

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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THE MULE ISSUE

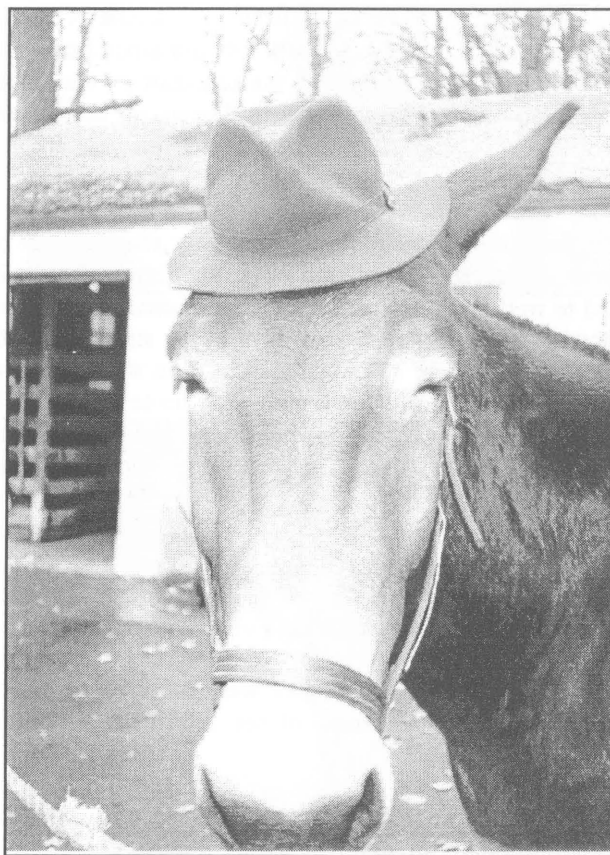
Eighty-two years ago, canal-boat captain Crampton named his daughter, born on the canal boat, Lillian in honor of his favorite mule, Lil. Since then Lillian Crampton Langdon has become well known to Association members through her writings, the hand-made "butterfly" quilt she presented to us, and through an oral-history interview, her addition to our knowledge of the old days on our waterway.

Now the name Lil has come full circle. The Association's board of directors had decided to help the park service buy a new mule. The Board later voted to accept a suggestion from Mr. Walter Wilt to name this addition to the mule team in honor of Mrs. Langdon. Thus a mule named Lil is once again pulling a boat on the C&O.

Carl Linden and I went to the stables at Great Falls to meet Lil. Her trainer, Frank Galvin, a doughty New Hampshireman who has spent many years teaching mules how to behave, presented Lil to us. The four-year-old he brought out of the stable was an alert and amiable beast with a beautiful glossy dark-brown coat flecked with gold. Frank spoke sharply to her to ensure her best behavior, meanwhile slipping her an Oreo cookie to show that his gruff exterior hid a soft-hearted mule lover. Lil responded by nuzzling him affectionately, although she may simply have been looking for more cookies.

On hand to assist Frank was Sarah Morgan, who volunteers regularly to assist with the mules. An employee of the U.S. Copyright Office in real life, she loves these beasts of burden, as was quite obvious. "She's a pet," said Sarah as she smiled indulgently at the mule. Lil responded with a

ferocious baring of teeth that may have been a smile. (See photo.) Sarah also provided carrots; she's not going to spoil the mule with sweets. Sarah's name for the new mule is



Lil looking quite dapper in Carl Linden's hat.

Photograph courtesy Hal Larsen

THE MULE, continued

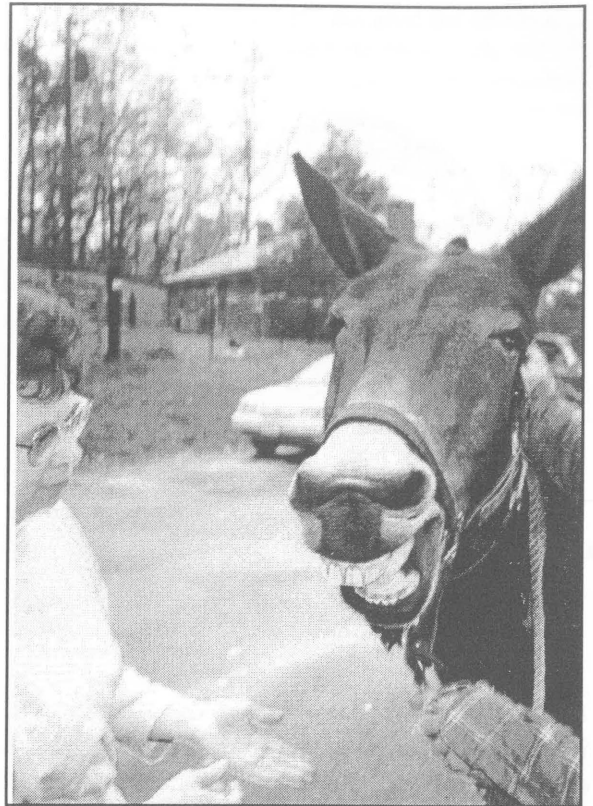
"Lillie Langtry," recalling the 19th-century English actress known in her time as the "Jersey Lily." Lil remained quite calm as she endured strokes and pats from her admirers. Carl placed his hat on her head for a photograph. She didn't seem to mind, although it made her look ridiculous. According to Frank, Lil at age four is by far the youngest member of the mule complement. Others are Ellie (age 14), Ida (15), Rhody (17), and Kate and Frances (19). Frank said that a mule is usually able to work until age 20 to 25. Every mule gets an identification tatoo on its gum, Lil's being "NPS 10." All the park mules are now female, but Frank said male mules would work just as well. They spend the winters at a stable at Mount Vernon. Recently deceased mules include Honeymoon, Whiskey and Molasses.

Frank put Lil to work in these last days of the canal-boat season at Great Falls. She has the lead position; she'll learn faster this way, said Frank. The commands are few and simple: "gee" -- to the right, "haw" -- to the left, "whoa" -- stop, and "get up" -- go. During the training period the commands are reinforced with tugs at the reins. Soon the mule responds without the tugs.

Lil will continue training through the winter at Mount Vernon. To accustom her to pulling a heavy load, Frank will have her pull him around on a sledge with a bale of hay for him to sit on. In addition, he will ride her around the fence lines at Mount Vernon to check the condition of the fences. He wants to train her for a long period to ensure her ultimate suitability for her task. She will spend a full year at Great Falls before she confronts the bedlam at Georgetown.

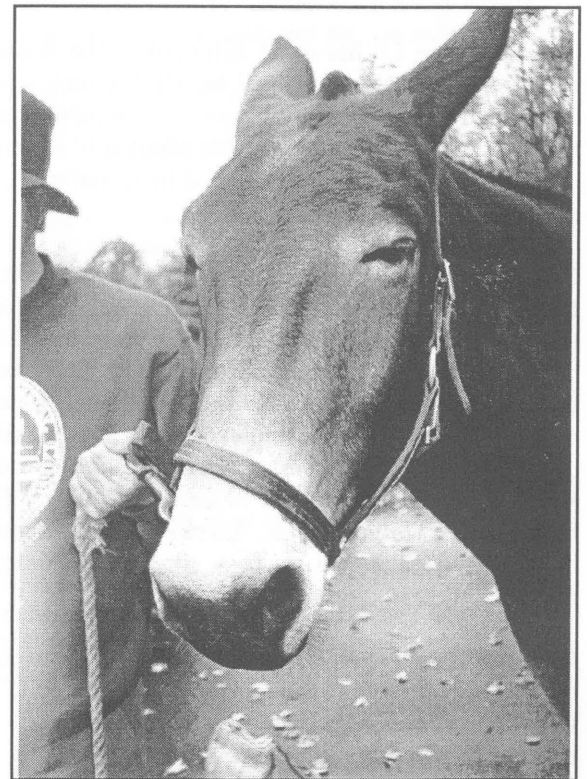
Mules are not only desirable for their easy adaptation to hot weather and acceptance of hard work, but they are especially suited to working in the park because they are not as nervous as horses. Indeed, as one sees them at the stables or in the paddocks, they seem remarkably calm. As we approached the fence at a paddock, three mules ran up to us fearlessly, obviously hoping for handouts. They had none of the skittishness seen in horses. Nonetheless, said Frank, they aren't always so calm and collected. He told of observing them one day when a few deer approached the fence from the woods, something that happens every day, he said, and which is always ignored by the mules. On this occasion, however, the deer made some kind of strange noises, perhaps some insult or provocation. The mules "went crazy," jumping up and down as if they were incensed or terribly frightened at the appearance of the deer. Frank couldn't explain it.

At four, Lil has a long life ahead of her. So we'll be seeing her pulling boats for years to come. Frank said he would welcome anyone from the Association who would like to visit Lil at the Great Falls stables. She is a beautiful beast, and Frank is ready to show her off and to answer questions.



