

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 XVIII

JANUARY 1986

NUMBER 1

NOVEMBER FLOOD DAMAGE TO CANAL ESTIMATED AT \$9,000,000

PRESIDENT'S
FLOOD REPORT
by
Bruce W. Wood

On Saturday, November 9, I drove along the river to Cumberland, stopping in at a number of places to view the results of the flooding during the week before.

An item of special interest is that the Paw Paw Cabin was washed off its foundation into the woods at the end of the field. Dick Stanton has advised us that it is his intent to restore the cabin to its foundation.

No masonry was lost (i.e., aqueducts and culverts) and the historic buildings are intact. The NPS ranger station at Antietam was surrounded by water but not damaged. The NPS visitor center in Hancock was flooded out.

The flooding came from the South Branch of the Potomac River. Crossing
(continued on page 2)

THE FLOOD OF '85
by
Dick Stanton, Superintendent
C&O Canal National Historical Park

Each Potomac Valley flood has its personality. The "Flood of '85," which our most recent tragedy now seems to be called, was no exception. The titanic flood of 1889, for example, began with a disturbance described as a cyclone which entered the valley near Martinsburg, West Virginia, with a 44 1/2 foot crest at Williamsport, higher than any recorded in the history of the valley at the time. Other floods had their beginnings on the upper Shenandoah. Agnes dealt its blow to the Canal most heavily below Harpers Ferry. The "Flood of '85," which began on November 5, had its beginnings on the upper South Branch of the Potomac, sweeping fast and wide, taking property and life with it until it slammed against the Canal at the South Branch confluence where it took a wide turn to the right down the Potomac, taking homes, trees and other property downriver. At one time

(continued on page 4)

ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN HARPERS FERRY

Date: February 22, 1986

Time: 2:00 pm

Place: Cliffside Motor Inn, Route 340, Harpers Ferry

See Page 3 for details

(WOOD, continued from page 1)

the river at Wiley's Ford showed no signs of flooding. However, Maryland 51 at Town Creek had been flooded to the depth of several feet and at the Paw Paw campground the water flooded the road from the railroad trestle to the river bridge and debris hung in the trestle. The campground was covered with two to six inches of mud and is not usable at this time. Most picnic tables (if not all) are present. The sectionhouse (the two-story frame building at the far end of the field) survived in good shape. The two log cabins (our cabin and the store building) were in the woods beyond the sectionhouse. Both are essentially intact.

The temporary bridge across the river to Paw Paw was damaged and was closed until repairs could be made. The old bridge already had been removed in preparation for work on the new bridge. In the town of Paw Paw, flooding destroyed the interior contents of the Family Restaurant and the High's (it reached the top of their first floor ceilings) and the crucible and apple storage companies were seriously damaged.

Fifteenmile Creek also flooded from backwater Potomac, as with Town Creek, to a depth of about ten feet above the Towpath. Hancock is also covered with mud. The flood reached the ceiling of the first floor of the NPS Visitor Center and the A&P. Weaver's was above the flood. I did not check Williamsport.

The Harpers Ferry National Historical Park was off limits to visitors but a water mark shows about 12 feet up on the Armory building. The Towpath at the canal end of the new footbridge was completely eroded and a footbridge across the canal upstream of the lock was missing. The new stone wall appears to have survived perfectly but the footings for equipment to perform the ongoing work were washed out. Sandy Hook appears not to have been affected.



The Brunswick town and rail yard appear not to have been affected, but I am certain the towpath and town park are covered with mud if not worse. The Point of Rocks downtown area was flooded well up on the first floors of the buildings. The water stopped short of the platform for the old railroad station there. Mud prevented my getting to the towpath.

Monocacy parking lot had been four feet under water and the picnic area was covered with mud. White's Ferry Parking lot was 15 feet under water and the access road flooded a mile away. Our 1985 heritage hike would have taken place under at least six feet of water over most of its distance had it been held this week.

Water reached the sandbags around Great Falls Tavern but did not breach them. The stop lock at Widewater was in place and prevented any damage to that area. The towpath below the Beltway was flooded and footbridges washed away. A large break occurred between Fletcher's Boathouse and Georgetown. A similar break occurred during Agnes.

The most comprehensive destruction I saw was between Romney and the WVA 28 bridge over the South Branch heading for Cumberland. The entire valley was ravaged, the railroad lost much ballast and the railroad trestle across the river has no rails and is missing some piers. I would guess that all summer cottages and some year-round houses along that valley between Romney and the North Branch were destroyed or at least damaged.

Mud was the word of the day--wet, gooey mud was everywhere the river had been. What towpath was not washed out was covered with the stuff.

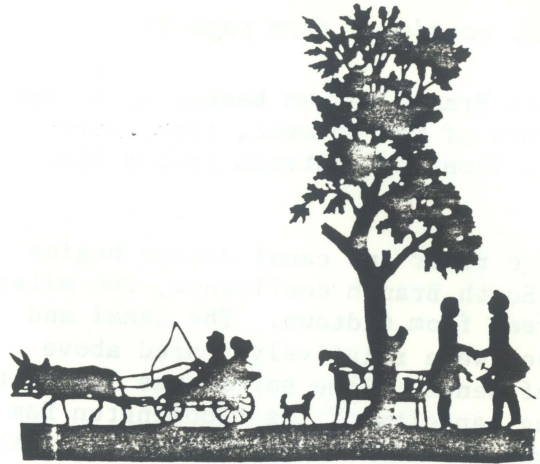
NEW MEMBERS

The C&O Canal Association takes pleasure in welcoming the following members who have joined the Association since October 1985:

Barbara C. Axline, Frederick, Md;
Betsy Carl, Rockville, Md; Mr/Mrs
Edward W. Clark, Chevy Chase, MD;
Mrs. Carlyle Cochran, Chevy Chase, MD;
Mrs. R. Dennison Coursen, Washington,
DC; Edward L. and Juliet Davis, McLean,
VA; Ted Davis and Laura Harris, Wash-
ington, DC; Barbara Hails, Olney, MD;
Ridgway M. Hall, Jr., Washington, DC;
Elizabeth H. Henson, Potomac, MD;
Robert W. Keintz, East Berlin, PA;
Robert B. Keir, Gaithersburg, MD;
Mr/Mrs. Erasmus H. Kroman, Washing-
ton, DC; Larry Kocher, Los Altos,
CA; Christine Lawrence, Silver Spring,
MD; Betty Petrola, Gaithersburg,
MD; Elizabeth A. Porter, Germantown,
MD; Bettyanne Rusen, Washington, DC;
Ruth and Larry Sacks, Beltsville, MD;
Jessica W. Schmidt, Kensington, MD;
Robert and Karen Shoemaker, Herndon,
VA; Jennie B. Snabley, Frederick, MD;
Walter and Luella Wells, Washington,
DC; Mr/Mrs Roslyn D. Young, Jr.,
Chevy Chase, MD.



