



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 XX

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NUMBER 1

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE AT WILLIAMSPORT

Saturday, March 5, is the date set for the Annual Meeting of the C & O Canal Association, to be held at the Williamsport Fire Hall at 2:00 p.m.

The election of officers and board of directors members will take place during the meeting. Sixteen Association members are running for five board of directors positions. Candidates for president, second vice president, secretary, and treasurer are unopposed; two individuals are contending in the races for first vice president and for information officer. (See list of candidates' statements on pages 6-9.)

The schedule for the day's events follows:
10:45 a.m. -- A walk of the historic town of Williamsport will begin at the Cushwa Warehouse on the berm side of the Canal just downstream of the Conococheague Aqueduct. (See Williamsport map and information on pages 3 and 4.)

At time of your choosing: Lunch will be on your own at local restaurants or brought from home.

1:00 p.m.: A coffee hour will take place at the Fire Hall to allow members to meet the candidates for office.

2:00 p.m.: The Annual Meeting of the Association will begin at the Fire Hall.

5:00 p.m. (or at end of meeting): Happy Hour!

6:00 p.m.: Dinner, \$11.00 per person by reservation, at the Fire Hall. (Use reservation form on the last page of this issue.)

Following dinner: Installation of newly elected officers and board members, and entertainment.

The Annual Meeting Committee is chaired by Sue Ann Sullivan, with members Ralph Donnelly, Anne Murphy Korff, James D. Lawrence, and John Ziegler.

CANAL ONCE AGAIN THREATENED

BY PROPOSED HIGHWAY

More than thirty years ago, the C & O Canal Association was organized to prevent construction of a highway that would have forever obliterated the Canal and towpath. Now, history is repeating itself in a proposal to build a highway on the towpath in the Cumberland area, and the Canal is once again threatened.

The proposal is favored by some local and state officials who cite the need for better vehicular access to south Cumberland and to the Cumberland-Allegany County air port. The National Park Service has indicated informally that it does not foresee any circumstances that could allow the project to proceed since there would be no benefit to be derived for the Canal, and given the fiercely protective attitude of the public that comprises the constituency interested in maintaining in perpetuity the historic integrity of the Canal. However, the NPS is postponing its official position until the next C & O Canal National Historical Park Commission is appointed in order to seek the Commission's advice on the proposal.

The Cumberland News has reported on two meetings held in Cumberland for discussion of the project, one in October attended by Congresswoman Beverly Byron and one in November attended by Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer; neither official has reportedly issued a formal opinion statement on the project. Cumberland Mayor George Wyckoff and State Delegate Casper R. Taylor have been reported as favoring the proposal. Other Allegany County residents and business interests see the highway not only as access improvement but as a means to provide economic benefits in the form of additional employment and improved tourist incentives.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by
Hal Larsen

This fall citizens united in two major volunteer efforts to improve their communities. The Association made an important contribution to one and is encouraging and considering active support of the other.

In the first instance, the Montgomery County Community Service Partnership on October 17 launched the first Community Service Day, expected to be an annual event. On this day Montgomery County citizens worked on volunteer projects ranging from site beautification and building repairs to visiting residents in nursing homes. The Partnership asked us to undertake a project for individuals who responded to the volunteer call but were not affiliated with a participating organization. Accordingly, after consulting the National Park Service, we agreed to manage a cleanup operation at Great Falls Park. Thirty-odd volunteers showed up, as did five Association members who supervised the volunteers and divided them into teams to pick up trash in various areas. The result: a pile of 50 to 60 trash bags waiting for trucks to haul them away. The volunteers, mostly young and including many Hispanics, worked hard and enthusiastically. When they left they seemed pleased with themselves. The youngest, a boy of six, remarked with bemusement: "People don't have to throw trash on the ground when there are trash cans." At this point someone took the boy's filled trash bag, which he could barely drag along, and he helped fill other bags. Clearly, some consciousness was raised!

Al Stanley and Park Ranger Donna Donaldson managed this project with help from Bill Speck, Jim and Sally Bryant, Buddy Gibson and Jane Larsen. Meanwhile, the Association had its own project for Community Service Day: the work day at Edwards Ferry set for October 31 was moved up to the 17th. Dave Johnson managed this project and was assisted by his wife, Greg Donaldson, Pat White and son, Harold Hubbell, and Ben Ricketts.

I think everyone benefited from this event: county citizens could see how volunteer efforts can make a big difference; first-time visitors at Great Falls Park

discovered a lovely place they will want to return to; and everyone had an opportunity to see how litter can accumulate to a mountain of trash. I'm sure many will remember this sight whenever they have a bottle or a candy wrapper to dispose of.

On November 1, the city of Brunswick held its C&O Canal Celebration at Lock 30. This ceremony, complete with picnic, recognized the people who have helped realize an important phase of the city's revitalization program--rehabilitation of the waterfront. Jack Fish, Dick Stanton, J. D. Young and Mike Mastrangelo of the Park Service received awards for NPS cooperation in the project. In addition, honors went to Brunswick citizens who spearheaded this enterprise and worked tirelessly to carry it out. Notable among them were Susan Edquist and Leona Sauser, talented, determined people who succeeded in pointing their city in a new direction. They could not, however, have done it without the participation of city hall, and Mayor Richard Campbell deserves full credit for his innovative leadership.

Next to Lock 30 a once muddy parking area is now a neat, grassed plain protected for its length by a guardrail. To protect the fragile canal environment from vehicular traffic, huge rocks now block towpath access points all the way downstream to the campground. More improvements are coming, not only along the riverfront but elsewhere in town. I understand that the huge railroad roundhouse may become a railroad museum someday.

What is happening in Brunswick is much like the transformation in downtown areas like Baltimore and Pittsburgh. Brunswick is such an effort in microcosm, a move to make a grimy city a pleasant and livable place that tourists will want to go to. What is nice to see here, however, unlike the powerful business-sponsored renovations in the big cities, is a citizen movement to improve a home town. Such a movement illustrates how people can unite to accomplish great things.

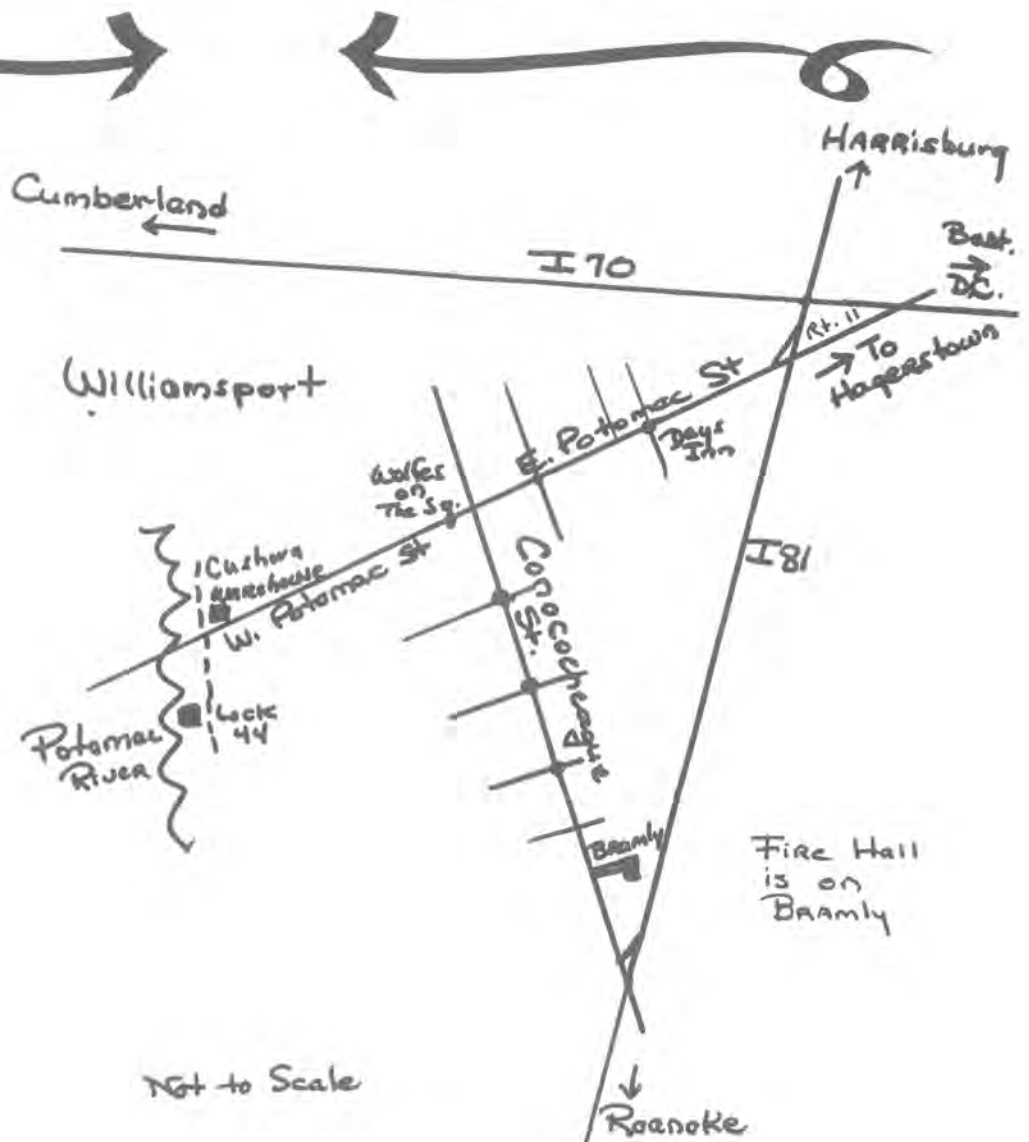
In our programs to protect and enhance the canal, the Association should take a cue from Brunswick. At least I hope the level walkers in the Brunswick area will ensure that the towpath is as neat as the berm side is today.

