

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

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BURKITTSVILLE TO BE SITE OF ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 7

The 1987 Annual Meeting of the C & O Canal Association will be held on Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m. at the Community Center in Burkittsville, Maryland.

Rita Hirrlinger, Chair of the Annual Meeting Committee, has arranged a walk along the Canal at Brunswick to kick off the day's activities at 10:30 a.m. After crossing the railroad tracks, hikers should park their cars near the berm side of the Canal and meet at the Canal crossing at Lock 30. Level Walker Dave Johnson will provide information about his level, Brunswick to Weverton Lock 31, and Donna and Bob Boies will talk about thier level, Catoctin Aqueduct to Lock 30.

Directions to Brunswick: From Virginia--Take Route 7 to Leesburg, travel north on Route 15 through Point of Rocks, turn left on Route 464 to Brunswick, proceed through the traffic light on 9th Avenue, turn left on the truck route to East Potomac Street, then left on Maple Avenue over the railroad tracks to the Canal. From Maryland-- Take Interstate 70, travel west on Route 340, then take Route 17 to Brunswick.

To reach Burkittsville from Brunswick (6 miles), take Route 17 to East Main, turn right and proceed to the Community Center on the right side.

Burkittsville is a vintage town overshadowed by South Mountain. It was called Harley's Post Office until it was laid out as a town and named for an early settler, Henry Burkitt, in 1829. One mile from Burkittsville on Gapland Road is the War Correspondents Memorial, erected by George Alfred Townsend, Civil War correspondent and novelist, to honor his fellow journalists who covered the Civil War. This unique structure, designed by Townsend, features a Moorish arch and a castle-like tower. Amidst much publicity, the Memorial was dedicated on October 16, 1896. Townsend also lived in the area on an estate which became Gathland State Park.

One of the principal agenda items for the Annual Meeting will be the election of Officers and Board Members for 1987 terms. The list of candidates and a brief statement about each appears elsewhere in this issue.

The schedule of Annual Meeting activities follows.

Saturday, March 7, 1987:

10:30 a.m. -- Towpath walk in Brunswick area; meet at Lock 30.

Lunch -- Hikers may bring their own lunches, dine in Brunswick, or make other arrangements. 2:00 p.m. -- Annual meeting at Burkittsville Community Center.

4:30 p.m. -- Happy Hour at the Community Center. 5:30 p.m. -- Dinner at the Community Center. Dinner reservations are required; see page 19 for the dinner reservation form.

Association members and guests who wish to stay overnight on either Friday or Saturday night should make their own lodging arrangements.

--Information provided by Rita Hirrlinger

Now is the time to renew your membership in the C & O Canal Association. A membership application form is on page 19 of this issue. Suggestion: If you have friends who would like to join, make a copy of the membership form to give to them.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Hal Larsen

As the year ends and another election of officers and directors looms, I want to talk about the Board of Directors as an institution and what it means to the membership as a whole. The board, it is important to remember, decides on all association policy and actions. Whether determining when hikes shall start or establishing a position on developments along the canal, these twenty -one persons make the decisions considered most likely to further association goals. As a practical matter, this means about ten people, because each board meeting usually has about a 50% attendance. I do not suggest that board members are indifferent; it is difficult to schedule a meeting that everyone can attend. Nevertheless, if a quorum of six including one officer can be assembled, this group can establish far-reaching policies binding on the president as the executive officer and the membership as a whole.

The system works very well. Some board members attending meetings more faithfully than others. Indeed, some directors are always present, while some rarely come. There is no member who has not in my experience attended at least one meeting. As I note, however, association policy tends to be made by a relatively few directors who nearly always come. I don't know how much this matters to the members, but I think they are well represented even by those few directors, who are conscientious people with our best interests in mind and who have good perspectives with respect to the goals and policies the bylaws enunciate.

A representative body should clearly represent its constituencies. Association members should not look at the annual election as a routine, automatic exercise. Often votes taken unanimously in a few minutes shape the management for the year to come, and what can be accomplished with a brief and casual hand-raising thus becomes established, irrevocable fact. Association members should know the candidates for office and ascertain whether candidates hold views consistent with their own. We all have different ideas about our role and function, even though we usually agree on the broad limits set forth in the bylaws. Within this more general outline, opinions vary widely among members as to how to reach our goals. Do candidates reflect the views you hold? How often do you know what they think? Old-timers can usually predict the orientation of fellow members, especially those who have been involved in the organization's activities. And new members--how can they judge the candidates and decide whether their views accord with their own?

I ask these questions simply to say this: the role of the membership in voting for officers and directors is a serious one. Members have this unique and significant duty. After they have voted, the rest is pretty much up to the board for the year to come. Members can do their best to avoid disappointment by voting as informed activists and nominating people whose views are in line with their own.



The C&O Canal Association takes pleasure in welcoming the following members who have joined the Association during the period October-December, 1986:

Peter Amovic, McLean, VA Arthur Bloch III, Burke, VA LeEllen Brown, Laurel, MD David J Collins, Arlington, VA Kathleen R Darby, Washington, DC Mr/Mrs Peter L. Duren, Ann Arbor, MI Donna Johnson, McLean, VA Marlow S Madeoy, Bethesda, MD Shirley & Steve Paull, Laurel, MD Winifred Sewell, Cabin John, MD Rachel L. Stewart, Arlington, VA Troop 44, BSA, Oxford, PA NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

Information compiled by James Bryant and Ellen Holway

Officers and Board of Directors members are to be elected at the Association's annual meeting on March 7. Six one-year Officer positions, five three-year Board positions, and one one-year Board position are to be filled. The candidates listed below have accepted nomination. The nominees were asked what they perceive to be the goals that the Association should pursue in the coming year, and what they would like to do, if elected, to help achieve them. Their responses follow.

FOR PRESIDENT:

HAROLD A. LARSEN

The incumbent president, Hal has an interest in historic preservation and recreation on the Canal, and has served as a Level Walker and volunteer in Park projects. An Association member since 1972, he has also served as a Board member. He says: "I believe the Association should ontinue its strong participation in volunteer programs related to Canal rehabilitation and maintenance. Additionally, I believe we should give serious consideration to attracting new young members in order to ensure a continued vitality in the organization. If re-elected, I would continue faithfully to carry out the actions and policies directed by the Board of Directors, and I would promote the volunteer programs and encourage efforts to rejuvenate the membership."

FOR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT: CARL A. LINDEN

Carl's primary interests are recreation, history, engineering, and nature. He has taken an active part in the protection, preservation, and restoration of the Canal, and has been an active Level Walker and participant in the semi-annual Association hikes. He has served as president, Board member, and on nearly all of the various committees of the Association as a member since 1962. He feels that: "As a consequence of our enthusiasm and concern for the Canal Park, we, members of the C & O Canal Association, in a real sense become its trustees. While the Park refreshes and enriches us, we, in turn, in our various ways, seek to assure its well-being and prosperity now and for the future. I am ready to assist in this mission as before."