The Long-Eared Owl



ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN HARPERS FERRY

The 1986 annual general membership meeting of the C&O Canal Association will be held at 2 PM on Saturday, February 22, 1986 at the Cliffside Motor Inn on Route 340 near Harpers Ferry.

The day's activities will begin at 10 AM with a tour of Virginus Island. We will meet at the temporary visitors center in Harpers Ferry. You will be on your own for lunch.

After the annual meeting there will be a Happy Hour from 4 to 5:30 PM, also at the Cliffside Motor Inn. Dinner is scheduled for 6 PM at the Camp Hill Wesley Church on Washington Street, near the Mather Center in Harpers Ferry. The cost will be \$7.50. (Please use the form at the back of this newsletter to reserve.) After dinner there will be a slideshow presented by our own Butch Henley entitled "Variety in Touring National Parks and Wilderness Areas."

The annual meeting agenda will include the election of officers and board members. The Park Service plans to show a videotape of the recent rather extensive flood damage to be followed by an NPS status report on progress made in repairing the damage. Considering the short and long term impact on our Park, this meeting should be of vital interest to all members.

--Brad Haigh

(STANTON, continued from page 1)

the South Branch was so backed up at the confluence of the Potomac, trees were observed floating upstream toward Oldtown.

Massive river and canal damage begins at the South Branch confluence, two miles downstream from Oldtown. The Canal and the river were relatively spared above the confluence. Some say it was due to the carrying capacity of the Bloomington Dam which was not full at the beginning of the rainy period. Corps of Engineers flood controls along the North Branch were also credited with keeping the losses down. These observations will be sorted out in due time. Whatever the reason, Cumberland and the 22 miles downriver to the South Branch were mercifully spared.

Desolation along the river beginning at the South Branch confluence includes mounds of debarked and flattened trees on both sides, continuing for miles. Wall to wall carpeting, refrigerators, twisted trailers, furniture and all manner of small debris are deposited everywhere.

Today's damage to the Canal will be costly but the nature of the damage differs from Agnes. Agnes, we remember, destroyed or damaged major historic structures on the Canal which, for the most part, had little or no attention after 1924, the year the Canal was wrecked and finally abandoned. Some of November's crests reached Agnes' levels and some were exceeded. The crests of "85" were longer than the Agnes crests, a few lasting almost 24 hours, unheard of in Potomac River flood reporting. Williamsport's crest was 14 inches above Agnes.

Agnes repairs involved a lot of big ticket items, aqueducts, locks and other historic treasures. The devastation below Great Falls at Widewater, for example, took a big chunk of Agnes repair money. The total for Agnes exceeded \$14 million. "85" will require over \$9 million with a possible need for additional funds if further structural damage is uncovered. Towpath damage and cleanup forms the bulk of the corrective work needed:

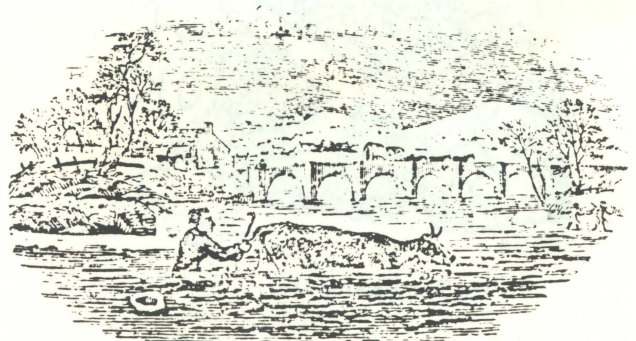
- Towpath surface scouring and undermining, minor to as much as eight feet deep
- Towpath breaks, 30 or more

- Massive timber pileups and debris on the towpath and in the Canal prism
- Mounds of river debris and uprooted trees deposited between the towpath and the river
- Bank erosion, towpath and berm side of the Canal
- Supporting backfills (structural) washed away
- Backs of lock walls saturated with water and full of air pockets; cave-ins anticipated
- Heavy silt deposits, requiring removals
- Culverts clogged with debris and silt

In addition, there is a huge blowout below Fletchers at Mile #3, (a repair priority). At the foot of Lock 33 (Harpers Ferry), there is an extensive washout exposing the Canal prism to the river at the Shenandoah River Lock. This requires immediate correction. Two lockhouses were extensively damaged; utility systems, lockgates and several non-historic structures were damaged or lost.

No aqueducts, locks or other large masonry structures were significantly damaged. This is the result of the park's continuous repair and stabilization program over the past five years. The rebuilding of flood control devices, culverts, waste-weirs and other structures kept the losses down. There were no serious injuries that we know of and no deaths along the line of the Canal during or after the flood. Some folks along the river had time to move trailers and personal effects to high ground. Sadly, others did not. Most of our park furniture and equipment was pulled out in time.

(continued on page 5)



(STANTON, continued from page 4)

A few modern modifications to the canal seem essential. For example, a flood control structure below Fletchers will be designed. As in Agnes, a blow-out between Foundry Branch and Fletchers saved the Lock 3 complex in Georgetown. Some kind of large hand-controlled weir must be installed. Other non-historic strengthening will also be considered. We have begun work on a high wall, an historic feature, to be buried underground within the perimeter of the Winch House at Dam No. 4. The Winch House, as in Agnes, stood high and untouched after having its massive riverward backfill scoured. It patiently straddled its high foundation stones again, a troubling sight.

I cannot praise the park staff enough. They worked long and difficult hours and many went without sleep for two and three days during the height of the flood. Our hats are off, too, to the many volunteers who assisted in keeping the well-meaning flood sightseers under control and safe. Bravo to those who helped with the sand-bagging and undertook many unglamorous and difficult chores. They deserve rounds of applause too.

Our top priority will be to link as many miles of towpath as we can to develop continuity for the 1986 visitation season. Complete repairs may take two years or more. Towpath updates will be published periodically.

(Ed. note: As of January 18, the towpath was open from Georgetown to Seneca.)

