

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

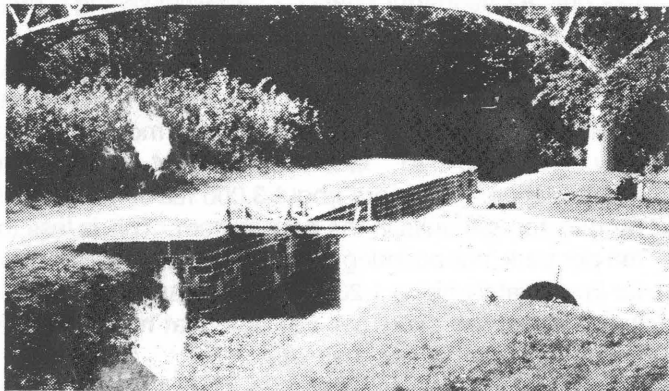
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DESPITE SLOW START, 1991 HERITAGE HIKE A BIG SUCCESS

October 19, 1991, dawned warm and sunny, with a forecast of more of the same all day. The excellent weather and the expected brilliant fall colors drew nearly 100 hikers to the start of this year's Heritage Hike from Lock 38 in Sheperdstown to Harpers Ferry, a particularly scenic and unusually historic section of the C&O Canal. By 10 a.m., all of the hikers had gathered at the Mather Training Center in Harpers Ferry to catch a bus ride to the starting point. Two buses had been contracted for the trip.



Lock 38 in Sheperdstown
(Photo by Dave Johnson)

When was 10:30 and no buses had arrived, the hikers were restless to be out on the trail in such beautiful weather. By 11:00, when the buses finally arrived after surmounting electrical problems and a traffic accident, there was talk of alternative transportation. The ride to Lock 38 was a short one and hikers were quickly underway. Because of the late start, participants began walking as soon as the buses arrived, and there was no starting ceremony. Seven rode the buses to the Antietam Ranger Station, where they began their walk.

At the start, hikers were given information packets

which included a C&O Canal map, brochures on Harpers Ferry and Antietam and two "points-of-interest" sheets covering the 12.1 miles to be covered during the day's walk. One sheet, prepared by John Frye, described the section from Lock 38 to the Antietam Aqueduct, while the second, written by Donna Boies, dealt with the area from the aqueduct to Lock 33. Both of these excellent pieces gave us a detailed picture of the history of the area surrounding the hike route.

Most of the hikers took time out at Mountain Lock (Lock 37) to have lunch. The lunch spot was located just short of half way in an area close to the river under a canopy of large trees. Refreshed and eager to continue after their rest, the hikers rolled down the towpath, passing Locks 36, 35 and 34 and Dam # 3. At Lock 33, they finally climbed wearily up to the rail bridge and crossed the Potomac to Harpers Ferry.

At different times during the day's walk, the sky darkened and the wind picked up. There was some concern that the group might be rained on, but the hiking gods seemed to smile on us and no rain fell. The wind continued, however, and several almost lost their hats, as we crossed the bridge at Harpers Ferry.

By 5:00 p.m., most of the hikers had congregated in the bar at the Hilltop House for happy hour, winding down from the excitement of the day and exchanging stories of the hike and past such events. Dinner was served at 6:30, and the group fell in on the excellent buffet for which the hotel is justifiably known.

The after-dinner speaker was Susan Frye, Chief Archeologist for the Harpers Ferry Historic Park who talked on the results of recent research of Civil War troop movements and encampments on the Maryland Heights, which is across the Potomac overlooking Harpers Ferry. Her presentation, which included slides, was both entertaining and informative.

Overall, except for the delayed start, the day was an

enjoyable one. A special thanks to the hike committee members--Bob and Donna Boies, George Camplair, Sonny DeForge and John Frye--as well as to Dave Johnson for his guidance and assistance.



Antietam Aqueduct
(Photo by Dave Johnson)

A final note: As we hiked the towpath, it was indeed gratifying to see so many others making use of this national historic park. We encountered hikers, bikers and strollers. We even saw several horseback riders and, at the Huckleberry Hill Overnighter, we met a large group of teenage campers. This extensive use of the park is a fitting tribute to those whose unselfish effort in the past helped to ensure that we today have this enduring resource for all to enjoy.

---Jack Francis

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

According to news accounts, the 600 participants at the October symposium at Vail, Colorado, celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the National Park Service were unable, apparently, to reach a definitive solution to what may be the Service's oldest problem. The 1916 law that created the NPS specified that it both "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects" and "provide for the enjoyment of the same." Many perceive that NPS is losing the battle to "conserve" in the face of the rising tide of "enjoyment" for more and more visitors, as overuse destroys resources. In an article criticizing the NPS in general and the Vail conference in particular, the December issue of Outside Magazine concludes that "the Park Service has two incompatible duties: promote preservation and outdoor recreation simultaneously. In

fact, it seldom tries to balance these two goals. It usually puts tourism first."

The growth in annual visitation raises the issue of appropriate activities in various parks. The Washington Post recently focused on the controversy over what should be allowed or banned in the Civil War battlefield parks. Because urban expansion has reached the boundaries of many of these once rural sites, they have become picnic grounds and playfields for crowds of city dwellers more interested in sun-bathing and ball-playing than in earthworks and cannon. Civil War buffs and historians object, saying that such use is inappropriate, that "organized games and kite flying do not belong on ground consecrated by blood." These issues reflect the basic paradox challenging all of the parks: how to preserve the natural scenery and historic features, while at the same time meeting the needs of more and more people with divergent recreational interests.

A new report from the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) identifies major problems currently threatening the park system. These include the backlog of repair and maintenance projects and the personnel ceilings caused by budget constraints, coupled with tremendous growth in visitation. Nationwide, the 250 million park visitors in 1990 are projected to double by 2010 to 500 million. According to the NPCA, the ratio of rangers to visitors is such that a visitor now has only a one-in-four chance of actually seeing a ranger during a stay in a park. (We assume that this means after they see the fee collector.) This personnel shortage leaves the parks even more vulnerable to vandalism, poaching and other crimes, even though most rangers are now assigned to law enforcement rather than interpretation. There are about 3,000 full-time permanent rangers for 358 units in the park system. This is less than ten per park, not counting seasonal hires. The NPCA calls for immediately hiring 1,200 additional rangers. We would imagine that the parks need at least that many additional maintenance employees as well.

The C&O Canal is subject to all of these pressures. Visitation grows as resources dwindle. The Great Falls area has suffered for years from overuse. What will happen in March when the bridges to the overlooks reopen and attract thousands more? We are concerned about the condition of the aqueducts and culverts; the park needs millions of dollars to properly restore and maintain them. The C&O Canal is not alone with its shortfall. The total backlog of repair, maintenance, preservation and safety projects throughout the national park system, according to the NPCA, is \$2 billion. These problems affect every park in the system.

(This is where organizations such as the Association

can help. According to Paul Pritchard, President of NPCA, "It's frustrating for the Park Service because they don't have the money to maintain all of the parks. The only way parks are going to be kept clean, is if all of us pitch in." Recently, the Friends of Battery Kemble in northwest Washington raised \$28,000 to replace trees in that small park on Chain Bridge Road. Our Association regularly lends a hand on routine jobs with our monthly volunteer workdays. However, participation is frequently disappointing. One of the most useful things members can do for the park is join our V-I-P projects. Why not call Joan Paull and sign up for the next one?)

The C&O Canal, however, does have a plan to satisfy the divergent interests of its users. Public Law 91-664 established the C&O Canal National Historical Park to "preserve and interpret the historic and scenic features of the canal, and to develop the potential of the canal for public recreation . . ." The General Plan, adopted in 1976, established a land use plan that makes a variety of experiences available along the length of the park. The five categories in the zoning system range from complete restoration to remote natural areas of no development. The thirty-two sections are arranged to provide resources for virtually all of the potential user interests.

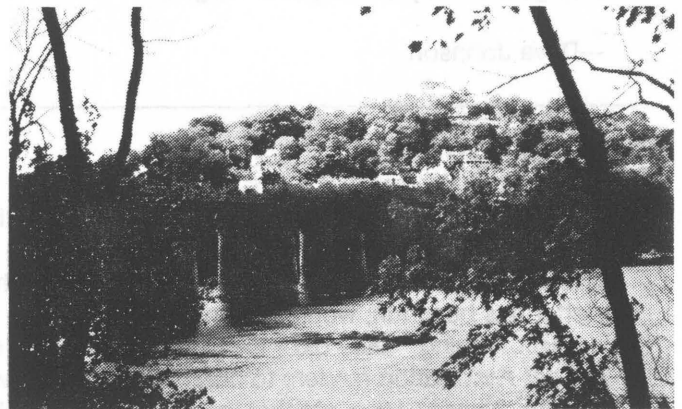
Many sincere friends of the park disagree on how the park should be developed. The constituencies that claim the park range from canal purists to historians, cultural and industrial archaeologists, hikers, campers and birdwatchers. (These are not mutually exclusive, of course. Most visitors enjoy both the cultural and natural aspects of the park.) They reflect a spectrum of interests ranging from those who would like to see total restoration from one end of the canal to the other, bringing back its operational appearance of a century ago, to those who would allow nature to reclaim it all until every bit reverts to Sanderlin's "magnificent wreck." But basically, it is the canal, a relic of our industrial and transportation heritage, that the C&O Canal National Historical Park was created to preserve.