THE ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

W F Bowling, Gettysburg, PA
 Carol L Carpenter, Arlington, VA
 Dr & Mrs David Cogan, Bethesda, MD
 Dr & Mrs Bruce Copeland, Potomac, MD
 J Roger Cornellier, Gainesville, VA
 Mr & Mrs A M Daniels, Bethesda, MD
 Anne DeVaughn, Cumberland, MD
 William L Galloway, Fairfax, VA
 Elise C Gillette, Alexandria, VA
 Sue L Gurland, Washington, DC
 Nancy B Hartsock, Potomac, MD
 Mr & Mrs John S Howe, Jr, Clarksburg, MD
 Janet Irwin, Washington, DC
 Joyce Jacobson, Gaithersburg, MD
 The Clinton Kelly Family, Bethesda, MD
 Henry F Kilpatrick, Arlington, VA
 Dr & Mrs Robert Kurman, Potomac, MD
 Gordon Lang, Washington, DC
 James D & Margaret E Lawrence,
 Gaithersburg, MD

Eugene A Lichtman, Silver Spring, MD
 June Lobit, Alexandria, VA
 Chad McDaniel & Cheryl Block, Washington, DC
 Shoshanna Rosa Mintz, Silver Spring, MD
 Kirk Moberley, Springfield, VA
 Clifton C Murdock, Kensington, MD
 Kris A Murphy, Arlington, VA
 O'Leary Family, Bethesda, MD
 Jean & Bob Page, Germantown, MD
 Kirk L Peterson, Bethesda, MD
 Kris Peterson, Silver Spring, MD
 Philip Sapir, Bethesda, MD
 Bruna Sevini, Washington, DC
 Polly Silva, Arlington, VA
 Mrs Russell Stearns, Rockville, MD
 Meg Tyndall, Annapolis, MD
 M Kay Waters, Bethesda, MD
 Mrs Shirley T Whitman, Bethesda, MD
 Bernd & Marion Wrede, Arlington, VA

HOW
TO
GET
TO
THE
ANNUAL
MEETING



WILLIAMSPORT WALK-ABOUTS

■ **C & O Canal Towpath and Aqueduct**
Where cargo boats were pulled on waterway by mules and tenders.

☐ Lock House #44 Along Canal
Where boats on canal were let to a different water level.

☒ Doubleday Hill and Riverview Cemetery
Where Civil War confrontation took place.

● Bollman Steel Truss Bridge 1879
One of two such structures in the United States.

★ Museum Located in Town Hall

▲ **Springhouse**
Oldest permanent building in the county.

- **Memorial Library—**
General information about town.

● Tourist Information Center

▲ **Byron Park**—swimming pool, playground, picnic pavilions, athletic field.

☒ River Front Park—boat ramp, fishing and camping (in the rough).

■ Billy Doub Park—athletic field, playground, tennis courts.

Restaurants—Motels—Service Clubs

Gift and Antique Shops

Silver & Giftware Outlet

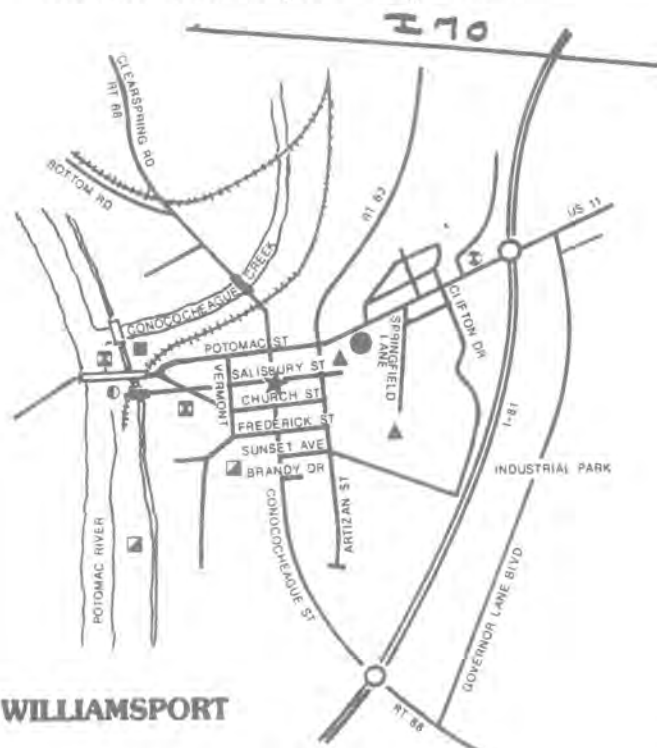
Campgrounds—offering trailer accommodations.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

C & O Canal Days 4th full weekend in August

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A good central Base to visit Antietam Battlefield, Fort Frederick, and Baltimore, Md., Gettysburg, Pa., Harpers Ferry (National Park), W.Va., and Washington, D.C.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE POTOMAC

The November-December issue of the Potomac Basin Reporter, bi-monthly publication of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, reports on innovative science projects undertaken by two public school systems.

The Washington County public schools are trying to instill a conservation ethic in their students as well as an appreciation of their environment. An example of this effort is the Clear Spring advanced biology class which carried out a program called "Decision-Making: The Potomac River." It was directed by James Haught, Washington County (MD) Science supervisor.

The students who assembled at Four Locks Boat ramp were divided into two groups--one to survey shoreline vegetation and fish with a seine net and one to conduct chemical analyses of the water.

The information collected was examined by the students and entered into a computer database, building on work of previous classes. The shoreline was surveyed for aquatic vegetation and fish, while the pH of the water, dissolved oxygen, temperature, nutrient concentrations, chlorine and other constituents were measured by the other group. Additional pertinent information included weather conditions, river current and a chart of the river bottom developed by a depth sounder.

Equipment for the project was obtained by the County school system through grants from various non-profit foundations and funds. About 100 students from five county high schools participated in the project.

A Washington, DC summer project run by the District's Fisheries Program involved about 700 youngsters from boys and girls clubs, church groups and community centers. The children visited Anacostia Park where they became acquainted with marine life with the aid of a touch tank containing fish, turtles, crawfish, and other creatures. Lessons teaching the children about ways their lives are intertwined with the environment were taught through games and contests. After lunch break the children did what they were most interested in--fishing. The hooks were baited and lessons in casting were given and then the fish bit. White perch were most frequently caught and there were some who were hesitant about removing the fish from the hook.

The program keeps in touch with the children through a newsletter. Ira Palmer, who heads the educational program in the District public schools and Jack Buckley, Fisheries chief, are working on an environmental curriculum to be used in the District schools. It is the hope of both these leaders that a multi-day program for a wider age group can be arranged for the near future. This program is also funded by governmental and private grant sources.