Lil smiles with appreciation to volunteer Sarah Morgan and the C&O Canal Association.

Photograph courtesy Hal Larsen



Lil observes proper decorum as President Carl holds the reins.

Photograph courtesy Hal Larsen



Lil with Jane Larsen and Carl Linden.

Photograph courtesy Hal Larsen



NPS Mule Trainer Frank Galvin and Lil.

Photograph courtesy Hal Larsen

MEET THE MULE

Please welcome Lil the Mule to C & O Canal Palisades District's Interpretive Boat Program. Lil reported to Great Falls for duty at 1:30 p.m. the afternoon of October 10th.

At 2:00 that same afternoon, she gave her first program, "Meet the Mules," conducted by ranger Mark Meyers. Twenty-five to thirty children, and a like number of adults, enjoyed grooming and petting her. Since then, Lil has worked pulling the *Clipper* canal boat on a daily basis. The honor of being Lil's first *Lead Mule* driver was given to C & O's outstanding volunteer Neil Adams.

Lil is a four-year old Bay Mare. She stands 14.2 hands and weighs 1,170 pounds. She comes from a farm on the shores of Lake Anna, Virginia, where she was born.

NPS Release by Frank Gavin



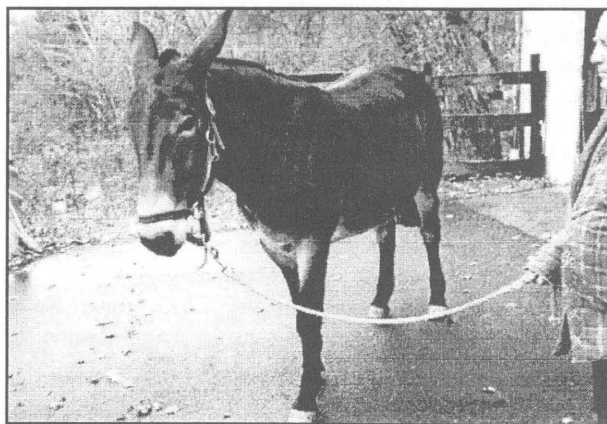
Lil in the lead.

Photograph courtesy Carl Linden



Sarah adjusts the harness.

Photograph courtesy Hal Larsen



Lil in full view.

Photograph courtesy Hal Larsen

THE C&O CANAL FUND

On October 6, 1994, the C&O Canal Association was notified by the National Park Foundation that the *C&O Canal Fund* had been established with \$1,000 received from the Association. Why?

In recent years, our Association has provided a contribution to the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park as an Annual Budget line item, the money to come from surplus over and above our internal administrative needs. The latest use of this money was to assist in the purchase of a new mule for the Georgetown.

Unfortunately, we are no longer running a surplus and in fact have a deficit in the current operating budget. To counter this situation, the Board of Directors has taken two significant steps. The first is a dues increase sufficient to meet our anticipated needs for at least the next 5 years. The second is the removal of the park contribution from the Annual Budget.

While these actions should serve to eliminate budget deficits, the latter was taken only after an alternative method of park project funding was secured. The method chosen was creation of the "C&O Canal Fund" to be managed by the National Park Foundation. This provides three distinct benefits: our annual budget needs are reduced, the Association is relieved of management of the monies, and the possibility of funding much larger projects is realized through encouraging broader participation in the funding process.

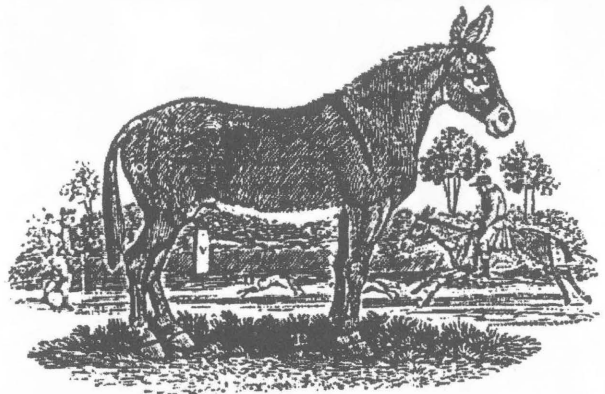
The National Park Foundation is a not-for-profit entity which provides management services for Funds benefitting National Parks. In return for a small fee, they accept, manage and disburse funds donated for the benefit of the Park. The Association retains full control of the disposition of the funds and will receive a report of fund activity from the Foundation annually. As in the past, both physical and interpretive projects will be eligible for funding.

A committee will be named to begin fund raising efforts. Among other things, our membership brochure will need revision to provide for Fund contributions, and a policy and strategy for fund-raising activities outside of our membership will need to be devised. This might include individual, foundation and corporate solicitation as well as general public awareness activities. The Board is in agreement that such fund-raising activities should not become a burden to the Board or to the general membership.

The "C&O Canal Fund" represents an exciting opportunity for our Association to become a more meaningful partner in the preservation and enhancement of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. We hope you will consider a contribution to the fund and will join in the enthusiastic promotion of the Fund to others.

- - Gary M. Petrichick

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The Mule

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

'Lil' and the C & O Canal Fund

"Give me my oats and I'll pull the boats!"
'Lil, the Mule (NPS 10).

What does the canal park's new mule, 'Lil,' have to do with the C & O Canal Fund that the Association has established with the National Park Foundation? As you know from the last issue of Along the Towpath the Association provided a matching grant to help the canal park buy Lil. Each year, we have drawn a thousand or two from our treasury, budget balance permitting, as a contribution to various park projects. The board has presumed that our members do not object to applying a portion of their dues for worthy purposes and projects in the canal park or our decision to help out with the park's purchase of 'Lil.' The new C & O Canal Fund will, in any case, enable our members and others to make contributions, both general and specific, directly to park purposes and projects. As before, the Association will oversee the use of the fund while the NPF will administer and invest the fund's monies. The Association hopes to continue to add to the fund as we did this year with a thousand dollar start-up contribution. We trust the new fund will enable our members and others outside the Association to do more for a canal park that is and is likely always to be on an all too short budget. This is an operating fund and every amount that comes in, small or large, will promptly be put to good use.

With all this said, the Association's expense for its customary activities slowly rises, our budget tightens, and we may not have a surplus to contribute to the park every year. Though we have long put off raising dues, we have now had to bite the bullet. Of the five dollars that will be added to each member's next dues bill, two dollars represents a 20% increase to cover projected costs over the next 10 years, and three dollars will be used entirely to cover first class postage for the Along the Towpath. Up to now we have sent the

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, continued

newsletter in third-class bulk mailings as an economy measure, but all too often our members complain of getting their copies so late that they do not find out about the Association's scheduled doings in a timely fashion. This, the board agreed, has proven penny-wise, pound-foolish.

At all events the Association has enjoyed a memorable year past. The Fortieth Anniversary Douglas Memorial Hike in April was, of course, its piece de resistance with Cathy Douglas Stone seeing our hikers off with stirring words. So many of our members pitched in to make the through-hike a most happy and successful canal experience for all who took part. But there were other high points in our activity as well. The annual Canoe Trip through the Paw Paw Bends in September was a scenic journey which this year featured Shakespeare at Stickpile. Bottom, the man Oberon turns into an ass, was played to perfection. There was the festive reunion in October of through-hikers, past and present, at the most hospitable Kanawha Club at Point of Rocks. Then, there was the Heritage Hike in November topped off by our crossing the Potomac on the famed Jubal Early to banquet in Leesburg. Everybody and his dog was out to enjoy the marvelous Fall weather. Ed Miller napped away the wait at White's ferry. On all these occasions the weather was idyllic. We must be doing something right. Let's all look forward to another good year on the canal and river in 1995!

- - Carl Linden

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SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING DECISIONS

September 24, 1994

The Board of Directors, C&O Canal Association, meeting in Williamsport on September 24, 1994, made the following decisions:

1. Helen Shaw reported that only 30 food and lodging guides are left. She moved that we reorder 1000 copies, making a few revisions to correct errors. Motion carried.

2. Bill Evans presented two motions by the Dues, Budget and Funding Committee. The first motion contained the following elements: (a) That dues be

increased by 20 percent to the following rates: individual, \$12 per year; family, \$18; patron, \$24. (b) That patron and life members shall receive the bulletin and the newsletter by first-class mail while other members shall receive those publications at the bulk rate, although other members may receive first-class mailing by paying an additional \$3.00. (c) That the Budget Committee shall include in the proposed budget a capital budget for adoption by the Board providing a maximum sum that may be expended each year for property and equipment and for the purchase or production of canal-related sales items. Helen Shaw moved to amend by establishing the dues rates at individual, \$15; family, \$20; and patron, \$25. Motion carried. Norma Hendrickson moved to amend by eliminating section (b) above and providing that the newsletter would go first class to all members. Motion carried. With these amendments the entire motion was approved.