There is a lot of hard work to be done. We are counting on the public to help us return the Canal to its former beauty and utility. The Canal needs you.



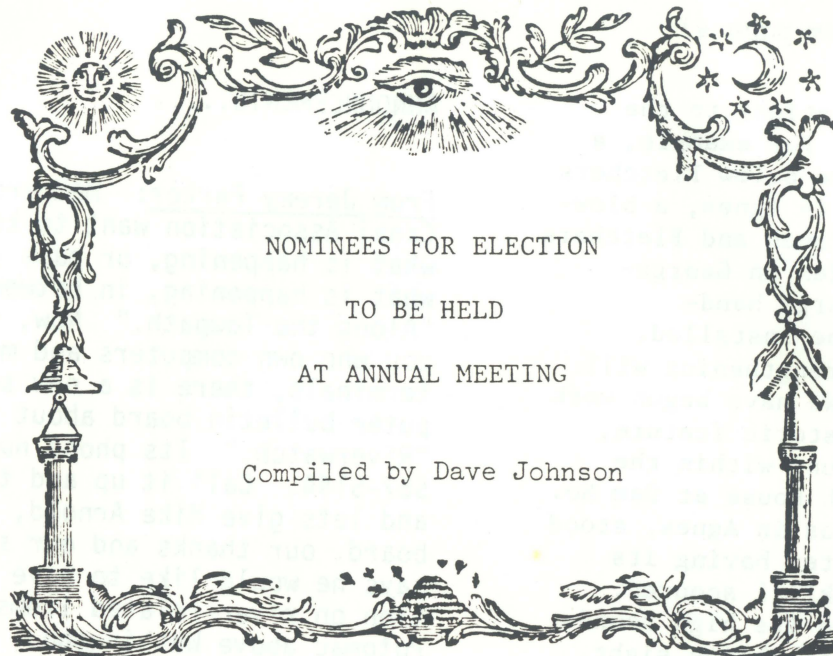
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

From Jeremy Parker: Members of the C & O Canal Association want to keep up with what is happening, or pass along news of what is happening, in between issues of "Along the Towpath." Now, for those of you who own computers and modems, or terminals, there is a new service, a computer bulletin board about the Potomac, "Riverwatch." Its phone number is 567-5144. Call it up and take a look, and let's give Mike Arnold, who runs the board, our thanks and our support. Mike says he would like to have more information on river-related items for the Potomac above Washington.

From "Exchange," the newsletter of the National Park Action Program:

- The Antietam Battlefield Preservation Society has been founded to assist Antietam National Battlefield in the acquisition of inholdings. The Society will also be actively involved in the preservation of the historic scene in the nearby community of Sharpsburg, Maryland. For information, contact Ted Hainfeld at (703) 662-4520.
- NPS has published a summary booklet describing the twelve-point plan developed by new NPS Director, William Penn Mott. The plan outlines goals for a wide diversity of park management concerns including resource protection, land acquisition, interpretation, public involvement, and visitor use. For a copy of the booklet, write to Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

From Nancy Long: As the new editor of "Along the Towpath," I am seeking contributions from Association members, Commission members, and C & O Canal staff in the form of articles, illustrations (original drawings), and information items for the newsletter. I am particularly interested in items related to the Canal in Frederick, Washington, and Allegany Counties. Please call me at (301) 229-1369, (301) 229-0196, or at (202) 334-2865 (my office).



NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

TO BE HELD

AT ANNUAL MEETING

Compiled by Dave Johnson

The election of officers and board members will be held on February 22 at the annual meeting of the Association. Six one-year officer positions and five three-year board positions are to be filled at this election. The candidates listed below have accepted nomination. The nominees were asked what they perceive to be the goals the Association should pursue in the coming year and what they would like to do to help achieve those goals. Their responses follow.

FOR PRESIDENT: HAROLD A. LARSEN

A member since 1973, Hal is an active level walker and a member of the Board of Directors. In addition to recreational activities on the canal, his interests include its history and the preservation of its structures. Hal writes: "I believe the Association should seek to increase its membership and to bring more members into the various activities. To accomplish these goals, I would do two things: (1) undertake to increase publicity concerning the canal designed to arouse public interest, and (2) lend my position to the encouragement of enthusiasm within the organization for its projects and responsibilities. I would also seek practical steps to prepare inventories and to collect archival materials concerning the man-made structures."

FOR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT:

WILLIAM E DAVIES

A participant in the original Douglas hike, Bill has been a member of the Association since the beginning. A former president, he is the current first vice president. He is active in the semi-annual hikes, level walkers, the history and engineering of the canal, and its preservation from developmental intrusion. Bill's goals include: "a. Steps to preserve the canal park from damage from PEPCO's expansion at Dickerson, and from development along the route of the proposed outer beltway. I will supply technical guidance on the problems. b. Remove graffiti and other defacement along the canal and take steps to prevent further defacement. I will continue to develop technical ways to remove graffiti. c. Increase support of the National Park Service through volunteer service to provide better interpretive service to visitors. I will aid personally as a guide. d. Increase support and use of the Paw Paw Cabin by Association members. e. Additional financial support for interns utilized by Park Service for canal activities. I will support coordination with Explorers Club or other organizations to attain this."

(continued on page 7)

(NOMINATIONS, continued from page 6)

FOR 2d VICE PRESIDENT/LEVEL WALKER

CHAIRMAN: LYMAN M. STUCKER

The incumbent second vice president, Lyman Stucker, has been a member of the Association since 1965. Interested in both recreational and historical aspects of the park, he is active in all Association events, particularly in organizing and leading the level walker hikes. His statement: "The Association should continue the emphasis on volunteer projects and work trips for ongoing needs of the canal. Some of our responsibilities are to help protect the canal from misuse, to have an active role in the physical and ecological health of the canal, and to encourage new members to become involved in canal-related activities. As Level Walker Chairman, I would continue the level-walker instigated walks with an emphasis on the history, conservation, and current needs of the area walked. An orientation program for new members could be a part of these walks."

FOR TREASURER: WILLIAM H. SPECK

An active worker on Association V.I.P. projects and a regular participant on the semi-annual hikes, Bill's other interests lie in the opportunities for nature study found along the towpath. He writes: "The Association should promote use and appreciation of the canal by its own hikes and campouts along the canal, keep a watchful eye and provide user viewpoints to park management in an effort to preserve and improve the canal, and provide work and interpretive services on the canal to protect it and enlarge understanding of its history and recreational use."

