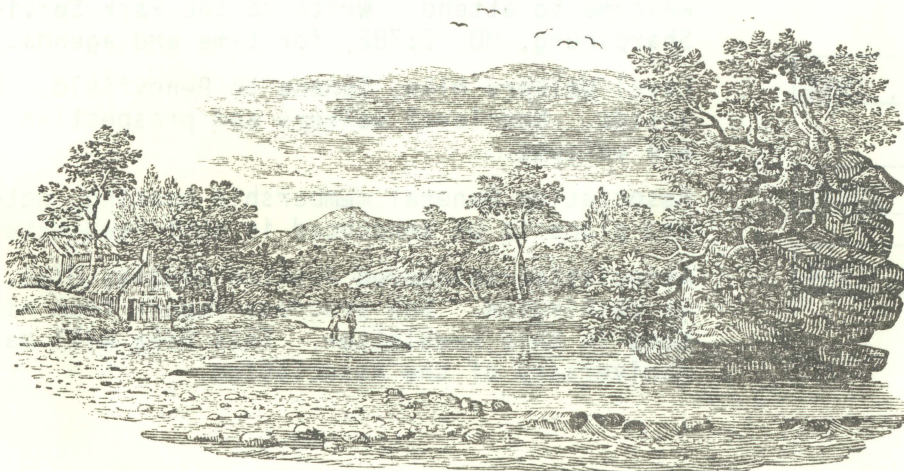
All of the volunteer activities offered were nicely supported, with Association members helping to remove intruding vegetation in locks 51 and 52 near Hancock, eradicate numerous stumps from the Alexandria Aqueduct, preserve artifacts, and enjoy beautiful music on pleasant summer Sundays while helping barge patrons board and disembark.

More volunteer programs are planned for the autumn, including a wide variety of projects. See the article elsewhere in this issue to learn about them and to contact the project leaders.

The Association Board plans a review this winter of volunteer projects, including the success of those undertaken by that time, the nature of future projects the Association should undertake, and how the Association's efforts affect the National Park Service's stewardship of the Park. If you have any comments you wish to pass along, drop a note to our Post Office Box or attend the meeting, the date and location of which will appear in the next newsletter.

Among the Board activities begun recently are a new brochure to advertise the Association, updated Level Walker guidelines, and revised By-Laws. The Board has voted to join the Potomac Basin Consortium and to have a regular liaison with the National Parks and Conservation Association, a private organization devoted to improving our National Park System.

Articles on the final plans for the October 29 Heritage Hike and the current status of the 1984 Full-Distance Douglas hike are elsewhere in this newsletter.



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Dates of Association-sponsored events are enclosed in boxes.

Dates of Association-sponsored volunteer programs are underlined. See report in this newsletter.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u>October 4, 1983</u> | Association volunteer program treating (historical) documents. Leader is Joan Paull, 301-384-8584. |
| <u>October 12, 1983</u> | Association volunteer program painting at Great Falls. Leader is Bob Woodall, 703-569-9341. |
| <u>October 15, 1983</u> | Association volunteer program clearing vegetation at the Alexandria Aqueduct. Leader is Michele Carsrud, 301-495-8585/937-2806. |
| October 15-16, 1983 | Canal Society of Indiana Second Annual Tour. This event includes a bus tour of the Wabash & Erie Canal, a lecture on that canal, a guided walking tour through Evansville, and a cruise on an Ohio River sternwheeler. Interested persons should write to Clarence Hudson, 3910 N. Locust St., Muncie, IN 47304, or call 317-284-6194. |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">October 29, 1983</div> | Association-sponsored Canal Heritage Walk, Hancock to Dam #6, 10 AM. This hike features interpretive talks, and a social hour and dinner after the hike. Details and reservation form for dinner are in this newsletter. Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends to see the canal in the fall. |
| November 11-13, 1983 | Weekend canal hike with provision for meals and accommodations, organized and led by Arthur Korff. Call Arthur at 202-728-6028 or 301-933-4315 for details. |
| <u>November 12, 1983</u> | Association volunteer program clearing vegetation at the Alexandria Aqueduct. Leader is Michele Carsrud, 301-495-8585/937-2806. |
| <u>November 19, 1983</u> | Association volunteer program treating documents. See October 4 entry. |
| December 3, 1983 | C&O Canal NHP Advisory Commission meeting at the NPS' Mather Training Center in Harpers Ferry. Everyone is welcome to attend. Write to the Park Service, P.O. Box 4, Sharpsburg, MD 21782, for time and agenda. |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">December 10, 1983</div> | Level Walkers hike, Seneca to Pennyfield. Details inside. Non-level walkers and prospective level walkers are welcome. |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">February ?, 1984</div> | Association General membership meeting, date, time and place to be announced in next newsletter. |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">April 15-28, 1984</div> | Association-sponsored Justice Douglas hike, Cumberland to Washington. See progress report from hike leader Bruce Wood in this newsletter. This hike will mark the 30th Anniversary of the Association. |

LEVEL WALKER NOTES

With the coming of Fall, we are looking forward to a busy schedule on the towpath. Our attempt for a July walk resulted in a "turnout" of 23 individuals. In spite of the hot day, we enjoyed companionship and a discussion of the history of the Point of Rocks area.