3. The Committee's second motion, presented by Bill Evans, provided for the establishment of a restricted operating fund with the National Parks Foundation to be known as the "C&O Canal Fund" and to be governed by the following rules:

(a) The income and principal are to be expended by direction of the Board through the written request of the president and treasurer;

(b) Expenditures from the fund shall be exclusively for enhancement of the C&O Canal in ways not ordinarily possible under the Park Service budget;

(c) Contributions to the fund shall be made through the treasurer to the foundation and not retained as an asset on the Association's books;

(d) The Budget Committee shall include a line item in the proposed budget each year for the Association's own contribution to the fund;

(e) The President shall appoint a committee to conduct a fund-raising campaign to raise money for the fund;

(f) The fund's report of its activities shall be presented at the Association's annual meeting; and

(g) "Seed money" of \$1,000 shall be deducted from the 1994 budget total to found the fund.

Helen Shaw moved to amend element (d) above so that the establishment of the line item in the budget would include the proviso that the fund would replace the current system of funding park projects through a contribution from the operating budget. Motion carried. With this change the entire motion was approved.

- - Jane Larsen,
Secretary

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monthly	Wed, Sat	<i>Sights and Sounds of the Seasons</i> nature walks led by level walkers Betty Bushell, Betty Henson, and Helen Johnston are scheduled four times each month on the first and last Wednesday and Saturday. Each walk is introduced by a brief slide show concentrating on the area's natural history. Meet in Great Falls Tavern at 10 a.m.
Jan 1	Sat	Happy New Year. No VIP Workday.
Feb 4	Sat	VIP Workday 9 A.M. to Noon. Meet at Great Falls Tavern for work on the Towpath, weather permitting.
Mar 4	Sat	ANNUAL MEETING, 1:00 P.M., HARPERS FERRY at the Cliffside Inn and Motel.
Oct 2 - 6	Mon-Fri	1995 International Historic Canals Conference & First Annual Southern Canals Conference, Augusta, Georgia.
Jun 27-30 1996	Th-Sun	World Canal Conference Birminham, UK. Dates Provisional.

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NPS NEWS RELEASE

National Park Service
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park

DRINKING WATER NOT AVAILABLE AT C & O CANAL CAMPSITES AFTER NOVEMBER 21ST

Drinking water will not be available at the campsites (HBO) along the C & O Canal National Historical Park beginning Monday, November 21, 1994 through early spring of 1995.

Water to campsites is provided directly from deep wells, and must be sampled frequently to assure quality and meet public standards. Due to the difficulty of winter access and limited Park resources to service the areas and perform water sampling, all water pumps will be shut down beginning November 21st.

Hikers and bikers are urged to carry their own drinking water if they plan to hike or bike any distance along the canal. Drinking water will be come available again in the early spring, when the pumps are back in operation.

For more information on the C & O Canal, please call the Park headquarters at 301-739-4200, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M until 4:30 P.M.

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On Thursday, October 27, 1994, the footbridge at mile 59.6 at Sandy Hook on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was removed. The bridge had been identified as a significant

safety problem for hikers on the C. & O. Canal towpath and people using the Potomac River. The bridge was being removed at the request of CSX Railroad and to comply with Maryland law which prohibits trespassing on railroad property. The nearest crossing above Sandy Hook is the Lock 33/34 area between mile 60 and 61. Below Sandy Hook the nearest crossing is at Weverton at mile 58.1.

Further information is available by contacting Chief Ranger Keith Whisenant at 301-739-4200.

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SWEATSHIRTS AVAILABLE

Earlier this year, the Association offered sweatshirts with the C&O Canal Association logo for sale to members. Rita Bauman reports that a few sweatshirts are still available in extra large - burgundy and hunter green at \$16.00 each as well as extra-extra large - bergundy and royal blue \$17.00 each. The sweatshirts are a fifty percent blend of cotton and polyester. Cost does not include postage. If you are interested please give Rita a call at 703-888-1425 after six p.m.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION - 1995 ANNUAL MEETING

The following 1995 Slate of Nominations to the Board of the C&O Canal Association has been prepared by the Nominating Committee appointed by the President of the Association. The nominees are for the six officer positions and the five board member positions. Members wishing to place additional names in nomination, or suggest a candidate should contact one of the following nominating committee members:

- John Fondersmith (202-667-1357);
- Nancy Long (301-229-1369);
- Elizabeth Scott (301-585-8868);
- Helen Shaw (301 365 1933); and
- John Viner (301-881-4576).

Background Statements

Officers

For President: **CARL A. LINDEN** (Brookmont, MD)

Our Association has had a most enjoyable and fruitful year. Its high water mark was the 40th Anniversary Douglas Memorial Hike from Cumberland to Washington, a wonderful and unforgettable experience for the many of us who took part. Among other high points: we helped the canal park get a new mule, "Lil" and we set up a C&O Canal Fund with the National Parks Foundation enabling the Association to direct all donations received to worthy uses in and for the park. I would be most honored to serve once more as your President. The task is made light by the enthusiasm and devotion of so many of our members who give liberally of their time and talent in carrying out the Association's purposes. Moreover, I find no mere fringe benefit in the camaraderie and high spirits that we share in our common efforts. As before, there is more to be done. With your favor I will be glad to lend a hand again.

For First Vice President: **THOMAS L. PERRY** (Williamsport, MD)

I have served one year as vice president, and previously have served as a board member. With my wife, Linda, I live in Williamsport close to the park. We serve as level walkers. I have been accompanying youth and scout groups on "through" bike trips since 1970 and also enjoy hiking, camping and canoeing along the river and towpath. Whatever volunteer service I provide for the park, I consider small repayment for the pleasure and benefit I have received. I want to encourage others to know and value this resource and I am committed to the unending task of preserving and protecting it for those who come after.

For Second Vice President: **KEITH KRIDENOFF** (Baltimore, MD)

I have had the privilege of serving the past two years as Level Walker chair. I have been most impressed with the tremendous job and dedication of the Level Walkers. The program is a valuable resource and the level walkers deserve credit for helping to maintain the park. I would very much like to continue working with this fine group of volunteers.

I have been a member of the Association for over eight years. Over that time I have made a photo album of the entire canal to refamiliarize myself with it. These walks helped me to see the beautiful as well as the problem sections of the canal. It has made me appreciate the value of the work of the Level Walker program. I am also a member of the American Canal Society.

For Secretary: **JANE T. LARSEN** (McLean, VA)

When I first "discovered" the canal in the early 1970's, I regarded it only as a swell place to hike and bike. I never dreamed I'd join the C&O Canal Association, become a level walker, and someday be elected to office. But here I am asking you to vote me into a second term as secretary/board member.

For someone who's not a court reporter or crackerjack stenographer "getting it all down" as said during board of directors' deliberations, attributing what's said to the right people, and then deciding what should and should not go into the final published minutes is daunting, but I'd like to give it a whirl for at least one more term.

For Treasurer: **DAVID M. JOHNSON** (Bethesda, MD)

Past-president of the Association 1991-1994; Treasurer 1989-1991; director 1985-1989; chairman, Environmental Committee 1986-1989. Level walker and NPS volunteer. Member of the Board of Directors of American Canal Society and Pennsylvania Canal Society. Retired budget officer and financial manager, Department of the Navy.

As Treasurer, I will seek to continue to maintain the Association's accounts in accordance with standard accounting procedures, and maintain the integrity of the Association's fiscal activities. I will attempt to guide the Board of Directors in making sound and responsible budget and business decisions.

For Information Officer: **HELEN L. SHAW** (Bethesda, MD)

This past year has been an exciting and busy one to have been Information Officer and Publications Committee chair. I have been involved in the preparation and the distribution of the Food and Lodging Guide (which is now in its second printing) and publicizing the very successful Fortieth Anniversary Commemorative Douglas Hike. Another canal publication is now being planned, one that will update access points of the 185 mile canal and will include hiker biker locations, locks, aqueducts and other points of interest. As a "through" hiker this year and in 1989, and on my weekly walks along the towpath, I am continually awed by the wonders of our unique park. I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to assist the Association in its goals on behalf of the C&O Canal National Historical Park and to publicize the work of the Association.

CANDIDATES for the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** (listed in alphabetical order) Five Board Members are to be elected.

JOHN ANDERSON (Leesburg, VA)

I have been a member of the Association since 1970 and a level walker since joining; currently I am assigned to the Point of Rocks level. My interest in the C&O Canal began when I moved to the Washington area in 1969 when I participated in the walks and other activities sponsored by various organizations along the canal. I am a life member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, the Appalachian Trail Conference and the Wander birds Hiking Club. I have held office and served on various committees of all 3 organizations.