FOR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT/LEVEL WALKER CHAIR: MICHELE CARSRUD

An active Association member since 1982, Michele has participated in Park volunteer projects, and has enjoyed the semi-annual hikes. She is the newly assigned Level Walker for Section 41. She says: "The primary goal of the Association has always been to preserve and protect the Canal so that it will continue to be available as a public source of relaxation and renewal. The Level Walker program has contributed significantly toward that goal. If I am elected Level Walker Chair, I will be fortunate in taking over a program that is already well established and running smoothly. My primary goal for the year will be to keep the Level Walker program operating smoothly, and to keep the lines of communication between the Level Walkers, other Association members, and the Park Service open."

FOR SECRETARY:

MARGUERITE P. FOSTER

The incumbent secretary, Margot 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 Canal. A consortium of such schools should be organized to study the history of the Canal and

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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 TREASURER:

WILLIAM H. SPECK

Bill enjoys the Canal from the point of view of recreation and nature. He is the incumbent treasurer, has served as a volunteer on Park projects, and participated in semi-annual hikes. He says: "As treasurer, my objective is to handle the work securely effectively, and with as little trouble to those working for the Association as possible. As a Board member, to preserve and promote use of the Canal."

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:

VICTOR P. CONRAD

A member of the Association since 1955, Victor is interested in recreation, history, and nature, and seeks preservation of the Canal by control of the Potomac River. A Level Walker since 1955, he has also served three terms on the Board of Directors. He says: "I would stress the study of the options available to achieve control of the Potomac River, which periodically severely damages our Canal and may eventually destroy it completely, plus devastating much of the river valley. The last two floods cost the Canal Park \$23,000,000, and about seven billions in damage to the river valley. We must support a study to determine whether these disasters can be avoided, or at least minimized in the future, by taking appropriate measures, if any can be developed that will not themselves injure the Canal. I think this should be the main goal of the

Association for the next several years, to press for a thorough study of the subject mentioned above."

FOR BOARD MEMBER: RALPH H. DONNELLY

Ralph has been an Association member since the first reunion hike in the mid-1950s. He has served as president and as a Board member. His interest in the Canal turns to recreation, history, and engineering. He is a Level Walker and has served as a Park volunteer and has participated in semi-annual hikes. He believes the Association should: "Increase membership by sponsoring all forms of use including bikes, horses, canoes, as well as hiking. Use of tourism staffs of the counties to promote and distribute use of the Canal should be encouraged."

FOR BOARD MEMBER: WILHELMINA ELLER

Mimi's primary interest in the Canal is in recreation, including canoeing, and in the preservation of adjacent areas. She has participated in the semi-annual hikes, in Park volunteer projects, and helped plan the 1984 through hike. She also served as coordinator of the Paw Paw Cabin project in 1985. A member since 1982, she states four goals she would like to see promoted: "To coordinate with other conservation and recreation organizations for mutual benefit and to strengthen our voice on legislative issues; to develop, in cooperation with the National Park Service, projects, such as the Paw Paw Cabin project, which offer opportunity for creative and active involvement for Association members of all ages; to work with the NPS and local citizens to further historic preservation efforts in jurisdictions along the Canal; and to encourage all efforts to establish the Western Maryland Railroad right-of-way as an auxiliary trail."

FOR BOARD MEMBER: MILDRED HEIMER

Midge expresses an interest in all Canalrelated activities, most specifically the preservation of the Canal and of the Potomac Basin. She has served as a Level Walker and participated in semi-annual hikes and through hikes, for which she has provided support of all sorts. She has been an Association member "mostly since 1974." Her statement indicates that she would not be able to accept a three-

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year Board term. She says: "I'd love to work with the Association on the Justice Douglas papers in the Hagerstown Historical Society where I am a member."

FOR BOARD MEMBER:

SUSAN HENLEY

Butch is interested in the Canal as a recreational asset, and has served as a Level Walker and on Park volunteer projects. She indicates that she would: "Work toward strengthening the organization by helping to develop a plan of action to increase membership overall, with people who are interested in sharing in the activities of the Association and/or who have total commitment to our goals; encourage special emphasis to recruitment in the Cumberland to Harpers Ferry area of the Park and its surrounding areas; continue to be as active as possible and to maintain the membership list on my computer if needed, even if I am not elected to the Board."

FOR BOARD MEMBER: EARL McFARLAND, JR.

Earl's principal interests in the Canal are its recreational opportunities, and its historical and engineering aspects. He has been a participant in semi-annual hikes. He says: "A large number of the current membership joined the Association to be a part in preserving the Canal, its history, and to participate in hikes along its many diverse areas. Although there were some who had the physical ability and motivation to volunteer in the Canal's upkeep, recent flood damage and budget cuts indicate a much greater need for volunteer workers. I believe the Association should embark on an extensive recruitment program aimed especially at the younger volunteering types of men and women."

FOR BOARD MEMBER:

KENNETH ROLLINS

Ken has been an Association member since 1957, and has served as president, vice president, treasurer, and Board member. He lists his Canal-oriented interests as preservation and restoration, history and engineering, nature, and recreation (in that order). He has participated in Association activities as a Level Walker, in Park volunteer projects, and in semiannual hikes. He writes: "I think the Association should continue to cooperate with the Park Service through volunteer programs (without compromising our independent voice), and we should by all means, try to support and expand the momentum of the Superintendent's volunteer clean-up campaign."

FOR BOARD MEMBER: EDITH WILKERSON

Edith has been an Association member since 1973, and enjoys the Canal for its recreational opportunities and as a resource for the study of history and nature. She is a Level Walker, and has participated in semi-annual hikes and in the Park's volunteer programs. She says: "I would like to see the Association continue to work cooperatively with the NPS in the efforts to keep the Canal in as good shape as possible, providing what volunteer service we can in continuing work on flood damage repair as well as routine maintenance. We should strive to continuously increase membership and include new members on projects and committees so that we get to know each other better, and encourage interest and support."



WHERE DO OUR MEMBERS LIVE?

An analysis of geographic distribution of the 343 C&O Canal Association members shows worldwide distribution, although the greatest percentage are located in Maryland. This analysis was made in August 1986 at which time 199 members resided in Maryland, 69 in Virginia, 37 in the District of Columbia, nine in West Virginia and six in Pennsylvania. Twentythree members came from such diverse places as New Zealand, the Virgin Islands, California and 14 other states, seven of which are west of the Mississippi River, as well as a New York APO. Twenty-six of the Maryland members live west or north of Harpers Ferry.

Copies of <u>Along the Towpath</u> are mailed additionally to members of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the contiguous areas as well as to members of the C&O Canal National Historical Park Commission.

FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 28, 1986.....