Therefore, when the Park Service mows the weeds along the edge of the towpath in a restored, rewatered section, it is important to remember that out of 184.5 miles, only ten miles have been zoned as A--National Interpretive Center, and less than twenty-four more are in category B--Cultural Interpretive Zone. This leaves over 150 miles in categories C, D and E, designated as natural, unrestored areas. Thus, over 81% of the total towpath is not maintained for historic interpretation. This makes it all the more appropriate that the few miles that have been set aside for historic preservation, such as Georgetown, Great Falls and Williamsport, be maintained to show a functioning, authentic nineteenth century American

towpath canal. The General Plan specifies that "historical accuracy is imperative in the re-creation of historic scenes . . . to convey the construction, maintenance, functions, purpose, shortcomings, commerce, and way of life on the C&O Canal."

The General Plan, of course, cannot resolve the budgetary problems, personnel cuts and maintenance shortfalls. Visitor control and overuse at the most popular areas of the park will become increasingly greater problems that will require the allocation of more resources. Hopefully, this will not be at the expense of other sections. But the issue of appropriate use, and the balance between historic preservation and natural conservation is thoughtfully and reasonably resolved in the General Plan. It is a compromise that provides something for just about everyone.

One class of would-be users remains excluded. As Justice Douglas described the canal in his letter to the Post, "It is a place not yet marred by the roar of wheels and the sound of horns." Recently, at a workshop held by the National Park Service and the NPCA to discuss the Mid-Atlantic Regional Trails report, a representative of a trail bike organization asked me, in complete seriousness, if the C&O Canal Association would endorse his proposal to open the towpath to motor-cycles one weekend a year. He was genuinely surprised when told I didn't think we would.



Harpers Ferry from Lock 33.
The end of this year's Heritage Hike.
(Photo by Dave Johnson)

Hearings before the House Interior & Insular Affairs Committee to consider National Scenic Trail status for the American Discovery Trail (ADT) were held in November.

The proposed trail would become the country's first ocean-to-ocean recreational trail, providing a pathway across the nation for the self-propelled, non-motorized traveler. It will utilize the C&O Canal towpath between Georgetown and Oldtown. An ADT guidebook, using the survey team's trail notes, is planned for publication in 1992. The trail's sponsors, the American Hiking Society and Backpacker Magazine, are in the early stages of developing plans for "Trailblazer Day," probably in September 1992, during which they will try to have someone on every mile of the coast-to-coast route. Why don't we plan to show the Association's support for the park and the ADT by having every Level Walker out on his or her level that day?

I want to use this opportunity to express my appreciation to the committee that planned and organized the Heritage Hike: John Frye, Bob and Donna Boies, Sonny DeForge, George Camplair and the chairman, Jack Francis. Jack has been a member of the Association for only a little over a year, and he did a great job of pulling all the details of the hike together. (The delay with the buses was beyond anyone's control, including the bus company's. In any event, canallers didn't run by the clock like a railroad; the boat went when the captain was good and ready to go.) So, thanks, Jack and committee, for a memorable hike. And our special thanks to Susan Frye for her very interesting after-dinner talk on the archeological survey of Maryland Heights.

---Dave Johnson

FROM THE EDITOR:

This will be my last issue as editor of "Along the Towpath." I will soon begin Swedish language training in preparation for an assignment in Stockholm. Editing this newsletter has been fun, work, a learning process and, at times, discouraging. Little did I think that it would be so hard to get Association readers to contribute to their own publication. Naively, I thought that the subject matter--the C&O Canal and its natural and human history--is of interest to everyone, and, equally, that all readers had an interest in taking pictures or writing or sending along their accounts or interviews. I was generally wrong. On the other hand, some, like Helen Johnston, Dave Johnson, Hal Larsen and Karen Gray, did contribute on a regular basis, and I am grateful to them and encourage them and

others to keep writing. There is much history related to the C&O Canal National Historical Park that should not be lost, and all of us can help make "Along the Towpath" a living record of past and present activities within its boundaries.

I truly believe that our C&O Canal Park is one of those unique features that make this region so very special. It gives us all an up-close view of an important period in U.S. history. It also provides an outdoors experience for the many people who live along its boundaries. The C&O Canal offers a respite from the pressures of urban living and an opportunity to hike, run, bike, canoe and ski within its boundaries. Few could have planned a park that would have meant so much to so many. It is up to us to help preserve it.

The following is an excerpt from an article by Jack Durham that appeared in the Spring 1954 issue of The Living Wilderness, the publication of The Wilderness Society. The article details the original "Douglas Hike" and reminds us of the enthusiasm, dedication and deep concern of those who set the standard for our organization. Perhaps their example can help renew our sense of purpose and our own commitment to the worthwhile activities of the Association.

I wish my successors the best of luck and our readers a pleasant holiday season. The work that you and the Association do is very important. I would urge you to keep it up.

---Don Besom

PREPARING FOR THE BIG HIKE

As we approach the anniversary year of the first Douglas Hike, it is worthwhile looking again at the original adventure, so that we might better know whose footsteps we follow in and something of the commitment of the original hikers. From time to time we have quoted from an article titled "The C&O Canal Hike" by Jack Durham that appeared in the Spring 1954 issue of The Living Wilderness. We return to that article for a look at the details of the hike. According to Durham, once the plan was announced to hike the entire length of the canal to dramatize its natural and historical value,

Letters began to pour into the office of the Post and into the chambers of the Supreme Court Justice [Douglas]. They came from all over the East, but mainly from the Potomac Valley. It looked as though the whole world wanted to go along on the walk. By the time the

hike started from Cumberland, March 19 [1953], the number had firmed down to over two dozen hikers determined to see for themselves what the controversy was all about.

Original plans called for a self-sufficient corps of hikers. Each man was to carry his own shelter, food, and first-aid supplies and other gear. But here again, the wide notice that the trip received brought more invitations than could be accepted from sportsmen's clubs along the way who were interested in the fate of the canal. Then, too, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club of Washington offered its facilities, a truck to carry the heavy duffle, and to help in preparing necessary meals. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad provided a special observation coach to carry the hikers to Cumberland, starting point of the hike. The Park Service scheduled a park policeman to patrol the trip and provided the help of a park naturalist, and was helpful in many other ways. In the end, the hikers traveled light, swinging down the trail unencumbered by 60-pound packs of tents, sleeping bags, and food. The spontaneous generosity of those who helped to make the hike a success was a heart-warming experience.

More than half the hikers were experienced outdoorsmen, officials and members of such groups as The Wilderness Society, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Audubon Society, and National Parks Association. One member was--

73-year old George Frederick Miller, a retired educator, who had recently walked the 2,025-mile length of the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia.

Another was Dr. Olaus J. Murie, of Moose, Wyoming, president of The Wilderness society, one of the leading biologists of the country.

Another outdoorsman was Sigurd F. Olson, of Ely, Minnesota, president of the National Parks Association.

Still others were:

Harvey Broome, an attorney with the Knoxville, Tennessee, firm of Kramer, Dye, McNabb, and Greenwood, who is past president of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and vice president of The Wilderness Society.

Bernard Frank, assistant chief of the division of watershed management research, U.S. Forest Service, who is chairman of the executive committee of The Wilderness Society.

Anthony Wayne Smith, assistant general counsel of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and secretary of the C.I.O.'s conservation committee, who is a member of the executive committee of the National Parks Association and the Forest Conservation Society of America.

Dr. Irston Barnes, assistant chief economist of the Federal Trade Commission, who is president of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia and nature columnist for The Washington Post and Times Herald.

Dr. William Davies, military geologist with the Interior Department's Geological Survey, and an experienced speleologist.

Dr. John H. Cover, director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Maryland, College Park, who last summer returned from a year and a half stay in India where he studied Indian economic development, under a Fulbright grant.

Howard Zahniser, who has been executive secretary of The Wilderness Society, Washington, D.C., since 1945, and editor of The Living Wilderness.

Drew Chick, chief park naturalist of the National Capital Parks, a division of the National Park Service.

Dr. Constant Southworth, State Department economist on Canadian affairs, who is co-chairman of the Audubon Society's committee on preservation of natural areas in Washington.

John Schoor, chairman of the conservation department of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.