THE POTOMAC'S 1987 WATER YEAR

The "Water Year" runs from October 1 to September 30 and is used by hydrologists because it coincides with the agricultural season and generally begins and ends on a relatively low stream flow.

On the Potomac River during the 1987 Water Year, the average flow was 7.8 billion gallons per day (bgd), about 5% above the average of 7.4 bgd. The greatest flow was 9.9 bgd on April 19, 1987 and the lowest was 0.9 bgd on October 8, 1986.

Sediment delivered from the river to the estuary was about 1,073,610 tons for the year, or 2,940 tons per day.

The 1987 drought sent municipal diversions from the Potomac to a yearly average of 390 million gallons per day.

The Chesapeake Bay as a whole experienced a wet September, with an average 47.5 bgd flow, 45% above the long-term monthly average. The Potomac River contributed 14% of the total.

--Excerpted from Potomac Basin Reporter

CHIEF OF MAINTENANCE SELECTED

C&O Canal Superintendent Dick Stanton announced December 7 the selection of Kenneth L. May (Sam) for the position of Chief of Maintenance in the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Dick reports that Sam is well qualified and has an excellent background in maintenance and historic preservation. He has been a Chief of Maintenance in a park and at present is assigned to the Southeastern Region in Atlanta in the S.E. Maintenance Division. Sam also worked on the C&O Canal projects after Hurricane Agnes and has a fundamental knowledge of the park and its resources.

May will report for duty the week of January 17.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

The C&O Canal Association will host a "Meet the Candidates" time at 1 PM on Saturday, March 5, 1988. This event will take place immediately prior to the Annual Meeting and at the same location. Light refreshments will be served.

Candidates will be identified by distinctive name tags with ribbons attached. We hope for a large turnout for the meeting when the voting will take place. Please be an informed voter by talking with the candidates beforehand.

At the C&O Canal Association's Annual Meeting, the members present will have the opportunity to choose members for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2d Vice President and Level Walker Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Information Officer. These terms are for one year starting March 1988 and ending at the Annual Meeting in 1989. The candidates and a brief statement prepared by each follow.

For President: Harold A. Larsen, McLean, VA

I joined the Association in 1972 and have been a level walker for 12 years. I served on the Board of Directors for one year and am completing my second year as President.

I believe it is important to continue to broaden the Association's activities and to expand its membership in order to make this a more influential and effective organization. To this end, I would support and further all programs designed to achieve these goals. Beyond this, I would continue to do my best and faithfully to carry out measures enacted by the Board of Directors and the membership.

For 1st Vice President: William E. Davies
Falls Church, VA

I have been a member of the Association since its inception and have served it in many capacities. A special area of concern is the preservation of the Canal from developmental intrusion.

For 1st Vice President: Elizabeth Scott
Silver Spring, MD

I have several goals. What binds them together is a wish to translate volunteer interest into volunteer action.

Over the years, I have been a passive member, paying my dues, participating in hikes, and enjoying Association friends. Perhaps it's my turn to return some of the many satisfactions and treasured hours I have enjoyed by devoting some time and energy to:

1. supporting the efforts to build solid relationships with the agencies involved with maintaining and fostering the Canal's "good health";

2. working closely with the membership committee on building a substantial dues paying, knowledgeable membership;

3. focusing attention on the Canal and Association as a means of bringing to the surface latent support the Canal enjoys in the area.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

For 2d Vice President/Level Walker Chairman:
Al Stanley, Silver Spring, MD

I have been a member since 1980 and a level walker (Swain's/Pennyfield) since I joined. I believe level walkers should have a scheduled hike every month and should work as closely as we can with the Park in activities and reports. I believe level walkers as a group and individuals are the mainstays of the Association, and as such, we should be active and vibrant if the Association is to be the same.

For Secretary: Alan E. Hedin
Silver Spring, MD

I have been a member for approximately fifteen years. After being a level walker in the early years and secretary in 1975, I have been relatively inactive in recent years. I would like to increase my participation again by taking this opportunity to be Secretary of the Association.

For Treasurer: William H. Speck
Bethesda, MD

I am a long-time member of the Association and am presently serving as the Association's Treasurer.

For Information Officer: Anne M. Korff
Kensington, MD

I am a level walker and participant in the thru hike as well as other Association events. Based on my background as a writer and publicist, I believe I can serve the Association if elected to the Information Officer position.

For Information Officer: Buddy Gibson
Gaithersburg, MD

I wish to serve as Information Officer for the C&O Canal Association. I am a Maryland native, presently working and residing in Gaithersburg. I enjoy discovering the many treasures the Canal offers. I seek this position because I would like to tell others what our Association is about and my career as an insurance agent affords me the time and opportunities to fulfill the duties of this office as dictated by the Board.

At the same time, the members will be asked to choose five individuals to fill Board of Director slots. These terms are for three years, starting March 1988 and ending at the Annual Meeting in 1991. The following members are candidates:

JAMES BEARDSLEY, Stockton, CA
While visiting Maryland in 1985, I discovered the Canal. What a fine national treasure! My regret is that so few citizens beyond the borders even know it exists. It is my desire to become a Board member to assist in acquainting West Coast people with this valuable resource through my service on the boards of the County Historical Agriculture Museum and Bear Creek Conservation District. I want to help promote the Association goals concerned with conservation of natural and historical environment of the Canal.

DONNA BOIES, Washington, DC
I have been a member of the Association since the spring of 1983 and I became a level walker shortly thereafter. My husband, Bob, and I completed the end-to-end Douglas Reunion Hike in 1984 and have never been on a towpath walk we did not enjoy. I am proud of the role the Association has played in protecting and maintaining the park, and I think that more people should become aware of the Association and its goals and join in its activities.

CHARLES CREMEANS, Fairfax, VA
My interest in the out-of-doors and belief in preserving our natural environment began as a boy in Colorado and Illinois. Since then, I have travelled and lived around the world and my interests in preserving our natural heritage have grown steadily. Right now, I am focusing on the area right around my home in the Washington area. I have been President of the Montgomery County Chapter of the MD Ornithological Society, and am a member of the Audubon Naturalist Society and a volunteer at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary.

My interest in the Association centers on conservation of the marvelous area of the National Park and on learning more about the ecosystem which the Park is intended to preserve.

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

RALPH DONNELLY, Hancock MD

I am a long-time member of the Association and am a level walker for the Roundtop Hill to Lock 53 section of the Canal. Among many Canal interests, I am interested in preserving the Justice Douglas papers. Living in Hancock, I would like to increase interest in the Canal and Association among the communities along the Canal itself.

BRADLEY L. HAIGH, Annandale, VA

I have been a member for approximately 11 years and have previously served as a Board Member and as a level walker.

JUDITH HECHT, Washington, DC

I joined the Association due to my desire to learn more about the Canal I so much appreciated during my many walks along the towpath. I would bring to the Board this appreciation accompanied by a desire to preserve the park and share its historical and natural richness with others. The Board seeks to expand interest and membership in the Association. If elected, I would hope to help with this expansion, particularly through a more active outreach and networking with local organizations with related interests such as hiking, nature or history groups. I look forward to a challenging tenure.

SANDRA HEMINGWAY, Alexandria, VA

I am Bureau Chief for the Washington branch of news publications for the transportation and tourism industry. I have served as a volunteer naturalist with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The C&O Canal is a valuable resource, historical and recreational. But it needs a strong defender in an age when the press of development, natural disasters, and in some areas, the volume of use constantly threaten its fragile environment. The Association has been that protector for years, while I and many in the Washington area have accepted the results of the Association's labors and enjoyed the canal. I would welcome the opportunity to work on the Board and take a more active role in preserving this treasure.

JAMES G. HILL, Potomac, MD

I believe my need for and appreciation of nature stem from being raised in and around New York City. When I moved to the DC area in the early 60's, I was fortunate to find the C&O Canal. I became a frequent multi-user of the Canal (hiking,

camping, biking and running). I have belonged to the Association for about a year and a half and have enjoyed the activities I have participated in and especially enjoy meeting members.