I would like to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association because I feel I can contribute significantly to the Association's goals and objectives. The C&O Canal is truly a national treasure and by working with the National Park Service we can leave to those who follow us a historic and recreational masterpiece well worth preserving.

RALPH H. DONNELLY (HANCOCK, MD)

I have been a member of the C&O Canal Association since the midfifties. Because of my long time membership, I have been able to gather together a collection of material dealing with early Association activities which are now part of our archives. I am a member of the Archives committee and am Chairman of the Environmental committee. The Environmental committee's work is especially important in helping to safeguard the C&O Canal from unwarranted encroachment. I think that the greatest goal of the Association should be the restoration and preservation of the continuity of the towpath.

WILLIAM J. EVANS (Baltimore, MD)

I have been a member of the C&O Canal Association since 1983 and have regularly attended membership, board, and committee meetings. I served as a Level Walker for some years on two levels. I am a lawyer and retired partner of the regional law firm of Miles & Stockbridge. Currently, I am chairman of the Legal Advisory Committee and am completing my fourth term as Treasurer of the Association. As a board member it is my hope to actively assist in the Association's efforts in preserving and enhancing our unique National Park.

KAREN M. GRAY (Washington, D.C.)

I have been a member since 1977 and from 1984 to 1993 served as either a board member or officer, including three years as second vice-president and Level Walker chair. Most recently I have helped with the development of the Food and Lodging Guide. It is apparent to me that public funds are no longer adequate to maintain the historic structures--including the towpath, the natural resources, or public facilities and services on a satisfactory level. Not only are few improvements or restorations possible in the current climate of minimal funding, but a decline in maintenance is apparent up and down the canal. In such a situation the role of the Association is particularly important. Our task, I believe, is to provide 1) a strong citizen advocacy voice, 2) monetary assistance for important projects that otherwise would be impossible, and 3) increasing volunteer effort in a variety of roles. The latter should include not just litter control and documentation of conditions, changes and usage through the level walker program; but also on public outreach through publications and by maintaining a high visibility both along the canal and at events and festivals throughout the region.

FRED I. MOPSIK (Cabin John, MD)

I have been a resident of the Washington metropolitan area since 1963, when I arrived to take a position with the National Bureau of Standards, now the National Institute of Standards and Technology, after receiving a PH. D. in physical chemistry from Brown University.

My interest in the C&O Canal can be traced back to a course in college where I studied the history of canals as part of a folk song class. My first contacts with the C&O Canal go back to rides to Great Falls before it became a park. When I moved to Cabin John nine years ago, the proximity of our house to Lock 8 was a great attraction. Since then, my wife and I have become quite devoted to the Canal. We had the pleasure of participating in the 40th Anniversary walk this spring. I have also helped in the preparation of the Food and Lodging Guide and designed and prepared the Walk Certificates. I am currently on the board of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Wastewater Treatment, where I acted as the unofficial ears of the Canal Association as well as my official role as president of the Cabin John Citizen's Association.

GARY M. PETRICHICK (Belmont, NY)

I am a fifty-seven year old retired community planner. I met and fell in love with the Canal in October 1989 and joined the Association about a year later. I'm an active user of the canal, with 11 bike trips, three Douglas hikes, including the 40th Anniversary "through" hike, 2 Heritage hikes, and four Paw Paw Bends Canoe Trips, I've been through the tunnel 17 times and over it once, have camped on the canal 68 nights in 23 of the 30 HBO's and in all drive-in, walk-in and canoe camps. I am a Level Walker on Level 53, from the Fifteen mile Creek Aqueduct to Lock 59.

I was elected Director last year to fill the unexpired term of a member and was appointed chairman of the Dues, Budget and Funding Committee. Service to the Association affords me the opportunity to pay back a small measure of what I receive from the Canal and the Association through participation in the protection, preservation and enhancement of the Canal as a natural, historical and recreational treasure.

PEGGY WEBER (Pasadena, MD)

I have been a member of the C&O Canal Association for the past four years. My husband, Nick, and I first happened to come across the canal on a camping trip to the Green Ridge State Park. At that time we followed the trail to the Paw Paw Tunnel and were fascinated by it. Then we found out what it was, became members, and have been hooked ever since. I have participated in some the many activities over the years, and have had some wonderful times with some wonderful people. Also, I am a level walker along with my husband.

I would like to help, in any way I possibly can, to get more people interested in the canal and see what a wonderful recreational and historic resource we have in the C&O Canal.

On The Level

By Keith D. Kridenoff
1994 Level Walker Chairman

Thanks go out to all the active level walkers who have helped make this a successful year. We have reports turned in for all but nine levels - 24, 36, 38, 41, 58, 62, 63, 64, & 69. With Fall and early Winter weather being so congenial, now is a good time to walk comfortably without the hazardous flora and fauna.

A disturbing matter was brought to my attention by a level walker who informed me that he had sent three level walker reports but didn't see them in the newsletter. I only received one and am concerned that it may have happened to others. If you have sent a report but not seen it in the newsletter, please let me know. Anyone interested in becoming a level walker please contact me at:

(410)661-8285
1725 Red Oak Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

Welcome New Level Walkers!

Ron Howard 24
Don & Carol Juran 25

The following reports were received by the November 5th deadline.
The next deadline is February 5th.

03 - 5 to 7.5

Lock 5 to Cabin John Creek

James & Joan Wilson (9/18,19,20)

Paths leading to canal & towpath are badly eroded and in need of repair. Trash cans need to be returned to this level.

04 - 7.5 to 9.4

Cabin John to Lock 14

Carolyn Reeder (8/13)

Erosion under beltway bridge finally repaired! Bad erosion spot 1/3 of the way between Locks 11 and 12. Lift Lock 9 sign is still missing.

06 - 12.3 to 14.3

Cropley to Great Falls

Harry Bridges (8/25) Ernest (11/1)

Towpath heavily used in this area. Widewater still remains a problem section.(8/25) Towpath clear but Lock 15 was full of trash. Makeshift bridge of 2X4's at Widewater making walking less dangerous.

07 - 14.3 to 16.6

Great Falls to Swains Lock

Mark Page (8/14)

Light trash, mostly fishing debris. Towpath and water level good.

08 - 16.6 to 19.6

Swains Lock to Pennyfield Lock

Paul & Maggie Davis (9/2,9/29,10/18) Ed Martin (10/10)

Nothing unusual to report although grass needs to be trimmed along level. (9/2) Large deposit of silt at mile 19. Construction of new bridge over Pennyfield complete.

(9/29) Tree down at mile 18. Swains parking lot and camp had considerable trash. (10/18)

09 - 19.6 to 22.8

Lock 22 to Seneca Aqueduct

Barbara & John Newland (9/3) John Fragale (10/8)

Campsite at Rileys and picnic area at Violettes Lock very clean. New footbridge at Pennyfields needed (9/3)

Recently downed tree extending from berm into canal at mile 22. (10/8)

10 - 22.8 to 25

Seneca Aqueduct to Tenfoot Island

Michael Werth (10/25)

Towpath in good condition but much algae in canal.

12 - 27.8 to 30.8

Sycamore Landing to Edwards Ferry

Teresa Cummings & Dave Hoerauf (8/6) Stephen Pollock (10/13) Charles Otstot (10/18)

Sycamore Landing still in great need of a trash can.

Towpath in good shape but in need of trimming.(8/6)

Towpath area has been trimmed. Canal bed dry throughout level.(10/13)

13 - 30.8 to 33

Edwards Ferry to Milepost 33

Bert Grose (8/6,10/1) Don Groelsema (8/15) Dave Gwatkin (10/29)

Collected one bag of trash. Spotted several animals and noted hickory and walnuts had fallen. (8/6)

Met large group of thru bikers from Hershey PA. Retaining wall at Edwards Ferry continues to collapse. (8/15)

Large tree falling and hanging above towpath between mile 31 & 32.(10/1) Increased beaver activity at miles 32.3 and 32.8 with new dam at 32.4.(10/29)

14 33 to 35.5

Harrison Island to Whites Ferry

Herbert Madison (9/20)

Level was unusually clean and Turtle Run HBO was well maintained.

15 - 35.5 to 39.4

Whites Ferry to Woods Lock

Lydia Crooks (8/8)

Towpath freshly mown and clean. Spotted several species of animals on this first level walk.

17 - 42.2 to 44.6

Monocacy Aqueduct to Nolands Ferry

Bob & Terry Ledley (9/10)

Towpath in very good condition with minimal trash collected.

18 - 44.6 to 48.2

Nolands Ferry to Point of Rocks

Paul Redmer (8/1,9/30) Kristen & Sean McCabe (10/1)

Foliage has been trimmed. Mud holes previously noted still persist. (8/1) Many tree limbs overhanging towpath have been removed from Nolands Ferry to mile 46.8. (9/30)

Towpath repair and resurfacing continuing along level with material. stockpiled at Nolands Ferry. (10/1)

19 - 48.2 to 51.5

Point of Rocks to Catoctin Creek

Jack Cook (9/5)

Most of trash concentrated at Point of Rocks and Catoctin Creek. Many pot holes on towpath.