George F. Blackburn, physicist with the Bureau of Standards, who is president of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, the local unit of the Appalachian Trail Committee which has responsibility of maintaining the 2,025-mile walking trail cresting the Appalachian mountain range from Maine to Georgia.

Colin Ritter, of Arlington, Virginia, geographer and analyst in the Air Force.

Louis W. Shollenberger, Washington, D.C., CBS-Radio news commentator.

Albert E. Farwell, Washington, D.C., research and examination analyst with the Foreign Operations Administration.

Smith Brookhart, Washington, D.C., lawyer, who served with Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson at the Nuremberg trials.

Don Stough, Vienna, Virginia, economist with the Department of Defense, who has traveled by pack train through the Gila and Sawtooth wilderness areas in New Mexico and Idaho.

Walter S. Sanderlin, professor of history at Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, Pennsylvania, author of the only history of the canal, The Great National Project.

Robert H. Estabrook, chief of the editorial page of The Washington Post since 1953.

Merio Pusey, associate editor of the Post, author of a Pulitzer prize-winning biography of Charles Evans Hughes.

Henry Graves, country life editor of the Post, assigned to cover the trip.

The Evening Star's George Kennedy covered the entire hike, as did Warren Gardner, editor of the Meriden (Conn.) Record. At first a believer in a highway, Mr. Gardner was won over completely to the recreational values of the canal area.

George Bookman, of Time magazine, regretted he could spend only two days on the trip which he greatly enjoyed.

Helen Fennell, of Life, with photographer Robert Phillips, accompanied the party to Cumberland, met the hikers along the way, and then met them for the entry into Washington.

Jack Pearmain of Boston, Massachusetts, a noted cyclist and food authority, went the whole distance, as did Grant Conway, Washington, D.C., an enthusiastic hiker and historian of areas along the canal. Charles Bradley, Jr., Vienna, Virginia, a former Navy photographer on the Bikini atom bomb tests, went along to have a pictorial record of the hike, and Paul Hauck, Arlington, Virginia, Defense Department analyst, also was with the party for few days at the beginning and end. There were many others from Washington and communities along the way who joined the walkers for a day or two but the limitations of space forbids the entire listing. Included in the "logistics" department were Corporal Sam Hower of the National Capital Parks police, who was one of the few who had hiked the canal previously; William W. Richardson and C.F. Mersch, of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, cook and truck driver, respectively, and who were aided by Charles P. Thomas, also an old PATC man.

As Justice Douglas pointed out, the canal expedition was a little bigger than the Lewis and Clark expedition. It also had the edge on that historic party with the steak

dinners and shelter that were provided by generous sportsmen, conservationists, and others along the route. Arrangement has been made to spend as many nights as possible under shelter in case of snow or rain. Actually the party spent only one night on the ground, as a group--in Fort Frederick State Park. At the other stops, although most slept in their sleeping bags on the floor, many took to the outdoors, with only light tarps for protection against the early spring weather. Three groups met the party with trailside luncheons, one below Paw Paw, one at Taylor's Landing through the courtesy of many persons, including Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Miner, and again at Harry Bowers's place at Weverton where Justice Douglas, Mr. Olson, and Dr. Murie made a broadcast for ABC television.

Trucks carrying rations and heavy gear met the expedition during the day along the numerous access roads to the old canal, and every night. Even so, the hiking was no mere Sunday stroll, because the average was around 23 miles a day.

Photographers and newsreel, radio, television, and press representatives were on hand from the moment the hikers hauled themselves out of their sleeping bags until they wearily pulled their boots off at night. At every place where the canal was accessible from the nearest highway, photographers--as well as townspeople--met the party. At night broadcasters and newsmen would be trucked to the nearest telephone to dictate the notes they had taken during the day.



A decaying canal boat that was once seen along the towpath.
(Photo courtesy of Ken Rollins)

The national attention that the hike received was little short of amazing. The Associated Press distributed two or three national stories to its approximately 3,200 member papers and several regional accounts. Three television networks, CBS, NBC, and ABC, carried daily accounts of the beginning and end of the trip, and the networks' radio news departments likewise covered the first day or two of

the start and the day the hike ended. Two newsreel accounts were distributed to some 3,000 movie theaters.

After he had returned to his editorial desk in Meriden, Warren Gardner wrote:

I am constantly amazed by the attention that the walk attracted. I was at an editorial meeting in Boston recently and heard several people speak of it there.

Few hiking parties have had so many outdoor experts as this one. Wherever possible they exchanged notes on their specialties--Irston Barnes on ornithology, Bill Davies on geology, Olaus Murie on mammalogy, Sig Olson on ecology, Collin Ritter on geography would be the order of the evening classes with this ambulatory adult education group. Professor Walter Sanderlin would remind his "students" of various events that occurred during the historic past: when the valley was hunted by the Iroquois and Algonquin and even prehistoric Indians, why Fort Frederick was necessary during the French and Indian War, of the exploits of Indian fighter and frontiersman Thomas Cresap of Oldtown, of the time Braddock's army retreated across the river after his disastrous defeat, when the Confederates retreated across the river near Antietam and the Federals were too frazzled to follow, and how John Adams, George Mason, and others took up George Washington's dream of linking the Atlantic with the Ohio by the very canal the hikers were walking along.

During the day the classes would continue in snatches of conversation as the hikers pounded on to the next stop. The geologist would point to the crumpled folds of the cliffs, the professional forester would note the various kinds of trees, the park naturalist would point to the earliest of spring flowers and the bursting buds of trees and shrubs.

The spirit of the hikers also found memorable expression in song--especially in "The C&O Canal Song" written to an old tune and added to as the hike progressed. Composed principally by Sig Olson but making use of rough-hewn stanzas suggested by various others, the song reached a total of 31 authorized stanzas. The first one proclaimed:

From Cumberland to Washington
Is one-eight-nine they say;
That doesn't faze this dauntless band,
It's down hill all the way.

Four of the following stanzas went on:

The people swarm around us
With cookies, fruit and cheer,
This is the consarned dangdest thing
That ever they did hear!

Last night we took to sleeping out
Beneath the open skies;
The ground was hard, the dew was wet
But stars were in our eyes!

The duffers climbed aboard the trucks
With many a groan and sigh,
But something faster passed them up
The Judge was whizzing by.

The blisters are a burning
And the tendon's getting sore,
While the shutter-boys from Washington
Keep yelling "Just one more!"

This new contribution to American folk song
concluded with the already reminiscent stanza:

And now our journey's ended,
Our aches and troubles gone;
But blisters heal, so says the Post,
And memories linger on.

In Cumberland, as a prelude to the start, the party was given a dinner at the Cumberland Country Club, as guests of John McMullen, publisher of the Cumberland Times. After the shrimp cocktails, roast beef or lobster Newburg, and chocolate cream puffs, dinner speakers included Judge William C. Walsh, prominent local lawyer; another attorney, William A. Gunter; Robert Estabrook; and Justice Douglas. United States Senator Glenn Beall, Frostburg, was toastmaster. He had been most helpful in the early stages.

The take-off next morning, Saturday, was at Spring Gap. The hikers swung manfully down the canal for the first day's 22 miles. The Cardinal Club was the first night's resting place, through the courtesy of Sam Schmutz and other members. Here, after dinner, occurred the first of the educational sessions. Each hiker, expert and amateur, recounted the significant impression of the day's hike. Bill Davies enlivened his geological description of the structure of mountains and valley by pointing to the crumpled and jagged fold of the rocks and saying, "Here the mountains were caught with their synclines down."

The hikers set out in a driving snowstorm the second day. And for most of the distance they were far from sounds of civilization. At night they were greeted by Harry Bridges on behalf of the Woodmont Club and given a buffet supper with champagne. Founded by Grover Cleveland, the club has had as members six presidents of the United States. High on a bluff, it overlooks a beautiful stretch of the Potomac.

After their third night's stay in Fort Frederick State Park, where the party looked like a Civil War detachment in bivouac, the hikers trooped down the trail to the

Potomac Fish and Game Club near Falling Waters, where they relaxed before the hospitality of Charles F. Wagaman, Hagerstown lawyer, who had extended the invitation on behalf of the members.

Below Falling Waters the hikers trekked down the trail to the shelter of the Conococheague Club, 2 miles below Shepherdstown. Here they cooked their dinner on an open fireplace, and as the night was clear and cold many took to the ground with their sleeping bags and air mattresses.

While all of the clubs proved of interest, one of the most attractive, because of its unique setting among high-thrusting limestone conglomerate rocks was Camp Kanawha at Calico Rocks, near Point of Rocks, the clubhouse of the Frederick County Fish and Game Protection Association of Frederick, Maryland. Here the invitation had been issued by Alton C. Whitmore, secretary. Some hundred members greeted the hiking party.