This Sunday afternoon meeting of the Board was held at the home of Jane and Hal Larsen in McLean, Virginia. Ten Board members were present, 11 were absent. Some discussion and action items follow:

• The president announced that Brad Haigh had resigned from the Board. Association Bylaws require that such as vacancy be filled by a Board appointment until the next annual meeting when elections of officers and Board members are held. A list of six potential candidates was drawn up. The following motion was passed: That the six persons be accepted as potential candidates for the Board, to be telephoned by the president in order, the first accepting to be offered the vacant Board position.

• Membership Policy Committee Report -- On behalf of the Committee, Midge Heimer filed the following written report: "We have no interest in an active campaign to recruit new members for the sake of having new members. We feel we need a moderate effort to attract new members upstream to create a geographical balance. We don't see a need in the Washington area to do additional recruitment, i.e., we feel the public relations about our hikes/activities, the availability of flyers in a large number of public places, and the person-to-person effort are satisfactory. To attract new members upstream, we suggest similar techniques to those used in the Washington metropolitan area, i.e., through newspaper coverage, flyers available at public places/events, local organization newsletters, and person-to-person contact. We don't see a need to make additional effort at national membership. If "dark days" come and we try to deal with it, so will other related groups and national interest will rise." Adam Foster asked if Superintendent Stanton woul consider allowing a brochure to be mailed to each volunteer who worked on the Canal last summer. Motion passed: To review the list of volunteers working for NPS last summer and to select zip codes near the Canal for a mailing of 1,000 brochures. Amendment to motion passed: That a letter of appreciation be sent to the leader of each volunteer group telling them that the C & O Canal Association can be a voice for them and that the Association has fine ongoing volunteer and recreation programs that might be of interest. The president is to discuss the matter of using names and addresses from the volunteer list for this purpose with the superintendent. The president read a letter from Joseph M. Kaiser, president of the Coalition of Potomac Crescent Trail, which urged that this abandoned railroad spur become a park that would connect with the C & O Canal, Rock Creek Parkway, and the Old Dominion Bicycle Trail. Mr. Kaiser asked for the support of the Association. The Coalition represents 10 organizations. In his letter, Mr. Kaiser proposed that the land become a park, and that use as a right-ofway by commercial interests be prevented. Motion passed: That the president reply to Mr. Kaiser's letter to express the concern and interest of the C & O Canal Association and state that the Association is unable to offer support until a specific proposal is defined. It should be indicated that the Association's area of interest is between Georgetown and the Montgomery County boundary.

FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 7, 1986.....

Seventeen Board members were present, four absent, for the December 7 meeting held at Margot and Adam Foster's Rockwood Ridge Farm in Bluemont, Virginia. Some discussion and action items follow:

 Nominating Committee Report: Jim Bryant, Chairman of the Committee, presented the slate of six officers and the slate of eight Board candidates. (Names and statements appear elsewhere in this issue.)

• Annual Meeting Arrangements: Rita Hirrlinger, Chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, will make arrangements for the meeting. Motion passed: That the 1987 Annual Meeting be held on Saturday, March 7. Motion passed: That the Annual Meeting be held at the Burkittsville Community Center.

Annual Douglas Reunion Hike: Motion passed: That the C & O Canal Association spring hike be held on April 25 starting at 10:30 a.m. from Spring Gap to Cumberland.

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• Volunteer Projects: Joan Paull, Chairman of the Volunteer Program, reported that Association members donated time and effort to projects at Riley's Lock House, Lock 5, Swain's Lock, Edward's Ferry, Violet's Lock, and Fletcher's Boat House. She reported that the Canal staff brought in tons of earth and rock at Fletcher's, and that 1,750 trees have been planted by volunteers there to prevent erosion of the bank (ash, river birch, dogwood, lilacs, river oaks).

• Treasurer's Report: Bill Speck, Treasurer, reported that the Association spent \$901.99 more than it took in this year. In 1986, there were 322 members who paid dues of \$4,245. For the three Association dinners, \$2,050 was budgeted, and \$2,039.50 was spent. Sales of patches and T-shirts produced \$141, with \$300 anticipated. Expenses for the Paw Paw Cabin project were budgeted at \$400, but none of this allocation was spent. The newsletter cost was \$2,551, with \$2,000 having been budgeted. Administration expenses of \$911.90 were way over budget of \$300, partly because \$261.60 was spent on mailing the bylaws to members, and \$100.02 was spent on the membership list. Postage was considerably higher. Half the cost of incorporation expense has been paid; \$750 remains to be paid. Bill noted that the biggest expense is <u>Along the Towpath</u>. Motion passed: That committees who organize events must insure that income is sufficient to cover a bit more than the basic costs, and that members participating be charged enough to cover basic costs.

• Liability Insurance: Bill Speck reported that the Association's liability insurance has lapsed. In checking with other hiking groups, he found that the Sierra Club does not carry insurance, but that PATC does because it owns property. The Association's previous insurance cost was \$540; Bill has received quotes of \$750, \$1,060, and \$2,000 (the latter from our previous broker). Motion passed: That at the present time, the Board not purchase liability insurance. Motion passed: That the C & O Canal Association invite a consultant, perhaps Charles Sloan, to talk to the Board about liability insurance. Motion: That the books of the C & O Canal Association be audited. Amendment to latter motion: That the president appoint annually a committee to review the treasurer's records. Motion carried as amended.

Flood Control Policy Committee Report: Dave Johnson, Chairman, read the committee's (The complete report appears elsewhere in this issue.) Motion passed: To accept report. the resolution of the Flood Control Policy Committee as presented by Dave Johnson. • Vandalism and Public Use: Bob Greenberg reported that he attended the December 6 meeting of the C & O Canal Advisory Commission where he said a discussion took place concerning the effects of vandalism on public use of the Park. His report on this subject is carried in the minutes as follows: "Homeowners abutting the Canal have requested that it not be rewatered in order to decrease vandalism. Dick Stanton is caught between public enjoyment and police problems of vandalism. The Commission did not take a position. Bob Greenberg recommended that the Association study this problem and help decide if public enjoyment should be sacrificed to solve vandalism problems. Bill Davies said that public use of the park should be supreme and any incidental matters related to the Park, such as vandalism of adjacent properties, should be handled by local authorities." Motion passed: For the president to appoint a member of the Board to draw up a policy resolution stating that public use of the Canal should not be subordinate to measures to combat vandalism. (Ed. note: As recorded in the minutes, this problem appears to be Canal-wide. As reported at the Commission meeting, a request was made to NPS to discontinue watering of the Canal for ice skating purposes in the Candoc area near Cumberland. Some residents of Candoc relate vandalism and destruction of landscaping along the Canal (maintained by Candoc residents) to the use of the Canal there as an ice skating location.) Possible Change in NPS Policy: Bill Davies reported on a New York Times article indicating a possible rift between the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, i.e., that Secretary Donald Hodel is reported to believe that NPS Director William Penn Mott has been too conservative in protecting park lands and personnel. Bill's report indicated that more efficient park operators will be substituted, and the impairment policy will be redefined to determine what constitutes impairment of parks. Motion passed: That the president appoint someone to contact other organizations to see that no drastic changes be made in the National Park Service policies that adversely affect the integrity of the National Parks.