20 - 51.5 to 55

Catoctin Creek to Brunswick

Sylvia Diss (9/15) Mario & Anne Abbate (10/18)

Collected 5 bags of trash. (9/15) Signs of deer activity.(droppings) Towpath clear except in usual stretch between cabins and campground. (10/18)

22 - 58 to 60.7

Lock 31 to Lock 33

Robert Schoen (10/15)

Very little trash despite heavy towpath usage.

25 - 65.1 to 67

Dargan Quarry to Lock 37

Don & Adam Juran (10/30)

Towpath almost clear with little trash at Dargan Bend.

Towpath busy on this fall day.

26 - 67 to 69.4

Lock 37 to Antietam Aqueduct

Rick Clement (10/9)

Trash along level has decreased dramatically with installation of trashcans.

27 - 67.4 to 72.8

Antietam Creek to Lock 38

Harry Robinson (10/15)

General condition of towpath good with trash appearing in usual fishing areas.

29 - 74 to 76.6

Lock 39 to Snyders Landing

Marshall Grotenhuis (8/8)

Hole in culvert in canal prism still present but eroded anymore.

30 & 31 76.6 to 81.6

Snyders Landing to Marsh Run Culvert

Harry Cramer & Family (9/13)

Towpath in good condition and repairs had been made to wall of Lock 40.

31 - 79.4 to 81.6

Lock 40 to Marsh Run Culvert

Debbie & Barry Kistler (9/1)

Dense areas of stinging nettle made trash collection difficult. Most trash was collected at Marsh Run parking lot.

33 - 84.4 to 88.1

Dam 4 to McMahons Mill

Paul & Rita Marth (9/18) Nick & Peggy Weber (9/30)

Towpath was relatively clean. Spotted several people on the water as well as on the towpath.(9/18) Seabees were making repairs on Dam 4 and graffiti is now gone from winchhouse. (930)

34 - 88.1 to 91

McMahons Mill to Opequon Jct.

Tom & Linda Perry (9/29,10/8)

Trash in can at HBO only indication of usage. Level was remarkably clean and maintained.

35 - 91 to 93

Opequon Jct to Lock 43

Ruth & Tack Swan (10/8)

Spotted dirty set of clothes hanging from tree limb on towpath bank at mile 92.2. Towpath in good condition.

40 - 105 to 106.8

Old Bridge Piers to Dam 5

Sheri Burdick (9/5)

Towpath was very clear and clean with wildflowers in abundance.

42 - 108.6 to 110.4

Lock 47 to Culvert 142

John Ziegler (10/14)

Graffiti has been removed from outhouses at McCoys Ferry but has appeared on tunnel leading in. Parking lot received a much needed resurfacing.

43 - 110.4 to 112.4

McCoys Ferry to Fort Frederick

Karen Gray (9/18)

Condition of towpath continues to worsen and is in severe need of resurfacing. Outhouses were also devoid of toilet paper.

44 - 112.4 to 114.5

Fort Frederick to Ernstville

Jane & Hal Larsen (8/22,9/4)

Water level in Big Pool was very high. Saw one crane at Big Pool. There were signs of recent mowing on both sides of canal.

46 - 116 to 120

Licking Creek to Milepost 120

John Popenoe (10/1)

Large group camping at HBO. Level was relatively clean.

48 - 124.1 to 127.4

Hancock to Roundtop Cement Mill

Fred Seitz (10/8)

Water level was low in watered section of canal. Trash was very light except in usual parking areas.

50 - 130 to 134

Lock 53 to Dam 6

Gren Whitman & Janice Plotczyk (9/5)

Both HBOs were in great shape although outhouse at Leopards Mill had been vandalized.

53 - 140.9 to 149.7

Fifteen Mile Creek to Lock 59

Gary Petrichick (8/6)

Several bikers, canoers and hikers on towpath. Level in good shape with trash probably hidden by foliage.

53 & 54 - 140.9 to 149.7
Fifteen Mile Creek to Lock 60
John & Valerie Wheeler
Both levels were in good shape.(Biked during thru trip sponsored by NPS.)

57 - 153.1 to 154.5
Lock 61 to Lock 63 1/3
Ken & Marcie Campbell (10/5)
Just west of Lock 62, beaver activity has begun to rewater canal bed.

59 - 156.3 to 159.7
Paw Paw to Culvert opposite Little Cacapon
John Chandler (10/15)
Towpath clear with most trash beneath MD 51 bridge.
Much traffic on towpath unusual for this area.

68 - 180.7 to 182.6
Evitts Creek to Wiley Ford
Wayne Hargy (8/27)
At Evitts Creek there were several tires and a shopping cart. Spotted several turtles along the way.

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NATURE NOTES

Every weekend, especially from early spring to late fall, the towpath levels in the area of urban and suburban Washington become crowded with hikers, joggers, bicyclists--a variety of recreation-seekers. Often they seem bent on covering ground as quickly as possible, with blinders to everything except the path just ahead. A few are long-distance travelers, carrying gear for overnight stops between Georgetown and Cumberland. They may have a limited time and a set schedule for achieving their 184.5 mile goal.

And so these people in a hurry miss much of what the C & O Canal Park offers. In real sense, it offers many resources besides those for active recreation. It can be looked upon as a path into geological history, with the area's chief natural resource--the Potomac River--as the guide and dominant force in shaping the landscape from the mountains to the Piedmont and finally to the coastal plain. The present Park boundary may end in Georgetown, but the original planners considered the canal a linkage between the Chesapeake Bay and the Ohio River Valley, connecting the drainage area of the Potomac to that of the Ohio River in the land beyond the mountains.

The river itself and its environs have a human history of unlimited interest from the time when Indian tribes lived and hunted beside the Potomac. Early European explorers followed it. Taming it to provide an east-west transportation route became a dream of early leaders in a new republic. Displaced workers from the British Isles in the early days of the Industrial Revolution and black slaves

from South Africa helped bring the dream to fruition. The demands of a burgeoning Capitol City led to dams above Great Falls to furnish a needed water supply.

Industrial history also follows the Potomac just as it does other East Coast rivers from the mountains to the sea. Factories used the river for water-turned wheels. Stone quarries, grain fields, and coal mines used the river and the canal as an important mode of transportation before railroads, and later highways, took over.

Great Falls Parks on both sides of the Potomac share much common natural history, harboring plants, and living creatures that tended to disappear in the face of development. To some extent this natural resource has been ignored as park premises were mowed and native plants displaced or kept in check. But many plants and some of the living creatures have stubborn ways. Some still survive in more or less hidden places, off the beaten track. For various phases of natural history, the river valley is an enticing place for study, seeking out those places least disturbed by man.

In some cases going beyond Park boundaries but using the towpath as a base, there is much to explore. Well-known are such connecting paths as those following Rock Creek, Cabin John Creek, Billy Goat Trail, and the Gold Mine Trail. Above Seneca a side path leads to an old stone quarry and mill. Actual or potential trails lead to Seneca State Park along Seneca Creek and to Sugar Loaf Mountain along the Monocacy.

For a short distance the Appalachian Trail overlies the towpath with connections possible to South Mountain and across the Potomac to Harpers Ferry. In the Harper's Ferry area, a connecting trail leads to Maryland Heights with its spectacular view of the point, where the Shenandoah River joins the Potomac. From this point the history buff can see much, much more than the casual observer as he looks into the area's past. At Cumberland, a modern explorer can leave the end of the towpath and join the beginning of the Great National Road, now highway 40. The original route from Cumberland into Pennsylvania followed an old trail, blazed for the Ohio Company in 1751 and later used by Lt. Col. George Washington and his "boss"--General Braddock--during the 1750s. It was then that George Washington supposedly first experienced his dream of a waterway connecting the Chesapeake Bay with the Ohio River valley--the dream that finally led to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal's construction.

The Canal Association has its level walkers, each of whom is responsible for walking and reporting on his level periodically. Could the level walker concept be expanded -- possibly with the addition of specialists -- to develop a broader understanding of each level in terms of its geology, and its natural as well as its human history? This

NATURE NOTES, continued

might involve people, schools and colleges along the way and nearby. It might also involve alliances with special interest groups concerned with geology, birds, wildflowers, human history, and other special interests.

Recently we saw a threat to one area of the C & O Canal Park in the form of Walt Disney's proposed historical theme park. Fortunately, this threat of an extended highway bridging the river at Point of Rocks no longer exists. But, there will be other threats in the future. If we knew more about the true values of the area, we would be in a better position to defend the Park. If change proves inevitable and for the public good, we would at least have a better knowledge of what we are losing.