For the last night's stand, Arnold B. McKee, of McKee Pontiac, president of the Izaak Walton League's Bethesda-Chevy Chase chapter, provided the League's conservation farmhouse, near Poolsville, where local Boy Scouts helped to prepare the evening meal of buffalo steaks, salmon steaks, and just plain beef steaks.

Next day, the hikers were joined by more people at Great Falls, and as they neared Lock 5 they were greeted by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay and other officials before embarking upon a National Park Service, bunting-draped barge for the "last mile" home. At Georgetown they debarked before a large crowd at the last lock, and the hike was history.

What did it all prove? Perhaps this can be answered in part by the words of a March 26 editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle, one of scores of metropolitan papers that editorialized about the hike:

It is, of course, news when editorial writers will walk 184 miles or so to placate an indignant subscriber. But we think there is more than mere novelty in the Douglas expedition: it is not just a stunt. There is a sort of old-fashioned honesty and virtue in the Justice's project. He is saying to Messrs. Estabrook and Pusey (and to anyone else who cares to listen) that the way to find out facts is to look directly at them with your feet on the ground.... With the editorial writers in tow, Justice Douglas is retracing George Washington's old footsteps and revivifying the old visions of the first westward movement in America. His idea of preserving all this, instead of bulldozing it into a parkway to speed automobiles on aimless weekend outings, has our complete editorial, nonambulatory support.

[From the article "The C&O Canal Hike" by Jack Durham which appeared in The Living Wilderness, Spring, 1954]

LIFT BRIDGE AT WILLIAMSPORT CONVEYED TO C&O CANAL PARK



Superintendent Tom Hobbs and Regional Director Bob Stanton
at the Williamsport lift bridge ceremony
(Photo courtesy of Hal Larsen)

On September 12, in a ceremony at the site in Williamsport, the lift bridge over the canal was conveyed by the Potomac Edison Company to the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The event was attended by local political figures and residents as well as Park Service officials, Association and Advisory Commission members and press representatives. Among the several speakers, Tom Hobbs expressed his pleasure at the conveyance, which he said included land on the berm side between the lift bridge and the Cushwa Warehouse, a space where the railroad tracks had formerly carried coal cars for the power company.

A Potomac Edison representative handed the title to the property to the National Capital Region director, Robert Stanton. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the Cushwa Warehouse.

The bridge, which was built in 1923 to accommodate a Western Maryland Railroad spur to the Potomac Edison power plant, crossed the canal at ground elevation, enabling cars to carry coal to this facility. This 44-foot-long lift bridge was raised by a mechanism to allow boats and tow mules to pass underneath. The lifting mechanism, which was powered by an electric motor, had at its ends steel buckets holding weights to counterbalance the weight of the bridge. The bridge's lifting mechanism may never have been used, because the canal closed early in 1924, owing to flood damage just as the boating season was to begin. The bridge continued in service until recent years as a canal crossing for the coal cars.

---Hal Larsen

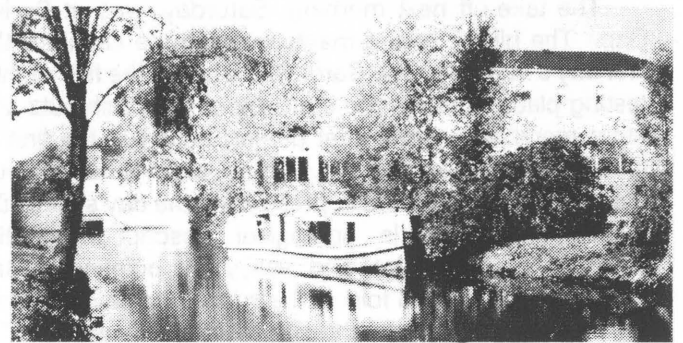
AKRON CONFERENCE ON HISTORIC CANALS A BIG SUCCESS

The 1991 International Conference on Historic Canals, held at the Quaker Square Hilton in Akron, Ohio on October 20-23, was successful in every respect, not the least of which was the balmy autumn weather. Hosted by the Cuyohoga Valley National Recreation Area, the Canal Society of Ohio and others, the meeting drew some eighty delegates from state, national and local parks and agencies and from canal societies throughout the northeast and midwest.

The theme of this year's conference, "The Future Echoes the Past," was reflected by talks on such varied topics as using historic canals as sources of archeological data, managing canals for multiple public use, the restoration of the Cumberland terminus of the C&O Canal and keeping canal parks going with innovative partnerships.

The afternoons were devoted to field trips along the Ohio & Erie Canal corridor to Roscoe Village (with a ride on the new canalboat "Monticello III"), Zoar Village, Canal Fulton (where a new boat is under construction) and the new canal visitors center at the national recreation area.

The Association was represented at the conference by Dave and Bunny Johnson and John and Janice Frye. This year's was the fourth annual meeting since the series began in 1988, and it lived up to the standards set by the



A Scene Along Canal Fulton near the Ohio and Erie Canal
(Photo by Dave Johnson)

preceding ones. Previous conferences were held at Morris, IL; Easton, PA and Chaffey's Lock, Ontario. Much credit for the success of this year's conference goes to Park Ranger Rory Robinson of CVNRA and Paul Labovitz of the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, the organizers and moderators.

---Dave Johnson

THOMSON NAMED INFORMATION OFFICER

The Board of Directors, on September 29, selected John Seabury Thomson to fill the unexpired term of Anne Korff as Information Officer. John, a former board member, has been active in the Association for many years and is well known for his years of leadership in the Canoe Cruisers Association. Anne resigned the position because she and her husband, Arthur, have moved to Newport News, Virginia, and she felt that she could not do the job from that distance.

BOOK REVIEW

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal



A Guide to Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park; Handbook 142; Division of Publications; National Park Service; Washington, D.C.; 1991; 112 pp.; \$4.50.

At last, the National Park Service has come out with a publication that does justice to the C&O Canal, and it was truly worth waiting for. This handbook is first-class in every respect. Most spectacular are the full-color illustrations, both photographs and artwork. The latter include cutaway renderings of canalboats, lockhouses,

engineering achievements and a composite scene showing canal construction and operation.

The text is detailed and comprehensive and contains 56 pages on the historic canal and a 32-page guide and adviser on the modern national park. The latter includes concise travel information, maps and details of both cultural and natural resources throughout the park. I noted very few errors in the text and captions, the most obvious being the identification of the Williamsport lift-bridge with the wrong railroad company.

This book is a real gem—one that every fan of the C&O Canal will want to have. It is sold at park visitor centers and can be purchased by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

---Dave Johnson

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE REPTILIAN KIND ALONG THE C&O CANAL

[Reprinted from the November 11, 1991 issue of the Audubon Naturalist News, a publication of the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States]

Of All the reptiles along the restored sections of the C&O Canal, pond turtles are certainly the most obvious. Red-bellied turtles, painted turtles, spotted turtles, and red-eared sliders are common sights along the waterway as they haul themselves out on logs, branches, and rocks to bask in the warmth of the sun. Snapping turtles and stinkpots also are seen occasionally, although they are generally more secretive and tend to stay in the water.

If you look a little more closely you might also glimpse the blue tail of a young five-lined skink as it darts beneath a rock or between the planks that make up the numerous boardwalks and bridges on the canal. Skinks are fairly evenly distributed throughout the area, unlike the northern fence lizard, which is seen perching primarily on tree trunks in the open pine woods. This lizard's strong affinity for pine habitat accounts for its aliases, "pine lizard" and "pine swift." As the name "swift" suggests, this animal is not apt to sit still while you make a leisurely attempt to catch it. It has a frustrating habit of keeping the tree trunk between you and itself, gradually working itself higher up the tree, until it is well out of reach and free to bask again or chase down the occasional bug. Of all the reptiles that I enjoy watching, however, snakes give me the greatest pleasure and thrill, maybe because they're so quiet, secretive, and difficult to spot.

One summer afternoon on the Billy Goat Trail, I came across three adolescent boys absorbed in the act of poking a stick under a rock. It was obvious that they were on to something.

"What are you fellows doing?" I asked.

"We've got a snake cornered under this rock. By the looks of it, it's a copperhead--a *big* one," one of them answered.

I must admit, I was a bit skeptical, because almost everyone in this area who sees a snake readily identifies it as a copperhead, regardless of its color, size, or disposition.

"Well, let's have a look," I said as I knelt down on the path and peered under the stone. I was delighted to make out the upturned snout of the terrified fugitive, and I can only imagine the horror of these three boys as I reached in and pulled out a fairly stout, strongly patterned, rusty-colored serpent from under its retreat. It was just under three feet long and obviously upset at the intrusion.