FOR SECRETARY: MARGUERITE P. FOSTER

The incumbent secretary, Margot also enjoys the natural and recreational aspects of the park. She summarizes her goals as follows: "I would like to interest schools in the districts which abut the canal to take an active interest in promoting the use of the towpath by students and encourage students to participate in volunteer service to the C&O Canal. A consortium of such schools should be organized to study the

history of the canal and the wildlife along the towpath. I would like to see garden club members encouraged to help with maintenance projects for the towpath and lockhouses."

FOR INFORMATION OFFICER: KATHERINE SEWARD

An active level walker and hiker, Kay served as secretary of the Association in 1982-83. She enjoys the canal because of the "delightful people involved" and also writes: "I perceive the goals of the Association to be as follows: To continue the strong level walker program, the volunteer programs, the annual hikes, and to increase membership and participation in these areas. Thus will the Association continue to be a strong advocate base for this unique national park. I would work to continue the outstanding jobs done by all who have served to date."

FOR BOARD MEMBER: KAREN M. GRAY

A member since 1977, Karen has served as information officer for the past two years, is a level walker, and participates in volunteer projects. Her interests include the history of the canal as well as hiking and nature study. Her response: "I regard the canal as an historical, natural, and recreational resource with the result that I am interested in the preservation and interpretation of the natural habitats along it as well as the historic structures. I regard the canal as a part of the Potomac valley and therefore believe the Association should both continue and increase its involvement with other groups and developments within the valley that directly and indirectly impact on the canal."

FOR BOARD MEMBER: ANNE MURPHY KORFF

Anne is a level walker and a regular participant in Association events. She chaired last year's nominating committee, which devised the procedure for soliciting nominations from the membership. She would like to increase the Association's membership, and believes that the Association should publicize not only its hike, but issues, including coverage of the annual meeting and board actions.

(continued on page 8)

(NOMINATIONS, continued from page 7)

FOR BOARD MEMBER: BETTYJANE F. MYERS

Bejay is an active volunteer projects worker, and a regular on the semi-annual hikes. In addition to hiking, she is interested in the canal's history. Her goal is that "the C&O Canal Association should add to its membership individuals who have a sincere interest in contributing their time and expertise to help maintain the canal and environs not only as a special hiking and recreation area, but for the historical aspects."

FOR BOARD MEMBER: KENNETH S. ROLLINS

A member for twenty-six years, Ken is a former president, vice-president, treasurer, and board member. An active level walker, volunteer, and hiker, his interests in the park include preservation and restoration, history, nature, and recreation. He states: "We should continue to monitor the programs and policies of the Park Service and the Advisory Commission and to provide our views as appropriate, and we should promote volunteer support programs for the park. Perhaps we can find additional ways to increase the visibility of the Association to those who would effectively increase and strengthen our membership."

FOR BOARD MEMBER: EMMIE WOODWARD

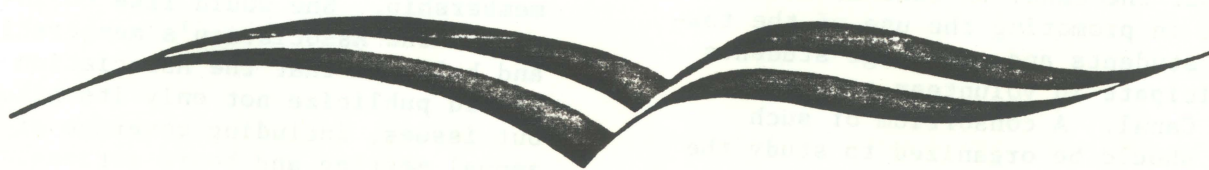
Emmie joined the Association in 1973 and served as treasurer from 1977 to 1983. An active level walker, she writes: "I would like to preserve the canal and towpath just as it is. I think the Park Service is doing an excellent job with stabilization, maintenance, and interpretation. I really don't want any more parking lots or boat ramps, especially between Hancock and Cumberland."

FOR BOARD MEMBER; ROBERT N. GREENBERG

Bob has been a member for over twenty years. A level walker and regular hiker, his primary interest is in protecting the park against encroachment. Bob submitted the following statement: "I would encourage the Association to adopt a broadened perception of the welfare of the park. For instance, I would oppose the Park Service deal to exchange certain 'benefits' for the allowance of the construction of a high-rise close to Rock Creek, an issue on which the Association has been non-committal. I would oppose noise polluting motor boating up river, a threat now being nurtured as a result of reduced opposition to additional launching sites on the West Virginia shore. In all likelihood I would become a 'pain in the rear' to those holding other views."

FOR BOARD MEMBER: MILDRED HEIMER

A twelve-year member of the Association, Midge lists her primary interests in the canal as history, nature, canoeing, recreation, and the "watching role of the C&O Canal Association relating to NPS and the Potomac River Valley." She also writes: "Our strengths are our level walkers and V.I.P.s, those who keep us informed, those who are active in letters and meetings to influence changes in the Potomac valley to be least intrusive to the C&O Canal. How can we increase our P R to attract contributing and responsible C&O Canal users? It's time to start on the Douglas papers at the Historical Society in Hagerstown, to preserve and make them accessible."



NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER 7, 1985 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.....

The December 7 Board meeting was held at "Rockwood Ridge," the scenic Virginia farm of Margot and Adam Foster. It was a cold and blustery afternoon with remnants of ice and snow still patch-working the ground. Margot's post-meeting supper of chili, French bread, and apple pie was a most welcome repast.