If elected to the Board, I would like to work on maintaining and improving (with the help and cooperation of the Park Service) the structure and appearance of the Canal. In addition, I would like to work at attracting additional people with an appreciation and interest in the Canal to the Association membership.

DAVID JOHNSON, Bethesda, MD

While our two major hikes are the cornerstones of the year, our program should be a year-round schedule of activities built around, but not limited to, monthly level walker hikes and volunteer projects. Our 1988 goal should be to stimulate active participation in these events by more of our members and to share activities with other canal organizations.

I have served on the Board since 1985, been chairman of the environmental committee for 1986-87, member of the 1986 nominating committee and internal review committee for 1987. I am a level walker, participated in the 1984 end-to-end hike and the 1986 Cleanup Camporee as well as being an active in on-going Association/NPS volunteer projects.

DONNA JOHNSON, McLean, VA

No statement available at press time.

FREDERICK MONKS, Rockville, MD

No statement available at press time.

HOWARD ROSEN, Bethesda, MD

As one who has enjoyed the Canal for more than 30 years, I have a strong personal interest in maintaining the natural beauty of this national treasure. I believe that my efforts to improve the Canal will give to others the enjoyment that I have derived in hiking and biking on the Towpath. I can bring to the Board of Directors a combination of a strong desire for preservation of the Canal and extensive Federal government experience which can contribute to the Board's effectiveness in working with both the political appointees and the career civil servants responsible for administering the Canal.

I am interested in expanding the membership of the Association so that its testimony and views would carry more weight with

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

Congress and the Department of Interior. I would also try to persuade more of our members to contribute their specialized knowledge and expertise in planning improvements for the Canal.

DAVID SCALLY, Chevy Chase, MD

As a member of three years' standing, I have served on the 1987 Spring Hike Committee and the 1988 Nomination Committee. My main weekend interest is preserving a photographic record of the current condition of the canal. As a result of encountering recent changes, mostly negative, I would like to work with the Association on conservation efforts.

LYMAN STUCKER, Alexandria, VA

I have been an active member of the Association for over 20 years, having served on various Committees and as Level Walker Chairman. I am aware of the interests and concerns relating to the Canal. I believe I can contribute to the functions of the Board.

SUE ANN SULLIVAN, Williamsport, MD

I am a member of the Association for nine years and would like to be reelected to the Board for another term. Living in Williamsport, I want to maintain and extend the Association's contacts and ties with the people and communities upstream.

WALTER G WELLS, Washington, DC

Retired Safety Engineer. Resident of Washington for 13 years. Active in organizing and participating in Sierra Club and PATC outing and trail maintenance programs. Have held several offices in local Sierra Club Chapter. Member of the Association for two years.

I regard the C&O Canal as an outstanding example of how the works of man together with the natural environment, can both be preserved and sustained for the education and enjoyment of all. I would be privileged to contribute my time and talent to further the objectives of the Association.



VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARKS

The October VIP worktrip on the 17th was held in conjunction with the Montgomery County Volunteer Day. Two teams from the C&O Canal Association participated. A team at Edwards Ferry included Dave and Bunny Johnson, Greg Donaldson, Beejay Myers, Pat White and son James, Mike Bliss, Harold Hubbel and a young man named Ben.

A team at Great Falls was made up of Jané and Hal Larsen, Sally and Jim Bryant, Bill Speck, Buddy Gibson, and Al Stanley. Assisting this group were about 20 young volunteers from the County. Together the two groups filled 60 big bags with trash from the area.

The November 21 worktrip at Edwards Ferry cleared overhead and sides of the Canal as far as Culvert 42 (m. 29.86). The workers included Jim and Margaret Lawrence, Carol Galaty, Jim Hill, Donna Donaldson, Greg Donaldson, Nancy Hupp, Dave Johnson, C. C. Gails, Pat White, Buddy Gibson and Wendy McElroy.

A December 12 worktrip cleared along the towpath up the canal from Sycamore Landing to mile marker 28. The 18 adults and two children included Kurt Elsner, Greg Donaldson, Dave and Bunny Johnson, Bruce Wood, Ed Vernon, Ken Rollins, Wendy McElroy, C. Leighty, Charles Otstot, Buddy Gibson, Warren Vaneman, C. C. Gails, Pat White and son James, Hal and Jane Larsen, Bill Speck, Jim Lawrence and Donna Donaldson.

A January worktrip will be scheduled on the 23d IF the weather is agreeable. CALL Donna Donaldson Thursday, January 21, at 653-5845 to get word whether the trip will go or not and if so to what location.

The February worktrip will be on the 27th at Sycamore Landing, starting at 9 AM. Involved will be overhead and side trimming towards Edwards Ferry.

The March 19 worktrip will be at Sycamore Landing, continuing the work of the previous month.

--Al Stanley



NOTES FROM THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 1987, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.....

Adam and Margot Foster were the hosts for the December 6 board meeting at their Rockwood Ridge Farm in Virginia. Thirteen officers and board members were present for the 2:00 p.m. meeting; seven board members were absent. Some discussion and action items follow:

- Treasurer's Report -- Bill Speck presented the treasurer's report with a suggested budget for 1988; the budget was approved as presented. Once again, the question of bulk-mailing of the newsletter was discussed. It was reported that the four newsletters mailed annually cost \$150-\$160 per issue or \$600-\$640 per year. Bulk mailing requires a yearly fee of \$50. Bulk mail costs are .85¢ per copy or a cost of .34¢ per issue. Concern was expressed that bulk mail would delay receipt of the newsletter, but the consensus was that this could be overcome by earlier mailings. (Ed. note: Bulk-mailing of the newsletter was abandoned a number of years ago due to numerous complaints not only of delays in receipt of up to four weeks, but also receipt of torn and mangled copies, or no delivery of mailings at all. The board at that time voted to use first-class mail as the only certain way to insure delivery.)
- Level Walker Report -- The Level Walker Chairman was absent. Hal Larsen stated that the Level Walker program has languished; there have been no LW hikes since June 1987, hence no LW reports in the newsletter. No reports have been sent to NPS since the 1987 Annual Meeting. The LW chair has been asked to resign and has refused to do so; the by-laws do not contain provision for removal. The requests of new members for LW assignments have not been honored. Motion carried: That Lyman Stucker, former LW chair, be called out of retirement to consult with Michele Carsrud, current LW chair, to solve the problem of assigning new members to levels. If he is unable to do so, he will consult with the president and, together, they will assign new members to levels. Motion carried: That individual members lead hikes in January and February involving Lyman Stucker in this activity. Karen Gray volunteered to organize a hike in January, Lyman Stucker in February, and Al Stanley in March. Ralph Donnelly suggested that a revision in the by-laws was needed to provide for action when an officer or board member fails to meet responsibilities.
- Environmental Committee Report -- See page 14. Also discussed was the proposed wastewater treatment plant slated for Williamsport. Sue Ann Sullivan reported that the facility will not be built near the C & O Canal NHP, but will be sited along the Conococheague Creek. Hal Larsen noted the appointment of Donna Boies as the Association's representative to the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail. The Coalition had asked requested use of the Association's mailing list; there was reluctance to release the mailing list, and it was agreed that information concerning the Coalition and its activities appear in the newsletter (see pp. 12-13).
- Membership Committee Report -- Mimi Eller reported that three new members have been added to this committee: Kris Murphy, Bruce Wood, and W. Carvel Wright. As of December 5, the Association had 388 members. See page 17 for committee report. Motion: That there be a non-member surcharge at an Association event unless an individual comes as a guest of a member. Motion amended: To remove the reference to "guests" in prior motion. Motion carried. Motion: That a non-member surcharge be approved for Association events. Vote: five in favor, six opposed; not carried. Motion: That the Association have an organizational membership category, cost \$25, which would entitle an organization to membership, including sufficient copies of Along the Towpath for designated officers. Motion carried. Motion: That the C & O Canal Association purchase an answering machine to be placed in Buddy Gibson's office. Motion amended: That using Buddy Gibson's telephone line be a temporary measure for the next six months, and that the Membership Committee will conduct further research to find a permanent arrangement and report back to the board. Motion carried; original motion carried. Mimi Eller stated that the Association has now taken the first step toward having an office; Karen Gray stated that we need a telephone that will be answered 24 hours a day.
- Douglas Archives -- It was reported that Marsh and Marilyn Grotenhuis will be working with Emmie Woodward on the archives with the assistance of Lee Struble.
- Nominating Committee Report -- Members of this committee are: Rita Hirrlinger, Chair, with David Scally, Lyman Stucker, and Edith Wilkerson. The committee agreed to contact all officers and board members personally; those who joined the Association in 1987 were sent letters. Members residing outside the Washington metropolitan area were sent special letters asking them to consider becoming a candidate for office. Each person running for election was asked to write a 100-word statement for the newsletter. Motion: That a committee be appointed to set standards for the nominating process. Motion carried. Motion: That the Nominating

(continued on page 11)

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Committee report be accepted and published in the January newsletter. (See pages 6-9.)