Now, I really don't blame these boys for mistaking this harmless hognose snake for the copperhead because to the untrained eye both species have many features in common. They both share the same general coloring and pattern and have the same stout build. This particular hognose, sensing danger, also flared its neck giving its head a "triangular" appearance. The upturned snout which gives the hognose its name, however, is a dead giveaway. Other less obvious aspects--the absence of vertically elliptical eye pupils and heat sensing "pits" on the front of the face--make it apparent to a naturalist that the hognose is not even remotely related to the pit vipers--the family of snakes to which the copperhead, cottonmouth, and rattlesnake belong.

"Well, this is one copperhead that isn't going to hurt you," I said, revealing the true identity of the snake in front of us. "By the way, what on earth would you guys have done with this snake if you *had* caught it and it was a copperhead?" I asked. Naturally, they hadn't really given it that much thought.

I don't advocate stressing animals, but I did prod and annoy our hognose just enough for it to do what it is famous for and to offer the boys a vivid lesson in defensive strategy. Understandably, the hognose was still quite excited and continued to flatten its neck and hiss. With a little more provocation it repeatedly struck at me. Of course, not one of its lunges ever connected, although it put on a formidable show. In all the years that I've been dealing with snakes, I've never actually known a hognose to bite. The snake tired quickly and, seeing that its exits were blocked, promptly turned over on its back. Its stomach caved in, its mouth went slightly askew, and its

tongue extended partially out of its mouth.

"Looks pretty dead to me...flip it over on its belly," I suggested to one boy. He did so, very gingerly, with a stick. The snake immediately flipped itself onto its back again--as we all know, that's the only respectable position for a dead snake. We released the snake into the bushes, not much the worse for wear, and it resumed its proper role in life--eating toads.

I'm sure the planners of the canal didn't anticipate it, but the construction of this remarkable waterway created what is probably one of the longest man-made snake dens in the world. There are 184 miles of canal (complete with retaining walls), 74 lift locks, and hundreds of culverts to carry roads and streams under the "magnificent ditch." All these wonderful miles of rock, stone, and brick offer countless crevices, pockets, cavities, and ledges for snakes and lizards to inhabit. Situated on the north side of the Potomac River, these walls are blessed with southern exposure, excellent for keeping the spaces under the canal from freezing during the winter. Reptiles that take refuge here, well under the frost line, are protected from fatal sub-zero temperatures and potential enemies. With the exception of an occasional turtle or two--which you can sometimes see swimming under the ice in winter--you won't see many reptiles in November unless we have unusually warm weather.

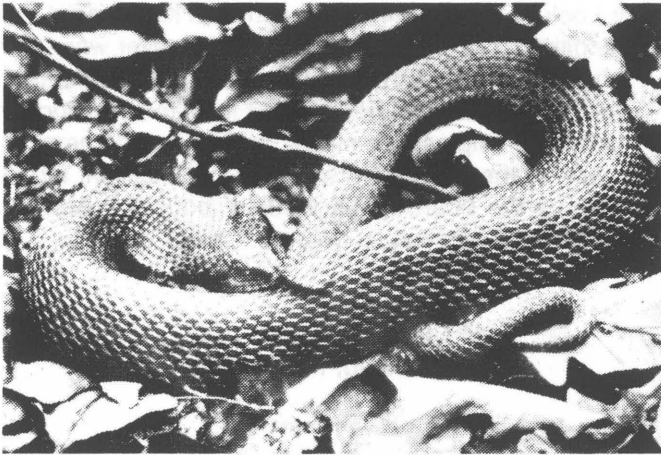
As you walk the canal on a frosty fall morning, you can take comfort in the thought--at least some of us do--that the splendid snakes and lizards are dormant for the time being, waiting for the warm weather to lure them out of their refuges. They can resume the annual cycle of reproduction, feeding, shedding, basking, and avoiding young boys.

---Bela Demeter [Bela Demeter is a zoologist with the National Zoological Park and has worked at the Reptile House for 18 years.]

The Eastern Hognose: Some Vital Statistics

The eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platyrhinos*) is just one of about 20 snake species that are found along the C&O Canal. It is a highly variable snake in coloration and pattern, which could make identification difficult but for the upturned snout, not found on other snakes in this area. Colors may range from yellow, brown, gray, olive, orange, to red. The snake is usually spotted, but solid black and gray specimens are common in some areas.

Mating occurs in the spring and fall, and females can lay up to 61 eggs in one clutch. These eggs generally hatch in June and July.



Hognose Snake
(Photo by Mark Garland,
Audubon Naturalist Society)

At first glance one could easily confuse hognose patterns with the northern water snake, copperhead, corn snake, milk snake, and even the black rat snake. Black rat snakes have a blotched pattern as juveniles, leading people to speculate that black rat snakes interbreed with copperheads. This fallacy is presumably supported by observations of black rat snake adults and young sharing den sites with copperheads. Many species of snakes including hognose utilize these common denning areas, and such sightings would not be unusual.

Hognose snakes are usually found in close association with toads, their primary diet. Their favorite habitats are generally sandy areas near water. Although many sites along the Canal meet those criteria, hognose snakes are not as abundant there as they are on the Eastern Shore. A canal hiker is more likely to encounter black rat snakes, garter snakes, water snakes, and an occasional copperhead. No "water moccasins" are found here. The northern limit of the cottonmouth (water moccasins) is the Dismal Swamp in southeastern Virginia.

NATURE NOTES Winter

A passing breeze stirs a whirl of dry leaves. Gone is fall's riot of color, but leathery oak leaves, shining green holly and duller green honeysuckle add color to the warm grays and browns of open space and woodland. Close at

hand, red holly berries punctuate the grays and browns. With luck and knowledge of where to look, the red berries of deciduous holly or winter berry stand out against the blue sky. In hidden places on the woodland floor, red partridge berries nestle against the dark green, ground-hugging leaves.

The giant puffballs that suddenly dotted the woods last fall have left no trace, but the shelf fungi become more prominent in the leafless woods. Old logs and stumps are veritable gardens of fungi, mosses and lichens.

A single garter snake still hunted a winter hiding place in late November. Already the beavers had found the cool nights ideal for their feverish gnawing, leaving scores of stumps as evidence. On the river, flocks of coots make merry, swimming to and fro, diving fluttering their wings and diving again. Flocks of Canada geese rise from the river, swoop here and there, but obviously have no intention of leaving this place where they have spent at least a dozen winters. The pair of bald eagles, likewise, seems intent on staying. At the end of this--their sixth--year of nesting on Conn Island, one can often be seen flying overhead or perched on a bare tree in mid-river.

Deer flick their tails, dashing madly for woodland cover when they feel they are being watched. The patch of club moss that was once so prominent in the winter woods has been chewed down to extinction. Are deer, perhaps, overburdening the local food supply and eating club moss more or less as a last resort?

Last year's birds' nests; the seeds, berries and nuts left from this year; and next year's buds stir speculation as to what the next season will bring. Hardly have the scraggly petals of witch hazel fallen before it is time to look for skunk cabbage, poking through the muck in the swamp.

For these and other sights and sounds of winter, join walks on the first and last Wednesday and Saturday every month, starting at 10:00 a.m. at Great Falls Tavern with a brief slide show indicating what is currently being observed. Special walks for children accompanied by one or more adults are also scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on the first and last Saturday each month.

---Helen L. Johnston

[Editor's note: If Helen Johnston's column sounds like it has been written from long experience in our local woods, it has. Next year marks the eighteenth year since Lee Struble first recruited Helen and Betty Henson for separate

wildflower walks. Later they joined forces and added Betty Bushell. The "Sights and Sounds" walks organized by these three women are now a regular feature of the Association's annual activities. Each year the three ladies log almost 150 miles each in the woods of the park. If you haven't already, why not join them next year?]

C&O CANAL ASSOCIATION

1991-92 Association Officers

President: David M. Johnson - 9211 Wadsworth Dr.; Bethesda, MD 20817; 301-530-7473.

First Vice President: Harold A. Larsen - 1314 Kurtz Rd; McLean, VA 22101; 703-356-1809.

2nd VP & Level Walker Chairperson: Karen M. Gray - 825 New Hampshire Ave., NW, #304; Washington, D.C. 20037; 202-333-6947.

Secretary: Helen Shaw - 8721 Burning Tree Rd; Bethesda, MD 20817; 301-365-1933.

Treasurer: William J. Evans - 3813 Juniper Rd; Baltimore, MD 21218; 301-243-6315.

Information Officer: John Seabury Thomson - 23 Grafton St.; Chevy Chase, MD 20815; 301-656-3630.

Board of Directors: (Terms expire in 1994) Ralph H. Donnelly, John C. Frye, Carl Linden, Linda Perry, Lyman Stucker. (Terms expire in 1993) Nancy Long, Kenneth Rollins, Thomas Conlon, Rita Bauman. (Terms expire in 1992) Victor P. Conrad, Judith A. Hecht, Orrin Long, Donna Boies, Arthur Korff, James R. Millar.

Editorial Staff

Editor: Don Besom - 6604 Rannoch Ct; Bethesda, MD 20817; 301-320-6108.