- - Helen L. Johnston

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PICNIC UNDER A PARACHUTE

(It began that way, anyway)

Under a billowing parachute, tables laden with food and drink greeted the 1994 through-hikers who gathered at Camp Kanawha on October 1st. Carl Linden and Ken Rollins hosted a reunion party here for a hungry and thirsty horde. The vernal locale was an idyllic setting for these veterans who had shared joys and tribulations on their two-week April hike from Cumberland to Washington.

Carl and Ken, with their usual skill, provided bountiful spare ribs, salads and other delectables to accompany the many wines, beers and other beverages generously offered under the silk. After a lengthy attitude adjustment, the hikers headed inside for supper--just in time, as it happened, for a torrential rain began soon after. When feeding many people, Carl and Ken rightly believe in quantity as well as quality, and everyone could stuff himself shamelessly before proceeding to the well-stocked dessert table.

Hikers came from far and wide for the event. Travelling the longest distance were Gene and June Bergman, who drove all the way from Nampa, Idaho. Hikers will remember Gene as the flag-bearer and June as the guitarist who helped keep spirits up around the campfire. Veteran hiker Ken La Peyre and his wife came in from Hatteras, North Carolina, and Connie Toops from Martinsburg, West Virginia. Connie is well known for her nature books filled with her own beautiful photographs. Just published, she said, is a volume on bluebirds. Earlier pictorial works include a butterfly book and a study on the Great Smokies.

Also present was Midge Heimer ("Mother Hen"), a favorite of all the hikers because she fed them. She came to the rescue when I tried to be helpful and put "Mr. Coffee" to work and messed up completely. "Don't you remember how

you made coffee at the office?" she chided. (I couldn't tell this feminist that I never did because my secretary performed this function.)

Also on the scene was Pat Barnett, remembered as the "sweep" and later as July's blushing bride (Unfortunately, her husband wasn't able to come to this event). Others were Mario and Anne Abbate, who forsook their work at the archives to come to the reunion; the Mopsiks (Fred is our clever book publisher); Donald Shaw and his wife, Helen, who should be writing this article, as she's the information officer; John and Eliane Viner (John was our link to the dignitaries who came to the banquets); Dottie Geary, who didn't hike but who was with the hikers in spirit; and Don Juran, who competed with "Bigfoot" Tourigny for the yellow jersey awarded to the first finisher each day. Bob and Jane Perry were also there (an experienced journalist, he no doubt remembers events better than I and ought to be writing this article); perhaps Tom and Linda Perry were there, too, although I wouldn't swear to it--as darkness fell and the wine flowed freely; both vision and memory became unreliable. Other attendees go unnoted because I can't remember who they were.

After the sumptuous meal, Carl presented certificates to all the hike participants. The time was joyous, and friendships formed on the hiking trail were strengthened on Kanawha's woodsy premises. It was a time to be grateful because we have a C&O Canal park and to take pride in what we have done to preserve it. What would life be like without the towpath? After all these years, we can take it for granted, and perhaps this complacency is reward enough after these four decades.

And a good time was had by all.

- - Hal Larsen

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Annual Meeting Announcement

Date/Time: Saturday, March 4, 1995, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Cliffside Motel just outside Harper's Ferry.

Approach on Rte 340 going West crossing the Potomac River and then the Shenandoah River. Continue about 1½ miles after crossing the Shenandoah. The Cliffside is on the left just over the top of the hill.

The meeting room will also serve as dining room and bar and has been reserved (1:00 pm to 8:30 pm).

Dinner will be \$15.05 per person -- includes appetizer, roast top round of beef, baked marinated chicken, potatoes, two vegetables, fresh fruit dessert, cookies, brownies.

Several of our members can man (or woman) the open bar.

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. Articles for publication should be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Please mail articles to:

Robert C. Perry, Editor
Along the Towpath
12713 Knightsbridge Drive
Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

C & O CANAL ASSOCIATION

1993-1994 Association Officers

President:

Carl A. Linden 6404 Ridge Drive
 Bethesda, MD 20816 301-229-2398

First Vice President:

Thomas L. Perry 116 S. Conococheague Street
 Williamsport, MD 21795 301-223-7010

Second VP & Level Walker Chairperson:

Keith Kridenoff 1725 Red Oak Road
 Baltimore, MD 21234 410-661-8285

Secretary

Jane T. Larsen 1314 Kurtz Road
 McLean, VA 22101 703-356-1809

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William J. Evans 3813 Juniper Rd.
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Editorial Staff

Editor:

Robert C. Perry 703-590-5568

Production and Distribution:

DIRECTORY C & O CANAL NHP TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND PERSONNEL

C & O CANAL NHP HQTRS

Box 4, Sharpsburg, MD 21782 301-739-4200

Superintendent

☎ Douglas Faris

Assistant Superintendent

☎ Terrie Savering

Chief Ranger

☎ Keith Whisenant

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☎ Christine Streng

Asst Ch. Ranger & Chief, Visitor Protection Branch

☎ Kevin Fitzgerald

Chief, Natural Resource Mgmt Branch

☎ Patrick Toops

Chief, Cultural Resource Mgmt Branch

☎ Susan Winter

Chief, Interpretation Branch
 Chief of Maintenance

☎ Gordon Gay
 ☎ Sam May

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11710 MacArthur Blvd, Potomac, MD 20854
 301-413-0024

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Supv Ranger - Visitor Protection

☎ Steve Pittleman

Supv Ranger - Fee Collection

☎ Terry Barbot

Supv Ranger - Interpretation

☎ Clyde Bell

GEORGETOWN VISITORS CENTER

1055 Thomas Jefferson St, Washington, D.C. 202-472-4376

Park Ranger

☎ Kathy Kupper

Great Falls Tavern Information

301-299-3613

The Palisades District begins at Milepost 0 (Tidelock) and continues to Milepost 42.19 (Monocacy River).

WESTERN MARYLAND DISTRICT

District Ranger

☎ Dwight Stinson 301-739-4200 x237

Supv Ranger

☎ Martin Gallery 301-678-5463

Antietam Creek Ranger Station

Canal Road, Sharpsburg, MD 21782 301-739-4200 x237

Park Ranger

☎ Fred Viers

Hancock Visitors Center

326 East Main Street
 Hancock, Maryland 21750
 301-678-5463

Park Ranger

☎ Sherilyn Seyler

Cumberland Visitors Center

Western Maryland Station
 Cumberland, Maryland 21502
 301-722-8226

Park Ranger

☎ Rita Knox

The Western Maryland District begins at Milepost 42.19 (Monocacy River) and ends at the Canal Terminus, Cumberland, Milepost 184.5.

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Georgetown Boat Operation

202-472-4376

Abner Cloud House

202-472-2679

Fletcher's Boat House (Concessionaire)

202-244-0461

Canal Clipper, Great Falls Tavern

301-299-2026

Swains Lock (Concessionaire)

301-299-9006

THE WALK OF NINETY FOUR

by Jim Preston

When what to our wandering eye did appear
Was a round number. A "zero" so clear
On a concrete bollard - letter "0" in the grain.
How shocking to find - 'twas nothing we gained
Nothing you ask? Nothing at all?
Let's run it again - a partial recall.

One eighty-four was our depart.
Add one-half for the actual start.
Then all in between. Quite like it began,
While our eyes scanned the past of nature and man.

Of the wondrous work by that C & O band
To accomplish this path on our Creator's land
And ask if our eyes saw what Mr. Douglas did see.
The flowers, the woods, the enormous trees,
The stone that were carved from a mountain nearby,
The rive, the locks, the clouds riding high,
We watched it all pass, we marched through the trough
To our goal of that column, marked simply zero.
How can you believe "zero" is nothing to read
For it spells our triumph if we're to succeed.