Howard Hembree, who has been a "walker" on Section 15, will be devoting his time to the entire towpath instead. He has consented to report on sections that need attention on an "at large basis."

Erdal and Amira Unver on Sections 68 and 69 will be leaving for Europe next spring. They recently sent an excellent collection of pictures of their sections. We will miss them both and, of course, would welcome their return.

The Level Walker reports are much appreciated. These reports are helpful to the Park Service and the Association.

Our Fall walk this year will be Saturday, December 10.

Meet 10:00 a.m. Parking Lot Seneca M.P. 22.8. We will walk to Pennyfield and return with an optional climb to Blockhouse Point. This is a good time of the year to explore this small scenic Civil War outpost. After return to Seneca, we can see the Girl Scout program at the lockhouse.

See you there.

NPS Resource Management Specialist Chris Baumann has requested that level walkers participate in a beaver census during the month of October 1983.

Chris recommends that prospective observers familiarize themselves with the beaver's appearance, habits, tracks and scat, and observe at dawn or dusk. She would be interested in photographs and quantitative estimates of distances and sizes. She requests each observer submit the following information: Name, date of survey, time of survey, general location of survey (including description of areas away from the towpath). For each beaver or group of beavers sighted, provide the precise location, the number of animals in the group, their approximate ages, the exact time of the sighting and what they were doing. For a beaver den sighted, provide the precise location, a physical description, an estimate of its size, and evidence, if any, indicating recent use. For sightings of beaver damage, report number, species, diameter, and precise

location of trees chewed, and the precise location and a description of erosion caused by beaver trails. Other comments are also welcome. Send your reports to Chris Baumann, C&O Canal NHP, P.O. Box 4, Sharpsburg, MD 21782.



The Tawny Owl

Level Walker ReportsSect. 8 - Swains to Pennyfield Locks - Al Stanley - June, Aug 1983

Al sent in several reports this summer. Generally his section is in good shape. This popular area at times gets heavy usage. Al "tells it like it is" and also submits a very comprehensive usage report which the Park Service finds useful.

Sect. 9 - Pennyfield Lock to Seneca - William Clague - July 1983

The Canal bed between Violets Lock and Seneca is much overgrown. At places, vegetation is about shoulder high just a few feet off the towpath. The towpath itself is in very good condition with only a few muddy places. The vegetation has grown up along the berm side, screening out the parking area at Pennyfield except for the extreme upper end.

Sect. 10 - Seneca to Tenfoot Island - Alice Kinter - Aug 1983

I have suggested previously that the number of trash cans at Seneca Aqueduct be increased because of heavy usage. Extra cans have not been provided. The section is in excellent condition, better than usual for this time of year. Several places on the path still need gravel because rain water stands in them but some have been filled in recently.

Sect. 11 - Tenfoot to Sycamore Landing - S. Heflin & R. Hirrlinger - Sept 1983

At Sycamore Landing, a great deal of trash (cans, bottles, tire) were in the canal. Remainder of path was clean and the sides had recently been mowed. On Sunday A.M., 14 hikers or bikers were on this section. Three of the bikers were camping at Horsepen Branch.

Sect. 16 - Lock 26 to Monocacy Aqueduct - Anson Courter - Jun 1983

Gypsy Moth traps were in place at mileposts 40, 41, 42. Crews were at work at both ends of the aqueduct repairing the walls. The towpath and parking and picnic areas at the aqueduct were cleaner than usual. I picked up less than a medium bag of trash. Lock 26 walls are holding. The big silver maple is healthy but flowering bushes once planted there are gone.

Sect. 22 - Weverton to Harpers Ferry Lock 33 - G. Mahn & B. Bushell - Jul 1983

Towpath dry, in good condition. Milepost 58 broken, lock marker 31 gone, some graffiti on lockhouse door. Railroad ties continue to be discarded along the tracks in this section. Some trash in area.

Sect. 31 - Lock 40 to Marsh Run Culvert - Wm. H. Cramer - July 1983

The path had not been mowed for a while and there were wet spots but towpath was mostly in good condition. Birds observed were grossbeaks, cardinals, grackles, phoebe and indigo buntings.

Sect. 42 - Lock 47 to McCoys Ferry - "Mac" McGraw - July 1983

"Mac" reports that "his level" is in good shape. "Mac" does very often send us nice pictures of things to calls our attention to.