Associate Editors: Katherine Savage and Nancy Hartsock.

Production and Distribution: Susan "Butch" Henley, Anne Briggs, Judy Hecht, Mary Blackwell.

Correspondents: Melvin Collins in Allegheny County; Mr. & Mrs. Earl Mills in Harpers Ferry and all other members who wish to contribute.

Photographer: Betsy Little.

"Along the Towpath" is published in March, June, September and December by the C&O Canal Association; P.O. Box 366; Glen Echo, MD 20812-0366. Contributions should be received by the 15th of the month before an issue is due to come out. Members are encouraged to send in materials, including articles, letters and photographs for inclusion in the newsletter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I lived on the canal two doors upstream from Lockhouse #75 at North Branch during the '30's; trapped muskrats, ice skated, and chewed anise. All three locks--73, 74, and 75--as I remember were in operational order.

The parents of then-State Senator Robert Kimble lived at Lock #74. A family by the name of Calzone lived at Lock #73 and a family by the name of Kiefer lived at Lock #75, where the visitor center now is. The exterior of the house at Lock 75 looked much the same as its restored current condition. During the flood of '36, the river was near the road to the rear of #75, and over it in part where the road dips. The canal was full of water from the flooding, and a couple of unpleasant nights were passed there at the height of the water. Some beautiful, excellent farm land went by the board when industry bought it nearby and converted it into refuse treatment area.

Walter L. Wilt
47 Glymont Road
Indian Head, MD 20640

Gentlemen:

This letter is to report that I thru-hiked the towpath and that I have a few suggestions for improvements along the towpath and in the information available to hikers. While I flew out of Ft. Lauderdale on the morning of September 19, flight cancellations and delays owing to bad weather kept me from reaching the trail until 6:45 that night. I finished the trail around 5:00 p.m. on September 28. While most of my body was in shape for the trip, my feet apparently were not and the twenty miles or so a day I walked produced a succession of blisters. Thank God for moleskin. While all of the trail was enjoyable it was not until I got past Harpers Ferry that the crowds began to thin and there were fewer airplane, helicopter and highway noises. Also, it was not until mid-week that the bikers thinned out and I began to see more wildlife--nine deer one morning and seven another. Also, in the semi-darkness of one evening I think I saw a pair of eagles. In fact, I may have caused one to drop its evening meal as I saw a dead squirrel spreadeagled on the towpath with severe lacerations about its head. Memorable too was the night in the Devil's Alley Hiker-Biker Overnighter for the beavers swimming in the river (I never did see any in the canal) and the hoot of the owls. I camped out every night except one and I only had company at a camp site one night.

As for suggestions for improvement, while the HBOs are great, there is no place along the trail where one can take shelter from the rain. I would encourage the NPS to experiment putting in a few Appalachian Trail style three-sided shelters or at least a roof over a few of the HBO picnic tables. It's always a welcome thing to eat at least

one meal a day out of the rain.

As for information available to hikers, I used the 1990 Towpath Guide by Hahn which I purchased from your booth at the ATC Williams '91 Meeting. While the Guide has much to commend it, from the thru-hiker's standpoint it could be improved. Also, if it is the official or semi-official guidebook of the Association, I think that the Association should produce an annual update sheet that could be made available to towpath users. For example, I walked off the trail to buy supplies at Kaplan's Grocery in Williamsport. While I enjoyed meeting the Kaplans, their store had been closed for three years. To buy groceries or go to a restaurant I would have had to back-track at least 1/2 mile. While that would not be much for a bicyclist, for one with a backpack and sore feet it's a lot. The Hahn Guide should tell how to get to the stores, etc. in that town including distances. Also, an update sheet from the Association could inform towpath users that Kaplan is now closed. Also, an update sheet could inform users that the pump and toilets have been removed from the Mt. Look Recreation Area. The Guide also could be more specific about how far a grocery store is from the trail in Brunswick (A local person told me it was a long ways and up a steep hill.), just where the water pump is located in the Antietam Creek Recreation Area (It's way upstream.), etc.

Finally, hikers on the AT get information from each other by means of notebook-registers posted at many shelters and even some special stands. Should the NPS cover some picnic tables or put in AT style shelters, those places would be naturals for notebooks. Also, the Association might want to request that official ones be installed at both milepost 0.0 and 184.5. I can guarantee that they would make interesting reading.

I appreciate all the work the Association has done, and I shall look forward to receiving future copies of "Along the Towpath."

Edward B. Selby, Jr.
1781 S.E. 9th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316

[Editor's note: Although Thomas Hahn's book, Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal is sold at Association information stands, it is not an official Association publication and suggestions for changes should be directed to the author himself. Those using the Hahn Guide or any other book on the C&O Canal should be prepared for changes that occur regularly in the area adjoining the park.]

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Notes From Association Board Meetings

The Association's Board of Directors met on September 29 at the Williamsport Library. Among the items of business discussed were:

1. Treasurer's Report --

C & O Canal Association

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 30, 1991

Summary of Operations	Income	Expenses	Net
Administrative Functions	\$ 9,197	\$ 7,853	\$ 1,344
Sales (Patches, Shirts, Totes, Books)	1,097	640	457
Annual Meeting	1,068	1,035	33
Douglas Hike	1,720	1,633	87
Heritage Hike	204	200	4
Totals	<u>\$13,286</u>	<u>\$11,361</u>	<u>\$ 1,925</u>

Balance Sheet	9/30/91	12/30/90 (Incr. (Decr.))
Assets:		
Cash	\$14,338	\$10,289 \$ 4,049
Accounts Receivable	27	49 (22)
Prepaid Expenses	228	457 (229)
Other Assets	125	50 75
Inventories	1,733	2,320 (587)
Equipment	470	470 -0-
Accumulated Depreciation	(90)	(60) (30)
Total Assets	<u>\$16,831</u>	<u>\$13,575</u> <u>\$ 3,256</u>
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 800	\$ 61 \$ 739
Sales & Use Tax Payable	28	-0- 28
Other Current Liabilities	10	1,451 (1,441)
Davies Defense Fund	2,351	345 2,006
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 3,189</u>	<u>\$ 1,857</u> <u>\$ 1,332</u>
Accumulated Operating Results	13,642	11,718 1,924
Totals	<u>\$16,831</u>	<u>\$13,575</u> <u>\$ 3,256</u>

Detail of Administrative Functions

For the period ended September 30, 1991

	Actual to Date	Current Budget	Balance	Percent Realized
Income:				
Dues	\$ 8,670	\$ 9,200	\$ 530	94%
Interest	424	500	76	85
Other	103	-0-	(103)	
Total Income	<u>\$ 9,197</u>	<u>\$ 9,700</u>	<u>\$ 503</u>	<u>95%</u>
Expenses:				
Newsletter	\$ 3,163	\$ 5,080	\$ 1,417	62%
Bulletin	282	500	218	56
President	339	700	361	48
Secretary	114	205	91	55
Treasurer	183	238	55	77
Information Officer	-0-	45	45	
Level Walkers	71	82	11	87
Environmental Committee	-0-	100	100	
Membership Coordinator	618	680	62	91
Membership Committee	1,067	1,000	(67)	107
Archives Committee	-0-	70	70	
Program Committee	-0-	30	30	
Volunteers Committee	-0-	25	25	
Nominating Committee	311	336	25	93
Publications Committee	-0-	75	75	
Stationery	-0-	400	400	
Dues & Contributions	175	300	125	58
NPS Grant	1,000	1,000	-0-	100
Depreciation	30	70	40	43
Davies Legal Fund	500	500	-0-	100
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 7,853</u>	<u>\$11,436</u>	<u>\$ 3,583</u>	<u>69%</u>
Nets	<u>\$ 1,344</u>	<u>\$ (1,736)</u>	<u>\$ 3,256</u>	

2. Potomac River Basin Consortium -- Following Carl Linden's report on the work of the Potomac River Basin Consortium, the Board voted to continue Association membership.
3. Proposed Solid Waste Recycling Facility -- Following a discussion of this new facility, the Board decided that it should seek more information on the project before deciding the Association's position on the idea of locating it near the Park.
4. Information Officer -- Anne Korff is moving out of the area and has submitted her resignation as Information Officer. John Seabury Thomson was selected to replace her.

NOMINEES FOR 1992 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The nomination committee has come up with the following slate of Association officers for 1992:

President -- **David M. Johnson**, Bethesda. Member of the Board of Directors since 1985; Budget Committee 1984, 1988; Internal Audit Committee 1987, 1988; Chairman, Environmental Committee 1986-8; Treasurer 1989, 90; President 1991; level walker, active on NPS volunteer projects.

1st Vice-President -- **Harold A. Larsen**, McLean. President 1986-90; 1st Vice-President 1990; level walker, Fort Frederick. Would continue efforts to increase membership, particularly among younger people; an advocate on environmental issues, active in volunteer work and interested in promoting canal among local communities.