Volunteers

in the by Joan Paull Parks Report

When the September 6 worktrip was reported, Edith Wilkerson's name was inadvertently omitted as a participant. Sorry, Edith.

Irish, bluegrass, jazz, string quartet, and steel band were some of the concerts enjoyed by Jane Larsen, Joan Paull, and Sylvia Heflin as they did their liaison work at the Concerts on the Canal at the Foundry this summer. Why not join them next season?

Violet's Lock was the scene of the October worktrip. When we first started to work on the lock, you couldn't see the configuration of the canal because of the vegetation! So the crew of Jim and Sally Bryant, Shirley Paull, Lee Brown, Pat White, Elizabeth Hackley, Joan Paull, Ranger Jeff Ohlfs, and maintenance crew member Sonny Gay, got to work cutting down trees, weeds and bushes.

November's trip took us back to Edward's Ferry Lock, but to the Inlet Lock. James White rolled huge logs out of the lock, Howard Brown and Gregory Donaldson manned the chain saws along with Mike Bliss, while Shirley Paull, her son Stephen, Pat White, Lee Brown, Harold Hubbell and Tom Merritt carried branches, logs and debris left from the '85 flood. Elizabeth Hackley, Karen Hubbell and her daughter Brandy, Dave Johnson and Joan Paull worked removing small clumps of grass and weeds in the walls of the lock, and shoveled silt from the capstones. It was beautiful--when we finished!

At the beginning of November we removed trees from the canal; then on the 15th we PLANTED trees. At the big flood control project at Fletcher's the morning crew of Elizabeth Hackley, Bill Speck, Bruce Wood, Ed Vernon and Fred Baker of the maintenance crew each worked with two Boy Scouts from Troop #1449, Potomac, to plant 500 saplings! Joan Paull and Ranger Donna Donaldson helped distribute trees and heel them in to prevent drying out on Saturday and on Friday, Donna, Fred and Joan marked off the areas to be planted. The afternoon crew of Gregory Donaldson, Mike Bliss, Buddy Gibson and his friend Michelle Duncan from Texas, Sue and Ron Kaltenbaugh, Wendy McIlroy and Andrej Balanc also plannted 500 saplings. As the day wore on the ground got softer and mud began to develop, but that didn't stop this crew! The next week found Gregory Donaldson and Mike Bliss returning to Fletcher's to plant 750 more saplings. These two have evolved a super-fast process for planting trees which we will use on our next planting worktrip.

In 1986 we added a number of new names to our list of project participants. We hope that in 1987 your name will be added. The crew has a good time, good company, a sense of accomplishment, and allows monies to be shifted to park projects that we c can't do.

See you on January 31 at our next worktrip!

DONNELLY HONORED

Long-time C&O Canal Association member Ralph H. Donnelly was recently honored by the Maryland Society of Surveyors for a lifetime of exemplary work in the business of land surveying. He was chosen "1986 Surveyor of the Year" by the Society. Ralph's citation recognized him for exhibiting an "exceptional degree of professionalism, high ethical standards and excellence in land surveying" throughout his career.

Ralph resides in Hancock with his wife Adele, and, although retired several years ago, he serves as consultant to a Hagerstown company. He has also held M.S.S. offices of Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President. In 1984, Governor Harry Hughes appointed Donnelly to a 5-year term on the Maryland State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors and he is presently vice-chairman of that group.

Ralph was pleased to receive the M.S.S. citation and noted that surveying is an interesting" profession with great variety and much outdoor activity.

In an interview with the Hagerstown MORNING HERALD, Donnelly said he has run into a wide assortment of people including high pressured developers, lawyers, kooks, strangers and a lot of nice people.

"I've spent a lot of time testifying in court on land disputes," he said. "Everybody wants what is theirs and no more, but some people have some strange ideas of what's theirs."

DIRECTOR MOTT ADDRESSES VOLUNTEERS

National Park Service Director William Penn Mott, Jr., voiced his appreciation to over 200 National Capital Region volunteers at the fourth annual Volunteer Recognition Breakfast held in the Ambassador Room of the Shoreham Hotel on October 18.

In his remarks, Mr. Mott noted that volunteers are a cornerstone of American life, and said he felt a "deep sense of gratification" and was "very excited to hear what has been done by volunteers," particularly the 6,000 volunteers in the National Capital Region where, he said, volunteer work is done for NPS visitors from across the country. He cited the \$10,000,000 value placed on work done by NPS volunteers nationwide.

Along with Robert Stanton, Deputy Regional Director of NCR, Mr. Mott presented volunteer certificates of appreciation and the Volunteer of the Year Award. Selected as Volunteer of the Year was Stephanie Cleveland, who volunteers at the Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, Maryland. John Thompson and John Rundle were named the top volunteers from the C & O Canal National Historical Park.

C & O Canal Association members honored for their volunteer participation, in addition to John Thompson, were: Betty Bushell, Lou Dobbs, Cathryn Finch, Betty Henson, Helen Johnston, Hal Larsen, Jane Larsen, Bettyjane Myers, Joan Paull, and Larry Sacks. Other Association members cited were Nancy Long for Glen Echo Park, and Barbara and Gary Nickerson for the Clara Barton Site.

The Volunteer Breakfast is the result of a cooperative effort between the National Park Service and the following sponsors who make the breakfast tribute to volunteers of NCR possible: American Automobile Associstion-Potomac Division; Cellular One; Automotive Trade Association of the National Capital Area; Guest Services, Inc.; Quantico Orienteering Club; The Shoreham Hotel; Hechinger's; Giant Food; Washington Gas Light; Mid-Atlantic Coca Cola; Landmark Services/Tourmobile; The Washington Post; C & P Telephone; WMAL AM 63.



CANAL CAMPOREE NOMINATED FOR AWARD

The National Park Service has nominated four parks and one regional office to the Take Pride in America Awards competition. Included among the nominees was the C & O Canal National Historical Park for its C & O Canal Cleanup Camporee.

Scouting and other organizations, including the C & O Canal Association, contributed 30,352 volunteer hours to the cleanup effort. Other nominees were the Blue Ridge Parkway, Fort Smith, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, and the Southwest Regional Office. The NPS nominees will compete with the nominees from all other Federal agencies; final selection is expected to be made by January 1, 1987.

PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR SUPPORTS MORE EMPHASIS ON TRAILS

The National Park Service will have an office organized to coordinate and give greater emphasis to its trails activities within a year, NPS Director William Penn Mott, Jr., said at the annual meeting of the American Hiking Society.