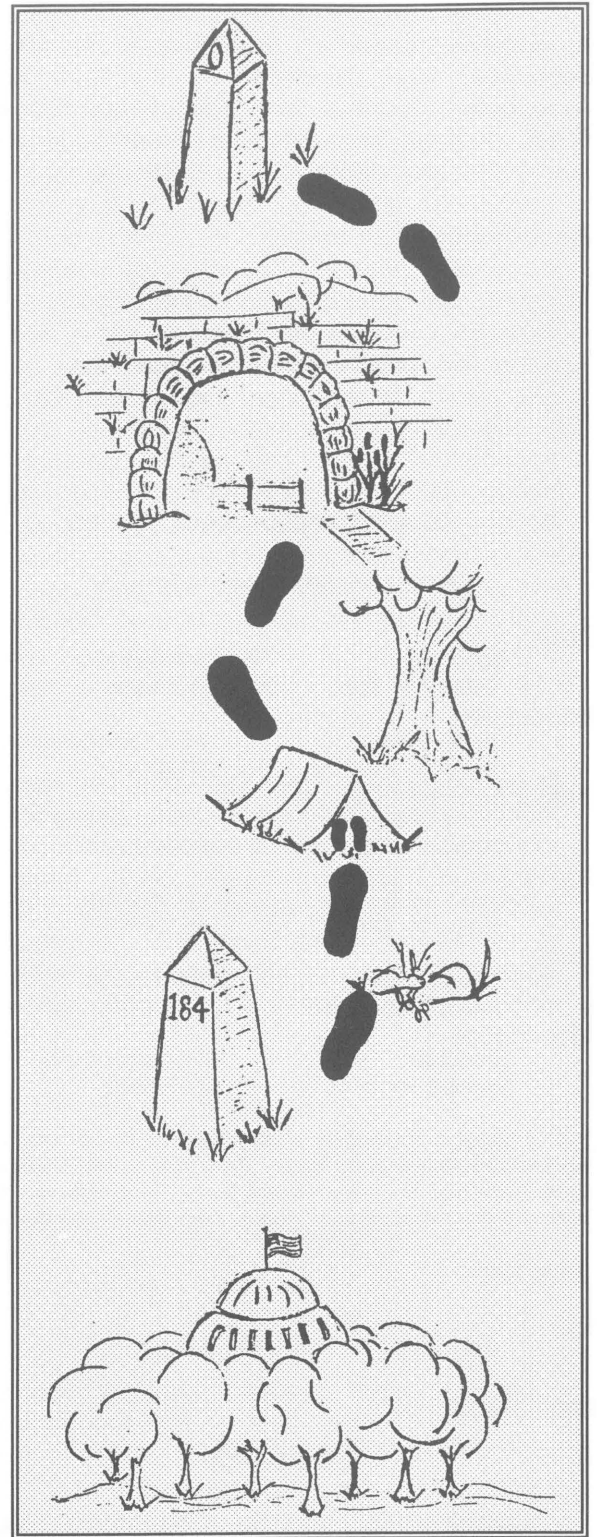
But go back once again to sights that were seen
While we plodded and stumbled - walked briskly - walked clean.

Oh can we compare or just comprehend
What Justice Douglas saw around every bend?
Whose eyes looked beyond, others couldn't understand.
His was the sight to preserve this land.
That sight was a vision viewed with the mind
Whether awake or asleep, or sighted or blind.

How thankful and blessed he saw more than thee
For we may touch that zero - so nobly
And hail to our sweet victory.

To "The Honorable Justice William O. Douglas."

This 40th Anniversary year
We honor walked with your memory.
Called salutes and gave cheer.
Respectfully yours, a proud corp
Fondly remembered - "The Group of Ninety-Four."



THE ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

(Since 8/23/94)

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WORLD CANAL CONFERENCE BIRMINGHAM, UK, 1996

The first World Canal Conference will be held in Birmingham in 1996 (provisional dates 27th - 30th June). The extensive Birmingham Canal network (totalling 140 miles in and around the city) lies at the heart of the historic English Canal system. The Birmingham canals have been greatly improved in recent years and are now providing an attractive focus in urban regeneration schemes.

The theme of the 1996 conference will be Regeneration. The conference is being jointly organised by British Waterways, who run the Country's canals, Birmingham City Council who have worked with British Waterways to improve the city's canals, and the Inland Waterways Association, the voluntary campaigning organisation who celebrate their 50th anniversary in 1996.

For further information please contact

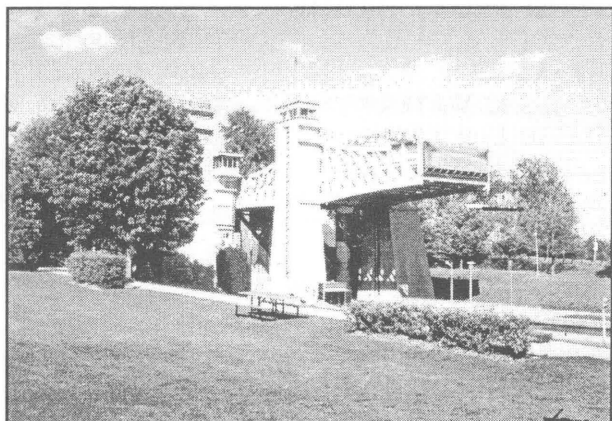
Mr Tom Brock
British Waterways
Peel's Wharf
Fazeley, Tamworth
Staffordshire
United Kingdom
B78 3QZ

Tel: 01827 252000 Fax: 01827 288071

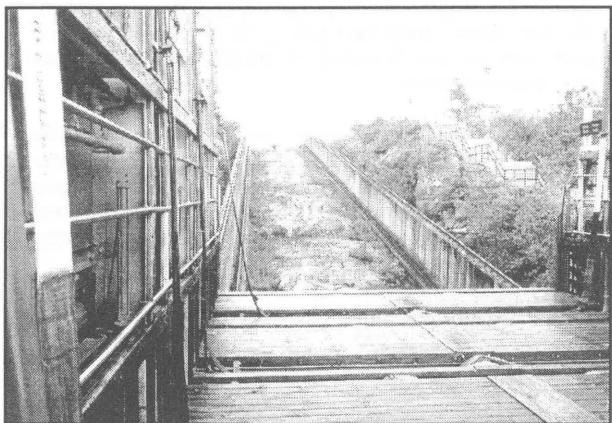


THE 1994 INTERNATIONAL HISTORIC CANALS CONFERENCE

An enthusiastic group of about sixty canal buffs and canal park managers from the U.S., Canada, and the U.K., gathered in Peterborough, Ontario, in September for the seventh annual conference on historic canals. Hosted by the Trent-Severn Waterway, the five-day meeting commemorated the 90th anniversary of the completion of the Peterborough Hydraulic Lift Lock.



The Peterborough Lift Lock, the world's highest hydraulic lock.
-- Photograph courtesy Hal Larsen.



The Big Chute marine railway overcomes an elevation of 58 feet.
-- Photograph courtesy Hal Larsen.

C & O Canal Association members attending the conference included John and Janice Frye, Hal and Jane Larsen, Dave and Bunny Johnson, and Charles and Darlene Weir (who also represented the C & O Canal Commission). Gordon Gay, Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services for the C & O Canal National Historical Park, was one of the featured speakers.

The conference included field trips to the most spectacular of the engineering features and scenic wonders of the waterway, in addition to a number of stimulating speakers and three outstanding dinner parties. The coveted Rory Robinson Trophy, awarded annually to the "Dink of the Conference", once again goes across the Atlantic, having been awarded to Ken Dodd of British

Waterways for his successful swim in the canal. Ken succeeds Scotland's Derek Cochrane, also of British Waterways, who was last year's winner of the honor.

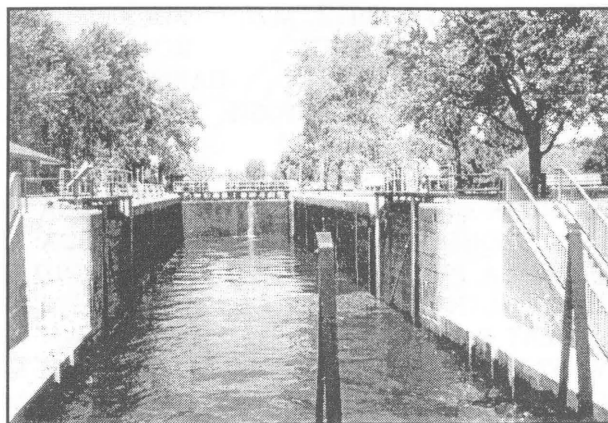
The 240-mile Trent-Severn Waterway links Trenton, on Lake Ontario, with Georgian Bay at Port Severn. The Waterway, utilizing a chain of interconnected lakes, navigable rivers, and canals, was built over a period of nearly a century, beginning in about 1825 and completed in 1920. Originally intended for commercial transportation, its use today is almost entirely recreational, with thousands of pleasure boats annually cruising past pastoral farmlands north of the Bay of Quinte on Lake Ontario, through the Kawartha Lakes and along the edge of the Canadian Shield to Georgian Bay.

The system utilizes 39 conventional locks, two flight locks, two hydraulic lift locks, and a marine railway to raise boats 590 feet above the level of Lake Ontario at its summit, and lower them 262 feet to Georgian Bay.

Planning is already underway for the next two annual conferences, to be held next fall in Georgia, and the following year in England.

The 1995 International Conference is scheduled for October 2nd to 6th at Augusta, Georgia, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Augusta Canal, and will focus on national and international aspects of canal history, technology, and redevelopment. It will also be the first Southern Canals Conference, with sessions focusing on the little known role of canals in transportation and industry in the South.