2nd Vice-President -- **Karen M. Gray**, D.C. Third year in charge of level walkers. Will seek reports from every level at least once a year, making special effort to identify littered areas for clean up.

Secretary -- **Norma K. Hendrickson**, Silver Spring. Librarian at Library of Congress; Association member for 2-1/2 years; level walker, Noland's Ferry. Interested in canal for hiking, biking and canoeing.

Treasurer -- **William J. Evans**, Baltimore. Partner law firm Miles & Stockbridge; Association member since 1983; Treasurer 1990; level walker. Enthusiastic cyclist on towpath; treasurer for numerous organizations.

Information Officer -- **John Seabury Thomson**, Chevy Chase. Incumbent recently appointed. Retired China specialist; President and long-time member of Canoe Cruisers Association.

Board Members -- **Victor P. Conrad**, Hagerstown. Renominated current board member. Will continue to

guard against encroachment, support rewatering without dismemberment of vegetation or disturbance of wildlife, will stress wilderness aspects of park.

John Fondersmith, D.C. Urban planner. Completed 1989 thru-hike; Heritage Hike Committee 1990; Chairman Douglas Hike Committee 1991. Concerned with retaining historic and environmental character of canal and improving availability of information on canal and Potomac valley.

Sharon H. Freedman, Gaithersburg. Native Marylander; tour group marketer for Marriott. Feels that Association must support volunteer efforts to protect beauty and history of canal.

Berton G. Grose, Arlington. Arlington resident for 21 years; auditor for the IG office of the Department of Justice. Level walker for Edwards Ferry; volksmarcher. Desires to preserve the canal for people and the future.

Orrin Long, Falls Church. Incumbent board member. Feels that conservation of canal resources well served, but as a continuing board member would resist pressures adversely affecting park and environment.

James Millar, D.C. Renominated appointee to board; level walker on two levels. Would seek to attract new, young members.

Clifton C. Murdock, Kensington. Long-time Maryland resident and Association member; level walker; worked 3 years with Bill Davies on canal company records, including gazette of place names and index of persons. Interested in enjoying, protecting and preserving park.

Douglas Mussen, Keyser, W.Va. Level walker; Boy Scout leader of two 184 mile towpath transits. Has deep respect for maintaining canal as an historic, living museum; would seek to increase recognition of the canal as a tourism resource for Cumberland and to preserve heritage for children.

Helen Shaw, Bethesda. Lawyer in environmental law. Association Secretary for last 2 years; participant in 1989 thru-hike. Impressed with the canal as a unique national treasure.

Milton J. Stickles, Jr., Chevy Chase. Retired Navy lawyer now in private maritime practice. A hiker who wants to conserve things as they are but not inflexibly.

Additional nominations may be made by writing to the C&O Canal Association; P.O. Box 366; Glen Echo, MD 20812 or orally at the Annual Meeting on February 29 in Williamsport.

---Bill Speck, Chairman of the Nominating Committee

ON THE LEVEL...notes and news on the Level Walker Program

by Karen Gray, Level Walker Chair

825 New Hampshire Ave. NW #304, Washington, DC 20036
202/333-6947

HIKES SPONSORED BY THE LEVEL WALKER PROGRAM -- EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Saturday, February 2, 1992, Pennyfield Lock, 10 a.m. We'll walk downstream to Swains Lock and back. To reach Pennyfield go north on River Road through Potomac, MD to Pennyfield Road on your left.

LEVEL WALKERS--WINTER AND EARLY MARCH IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT YOUR LEVEL as the lack of foliage allows you to best see the condition of structures and the sides and prism of the canal as well as the sides of the towpath. Winter is the true test of how much litter there is on your level as it is then that much becomes visible in the growth beside the towpath or in the canal that you can't see at other times of the year.



Level Walker Arthur Stier picking up litter on level #22
(Photo courtesy of Karen Gray)

LEVEL WALKER REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD: AUGUST THROUGH OCTOBER.

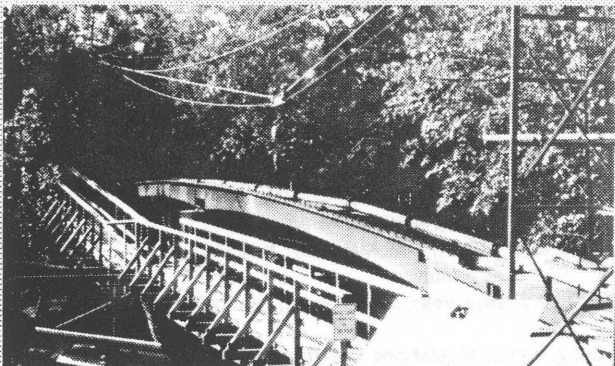
[Note: next deadline for November-January reports:
February 5, 1992.]

Summary of reports: Frequently expressed concerns included the need for garbage cans in heavily used locations and for regulations and signs to get bikers to signal with a bell as they approach walkers from behind. Signs of unusual dryness such as the Potomac's low level and the canal bed dry were commented on by a number of level walkers during this period. Signs of horses are now frequently seen and down the towpath. The towpath itself seems to be in good condition for the most part and comments on good masonry work by NPS workers were made by

several walkers.

- 01: 0.0-2.3; Tide Lock-Boat Incline
Leslie Sobin
- 03: 5.0-7.5; Lock 5-Cabin John
Howard Rosen, James & Joan Wilson
- 04: 7.5-9.4; Cabin John-L.14
Carolyn Reeder, Howard Rosen
- 05: 9.4-12.3; Lock 14-Cropley
Harry Ford, Theresa Haddy (2 reports), Jim Murray
Marsden Tract outhouses relocated off the towpath and not in sight of it.
- 06: 12.3-14.3; Cropley-Gt.Falls
Helen Johnston
Four page report on human use and nature. Emphasized that the need for docents who can provide information will increase with the opening of the bridges to Olmsted Island and pointed out the serious need for better crossing where water often flows over the rocks at the upper end of widewater. Four new rustic benches along the towpath in the Widewater area.
- 07: 14.3-16.6; Gt.Falls-Swains
Reinaldo Rios
Sent photos that included many large puffballs.
- 10: 22.8-25.0; Seneca-10Ft.Is.
Leslie Meil
Appears to be many more visitors at Swains, Pennyfield and Riley's Lock. Tremendous amounts of nuts this year and many signs of beaver activity.
- 11: 25.0-27.2; 10Ft.Is.-Sycamore Landing
Sharon Freedman
Many fallen Paw Paws smaller than last year.
- 13: 30.8-33.2; Edwards Fy.-Harrison Is.
Don Groelsema, Bert Grose
Major maintenance work done in August on the towpath included adding crushed rock and grading especially mile 31-32.5.
- 16: 39.4-42.2; Woods L.-Monocacy
Chris & C. H. Breedlove, Janet Lanman
Need for litter barrel at the warm water fishing area near power plant. Need for toilets at Monocacy Aqueduct.
- 18: 44.6-48.2; Nolands Fy.-Pt.of Rocks
Norma Hendrickson, Marlow Madeoy
- 22: 58.0- 60.7; Weaverton-Harpers Ferry
Gil Hill & Carol Galaty, Arthur & Larue Stier
New small park near Sandy Hook reported. Severe trash problem at Sandy Hook.
- 23: 60.7-62.3; Harpers Ferry-Dam 3
Ron Howard, Bob & Eileen Rabson
- 29: 74.0-76.7; L.39-Snyders Landing
Marshall Grotenhuis
- 30: 76.7-79.4; Snyders Landing-L.40
Paul Redmer
- 31: 79.4-81.6; L.40-Marsh Run Culvert
Paul Redmer
- 32: 81.6-84.4; Marsh Run Culvert-Dam 4
Bejay Myers & Edith Wilkerson
- 33: 84.4-88.1; Dam 4-McMahons/Chas.Mill
Paul & Rita Martha
Many large trees down during a summer windstorm about mile 85.
- 34: 88.1-91.0; McMahons Mill-Foremans Fy
Tom Perry (2)
Worked particularly hard to clean trash from streams around