Mott was the keynote speaker at the annual AHS Hike-In in Front Royal, Virginia, on October 12.

Greater emphasis to and better coordination of the NPS trails efforts was one of the requests an AHS delegation made in a meeting with Mott earlier this year. In his talk, Mott reported that organization of a trails coordinator's office has already begun.

Mott's action is important because NPS has responsibility for overseeing the National Trails System Act. Good coordination is critical because trails often cross the land of different federal and local agencies, so msy not have a single agency looking out for them. While such a trails coordinating office once existed within the government, it had become the victim of budget cuts in recent years.

"Trails add a dimension of uniqueness to the park experience," Mott said. He said that NPS is working on a complete trails assessment for the country. Mott received a standing ovation from the assembled hikers for his supportive remarks.

(Ed. note: The foregoing is a press release issued by the American Hiking Society.)

HEADING INTO WINTER by Helen L. Johnston

Red-tailed hawks played in the sky one clear October day as they sailed southward on their annual migratory trek. Other fall migrants sneaked quietly through the trees, although their numbers seemed to be smaller than in past years.

About the same time, the white-throated sparrows announced their local arrival for the winter season, singing their plaintive "Old Sam Peabody" song, and small flocks of juncos poked around brushy places looking for insects. Their white outer tail feathers gave them away as they rose in alarm when a birdwatcher got too close.

Almost anywhere along the towpath, the cheery "teakettle, teakettle, teakettle" song of the Carolina wren continues to be heard, although the singer may remain unseen. Other year-round residents that become more conspicuous as winter approaches include the woodpeckers, from the small downy to the crow-sized pileated. With luck, an observer may also find the yellowbellied sapsucker, a winter resident, making his familiar ring of pecker-holes around the trunk of a tree.

An adult bald eagle continues to be seen with some regularity, sitting in regal splendor on a high branch of a dead tree on an island in mid-river. Occasionally both adult eagles perch in the tree where they raised two eaglets during the past summer.

"George," the resident great blue heron, often lurks by the canal or the river somewhere near the Tavern. Occasionally a pair of great blues sails over the towpath to better fishing grounds on a river island.

In early November, the resident barred owl had not yet returned to the hollow in the big sycamore near the Tavern that he has occupied faithfully for the last halfdozen winters. Perhaps he finally found the spot too obvious to curiosity-seekers invading his privacy with powerful binoculars. Perhaps he has found another hollow tree more to his liking with a good supply of mice nearby. Or perhaps it is still too early, and he will be found later, back at his old site "people-watching" as they go up and down the towpath. Only a few late flowers remain along the towpath and in the nearby woods. The pink smartweed brightens spots along the canal, and a few blossoms of heal-all linger in sunny places. The tattered petals of witch hazel--the last of the season's blossoms--cling to bare branches in damp, wooded places. But it is already time to be looking for early signs that spring is not too far away--the new leaves of hepatica and sweet cicely, and the first shoots of skunk cabbage. The winter ferns--Christmas, ebony spleenwort, and oblique grapefern-turn the woodland floor to green in places.

More conspicuous are the signs of late fall and early winter--persimmons hanging on a leafless tree, black walnuts, osage oranges, rose hips, and the berries of the Amur honeysuckle. The two-pronged seeds of the tickseed sunflower cling to blue jeans if anyone comes too close. The fluffy seeds of goldenrod and Joe Pye weed are ready to travel on the first breeze. The wild grapes and poison ivy berries attract chickadees and titmice. A flock of bluebirds, flying back and forth across the canal, feasted on wild grapes one rainy fall day.

By mid-October, the water turtles had forsaken their sunny logs in the canal. A sluggish garter snake slithered quickly away when a photographer trying for a closeup got too close for the snake's comfort.

Beavers leave new cuttings on the canal bank as evidence that they are still on night duty. Squirrels scamper away with acorns to their favorite winter hiding places. Occasionally a chipmunk scurries across an open space, to what destination or for what purpose it is hard to guess. Deer leave fresh prints in soft earth in the woods. Occasionally as twilight approaches they come out to graze in near places.

Even with most of the fall color gone and with winds that sometimes chill to the bone, the chance to watch the creatures of the woods, the sight of bare branches arching overhead, and the winter light on towpath and river are reward enough for a few hours, or even a day, spent in the Park.

REPORT ON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

The first case involved the abandoned Wilkins-Rogers hydro plant at Key Bridge. On 27 March 1986, FERC issued a preliminary permit to C & O Hydro Associates to study the feasibility of modernizing the inactive generating facility located at 3411 K Street, NW, just east of Key Bridge and below the C&O Canal. The facility has been inactive since 1967. If reopened, it would utilize two existing headgates and an existing 10-foot diameter penstock to deliver water from the canal to the turbine. A new generator, rated at 700 KW, would be installed. Maximum hydraulic capacity of the plant is 300 cfs, which is equal to 8.1 million gallons per hour. The applicant stated that no land owned by the federal government would be affected by the project.

The committee noted that:

1. The proposed project would not physically intrude on the towpath or into the park. It would not compromise an historic scene. Between the canal and K Street in the vicinity of Key Bridge is currently one of the ugliest areas of the park; restoration of the power plant would probably improve the general appearance of the area.

2. Activation of the plant would require the Park Service to provide a higher level of maintenance on the canal below Lock 5. It would require that the canal be kept filled with water at all times. This would cause problems for the park when circumstances require that the canal be drawn down.

3. Historically, water purchased from the canal company during the operating period, and into the era under Interior ownership, was used to power mills and industries in the Georgetown area. However, according to the superintendent, the canal now "is very fragile and cannot take the volume of water required to run hydros." The present rate of current that the park tries to maintain in the Georgetown level is between .25 and .5 mph. We estimate that a requirement for an additional 8 million gallons per hour would increase the rate of flow by about .5 mph, that is, it would double or triple the present speed of the water. 4. We saw no adverse public consequences if the proposed project is not approved. The amount of electric power that would be produced is not significant, and would not make a meaningful impact on the additional generating capacity that PEPCO will need in the next ten to fifteen years.

The second case began in May 1986 when Potomac Hydropower Company applied to FERC for a preliminary permit for a proposed water power project below Little Falls Dam. The applicant proposed to construct a powerhouse containing two turbines and two generators, to modify the feeder canal to divert water to the turbines, and to extend a power transmission line from the Little Falls Pumping Station to the powerhouse.

• The projected generating capacity would be 8,000 KW, with estimated annual production of 38 million KWH.

• All land within the proposed project boundary belongs to the government, and is within the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

• The proposed boundary is described as a 50' wide portion of the Potomac River on the east side beginning at the south side of Little Falls Dam and following "an existing path of water now located between the present C&O Canal and the main body of the river." The length of the project is approximately 6/10 of one mile, where the project would end with a small, low-level powerhouse.