Sect. 56 - Green Ridge Station to Lock 61 - Jeremy & Chris Parker - Jun 1983

The state of this section continues to be good. The only change we noted was at Outdoor Club Road, the access point at the upstream end of our section. The giant spoil pile from the tunnel has been used for towpath surface material.

Sect. 61 - Town Creek Aqueduct to Lock 68 - Bill Van Lowe - Jun 1983

Area around the aqueduct was clean and well maintained. Condition of the towpath was excellent. Removed small branches from the towpath. Hiker-Biker at Lock 68 clean and well maintained.

Sect. 68, 69 - Evitts Creek Aqueduct to Intake Lock (Cumberland) Erdal and Amira Unver - Jun 1983

The towpath throughout these two sections was clean and dry. The sign at the end of Offut Road with mileage/kilometer distances to the aqueduct remains incorrect. The aqueduct itself still looks to be in shaky condition, small maple still growing in berm wall. Plenty of wildlife evident on this trip.



1983 CANAL HERITAGE WALK

RESERVATION FORM FOR DINNER

October 29, 1983

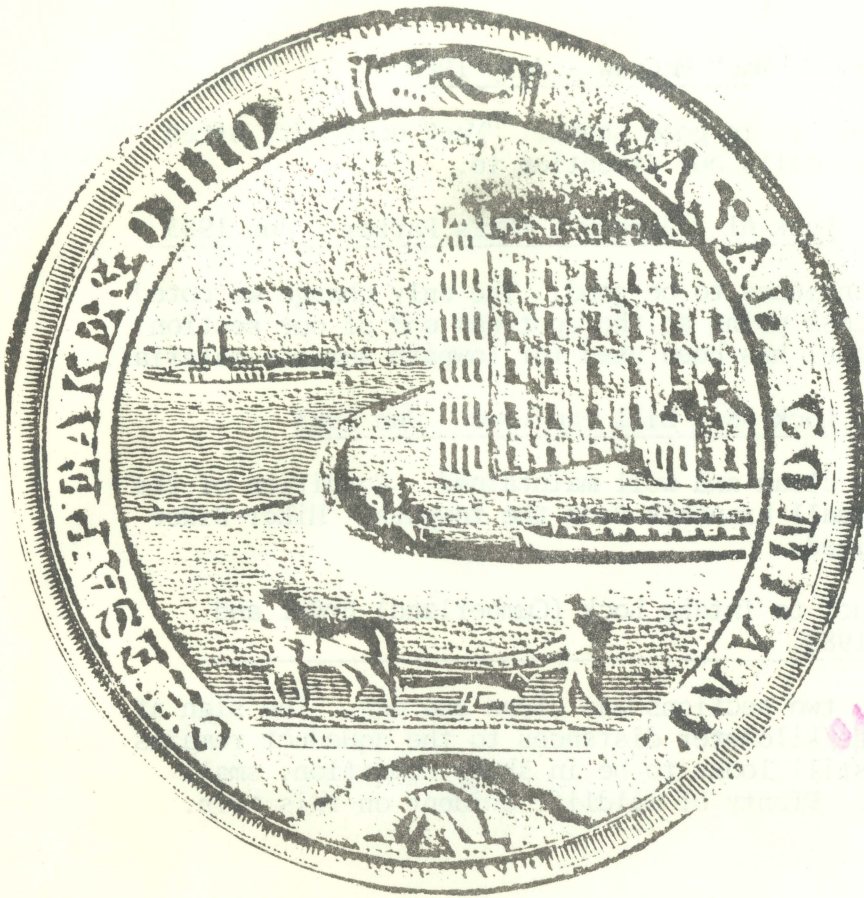
Please reserve _____ dinners @ \$7.00 per dinner. Total \$ _____

Please include name and address if not printed on label on reverse:

Name _____

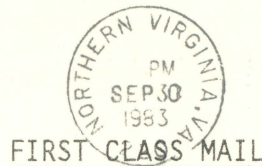
Address _____

Make check payable to C&O Canal Association, and mail, by October 17, 1983, to the Association, P.O. Box 66, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812-0066. Receipt of reservations will not be acknowledged; a list of names will be maintained at the door.



Shown at left is the second and final official seal adopted by the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company in 1836. The first official seal, adopted in 1828, has adorned the masthead of Along the Towpath for several years. See page 9 (Photo from Tom Hahn).

C&O Canal Association
P.O. Box 66
Glen Echo, MD 20812-0066



Inside

- o 1983 Heritage Walk Details
- o Preliminary Report: Moore Village Archeological Investigations
- o 1984 Douglas Hike Planning Progress Report
- o Volunteers Projects Report and Schedule of Fall Projects
- o Correspondence
- o History of the Canal Company Seal
- o Advisory Commission Meeting Notes
- o President's Column
- o Level Walkers Notes and Reports
- o Event Calendar

John C. Frye

Gapland MD

21736