Items from the meeting's agenda follow:

- The Board voted unanimously to seek incorporation of the Association as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, and to spend up to \$1250 for attorney's fees for this purpose. Although some members of long standing recalled that the Association was originally established as a non-profit group, there is no documentation in either Association or official records to substantiate this belief. Before the vote was taken, there was considerable discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of such incorporation. Advantages include having a tax-deductible status for donations, and obtaining insurance for Association activities; disadvantages include the addition of more paper work -- such as the need to file IRS forms -- and a limitation of lobbying activities. The Association would be incorporated in the State of Maryland.
- Nominating Committee Report -- Dave Johnson reported that the Association members listed elsewhere in this issue have accepted nominations to run for officer and board positions.
- Annual Meeting Report -- Butch Henley reported on the progress of meeting plans as of December 7. The meeting will be held on February 22. Details are elsewhere in this issue.
- Annual Justice Douglas Reunion Hike Committee was appointed as follows: Hal Larsen, Bill Davies, and Brad Haigh.
- Paw Paw Cabin Status -- Mimi Eller circulated copies of a summary of the Cabin's Overseers' evaluations. She reported that Association members had provided 92 volunteer days at the Cabin. NPS intends to move the Cabin back to its foundation and to secure it there; the Association is to be responsible for interior work and other rehabilitation. The Board voted unanimously to provide up to \$1,000 for rehabilitation work on the Cabin. It is expected that the Cabin will be ready for use during the 1986 season.
- Flood Assistance -- The Board voted to contribute \$300 to the bulk-mailing effort to be undertaken by the Advisory Commission (the Commission plans to seek private-sector donations for Canal repairs), and to contribute \$100 to the Paw Paw Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad whose members performed heroic rescue and assistance feats during the November flood.
- Brochure Committee Report -- Carl Linden reported that the completed brochure could be ready for distribution at the annual meeting. It was decided that 5,000 copies would be ordered. Al Stanley circulated a concept design for the cover featuring a montage of Canal scenes.
- Justice Douglas Collection -- The Board voted to spend \$500 for materials to catalogue and archive the collection. The following members were appointed to the Archival Committee: Bill Davies, Joan Paull, Karen Gray, and Sue Ann Sullivan.

(continued on page 10)

(NOTES, continued from page 9)

● New Business --

PEPCO Dickerson Expansion: It was reported that PEPCO plans to expand its facility at the Dickerson site. Bruce Wood, Hal Larsen, and Bill Davies will meet with PEPCO officials to discuss the expansion plans and their impact on the Canal.

Chessie Abandonment: The Chessie System has filed abandonment proceedings for its rail line that runs through Montgomery County into the District of Columbia near Chain Bridge and along the Canal into Georgetown. NPS is seeking to acquire the DC portion, and supports the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in acquiring the Montgomery County section. The rail line has a 30' right-of-way.

American Hiking Society: The Board voted unanimously in favor of a motion that the C & O Canal Association become a member of the American Hiking Society.

Washington Council of Agencies: This organization offers a variety of services to non-profit organizations, such as handling the printing and distribution of newsletters, and providing meeting rooms and an answering service. The Association will consider joining this organization when our non-profit status has been granted.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The month of November was a disastrous month for the C&O Canal and its towpath. As you can see elsewhere in this issue, damage spread from near Oldtown to Georgetown and ranged from mud on the towpath to widespread washouts, closing nearly all of the towpath in those 167 miles.

The Association is working with the Park Service to set up a number of volunteer projects which are of major importance to NPS and which allow our members to choose from a wide range of activities, from clearing debris to explaining why the towpath is closed. I hope everyone can donate a day to this effort during the winter so the towpath can be open for use by spring.

The loss of the Paw Paw Cabin was most discouraging though much of the physical work on the cabin has not been lost. As is reported elsewhere, the first season was a great success and we are looking forward to business as usual later this year.

The Association's Board of Directors met in early December and approved the use of Association funds to help fund a bulk mailing to zip codes along the Potomac to urge residents to offer time and funds to the Park Service for canal restoration. They also agreed to donate \$100 to the Paw Paw Fire and Rescue Service. Endorsement of the value of volunteer projects was made by individual members promising to donate a day to help with projects recommended by the Park Service. Enthusiasm for the need for the Association's assistance in flood cleanup was high.

The Association has also taken a position in favor of turning the soon-to-be-abandoned Georgetown Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad into a park and trail system.

As my tenure as President draws to a close, I am pleased with the energy and enthusiasm demonstrated by the Board and by Association members in general. We can go a long way and accomplish much with this attitude.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

--Bruce W. Wood, President

ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEERS INITIATE FLOOD REPAIRS

The first project involving actual restoration of a portion of the canal damaged by the flood undertaken by Association members took place nine days after the crest passed. The November 16th scheduled volunteer work trip was shifted to Foundry Branch in Georgetown, to repair the steps that connect the towpath to the underpass leading to Canal Road. Because the towpath beyond this point was closed (due to the big break near Fletchers), the steps and tunnel had become an important access point. Overflowing water from the canal had turned the stairway into a spillway, completely washing out the fill, although the timber framing was left intact. Association members Karen Gray, Rita Hirrlinger, Pat White and her son James, William Bauman, Bill Speck, Ed Vernon and Dave Johnson turned out, together with NPS maintenance personnel and Park ranger Donna Donaldson, to refill the stairs with sand and gravel. During the morning, the volunteers replaced about three dumptruck loads of bank gravel into the voids left by the water. By the time the rain started again, the steps had been refilled, leveled, and tamped down to pre-flood condition.

While the response of Association members who came out on the weekends immediately following the flood was heartening, those efforts merely gave us a small hint of the work that needs to be done in the months ahead. Superintendent Stanton told the November 23d Advisory Commission meeting that volunteer assistance can greatly help to expedite the repair and recovery of the park. This is an opportunity for members of the Association, including many who have not previously participated in such projects, to actively aid in the reopening of the towpath. Members wishing to help should contact Volunteer Coordinator Joan Paull for information on future scheduled projects. (Tel:301-384-8584)

--Dave Johnson

CELEBRATION HONORS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS IN THE NPS NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

The third annual Salute to National Park Service Volunteers took place on October 19 with a brunch at the Shoreham Hotel and ceremonies honoring 275 outstanding volunteers who served in 1985 at NPS sites in the National Capital Region.

Outstanding volunteers were selected from more than 4,000 persons who served the needs of 28 park sites in the National Capital Region. These volunteers, all enrolled under the nationwide "Volunteer-in-Parks" program of the National Park Service, contributed a total of 143,500 hours in 1985.

Each park site was asked to nominate its outstanding volunteers, and a top volunteer for each park was selected. Joan Paull, volunteer coordinator for the C&O Canal Association, was chosen as the top volunteer for the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Other Association members honored were Betty Bushell, Cathryn Finch, Betty Henson, Helen Johnston, Kent Minichiello, Marsha Minichiello, Betty Jane Myers, and Al Stanley. Nancy Long was among the outstanding volunteers selected for Glen Echo Park.

In his letter to each of the outstanding volunteers, Jack Fish, Regional Director of the National Capital Region, wrote in part: "You have given that most precious gift of all--yourself--to enhance the programs of the National Park Service. For that we are deeply appreciative. Congratulations and thank you for sharing your time, energy, and interest."