• Heritage Hike Report -- Ken Rollins reported that participants had a great hike and a good dinner. He was complimented on providing such good weather. It was estimated that approximately 80 people participated in the hike, and that 58 people attended the dinner. Ken was also complimented on having selected the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department to serve the post-hike dinner. It was noted that it is becoming increasingly difficult to locate suitable dinner locations that will charge a moderate price; the Heritage dinner was served at \$15 per person.

• Volunteer Activities Report -- Al Stanley reported that a group of 13-14 volunteers have worked on three separate occasions at the Alexandria Aqueduct; much underbrush had grown since the last clean-up of the area. On October 17, Volunteer Day in Montgomery County, groups were working at Great Falls and at Edwards Ferry; 60 bags of trash were collected by six Association members and 30 other volunteers. In November, Edwards Ferry was again the work site.

• Permanent Programs Committee -- Hal Larsen announced that this committee was formed since the last Association meeting. Ken Rollins is chair, and other members are Michele Carsrud, Cindy Eppley, Buddy Gibson, Al Stanley, and Lyman Stucker. Hal is making a practice of including at least one new Association member on each committee. The committee is taking a long-range look at what the Association is doing and what it should be doing. It is apparent that an annual calendar should be set up and published annually; the dates and locations of events and who to contact about them should be included. The committee has discussed the possibility of scheduling a full-length hike starting in Washington and walking to Cumberland. It has also discussed scheduling short hikes of two-to-three days' duration. Other suggestions include after-work picnics, segment bike hikes, special events or hikes for new members, canoe trips, orientation events for new members, "show and tell" by members, and pot-luck suppers. It was decided that some of these options be scheduled to see which are most effective. Hal Larsen gave the committee specific dates and locations for the following events: Annual Meeting - March 5, Williamsport; Annual Douglas Hike - April 30, Antietam area; Heritage Hike - October 22, Stickpile Hill-Little Orleans area. Motion: That the Permanent Programs Committee be authorized to schedule some or all of the aforementioned activities and see who responds to them. Motion carried. Hal Larsen will appoint a committee to organize the Douglas Hike.

• Status of C & O Canal National Historical Park Commission Appointments -- Decisions on Commission appointments had not yet been made by the Department of the Interior as of the December 6 board meeting.

C&O CANAL ASSOCIATION

Budget - 1988

Approved by the Board of Directors

INCOME:

Memberships.	\$ 4,500
Dinners (inc. social hour, transportation)	2,300
Sales (patches, T-shirts).	200
Miscellaneous (interest, pictures)	200
	<u>\$ 7,200</u>

EXPENSE:

Newsletter	\$ 2,500
Administration	700
Dinners (inc. social hour, transportation)	2,300
Capital (inc. brochures, stationery, T-shirts)	1,500
Contributions (MD conservation Council).	50
	<u>\$ 7,250</u>



Abandonment Update

The Interstate Commerce Commission has issued a final Environmental Impact Statement for the Georgetown Spur putting no restrictions on its development. It is expected to approve abandonment in December. That starts the clock ticking: during the 180 days following abandonment, Chessie cannot sell to a non-public user. After that, the corridor could be broken up and lost forever.

The two most heavily-used Montgomery County parks inside the beltway, Rosemary Hills and Elm Street Parks, are within one block of the trail.

Acquisition Update

The National Park Service (NPS) hopes to acquire the strip in the District. However, Chessie is asking scalpers' prices. The NPS has commissioned its own appraisal, due in February. A land exchange seems to be their best option, since purchase would require Congressional appropriation. Montgomery County intends to acquire the 6 1/2 miles within its borders, but there is a \$60-million discrepancy between what the county hopes to spend and what CSX hopes to get. Furthermore, the County Council has not committed to dedicating the land to a park.

Dates to Remember:

January 27 — Capital Crescent Trail meeting at Bethesda Library, 7:00 p.m.
January (to be announced) — Council hearings on appropriations for study of trail in the county. **PLAN TO BE THERE!**
April/May — Hearings on Capital Improvement Program priorities for next 6 years.

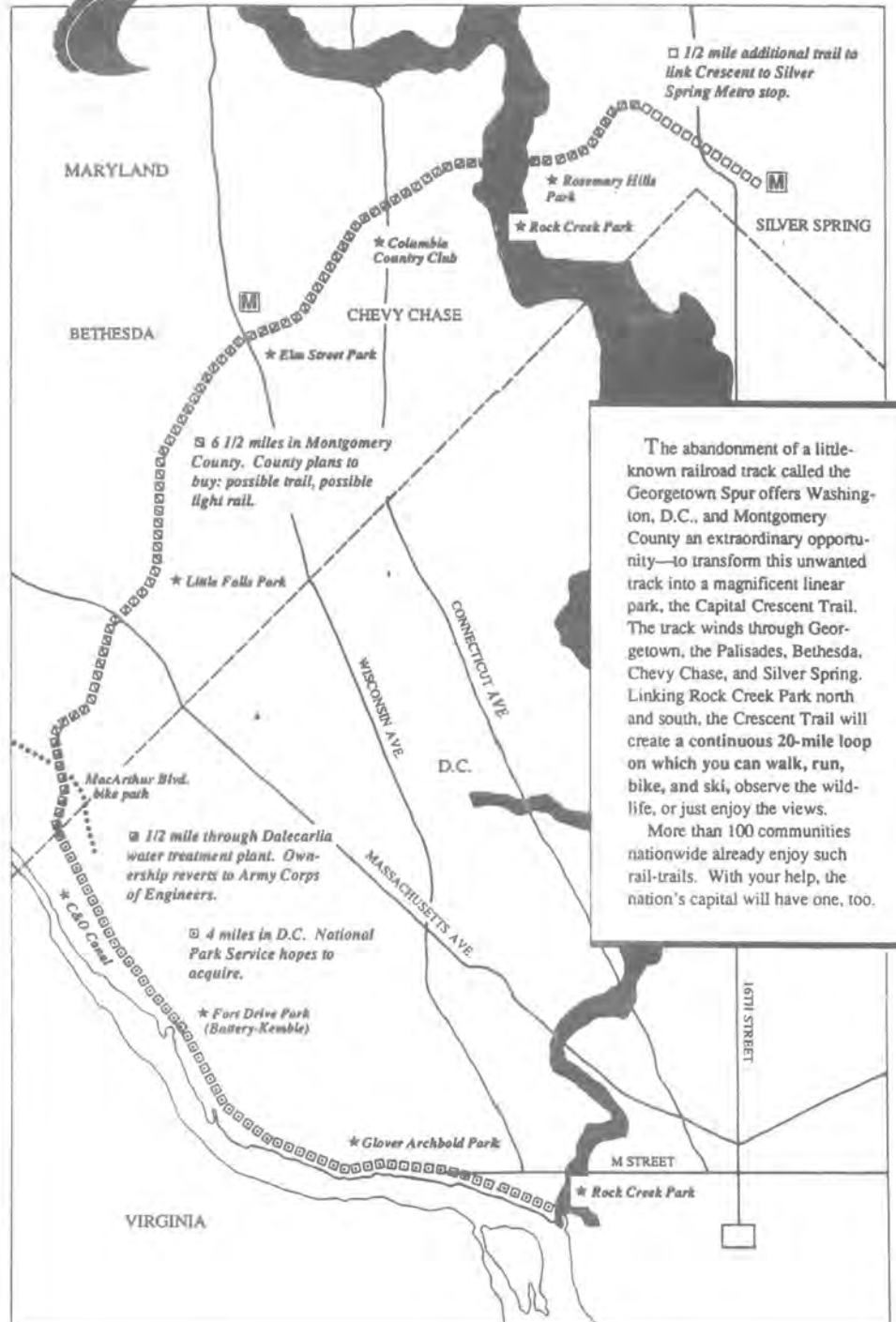
Here's What You Can Do:

- Join the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail.
- If you belong to a community organization, arrange for the group to join the Coalition or to express support for its goals.
- Write to the Montgomery County Council letting them know of your support for the trail and asking for their help. Council members are:
Rose Crenca, Chair
Isiah Leggett
Bruce Adams
Michael Gudis
Neal Potter
William Hanna
Michael Subin

All can be reached at:
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
tel: 251-7900

The Capital Crescent Trail

A NATURAL ADDITION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL



The abandonment of a little-known railroad track called the Georgetown Spur offers Washington, D.C., and Montgomery County an extraordinary opportunity—to transform this unwanted track into a magnificent linear park, the Capital Crescent Trail. The track winds through Georgetown, the Palisades, Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and Silver Spring. Linking Rock Creek Park north and south, the Crescent Trail will create a continuous 20-mile loop on which you can walk, run, bike, and ski, observe the wildlife, or just enjoy the views.

More than 100 communities nationwide already enjoy such rail-trails. With your help, the nation's capital will have one, too.

• Write to Hon. Connie Morella, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 and urge her to support the trail.

• Spread the word. Tell neighbors, colleagues, and friends about the trail and encourage them to become involved.

• Contribute time or money to the Coalition. Call Val Kirkpatrick at 564-9177 to volunteer.

The latest survey by the Planning Board shows that "walking in parks is the favorite outdoor recreation activity of Montgomery County residents."



Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail
c/o Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
1325 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

ABOUT THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL

Donna Boies would like to inform (or remind) Association members of the existence and efforts of the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail. The Coalition comprises numerous organizations in the metropolitan area, from neighborhood citizens associations to such groups as the Sierra Club, and is the umbrella group leading the effort to create a park and trail out of the right-of-way of the old Georgetown spur of the B&O Railroad from Silver Spring to Georgetown. The trail would connect with the Rock Creek Parkway trail at both ends to establish a circuit trail and park over 20 miles long.

Opposition to this proposal comes from some members of the Montgomery County Council and Department of Transportation who want to replace the right-of-way with a mass transit route. The section most vulnerable to such development is the section from Silver Spring to Bethesda.

The CCCT is striving to have its views presented strongly and accurately in the media and to insure that the public is informed of the issues involved. It also hopes that all residents of Montgomery County who support the establishment of a hiker-biker trail along the right-of-way will put it in writing to their Council representatives or to Glenn Orlin, Montgomery County Department of Transportation, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850.

For further information about the Coalition and its meetings and special events, such as orientation hikes, write to Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail, P O Box 30703, Bethesda, MD 20814.

DAY HIKE SCHEDULED

Three Day Hikes have been scheduled--one each in January, February and March. The leaders are level walkers who have volunteered to assist in this new program.

The January Day Hike will be held January 16 at Fort Frederick. Starting with coffee and doughnuts (you bring the coffee, we supply the doughnuts) at 10 AM, hikers will proceed to McCoy's Ferry and return. If participants want to hike further, they may do so. Karen Gray will be the leader.

The Fort, which dates from the days of the French and Indian Wars and was used also during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, will be open for visitor inspection. It has been restored and contains artifacts of the eras of its use.

The February hike, from White's Ferry to Noland's Ferry, is scheduled for 10 AM on February 20th, with Lyman Stucker as leader.

On March 26, Al Stanley will conduct a 10 AM hike from Pennyfield to Swain's Lock.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS !!!

The Permanent Membership Committee wants to hear your thoughts on how best to attract and hold members. We are working on some projects now; we would like to have others. If you would like to share, write to us at the address below, and, should you prefer to present your ideas to the Committee in person, please let us know that also.

Mimi Eller, Chair
Membership Committee
1106 16th Street, South
Arlington, Virginia 22202



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT



1. GEORGETOWN BRANCH ABANDONMENT.

a. The ICC issued its final environmental impact statement (EIS) on 2 October. The document was disappointing to the local coalitions advocating the establishment of the Capital Crescent Trail, and was also criticized by the EPA. Although EPA expects ICC to respond to its comments and questions by letter before making its final decision on abandonment, the ICC is not expected to prepare a supplemental EIS or to delay the abandonment decision.

b. ICC approval of the abandonment is expected by the end of December. At that time the 180-day period will begin during which the right-of-way (RoW) can only be sold to a public entity. After that, the company can negotiate with private developers for sale of the property.

c. NPS and CSX are attempting to negotiate a land swap for the D C portion of the line, which is within the boundaries of the park. The company had originally indicated that the value of this section is \$15 million; NPS is doing its own appraisal.

d. In Montgomery County, the company wants \$60 million for the RoW, and the county has offered \$6 million.

e. The county government seems strongly committed to using the RoW between Silver Spring and Bethesda for a transitway. The citizens advisory committee to the county task force has recommended light rail over a guided trolleybus system, if transit is to be built. The proposal includes a parallel hiker-biker trail, but advocates of recreational use argue that the two would be incompatible.

f. Although the section west of Bethesda would be designated for park use, if acquired by the county, no commitments to creation of a trail have been made. Beyond MacArthur Blvd, the Defense Department poses obstacles; Corps of Engineers does not want public passage through Dalecarlia reservoir, and Defense Mapping Agency wants the adjacent RoW for a driveway to parking lots.

2. GREAT FALLS, VIRGINIA, LOCKS.

a. The National Park Service is planning (if not already accomplished) to stabilize Locks #1 and 2 of the Potomac Canal at Great Falls, Virginia, by filling them with gravel to prevent collapse of the walls. The Virginia Canals and Navigation Society is opposed to this action, and is urging NPS to install wooden bracing, leaving the masonry to be viewed by visitors. They believe that this would be less expensive than filling, and fear that once covered the locks would never be excavated and restored. They urge communication with the Secretary of the Interior and with senators and congressmen to protest NPS plans.

b. The NPS position is that bracing as proposed by VC&NS would be more expensive, and cannot be funded at this time. In addition, such bracing, according to NPS, would be inadequate to prevent further serious deterioration. Therefore, filling the chambers with gravel to two feet from the top is the most expedient means to preserve the locks until funds for complete restoration can be budgeted, while also leaving something for public display.

--Dave Johnson





FIRING RANGE PLANNED NEAR EDWARDS FERRY

The Montgomery County executive is being asked to approve construction of a new public safety outdoor firing range near Broad Run, above Edwards Ferry. The site was recommended by the county Office of Management and Budget following a study of eleven potential locations for the facility.

County police organizations urgently need a new range for practice, training, and qualification, because their range near Gaithersburg has been closed due to new residential development.

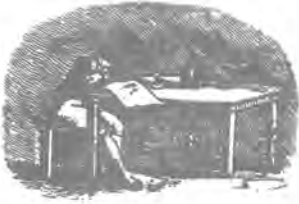
The recommended site is on land owned by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission bordered by River and Elmer School Roads, and is opposite the NIH animal farm. Although the south end of the 318-acre WSSC parcel is on River Road, which parallels the canal between Edwards and Whites Ferries, the probable location of the three-acre firing range would be in the northwestern quarter of the tract, and would be about a mile from the canal. Firing would be in a northerly direction, away from the canal.

The eleven sites were evaluated on the basis of size and accessibility, topography, range direction, noise, proximity to existing residential development and potential for residential encroachment, and environmental impact. Nearly all of the locations involved some encroachment on park or conservation lands within the county. (The OMB's second choice is in Little Bennett Regional Park, and would interfere with camping and trail areas.) Two of the sites considered would have a more adverse effect on the C & O Canal than the recommended one. These were the Blockhouse Point Conservation Area, near Seneca, and Dickerson Regional Park. (Noise measurements made at Dickerson in 1984 were considered by National Park Service personnel to be very disruptive to the tranquility of the towpath.)