High Island is a prominent hill (some 120' high) lying off the Maryland bank of the river in the vicinity of Lock 6. It is separated from the shore by the channel of the feeder, which is a surviving remnant of the original Patowmack Company Skirting Canal. At its lower end, High Island flattens off at water level and is crossed by the overflow from the lateral spillway connecting the upper feeder channl to the guard gates of the inlet lock. The fall from the spillway to the river is about 10 or 11 feet, depending on the river level.

Although vaguely defined in the application, it appeared that the developer would construct the powerhouse on this downstream area of High Island, adjacent to or a short distance above the guard gates.

• Water would be diverted from the feeder to the powerhouse through a modern canal structure or headrace to be dug by Potomac Hydropower.

• After passing through the turbines, the water would empty into the river, not return to the C&O Canal.

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(continued from page 11)

The committee noted that:

1. Construction of the powerhouse and transmission line would be a serious scenic intrusion into an historically significant part of the park. The feeder canal from Dam #1 to the inlet lock is a portion of the original Little Falls Skirting Canal. The site of the C&O Canal groundbreaking in 1828 is also in this area.

2. Modification of the feeder to power the generators could have a disastrous impact on its capacity to supply water to the canal below Lock 5.

3. The upper portion of the feeder canal is used as a training area by the U.S. whitewater kayaking team. Modification of this watercourse would interfere with or eliminate this recreational use of the park.

4. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources opposed the project because of potential harm to fish. The area is also an outstanding bird habitat.

5. A permanent access roadway to the powerhouse, across or parallel to the canal or towpath, would be required for construction and maintenance of the facility.

6. We saw no adverse public consequence if the project is not built. The applicant's projection of 38 million annual KWH from a 8 MW generator is probably somewhat optimistic, given the variable flow of the river. In any case, the amount of electricity it would produce is not significant, and would not make a meaningful reduction in the additional generating capacity that will be needed in the next decade.

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>: These specific threats to the park appear to have passed for the time being. The Key Bridge project would be economically unfeasible because the cost of modernizing the plant would be too high and would not pay back the developer's investment. The High Island application has apparently been withdrawn or not pursued due to public opposition and the fact that use of park property would not be granted.

The Committee, however, believes that the Association should adopt a general policy on the issue of hydroelectric facilities within the park.

We recommend that the Association oppose any attempts to reactivate these proposals in the future, or to otherwise utilize the waterpower of the canal or its feeders for such purposes, or to construct hydroelectric facilities within the park boundaries.

We believe that this policy should be adopted for the following reasons:

1. The construction of a powerhouse, transmission line, and/or access road in an area such as High Island would seriously compromise the historic and environmental integrity of the park.

2. Modification of the feeder would alter the recreational uses of that channel, impair the water supply to the canal below Lock 5, and be harmful to fish and wildlife.

3. Diversion of water from the canal would be detrimental to the physical condition of the canal and to the recreational uses of the park. Increasing the rate of current in the canal would cause bank erosion and limit the value of the canal for canoeing.

4. Approval of any commercial hydroelectric facility on the canal would set a precedent that could open the way for more such projects.

5. National parklands should not be subordinated to private commercial interests whose primary purpose is economic rather than to serve a bona fide public need. The 1916 act that created the National Park Service stated that is purpose was to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife of the areas in the park system...by such means as will leave the areas unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." When there is no urgent public requirement to build facilities such as were proposed and their only immediate potential benefits would be the economic gain of the developers, such development would be inconsistent with the concepts under which the national parks were founded.

The Committee further suggests that the Association unite with other organizations, when appropriate, to oppose such projects. In partnership with others, it can lend credibility and increase public interest. Other organizations opposing these types of projects include the National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and the American Canoe Association.



--Compiled by David Johnson on behalf of the Flood Control Policy Committee

LES CANAUX DE FRANCE

par

Guillaume Petit-Tache

En octobre plusier membres de l'Association, les Stokleys et les Specks, pendant un voyage en France ont vus beaucoup cours d'eau, naturels et artificiels, autour leur destinations--Caën en Normandie, Dijon en Bourgogne, et Montpellier au Languedoc.

Le Canal de Caën à la Manche per 15 kilometres est pour les navires parce que L'Orme longtemps devenait peu profond et irregulier. En le 19° siecle on batait le basin St. Pierre sous les murs du chateau de Guillaume le Conquerant. C'est rempli avec les bateaux de sport. Les Usines pour l'acier, les automobiles (Renualt), et le blé se dressent le long du canal. À Ouistreham à la bouche est le pont Pegasus, que les parachutestes Anglais ont saisi le soir 6 juin 1944. La Seine apportent bateaux plats à et de Paris.

À Dijon est le Port de Bourgogne, un basin petit dans le bel parc le l^o mai parmi les immeubles nouveaux de logements. Dijon est lié par le Canal de Seine avec La Manche, le Canal de Saone et de Rhône avec la Méditerranée, et le Canal de Loire avec l'Atlantique par la Loire. Le basin containait une douzaine de bateaux, canots, et chalands, tous les mats sur ponts. Le canal apparait tenir 15 metres de largeur et peutêtre deux metres de profondeur. Il n'y a pas de chemin de halage parce que les vaisseaux remuent par les moteurs ou quelquefois les rames our pagaies.

Le Rhône emporte les bateaux plats à Lyon. Le Canal du Rhône part le Rhone entre Avignon et Arles, traverse La Camargue par les étangs et marais, passe sous les 13° s. murs d'Aigues-Mortes, à côte de la Méditerranée, et fait tourner à la terre à Bézier. Là il s'appele Le Canal du Midi et passe, quelquefois par-dessous les murs de rochers, sous les enceintes de Carcasonne, jusquà la Gironde, Toulouse, Bordeaux, et l'Atlantique. Les cannaux sont plein d'eaux et font les routes par tout la France, occupée aujourdui la plupart par les bateaux de plaisir. Les portes des écluses meuvent de les roues et les engrenages. Les voies sont au travers de l'eau, ne pas le long des sentiers.

LEVEL WALKER NOTES from Lyman Stucker

Fourteen hikers showed up for the level walker hike on Saturday, November 22, from Pennyfield Lock to Swains Lock. A discussion of the Pennyfield houses preceded the walk.

.We welcome five new level walkers. Please add to your roster:

- Sect. 41 Michele Carsrud
 Sect. 42 John Ziegler
 Sect. 48 Richard Will
 Sect. 55 Lou Adam
- . Sect. 67 Douglas Mussen

For our January activity we will again enjoy the hospitality of Harry and Peggy Lawson in their home. (Remember the cold beverages and hot chili last winter?)