The Washington area business community hosted this third annual tribute to the spirit of volunteerism. Sponsors are the Washington Post, American Automobile Association, radio station WMAL, National Capital Area Automotive Trade Association, and the Shoreham Hotel.



Activities of the Association's VIPs
(Volunteers in the Parks)

by Joan Paull
Volunteer Coordinator

On September 25, Becky Preston, Karen Wilcox, and Joan Paull went to Ferry Hill where, working under the direction of Lee Struble, Park Curator, they transferred field study materials into special containers which were to be sealed for additional study at a later date. They also transcribed information from the field study bags to the outside of the containers, and moved the last part of the Archive Library to Lee's new office.

October gave us two work trips. On the first weekend, Dave Johnson, Bill Speck, Ed Vernon, Joan Paull, and Ranger Donna Donaldson began the Horsepen Hiker/Biker project. Several broken cement blocks were split and removed, ground was prepared for seeding with a snowfence erected to protect the area, a tree was removed, and erosion control terracing was begun. Because the ground was too soft to permit maintenance vehicles on the towpath, all materials and equipment had to be brought in by wheelbarrow from Sycamore Landing.

The C & O Canal Association joined the Audubon Naturalist Society on October 19 to remove vegetation at Lock 35 and the dry dock. Our goal was to reduce the need for use of toxic pesticides and herbicides. Kent and Marsha Minichiello, Ed Vernon, Bill Speck, Al Stanley, Joan Paull, and Walter "Mac" McMann from the Park worked with the Audubon group to clear Lock 35, the dry dock, and a substantial portion of the bank along the towpath.

Kudos to the following 47 volunteers who responded with a total of 353 hours of work just after the crest of the devastating November flood. What made their effort more impressive is that they were called on Tuesday or Wednesday to do volunteer work that Thursday through Sunday!

William Bauman	Rita Hirrlinger	Hal Larsen	Tim Scanlon
Sandra Belland	Peter House	Jane Larsen	Kay Seward
Andy Blitz	Dale Jackson	Ellen McAdams	Bill Speck
Vicky Blitz	Dave Johnson	Rosalyn Merrell	Al Stanley
Mary Cocke	Judy Johnson	Bud Morgan	Bob Stokley
William Davies	Helen Johnston	Bejay Myers	Dorothy Stokley
Lou Dobbs	Chris Jones	Lisa Nielsen	Bob Stratton
Cathryn Finch	Paul Keller	Jennifer Ogilvie	Lyman Stucker
Karen Gray	Alice Kinter	Charles Otstot	Ed Vernon
Steve Gray	George Kinter	Joan Paull	Karen Wilcox
Penni Greer	Yvonne Knudsen	Becky Preston	Edith Wilkerson
Betty Henson	Sarah Kurtz	Howard Rosen	

On November 16, with Dave Johnson as coordinator of volunteers, Rita Hirrlinger, William Bauman, Bill Speck, Ed Vernon, Pat White and son James, and Karen Gray worked with Chuck Avery and John Pike from the Park to repair the Foundry Branch steps. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

Bejay Myers and Joan Paull spent November 26 at Ferry Hill doing library work with Lee Struble. They read shelves, stamped books, and typed and proofed inventory lists.

(continued on page 13)

(VIPs, continued from page 12)



Our December 14 project found Sally and Jim Bryant, Ed Vernon, John Chandler, Bill Speck, Dave Johnson, Charles Otstot, Mary Dimperio, Joan Paull, and Ranger Donna Donaldson at Lockhouse 6 where they moved a ton or more of top soil. They filled wheelbarrows, spread earth, moved sandbags, and seeded the yard for four hours! The yard looked considerably better when the group left.

Another Association volunteer effort has been the Paw Paw Cabin project coordinated by Mimi Eller. From early June through November 3, these 18 people listed below donated 92 days of volunteer time to the park. Their activities in and around the cabin included clearing vegetation, building shutters and screen doors, removing an interior cabin wall, adding a new kitchen sink and countertop, cleaning, maintaining a log of daily activities while resident at the cabin, keeping visitation records, and, perhaps most important, providing information and assistance to Park visitors.

Michael Bucci	Brad Haigh	Roy Mitchell
Richard Collins	Shirley Haigh	Bob Pennington
Wanda Collins	Butch Henley	Ken Rollins
Geraldine Davies	Rita Hirrlinger	Sue Ann Sullivan
William Davies	Carl Linden	J. Randolph Wilson
Mimi Eller	Nancy Long	Bruce Wood

Join one of our projects in '86! We have much to do to help the Park return from the flood damage. We usually work for three hours on a scheduled work trip, unless we are close to finishing and the group wants to stay. Lee Struble can use help with her library work that was begun on November 26. We have many jobs -- as you can see from the activities described above -- and can use all kinds of help.

Plan to save January 25, March 15, May 17, and June 7 to join us in a work trip. We are unable to say now what needs there will be, but please call Joan Paull to find out where we will be going and what we will be doing. Since the flood, we have been working on assignments as they come up in priority from the Park. There is need for volunteer work at the following locations: Lockhouse 6, Pennyfield parking lot, Angler's Inn parking lot (Canal side), Horsepen Hiker/Biker, Lockhouse 11, Lock 8, and the library at Ferry Hill. Call Joan Paull at (301) 384-8584.



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Editor is Nancy Long who welcomes communications from the membership. Address her at the Association address above. Associate Editor is Ellen N. Holway.

Production and distribution assistance is provided by Rita Hirrlinger and Emmie Woodward.

1985-86 Association officers are:

President: Bruce Wood, P.O. Box 75083, Washington, DC 20013

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

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

Secretary: Margo Foster, 3047 West Lane Keys, NW, Washington, DC 20007

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

Information Officer: Karen Gray, 825 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037

Association Dues - One calendar year: \$10; Family \$15; Patron \$20; membership includes subscription to ALONG THE TOWPATH.

LEVEL WALKER REPORTS

Sect. 16 - LOCK 26 TO MONOCACY AQUEDUCT - C. H. Breedlove - April 1985

Lots of trash - tires are in bed of canal just north of where road crosses the canal. Apparently we can get on the towpath by driving to left of NPS cable at end of Cherington parking lot. This should be stopped!!

Lots of large trash at Mile 41. 50 gallon barrels, etc. between towpath and Potomac River for a distance of about 1/2 mile north of Dickerson Power Plant.