Noise level tests, using 12-gauge shotguns fired in volleys, were conducted at the WSSC site in June and October 1987. Measurements were made on the western and northern boundaries of the tract, and at various points on the NIH animal farm. No monitoring was performed from the area of the towpath; however, a county OMB official noted that the results of measurements taken at points substantially closer to the firing line than the canal is were within county noise standards. It is planned to surround the range with earthen berms 50' to 60' high to produce further noise attenuation.

Approximately 800 officers of the county and municipal police departments, sheriff's office, Department of Corrections, and M-NCPPC, and police academy classes would use the facility. Normal operations would be during weekdays, with some night qualifying as required by state regulation for police officers. Except for occasional matches and competitions, however, police officials indicated that the range would not be used on weekends.

The Association's environmental committee is evaluating the possible impact of this proposed facility on the canal, and will submit comments to the county executive's office before the public hearing record closes.



LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR

Dear Editor:

We'd like to report the happy results of our decision to provide housing for a "canal woman," Kris Murphy, who was employed as the "Captain's Wife" by the Park Service on the barge based at Great Falls, Md during the past season.

In the Spring, as relatively new members we attended the annual meeting of the Association and learned that the seasonal employees of the Park Service who operated the barges at Georgetown and Great Falls were in need of housing. Since our oldest daughter was working on Lake Michigan for the summer and would attend the University of Wisconsin in the Fall, we volunteered to house one of the barge crew.

Kris Murphy from Tulsa, OK, arrived at our house in July. The timing was perfect because our other daughter had just left for a month-long exchange visit in France. Kris, although far from being a child, immediately supplied the cheerfulness and optimism that accompanies having a younger person around. We made her a member of the family and she was extremely helpful in welcoming another guest in our house--Anne Buirette. Anne was a chaperone for the French students on exchange visits in the Baltimore-Washington area and she was far closer in age to Kris than she was to us. She and Kris became good friends and helped each other explore the many points of interest in the DC area (including an overnight camping trip with Kris' parents that was somewhat more strenuous than Anne was accustomed to.)

In exchange for her room, Kris "house sat" for us when we were away on weekends and during the week we spent in Wisconsin installing our daughter at the University. In addition she took care of "J. Edgar Pussycat" (one half Siamese/half Persian) and "Roffy" (our Airedale).

Her stay with us was a delight from start to finish and we are ready to house another "barge crew" member next year

--James G. Hill & Carol Galaty
Potomac, MD

Dear Editor:

I am writing to announce my boycott of the October 26 Heritage Hike Dinner.

To explain;

While I can afford the \$15.00 price;

While most of the Association Officers and Board can afford the \$15.00 price;

While the Association Treasury can afford the cost of dinner for guests and the honorarium to be paid the speaker;

However;

Since some of our present members may not be able to afford the \$15.00 price, especially those with children;

Since the Board has recently charged a permanent committee with the responsibility of attracting new members, some of whom will be discouraged by the \$15.00 price;

Since the dinner location is convenient to neither the beginning or end point of the Heritage Hike;

I submit;

The Officers and Board have not acted in the best interests of the Association membership by its failure to seek a moderately priced meal in a location related to the hike;

The Officers and Board have not acted according to prior practice of charging sufficiently for the meal to cover costs of guests and publicity (I do, however, agree with the defeat of two motions that suggested increasing the price above the \$15.00 being charged by the Ladies' Auxiliary);

The Officers and Board, while following prior practice of utilizing local non-profit fund raising efforts for our accommodations, did not take into consideration all possibilities.

Therefore;

I suggest future dinner search committees keep in mind the best interests of all the Association's members as well as the past practices of Association Boards and deviate from them only when for the better in all ways;

I suggest the Brunswick YMCA could have accommodated us in attractive surroundings, with quality food, near one end of the Heritage Hike and probably at a lower price.

I suggest the Association consider carefully the persons it elects to Officer and Board positions at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Bruce W. Wood
Washington, DC

(continued on page 17)

(continued from page 16)

Dear Editor:

Always enjoy reading Along the Towpath. I was glad to see the membership committee about-faced and decided to enlarge the group. You people back there along the Canal just don't realize what a fantastic national resource you have.

When I was in Hagerstown in July-August, I went to visit the Paw Paw Tunnel. It was a very hot day, but an interesting ride through Berkeley Springs. Anyway, the tunnel was very cool. Didn't have time to walk clear through, but it was good to see the tunnel. Went on to Cumberland to visit the Center there. Incidentally, a retired lady was working there and she said she was never invited to join the Canal Association. Are we therefore missing a bet by not sending special letters to mayors, county supervisors, city tourist bureau directors, etc., etc, along the route, inviting them to join and help be spokespeople, defenders, boosters, and advocates for the Canal? For one \$15 membership we could send out approximately 70-22¢ letters. Could the canal walkers in their areas get the names, forward to a central location for letters to be sent out? Even if you only get a 10% response from 70 people, that's \$105.00. We need to broaden the base--to get more income. Current members living along the route should be writing letters to local newspaper editors to keep information about the Canal in front of the public.

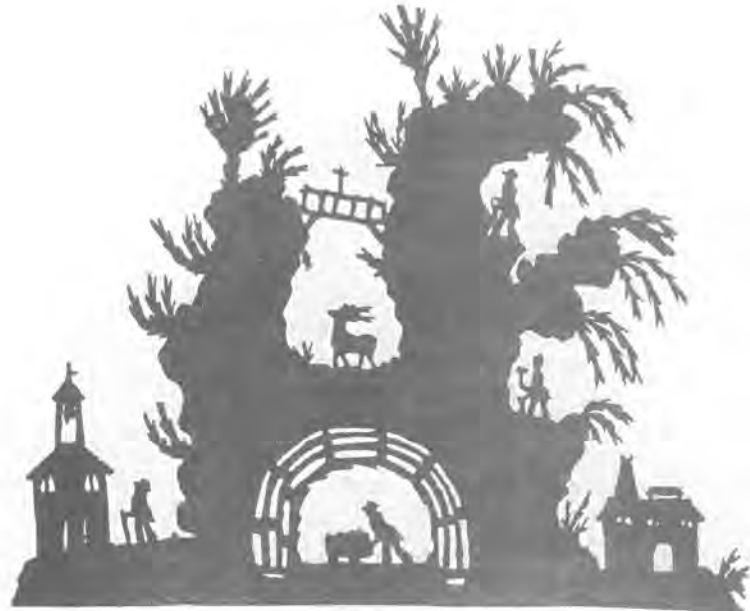
Another thing I ran into when we took a canal boat ride at Great Falls (and it was a real pleasure to listen to the Park Service people and slip back in time with them) was that those park people (at least the four I talked to) didn't even know there was a Canal Association! We must be really asleep at the switch here! I don't know whether National Park Service would go for a display or allow us to have brochures to pass out telling the general public about the Canal, but I'll bet an enterprising member in the area could promote something.

Lastly, and then I'll sign off--are copies of Along the Towpath going to all the libraries in towns along the Canal? And, for sure, to the tourist offices, the National Park offices at Antietam, Harper's Ferry, etc.? From my standpoint as a "foreigner" out here in California, we aren't "selling" the product in enough places so the general traveling public can know about it. In fact, in my case, I saw

the canal display at the Fine Arts Museum in Hagerstown and wanted to know more about it right away.

Guess I've rambled on too much, but we need to spread the word so more citizens can learn about what a good thing is going, thereby broadening our financial base to continue to further the cause.

--Jim Beardsley
Stockton, CA



ACTIVITIES OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee which met on November 22, presented some suggestions to the Board of Directors of the Association. The Board liked most of what it heard and voted for an organizational membership category; for the installation of an answering machine with the proviso that the Committee submit a report in six months addressing the issue of a more permanent answering service; and against a non-member surcharge for events.

A membership renewal form appears in this newsletter and will be followed by a letter to members who have not renewed within a reasonable length of time. People are asked to indicate on the renewal form if they want a telephone listing in the C&O Canal Association Membership Directory to be revised and issued this Spring.

--Mimi Eller

Westward, Ho!

In the last issue of "Along the Towpath", I wrote about the present conditions of the 60 miles of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park between Washington, DC and Harpers Ferry, WV. This time I wish to write about my walks along the 60 miles between Hancock and Cumberland, MD.