Saturday, Jan. 17, 1987. Today we expect to walk between Lawsons' house and Swains Lock. 10:00 a.m. meet at Lawsons'. 12:30 p.m. return to Lawsons' for lunch. Call 549-3527 (Stucker) or 356-1809 (Larsen) to say whether you're coming and what you'll bring for pot luck, salad or dessert. Beverages and chili furnished. Bring spare footgear to wear in our hosts' house.

This should be another fun day.

Directions to Lawsons': 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). NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER 6, 1986 MEETING OF THE C & O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION.....

Following its long-standing policy of meeting in local jurisdictions, the Canal Commission met in Georgetown in the Grace Episcopal Church meeting hall. For the morning tour, Commission members, Canal staff, and guests walked the waterfront area abutting the Potomac River to view the Washington Harbor project and inspect the land area soon to come under the administration of the C & O Canal National Historical Park. Comments overheard about the Washington Harbor complex: "Baghdad on the Potomac," "an architectural conglomeration." Some discussion and action items from the afternoon's meeting follow: • An appointment to fill the Allegany County vacancy on the Commission has not yet been made. An individual has been selected by the County Commissioners, and a decision by the Department of the Interior is pending.

Discussion of the Georgetown waterfront area -- It was reported that present plans for the surface of the riverside walkway call for asphalt paving. Barbara Yeaman proposed brick as a more desirable and aesthetically appropriate surface material, although possibly not as practical. A proposal has been made to NPS that 52 trees be planted in the area in honor of people who have not been killed in auto accidents because they were wearing seat belts. The Commission voted to pursue efforts to acquire land now occupied by a small and defunct hydro facility; it was noted that there is \$885,000 in the budget for C & O Canal NHP land acquisition. The Commission discussed the problem of bike riding on the towpath in the Georgetown area, and voted to urge NPS to require walking of bikes on the towpath stretch from 31st Street to Rock Creek. CSX right-of-way: The hearing process on the disposition of this abandoned rail line is to be completed by June 1987; the concept is to trade that portion in the District of Columbia for property of equal value elsewhere in the United States owned by the General Services Administration. The rightof-way would then be transferred from GSA to NPS to become part of the C & O Canal NHP and Palisades Park. Administration of the waterfront: The Georgetown Waterfront area under discussion will be under the management of the C & O Canal NHP. However, the present dilemma is that NPS cannot manage property it does not own, and the District of Columbia is still the owner of this stretch along the river. The Commission voted to direct Chairman Carrie Johnson to write a letter to DC Mayor Marion Barry urging that the transfer of waterfront land to NPS be consummated in January 1987. C & O NHP office in Foundry Mall: The Park has been given notice by the Foundry management to move from its present office space in the Mall; space in the basement has been offered. The Park is considering a kiosk or other temporary structure to be placed on the Golden Commissary Tract to maintain a presence here and to sell barge tickets. It was noted that security is a problem since between \$500 and \$700 is collected in ticket sales on a busy day. The Commission asked that a solution to the structure problem be presented at the next meeting. Superintendent Dick Stanton reported that a new Canal mini-folder has been printed, and he circulated copies. They may be sold for 25¢ a copy. He also reported that a Canal handbook should be ready for distribution by Fall 1987; it will probably be sold for \$6 or \$7 a copy.

Pennyfield House -- Representatives of the Rock Creek chapter of the Sierra Club expressed concern about the proposal to lease the Pennyfield property to a private developer under the Historic Leasing Program. They questioned how the public interest would be protected, stating that the land has been dedicated to public use, and urging NPS to look closely at the terms of any lease to be issued. NPS responded that negotiations are still being conducted to determine the appraised value of the property and the terms of the lease. Compliance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act is required, and if the 106 process reveals that no addition may be made to the rear of the house, the project cannot be consummated. A Commission task force was appointed to look into the financial aspects of the lease arrangement: Barbara Yeaman, Connie Lieder, and Polly Bloedorn. The Sierra Club volunteered to draw up an alternative development proposal for the Pennyfield property, and NPS indicated they would look at any alternatives brought to their attention. Ice Skating at Candoc -- The Superintendent reported that a request had been received from some residents of the Candoc area near Cumberland to discontinue ice skating as a Canal activity there. These residents, pointing out that they maintain landscaping along (continued on page 15)

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there, report that vandalism and destruction of landscaping is created by the presence of the ice skating opportunity offered by the C & O Canal NHP. The Park staff will monitor the area to determine the extent of use and damage. A discussion ensued concerning the reduction of public use of the Canal as a means to reduce vandalism.

Hydro Projects -- "Both are dead" according to the Superintendent.

• Outer Beltway -- It was reported that no response had been received from the Governor of Virginia to a letter from the Commission Chairman requesting information on Virginia's consideration of the beltway's impact on the C & O Canal and Potomac River. Another letter will be sent.

• Old Town Underpass -- Allegany County has cited a dangerous road condition caused by this underpass. County officials have proposed a road realignment to remove the hazard. The Commission voted to request that the Superintendent meet with County officials and report back to the Commission with more detailed plans and information. The underpass itself is not within Canal boundaries, but road realignment would affect the Park.

 October Weekend Camporee -- This was the last clean-up effort for the season, with 8,700 Scouts participating; 40,000 man hours of work were donated.

Beall Legislation -- Public Law 99-456 to create a memorial to the late Senator J. Glenn Beall, Sr., passed with a \$25,000 authorization. The Superintendent asked for help from the Commission in planning the project and designing the memorial. Senator Mathias has approached the railroad to request use of some of its land as part of the Beall memorial area; a response has not yet been received. It was noted that Mrs. Beall would like the project to be a local effort. The Commission voted to urge the Superintendent to implement the legislation, including the possibility of holding a design competition.
Restoration Projects -- The Superintendent stated that culverts will have top priority for rehabilitation, and that there will be some towpath repair accomplished with the \$2,000,000 appropriation.

SIERRA CLUB ON PENNYFIELD HISTORIC LEASING PROPOSAL....A SUMMARY

At the December 6 meeting of the C & O Canal National Historical Park Commission, the Rock Creek Group of the Potomac Chapter of the Sierra Club expressed concern about the private development proposal for one of the two Christian Heurich houses located at Pennyfield Lock. The Group requested and was granted the opportunity to submit to the NPS some alternative ideas concerning this property. Their alternative proposal is herewith summarized.

Any proposal for the lease of the Pennyfield House should remain faithful to the goals of maximizing public access to the land in question while maintaining the low-density use and character of the area. The configuration of the property and the location of the house suggest that a more appropriate boundary would be the two-acre rectangular area at the end of Pennyfield Lock Road. This is consistent with the two-acre zoning that prevails in that portion of Montgomery County. The acreage which remains in the public domain can be left in a natural state to fit in with the surrounding area and provide both visual and hiking enjoyment to the public. The terms of the lease should be designed to maximize the benefits to the public, while ensuring a fair return to the developer who undertakes the restoration effort. Any agreement should require that the house be open to public tours on a regular basis in order that the public can enjoy the historic features of the home that justify its inclusion in the Historic Leasing Program. The lease should allow the developer a fair return, but not a windfall. The NPS should reserve maximum flexibility to itself by limiting the length of the lease to the shortest practicable term.