There is some deterioration of the foundation at Woods Lock.

The Monocacy Aqueduct is in good shape at 102 years old.

Sect. 28 - SHEPHERDSTOWN TO LOCK 39 - John Frye - May 1985

Mild winter and little rain this spring allow towpath to be in best condition for this time of year in many previous years. Both locks wintered well and towpath and lock areas were recently mowed and looked great. New interpretive sign is in place at Lock 38.

Sect. 30 - SNYDERS LANDING TO LOCK 40 - Harold Cramer, Sr. and Justin H. Cramer - July 1985

Sect. 31 - LOCK 40 TO MARSH RUN CALVERT - Harold Cramer, Jr. - July 1985

The barricade posts at the Boat Ramps at Snyder's Landing and at Taylor's Landing have disappeared on one side each. This enables vehicles to drive on to the towpath. There is evidence that that has been done recently. It is hoped that this matter can be corrected soon.

(The Cramer family have been Walkers in the Snyders Landing area for many years.

We welcome Justin H. Cramer as a co-walker on Section 30.)

Sect. 35 and 36 - FORMANS FERRY TO FALLING WATERS - William Evans - June 1985

Bill reports no new conditions exist on this Level. He was aware of the great amount of noise from motor boats and the inconsiderate manner of some of the towpath users.

Sect. 38 - WILLIAMSPORT TO PINESBURG STATION - Melvin Kaplan - June 1985

Towpath in good condition with the exception of several places where puddles of water exist due to recent rains. Jordan Junction is in good condition. Some litter, but not as much as has been in the past. Canal bed from west end of Conococheague Aqueduct to Fenton Ave. over grown with tall grass, but this is excusable due to the restoration and construction work being done to the south wing wall at the west end of the aqueduct.

Sect. 41 - DAM 5 TO LOCK 47 - Edward Fenimore - July 1985

The narrow dirt road from Lock 46 to the large log house known as the Leatherman place, remains overgrown and impassable to vehicles. Due to the wet and weed-tangled condition of the canal bed, I did not attempt to reach the place from the towpath at m. 107.6.

The whole section is in excellent condition. The small parking area at Lock 46 with its handsome lock house and recently restored cross-over stone work, appeared particularly well maintained. There is a problem, however, at the broad concrete skirting overlooking the slackwater at m. 107.19. This point is much frequented by fisherman. There is one trash can which, at the time of my visit, was filled to the top with some overflow on the ground. Ten yards away, fishermen had done what they could to gather their empty bottles and cans into a pile of about fifty: a good effort but the pile was unsightly. There is clearly need for at least a second can at this spot.

(Ed sent a very interesting and comprehensive report. Sorry space does not allow printing in entirety.)

Sect. 43 - McCOYS FERRY TO FORT FREDERICK - Karen Gray - August 1985

Leaving from McCoy's Ferry end about 7:45 a.m. on Sunday, August 4, I walked through the campground. All sites were in use and campers appeared to be reasonably neat. No clear problems. The amphitheatre area looked unused and the logs for sitting on were scattered in the area but I believe they were all there. The outhouses I checked appeared clean and in good order.

This walk was a delight in terms of wildlife. I saw at least 5 adult deer and three fawns--one either born late or a runt as it was quite small. While watching two some 75 feet down the towpath a red fox wandered across the canal between myself and the deer, pausing midway to look in their direction and then mine before sauntering on into the canal prism.

Sect. 50 - LOCK 53 TO DAM 6 - Bill Whalen - June 1985

Towpath in very good condition. Clear of branches and debris. Minimal trash. Cub Scouts and fathers canoeing. No other users because of rains during morning and early afternoon.

Sect. 61 - TOWN CREEK AQUEDUCT TO LOCK 68 - Bill Van Lowe - May 1985

Towpath in good condition. Evidence of recent repairs to low spots. Saw groundhogs and many turtles. Met Ranger Kinnery on the way up. Saw several people fishing. Suggest some type of reminder signs be posted about trash. Animal burrows were noted several places along the towpath (some in the center of the towpath).

LEVEL WALKER NOTES

The response of the members in the first week-end after the flood was most gratifying. Many worked long hours from sentry duty to sandbagging. Your efforts are appreciated by both the association and the Park Service.

Much of the towpath is closed to public use because of the wash-outs and potential hazards. It is requested that you apply for a pass from the Park Service for access to your section. Request forms are available. Of course our normal walks will be altered or curtailed for a period but, by the same token, "our" towpath needs your care and attention more than ever.

In the last month we have received reports from:

Kugler	Sect. 2	Holway	Sect. 37
Otstot	" 12	Larson	" 44
Bookman	" 13	Franklin	" 58
Henley	" 23	Lawson	" 10

UPCOMING WALKS

Saturday, January 25, 1986 - Today our walk is somewhat revised because of towpath conditions.

10:00 A.M. Meet at Peggy and Harry Lawson's home. Walk to Great Falls Tavern via berm side of canal.

11:00 A.M. Short meeting in the Tavern and see video pictures of flooding.

12:30 P.M. Return to Lawsons for late lunch.

Call 469-7942 between 7 and 9 P.M. to indicate you are coming and what you are bringing for the pot-luck luncheon - salad or desserts. Beverages and chili will be furnished. A call by January 23d will be appreciated.

Bring spare foot-gear to wear in our host's home. This should be a fun day. Hope you can make it.

Directions to Lawson's: Drive approximately one mile beyond Potomac Village on River Road.

Left on Sandy Landing Road

Left on Fox Hunt Lane

Immediate right on Springknoll Drive

First house on right (10801 Springknoll Drive)

Saturday, March 15, 10:00 A.M. Meet at the Park Service headquarters at Ferry Hill, MD (near Shepherdstown). We always enjoy gathering at this beautiful facility. You newer members be sure to see it.

We will walk today on one of the few open stretches of the towpath. In the morning, walk between Lock 38 and Lock 39. In the afternoon, walk between Lock 38 and Antietam aqueduct. Bring a BB lunch.