- McMahon's (Charles) Mill.
 36: 93.0-94.4; L.43-Falling Waters
 Ed O'Malley
 Heavy use by motorized vehicles on parts of this level by those who use it for access to their property included pickup truck with boat trailer, 2 cars, 10 gasoline-powered golf carts.
 39: 102.3-105.0; High Rock Q.-Nessle Br.
 E. R. Dolly Dieter
 Found bagged remains of deer—suggesting poaching. Severe litter at Gift Rd. parking area and fishing spots nearby.
 41: 106.8-108.6; Dam 5-Four Locks
 Bernie & Jane Guyer
 43: 110.4-112.4; McCoys Fy.-Ft.Frederick
 Karen Gray
 44: 112.4-114.5; Ft.Frederick-Ernestville
 Jane & Harold Larsen
 Walked with 71 others as part of a walk-a-thon for world hunger.
 45: 114.5-116.0; Ernestville-Licking Cr.
 James Doherty
 50: 130.0-134.1; L.53-Dam 6
 Gren Whitman & Janice Plotczyk (2) [Completed biking the entire towpath on Oct. 12.]
 White Rock HBO has been restored—abandoned years ago. Masonry pointing well done on Lock 54. Encountered 50 bikers participating in a fundraiser for a children's home in Boonsboro.
 51: 134.1-136.6; Dam 6-Sideling Hill Aq.
 John Popenoe
 52: 136.6-140.9; Sideling Hill-Little Orleans
 Kent & Marcia Minichiello
 57: 153.1-154.5; L.61-L.63 1/3
 Ken & Marcie Campbell
 58: 154.5-156.2; L.63 1/3-Paw Paw
 John & Anne Wisniewski
 59: 156.2-159.7; Paw Paw-Little Cacapon
 Robert Stevenson
 63: 167.0-170.8; Oldtown-Kelly's Rd.
 David J. Foley (2)
 64: 170.8-173.4; Kelly's Rd.-Spring Gap
 Sonny DeForge
 66: 175.5-177.7; North Branch-Mexico Farms
 Tom Conlon, Jim Sartwell



Olmstead Bridge under construction in October.
 The bridge is scheduled to be inaugurated April 23, 1991
 (Photo by Dave Johnson)

DIRECTORY C&O CANAL NHP TELEPHONE NUMBERS & PERSONNEL

HEADQUARTERS: Box 4, Sharpsburg, MD 21782 (301) 739-4200
 Superintendent - Thomas O. Hobbs x200
 Assistant Superintendent - Terri Savering x202
 Administrative Officer - Chris Streng x204
 Chief of Maintenance - Sam May x239
 Chief Ranger - Keith Whisenant x222
 Curator - (vacant) (cottage) x231, (archives) x230
 Chief, Interpretation & Visitor Services - Gordon Gay x223

PALISADES DISTRICT: 11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac, MD 20854

Great Falls Tavern
 general information recording (301) 229-2026
 specific information requests (301) 443-0024
 Rangers - Tom Nash, Chris Lea, Frank Cucurullo (301) 443-0721
 Administrative Technician - (vacant) (301) 443-0024

GEORGETOWN VISITORS CENTER: 1055 Thomas Jefferson St., Washington, DC
 Foundry Mall (202) 653-5844
 Ranger - Frank Cucurullo

The Palisades District begins at Milepost 0 (Tidelock)
 and continues to Milepost 31 just above Edwards Ferry.

PIEDMONT DISTRICT: Canal Road, Sharpsburg, MD 21782
 (near Antietam Aqueduct) (301) 739-4200
 after hours (301) 739-6179
 District Ranger - Dwight Stinson
 Rangers - John C. Frye, James Seibert, Roland Hamilton,
 Fred Biers, Bill Orlando, John Bailey

The Piedmont District begins at Milepost 31 just above
 Edwards Ferry and ends at Milepost 106 approximately 0.8 miles below Dam 5.

ALLEGHENY DISTRICT: 180 West Main St., Hancock, MD 21750
 (301) 678-5463

District Ranger - Martin Gallery
 Rangers - Rick Erisman, Paul Apple, Ken Newbraugh, Roger Ross,
 Rita Knox, William Orndorff, Robert Gray

The Allegheny District begins at Milepost 106 (0.8 miles below
 Dam 5) and ends at the Canal Terminus, Cumberland, Milepost 184.5

Abner Cloud House (202) 472-2679
 Georgetown Barge Operation (202) 472-4376
 Fletcher's Boat House (202) 244-0461
 Canal Clipper, Great Falls Tavern (301) 299-2026
 Western Maryland Station Center (301) 722-8226

THE ASSOCIATION WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Rosemary Atkinson, McLean, VA
 Richard Banister, Dana Point, CA
 Pauline Bassler, Silver Spring, MD
 William Bolhofer, Frederick, PA
 Mike Bray, Washington, DC
 Marion & Paul Burk, Egg Harbor, NJ
 Steve & Kathy Carroll, Washington, DC
 Jessica Cogen & Joel Newton, Arlington, VA
 William Bruce Dick, Sr., Hagerstown, MD
 Kenneth Film, Williamsport, MD
 Jack Fish, Sterling, VA
 Michael Fleshman, Annandale, VA
 Pamela Gillen, Arlington, VA
 Jack & Mary Lou Goembel, Great Cacapon, WV
 Thad Hecht, Arlington, VA
 Sue Heller, Waynesboro, PA
 Jim Higgins, Washington, DC

Kelly Hoard, Alexandria, VA
 Craig Howell, Washington, DC
 Barbara Johnson, LaVale, MD
 Joyce Johnson, Frostburg, MD
 Bruce Johnston, Hagerstown, MD
 Jacalyn Kalin, Washington, DC
 Herbert Katz, Silver Spring, MD
 Barrington King, Washington, DC
 Deborah & Barry Kistler, Mohrsville, PA
 Dennis McCann, Arlington, VA
 David & Kathleen Meyer, Gaithersburg, MD
 Doug & Anita Miller, Pasadena, MD
 William & Freda Miller, Paw Paw, WV
 Arthur & Claire Mobley, Bethesda, MD
 Edward & Jeanine Moore, Brunswick, MD

Robert Murphy, Hedgesville, WV
 Jeff Overton, Hagerstown, MD
 Edith Poetzsche, Washington, DC
 Sheila Riley, Westminster, MD
 Jane Sample, West Palm Beach, FL
 Philip Sapir, Bethesda, MD
 Christina Lynn Shirley, Arlington, VA
 Cynthia Smith, Arlington, VA
 John & Janice Smithson, Scott Depot, WV
 Elizabeth Stone, Bethesda, MD
 Robert Teates, Warrenton, VA
 Susan Thompson, Brunswick, MD
 Joan Trettau, Rockville, MD
 Nick & Peggy Weber, Pasadena, MD

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
1991		
December 7	Sat	"Frostbite" hike. Watch for details in a later newsletter.
1992		
January 11	Sat	New Members' Hike from Carderock downstream. Hike will start at 10:00 a.m. at the Carderock Recreational Area Pavilion. Dave Johnson, the Association President, will lead the hike. Hot cider will be served at the Pavilion at the conclusion of the hike.
February 2	Sat	10:00 a.m. Level Walker hike. Everyone is welcome to join the group in a roundtrip walk from Pennyfield Lock downstream to Swains Lock. See the "On the Level" section of this newsletter for more details.
February 29	Sat	Association Annual General Membership Meeting, Williamsport, Maryland. Details and reservation form will be included in the next Bulletin.
February 29	Sat	John Frye, an Association Council member and an interpretative guide with the National Park Service, will lead a hike in the Williamsport area where the annual meeting will be held. The hike will start at 10:00 a.m. More details will be published later.
May		A trip for Association members is planned on the Great Falls Canal Boat at Great Falls at 9:30 a.m. Look for more details in a later newsletter.
June		Dr. Dave Gardner will talk on C&O Canal History at the Glen Echo Town Hall. Further details will be published later.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME AGAIN

Membership in the C&O Canal Association is concurrent with the calendar year and expires on December 31. Therefore, unless you have already paid your dues for next year or are a new member who joined the Association after September 1, 1991, your 1992 dues are payable on January 1.

Prompt renewal will benefit you and the Association: it will ensure your right to vote for officers and board members at the annual meeting, it will generate a positive cash flow in the treasury and it will save the expense of sending out reminder letters later on.

Please use the renewal form to renew your membership now. If you are currently an individual or family member, please consider the Patron category for next year. The additional \$5 or \$10 will help our operating budget.

Also, won't you please add a contribution to the William E. Davies Fund? These donations are reserved to support actions or other special uses to defend against environmental threats to the C&O Canal.

The Association has been classified a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1992

I enclose my dues to renew my membership in the C&O Canal Association for 1992, in the category indicated at the right:

NAME: _____

INDIVIDUAL: ☐
\$10.00

ADDRESS: _____

FAMILY: ☐
\$15.00

PATRON: ☐
\$20.00

TELEPHONE: () _____

My contribution to the Wm. E. Davis Fund: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

☐ Please do not include my name on any list that may be exchanged with other organizations.

Please return this form with your payment. Make your check payable to "C&O Canal Association" and mail to the Association at P.O.Box 366, Glen Echo, MD 20812-0366

C & O Canal Association
P. O. Box 366
Glen Echo, Maryland 20812-0366

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JOHN C FRYE
3122 KAETZEL ROAD
GAPLAND, MD 21736

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