My coverage of this section began with the Annual Hike in April 1987. Since that time, with time off during the summer to hike the lower part of the canal, I have been enjoying my walks in this much more remote and less visited part of the C&O Canal Park. This area, in my opinion, is the most attractive part of the Park. It includes the most remote sections of the canal, where the noisiest thing is a canoe paddle dipping into the river, a wood duck fleeing, or one's own footsteps. It also includes several aqueducts and the canal's only tunnel. The communities at either end, Hancock and Cumberland, are relatively inexpensive and offer food and lodging. Paw Paw, WV, Oldtown, and Little Orleans, MD, offer food and drink.

Thanks to the flood of two years ago, many vistas have been opened up between the canal and the river, most of which I hope will be retained, as the river views are extremely attractive. Perhaps the most interesting views of the flood results are between Hancock and Dam 6 and between mileposts 152 and 154. Cleanup in the former area is almost complete, with only a few downed trees to be observed, but the resulting openings and new towpath give one an impression of the force of the water. Between mileposts 152 and 154 many downed trees remain, both in the canal prism and between the canal and the river. I hope these will be left for future visitors, as they give a view of the flood impact not otherwise visible today. Also, near milepost 154, there are an NPS outhouse and a lock gate in the prism (both of which should be removed, the latter for its preservation).

Towpath conditions throughout these 60 miles generally are excellent. The washouts that did occur have been repaired and are solid today. A few mud holes between locks 55 and 56 make walking and bicycling difficult and need to be filled in. The upper 18 miles, between Oldtown and Cumberland, were not flooded in November 1985.

Bicycling appears good in this section, as does horseback riding. Canoeing (in the river) looks divine.

Are there gems and blackeyes in these 60 miles? Not like in the lowest 60 miles. The gem is the 12 miles between Hancock and Dam 6 - a very pretty area with almost no nearby road traffic - we did this section on the Autumn hike in 1986. The closest to a blackeye is the last half-mile into Cumberland. It is so simply because of the flood control dike on which one is forced to walk - open to the sun and weather with no sign of canal until one reaches the inlet lock near the Western Maryland Station/Museum. Please note that the White Rock Hiker-Biker (milepost 126.43) is closed.

Now that I have hiked the ends, it is time to turn my attention to the middle of the canal. Stay tuned!

--Bruce W. Wood

PERMANENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS

The charter meeting of the Permanent Program Committee took place on November 22. The Committee's purpose is to consider activities which the Association should undertake, and to coordinate all events on a long-term basis. Specific events are to be carried out by ad hoc committees as in the past, or by volunteer leaders. On December 6, the Board approved the Committee's recommendations to expand activities and to publish long-term schedules of events.

Hikes will be planned to include segments which will add up to continuous coverage of the towpath for those who may not be able to participate in a "through" hike (next one April 1989). The possibility of an interim or Fall 1991 "through" hike, from Washington to Cumberland, will be explored. Although the "Level Walker" hikes were not necessarily intended to be exclusively for Level Walkers, they will no longer be emphasized as such and will be restructured to provide some degree of continuity for anyone who wishes to participate. Perhaps some purely "back-packer" hikes will be added.

Canoe and cycle events will include day trips and overnights or longer events. Immediately in prospect are a late Spring canoe trip--jointly with the Virginia Canals and Navigation Society--of the Rappahannock River and its skirting canals west of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and a late summer overnight canoe run of the Paw Paw Bends of the Potomac.

It is the philosophy of the Committee, endorsed by the Board, that we should offer the widest possible range of activities representing known interests of our membership. Even though participation in any particular event may be somewhat limited, we should provide opportunity for members to share their interests with others who might like to try them.

The Committee will meet again on January 24 to pull together all the information and ideas available at that time, and to draft a calendar of events for the year to be published in the Spring Along the Towpath.

The success of this undertaking obviously depends on the availability of leadership--meaning more than can be provided by Committee members, although the Committee comprises a considerable source of both leadership and guidance. Anyone who would like to come forward with ideas, volunteer as trip coordinator or leader, or offer logistic support is encouraged to do so. Please convey your thoughts to Ken Rollins or any Committee member. If you do not reach Ken on (804)448-2934 or (703) 663-2679, just drop him a note at Route 4, Box 107, Ruther Glen, Virginia 22546.

--Ken Rollins



PARK SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR GREAT FALLS TAVERN

The C&O Canal NHP staff is seeking volunteers to serve at the Great Falls (MD) Tavern Visitors Center. The Center is currently open seven days a week from 9 AM to 5 PM. The Park Service seeks Interpretive Aides to staff the Center which currently is not covered much of the time.

Ideally, Interpretive Aides would be required to serve one day a week for about four to six hours a day, preferably at times of peak visitation. They would be responsible for providing basic park information, answering phones, and assisting with interpretive programs such as guided hikes and canal barge rides. A training session will be held in February prior to a March commencement of the program.

Interested persons are urged to contact Ranger Frank Cucurullo at (301)443-0720 or write him c/o C&O Canal National Historical Park, 11710 MacArthur Boulevard, Potomac, Maryland 20854.

1988

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- Saturday, January 2 - Sights & Sounds nature walk, 10 AM, Great Falls, MD; call (301)443-0024 for information.
- Wednesday, January 6 - Sights & Sounds nature walk. See above.
- Saturday, January 16 - Day Hike, Ft. Frederick-McCoys Ferry; Details p. 13
- Saturday, January 23 - Worktrip, place TBA; Details p. 9
- Sunday, January 24 - Membership Committee meeting, 2 PM, Glen Echo Town Hall; Permanent Program Committee meeting following approximately 4 PM
- Wednesday, January 27 - Sights & Sounds nature walk; see above
- Saturday, January 30 - Sights & Sounds nature walk; see above
- Wednesday, February 3 - Sights & Sounds nature walk; see above
- Saturday, February 6 - Sights & Sounds nature walk; see above
- Saturday, February 20 - Day hike, Whites Ferry-Nolands Ferry, Details, p. 13
- Wednesday, February 24 - Sights & Sounds nature walk; see above
- Saturday, February 27 - Worktrip, Sycamore Landing; Details p. 9
- Saturday, February 27 - Sights & Sounds nature walk; see above
- Wednesday, March 2 - Sights & Sounds nature walk; see above
- Saturday, March 5 - Association Annual Meeting, Williamsport; Details p. 1
- Saturday, March 5 - Sights & Sounds nature walk; see above
- Tuesday, March 15 - Deadline for copy, April Along the Towpath
- Saturday, March 19 - Worktrip, Sycamore Landing; Details p. 9
- Saturday, March 26 - Day hike, Pennyfield-Swains Lock; Details p.13
- Saturday, March 26 - Sights & Sounds nature walk; see above
- Wednesday, March 30 - Sights & Sounds nature walk; see above
- Saturday, April 30 - 34th Justice Douglas Reunion Hike; Details in April newsletter
- Saturday, October 22 - Heritage Hike; Details in October newsletter

ALONG THE TOWPATH is published in January, April, July and October by the C&O Canal Association, P.O. Box 366, Glen Echo, MD 20812-0366.

Editor is Nancy Long who welcomes communications from the membership. Address her at 6001 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Associate Editor is Ellen N. Holway

Production and distribution assistance is provided by Susan "Butch" Henley. 1987-88 Association officers are:

President: Harold A. Larsen, 1314 Kurtz Road, McLean, VA 22101

First Vice President: Carl Linden, 6406 Ridge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20816

2d VP & Level Walker Chairman: Michelle Carsrud, 11412 Cherry Hill Rd, #102, Beltsville, MD 20705

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

Treasurer: William H. Speck, 5123 Westridge Road, Bethesda, MD 20816

Information Officer: Katherine Seward, 5103 Acacia Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

Board of Directors: *Terms expire in 1990*: Wilhelmina (Mimi) Eller, Susan "Butch" Henley, Earl McFarland, Jr., Kenneth S. Rollins, Edith C. Wilkerson; *Terms expire in 1989*: Karen M. Gray, Robert Greenberg, Anne Murphy Korff, Bettyjane F. Myers, Emmie Woodward; *Terms expire in 1988*: Ralph H. Donnelly, Rita C. Hirrlinger, David Johnson, Joan Paull, Sue Anne Sullivan.

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