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- JANUARY 25 Level Walker Hike
Meet at 10 AM at Peggy and Harry Lawson's home; walk to Great Falls Tavern via berm side of Canal. See Level Walker Notes for details.
- JANUARY 25 Association-sponsored volunteer program. Call Joan Paull for details at (301) 384-8584.
- FEBRUARY 8 C&O Canal National Historical Park (Advisory) Commission meeting at Harper's Ferry. Call Canal headquarters for details at (301) 739-4200.
- FEBRUARY 22 Annual C&O Canal Association General Membership Meeting, 2 PM, Cliffside Motor Inn, Harpers Ferry. See Details page 3.
- MARCH 15 Association-sponsored volunteer program. Call Joan Paull for details at (301) 384-8584.
- MARCH 20 At 7:30 PM C&O Canal Park Ranger Donna Donaldson will present a program on "Careers in the National Park Service." The program is open to the public and will be given at the Arlington County Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA. For further information, call Jane Larsen at (703) 527-4777.

NOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 23, 1985 ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING.....

The November 23 meeting of the C & O Canal National Historical Park Commission was held at the Great Falls Tavern following a morning tour to observe flood damage in the Great Falls area. Discussion and action items follow:

- Superintendent Dick Stanton reported on the virtually Canal-wide damage caused by the flood waters that swept through the park in early November. (Flood reports appear elsewhere in this issue.) The Commission voted unanimously to commend the C & O Canal NHP staff for their devotion and hard work during the flood. Stanton reported that there had been a great volunteer response from the public, and that J. D. Young is in charge of coordinating volunteer activities. The Commission announced plans to coordinate a fund-raising effort by a bulk-mail appeal to the private sector; Barry Passet will coordinate this effort for the Commission.
- The Commission heard a proposal by Montgomery County Councilmember William Hanna to replace the Olmstead Island bridges at Great Falls. Hanna indicated that a fund-raising effort would be coordinated by a yet-to-be-organized bridge group, and that the group would hire an architect to design new bridges after determining whether any portions of the remaining bridge structures can be used. Hanna pledged complete cooperation with the National Park Service, and suggested that a volunteer corps could be formed to monitor the area for safety violations. Dick Stanton estimated that reopening the bridges would require ten full-time Park Rangers at a low-estimate cost of \$240,000 per year. Mike Brown estimated that there would be double the number of river drownings if the bridges were back in place. Hanna suggested that Montgomery County could charge a toll road fee at the entrance to Great Falls Park as a means of controlling visitation. The Commission passed the following motion: The Commission approves reconstruction of the bridges as recommended in the development concept plan for Great Falls, and asks Hanna for help in implementing the plan.
- Georgetown -- At the Lock 3 Plaza (Golden Commissary Tract) the parking lot pavement has been removed and grass has been established. Further plans for the area are in the design stage, and a public meeting will be held in the near future. Adam Foster stated that a Park Police presence is desired by residents in the Georgetown area, to patrol the Canal as well as to monitor this new mini-park. Stanton indicated that NPS will build a Park Police facility on the site. Waterfront Boathouses: The Commission heard a presentation by Jack Benjamin, NCR, concerning the creation of a boathouse zone extending from Key Bridge upstream to just above the Washington Canoe Club; any boathouses to be built would be located in this zone, and the zone would allow for the construction of two new boathouses as well as recognize the two existing boathouses -- the Washington Canoe Club and the Potomac Boat Club. Any boathouse request for location outside this zone would be refused. The land in question is not within C & O Canal NHP boundaries, but is owned by NPS. The Commission passed the following motion: That the present green and wooded riverfront remain green and undeveloped approximately 300 feet west of the Washington Canoe Club. Chessie System Abandonment: It was reported that an 11-mile stretch of the Chessie rail line, running through Montgomery County into Washington and bordering the Canal from just below Chain Bridge into Georgetown,

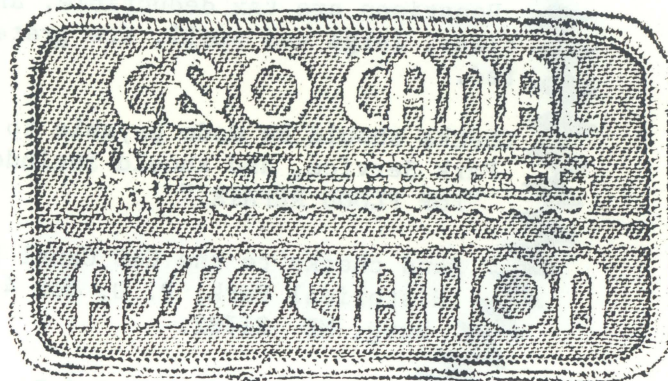
(continued on page 17)



(continued from page 16)

is to be abandoned. It is hoped that this stretch will be donated to NPS and Montgomery County. It was further reported that the Interstate Commerce Commission may file for a waiver of the usual abandonment procedures, including public hearings, in processing this abandonment request. The Commission passed the following motion: That the Commission write to ICC requesting that procedures not be excepted for this abandonment, and that the Commission favors acquisition of that portion of the rail line in and adjacent to C & O Canal NHP boundaries.

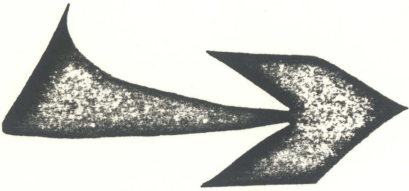
● New Business -- A bill (S1766) introduced by Senator Charles McC. Mathias would establish an area at the Cumberland terminus of the Canal to honor Senator J. Glenn Beall, Sr. The Commission passed a motion stating its enthusiastic endorsement of this bill. The Commission heard a proposal from a member of the Washington Boule Club, who requested that NPS define a specific area at Carderock and cover the area with crushed stone for the club's use in playing this ball game. He indicated that the club had been playing at Carderock for 20 years, either in the roadway or on bare ground, and suggested that an area the size of two tennis courts be established near the pavilion. This request was referred to committee for further study and recommendations.



PATCHES! PATCHES!

The C&O Canal Association has cloth patches available for \$1.50 each. The green and gold patches measure 3 1/2 x 2 inches and look nifty sewed on a jacket or pack.

Order these patches from the Association, making your check payable to the C&O Canal Association and sending it to the Treasurer, P O Box 66, Glen Echo, MD 20812-0066.



FROM
DICK STANTON

The C&O Canal NHP is soliciting funds for repairs of extensive damage to the Canal caused by the November 1985 flood.

Donations are tax deductible, and all donations, large and small, are gratefully accepted.

Checks should be made payable to the National Park Service, and should include the notation "FOR FLOOD REPAIR."

Send checks to the C&O Canal National Historical Park, P. O. Box 4, Sharpsburg, MD 21782.

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