In conclusion, the primary objective of the NPS is to protect the public's access to, and interest in, federal lands. NPS programs should be structured to implement this objective to the greatest extent possible. The current proposal to restore the Pennyfield House does not implement this objective or represent the best deal for the public.

LEVEL WALKER REPORTS

Sect. 2 Old Boat Incline to Lock 5; Sect. 3 Lock 5 to Cabin John Creek -Bill Kugler - October 1986

The towpath throughout this stretch was in very good shape, showing the effects of heavy foot and cycle traffic as well as settling of repair work done following the November 1985 flood damage in only a few locations. None of these are serious enough to require immediate attention, and they can probably be left until next spring when some top dressing and leveling work will be required; these changes appear to be the result of heavy use and settling, not erosion or faulty repair work.

cpuir work,

Sect. 13 Edwards Ferry to Ft. Harrison Island - Charles Bookman - October 1986

Towpath in excellent condition. Signs of recent maintenance.

Sect. 16 Lock 26 to Monocacy Aqueduct - Chris & C. H. Breedlove - October 1986

Lockhouse at Lock 27 - one of two doors at rear of lockhouse is missing a lock. Lock 27 is in very good shape, as are canal bed and towpath.

Sect. 18 Nolands Ferry to Point of Rocks - Kay Seward - September 1986

Never saw my level so free of TRASH! Some rocks missing from structure at Nolands Ferry.

Sect. 21 Brunswick to Weverton Lock 31 - Dave Johnson - November 1986

Nature has covered the scars of last year's freshet on the flood plain, and park maintenance has thinned out much of the dead timber along towpath. Towpath in excellent shape for walking and cycling. Lock areas at either end are clean and neatly mowed. Formerly overgrown area above Lock 30 at Brunswick has been thoroughly cleared, exposing old upstream lock extension. Footbridge at Mile 57.37, carried away by flood, has been replaced. Several culverts, especially numbers 90 and 92, are plugged at intake end, and number 91 requires major repairs.

Sect. 22 Weverton to Harpers Ferry Lock 33 - Harry & Jean Raney - October 1986

Towpath in good condition. Lock 33 has been cleaned and lots of rock work done. Towpath has several minor low spots but otherwise in good shape.

Sect. 26 Mt. Lock to Antietam Aqueduct - Dr. & Mrs. Francis J. Haddy - September 1986

There were no trash cans at Mountain Lock entrance, probably accounting for the six bags of uncollected garbage and a fair amount of litter in parking lot. Only small amount of litter was observed on towpath itself and at Antietam Aqueduct entrance.

Sect. 30 Snyders Landing to Lock 40; Sect. 31 Lock 40 to Marsh Run Culvert -Harold Cramer, Sr., Justin Cramer and Harold Cramer, Jr. - September 1986

Towpath in good condition. Most of the debris has been removed from area between river and canal. A picnic table was stuck in a tree about 30 feet above water line just above Lock 40. (continued on page 17)

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Sect. 32 Marsh Run Culvert to Dam 4 - Edith Wilkerson - October 1986

Towpath covered with leaves. Much low growth has come back since 1985 flood.

Sect. 42 Lock 47 to McCoys Ferry - John Ziegler - September 1986

At Four Locks recreation area, paved parking lot and boat ramp are free of silt, but silt appears in a few isolated patches in picnic area. Picnic area has charcoal grills in place, but no picnic tables or trash cans have been returned since flood. No water yet available. New toilets have replaced flooddamaged ones.

Sect. 44 Fort Frederick to Ernstville - Harold & Jane Larsen - November 1986

Path in good shape and dry, despite recent rains. Very little debris or brush to collect. Considerable vegetation growing in cracks of spillway. Tree fallen across towpath near RR tracks (Mile 114) no barrier to walkers but inconvenient to bikers.

Sect.47 Mile 120 to Hancock - James & Sally Bryant - April 1986

Culverts on this section were open, but there is a lot of erosion at these points. Lockhouse at Locks 51 and 52 in very bad shape, and all sections of walls ready to cave in. Clean up on this section very good, and it is open for hiking and biking.

Sect. 60 Culvert Opposite Little Cacapon to Town Creek - Keith Kridenoff -November 1986

Towpath in excellent shape. It has been leveled and cleared, and I found very little trash along it. There are large piles of wood and debris on river's edge and much of it has been burned. Town Creek Hiker Biker has been cleaned up and grass cut so it will be ready for 1987 camping season. Aqueduct itself sustained no damage but RR bridge above it heavily damaged. Culvert 215 has had a major cleaning out. Both upper gates of Lock 67 are broken off within two feet of mitre sill. One of lower gates is lying in water right below lock. I found one upper gate 300 feet below lock, badly damaged, on berm bank. I finally discovered last missing gate about a half mile below lock (Mile 161.2).

Sect. 62 Lock 68 to Oldtown - Bruce Wood - November 1986

Towpath throughout in excellent condition, with only a couple of minor mud holes. Bridges washed out last November replaced by bridges using iron main beams, wooden deck and railing; apparently the current design, as these have been seen elsewhere - heavier and non-floating? Outhouses at parking lot are in good condition; handicapped one remains padlocked, as it has been each time I have seen it in recent visits. Why have it if it is kept locked?

Sect. 67 Mexico Farms to Evitts Creek Aqueduct - Douglas & Amy Mussen -October 1986

Houses located around Mile 178 are very close, but owners seem to be taking enough pride in "their" adjoining canal that banks are mowed and clear of debris. Culvert at Mile 179.1 had all brush and grass mowed down over it as it ran perpendicular to canal. Evitts Creek Hiker Biker appears to be in good condition with clean toilet (better than last summer). ≈ 1987 🛸

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Saturday, January 17 Level Walker Hike See Level Walker Notes elsewhere in this issue
- Saturday, January 31 -Work Trip; project to be announced; Call Joan Paull,(301)384-8584 for details
- Saturday, February 14 -Work Trip; project to be announced; Call Joan Paull,(301)384-8584 for details
- Saturday, February 28- C&O Canal Commission meeting, Brunswick. Call Canal Headquarters for time and specific location. (301) 739-4200.

- Saturday, March 7 Annual Meeting, Burkittsville, MD. See page 1 for details.
- Saturday, April 25- Annual Justice Douglas Reunion Hike--Spring Gap to Cumberland. Details in next newsletter
- Saturday, May 16 C&O Canal Commission meeting. Call Canal Headquarters for time and specific location. (301) 739-4200.

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