The first World Canal Conference is planned for Birmingham, England in 1996 (provisional dates June 27th-30th). The extensive Birmingham Canal Network, totaling 140 miles in and around the city, lies at the heart of the historic English Canal system. The theme of the 1996 conference will be regeneration. The conference is being jointly organized by British Waterways, who run the country's canals, Birmingham City Council, and the Inland Waterways Association, the voluntary campaigning organization which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 1996. Why not plan to attend?



Photograph courtesy Hal Larsen.

-- Dave Johnson

NPS NEWS RELEASE

National Park Service
Comes from Santa Fe

PARK SERVICE NAMES FARIS C & O CANAL SUPERINTENDENT

Douglas D. Faris, who has been directing the planning and professional services office in the National Park Service's Southwest Region, has been named Superintendent of Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park, headquartered in Sharpsburg, Md.

The appointment of Faris, 48, a native of Virginia, was announced by Robert G. Stanton, director of the National Park Service's National Capital Region.

Faris, who is scheduled to assume his new park manager duties October 31, succeeds Thomas Hobbs, who recently retired.

"Doug is an outstanding park professional," said Stanton. "He brings 20 years of solid experience to this job."

C & O Canal National Historical Park follows the Potomac River embracing a narrow strip of natural river-line environment 184 miles long ending in Georgetown, Washington, D.C. The park's central feature is the historic towpath once used by mules and horses and now by hikers, joggers and bicyclists by the thousand all year long.

Many of the canal locks and historic structures have been restored to reveal operating conditions between 1820 and 1850 when the canal was built to transport goods and materials by mule-drawn barge between the mountainous west and tidewater ports of Georgetown and Alexandria.

Faris brings to the job more than 20 years professional experience in planning and land use management. Since 1980, he has worked as division chief of planning and professional services in Santa Fe, N.M., in the National Park Service's southwest Regional office which serves 40 units of the National Park System in six states. In addition to responsibilities for park planning, design, and construction, he was responsible for management and administration of long distance trails such as the Santa Fe National Historic Trail and Trail of Tears National Historic Trail which commemorates the forced removal of Cherokees from their homelands in the East to Indian Territory in 1838-39.

From 1978 to 1980, Faris headed up the National Park Service's first field office in Lowell, Massachusetts, to plan the newly established Lowell National Historical Park and new Charleston Navy Yard unit of Boston National Historical Park.

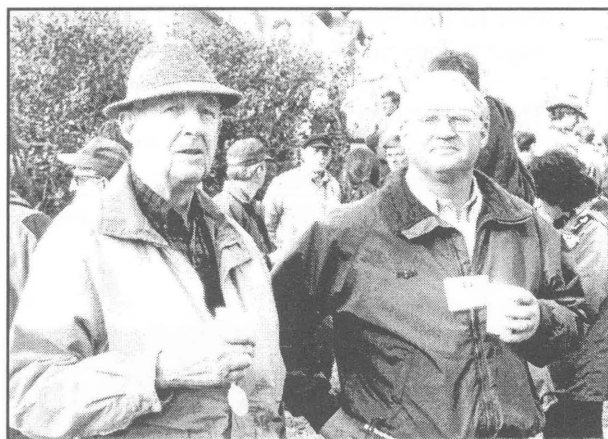
As a planning team captain, Faris worked from 1974 to 1978

in the National Park Service's Denver Service Center on controversial projects involved with Fire Island National Seashore, N.Y., and Assateague Island National Seashore, Md.

Prior to his work at the Denver Service Center, Faris served as the first environmental planner on the staff of the City of Denver Planning Office. Faris' first job for the National Park Service was during his college years as a seasonal park ranger in Yellowstone National Park.

Faris earned a MA degree in resources and environmental planning in 1973 from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., and a BA degree in history in 1964 from Emory and Henry College, Emory, Va.

Faris, a native of Marion, Virginia, is married to the former Jean Spears. They have a daughter, Shelly, 18, who is a freshman at the University of New Mexico, and a son, Shane, 15.



John Gottschalk, Potomac Conservancy and C&O NHP Superintendent Douglas Farris (right). Photo courtesy Ben Burke, Potomac Conservancy

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FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings to all. This, the *Mule Edition* marks our last third class postage issue.

September 1994 ATP correction--photo credit for the Brunswick to Monocacy Canoe trip - **Dave Lepkowski**, thanks for your story and the photos.

And to **Don Juran** - your journal article on the 1994 Douglas Hike couldn't fit in this issue. It will be a treasured tome in another edition or an Association journal. However, your *Letter to the Editor* follows:

Although Carl Linden's account of the 1994 Douglas Memorial Hike in the last issue of *Along the Towpath* was a delight to read, he greatly

misrepresented my efforts to garner the hypothetical yellow jersey.

Far from sneaking up on Bigfoot (and others), I challenged him loudly and publicly almost from the outset. I remember, as he descended the hill from the Conococheague Gun Club, I told him he was dead meat. He yelled back something about a turkey. Sure, he would have beat me that day had he not detoured to Harpers Ferry; on the other hand, I would have reached Fort Frederick first had I not missed the turnoff.

In all, I arrived first by myself alone four days and together with Jack Stickles two other times. This was despite the fact that Bigfoot and Walter set off between 20 and 40 minutes ahead of me every day. When did they sleep?

As a chronicler, Carl, may be allowed license to twist the facts a bit, even for a cheap laugh, but when he ascribes nefarious motives to me I can no longer remain silent. In fact, I never was silent.

"The Sly", indeed!

Thanks to Nancy Long, Carl Linden, and Jane for assistance in editing and producing the newsletter over the past year. See you...*Along the Towpath*.

-- RCP

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The infamous Stickpile Players.

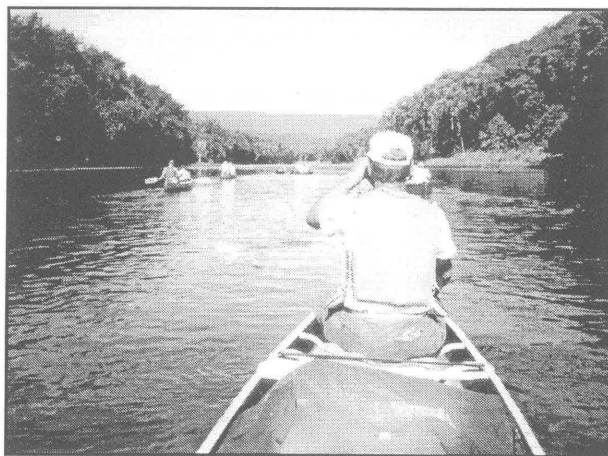
Photograph courtesy Rachael Stewart

THE 1994 PAW PAW BENDS CANOE TRIP

Camaraderie. Fellowship. Grandeur. These are a few words to describe the Annual Paw Paw Bends canoe trip. Ken Rollins and Carl Linden created this adventure six or seven years ago to heighten interest in canal affairs and to share the pure joy and beauty of what is good and pure and wholesome in life. This trip remains one of the highlights of all Association gatherings.

The second weekend in September is the time; Paw Paw, WVA is the place of departure; launching time is generally around 10

A.M or... This excursion is specially designed for adventurous people with a penchant for fun. Some folks arrive early and stay late, clearly demonstrating how this clan enjoys the camaraderie, fellowship, and the grandeur of a majestic setting--the perfect antidote for hurried people leading hectic lives.



"Paddle Ed, we're gettin behind. Look at that view," said newcomer Leo Snarr to Commissioner Ed Miller.

Ken and Carl make sure everyone is comfortable and safe, matching experienced with inexperienced canoeists and equally distributing the payload of food, supplies, and...drink. After the unfurling of the official C & O Canal Association flag and a photo session, the cruise begins with a blast.

The Potomac River is relatively smooth in this area, however a few ripples and incorrect reading of the water often lead to tipping. Not to worry--everyone looks out for one another.

Overnight camping is at Stickpile Hill HBO. The food is always special. Is it the outdoors, the fellowship, or both that enhance the flavor of food and drink?

Under a starry sky and a waxing moon, the Stickpile Players made their debut in an adaption of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Director Ken Glace converted all canoeists to thespians. A spirited group of young teachers who shared the campsite with us intensified the fun. While all characters performed on the upper levels of their ability, one particular player, Leo Snarr, gave a sterling performance as he portrayed Bottom.

As the fire dimmed to a flickering flame, thespians/canoeists retired to their tents with a soft glow in their hearts.

Along for this year's memorable trip were: Helen and Donald Shaw, Gary and Nancy Petrichick, Ken Glace, Ken Rollins, Carl Linden, Rachael Stewart, Ginny Evans, Ed Miller, Leo Snarr, Chuck and Estelle Laughlin, Kent and Marcia Minich, Midge Heimer, Harry Robinson, Dick Butler, and Bob and Jane Perry.

Parting is such sweet sorrow.

-- Jane Perry