



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 POETRY ISSUE

To All Canallers Devout!
A Call Clarion Goes Out:
"Don't let our Aqueduct Down!
Canal's Crown Jewel Renown."

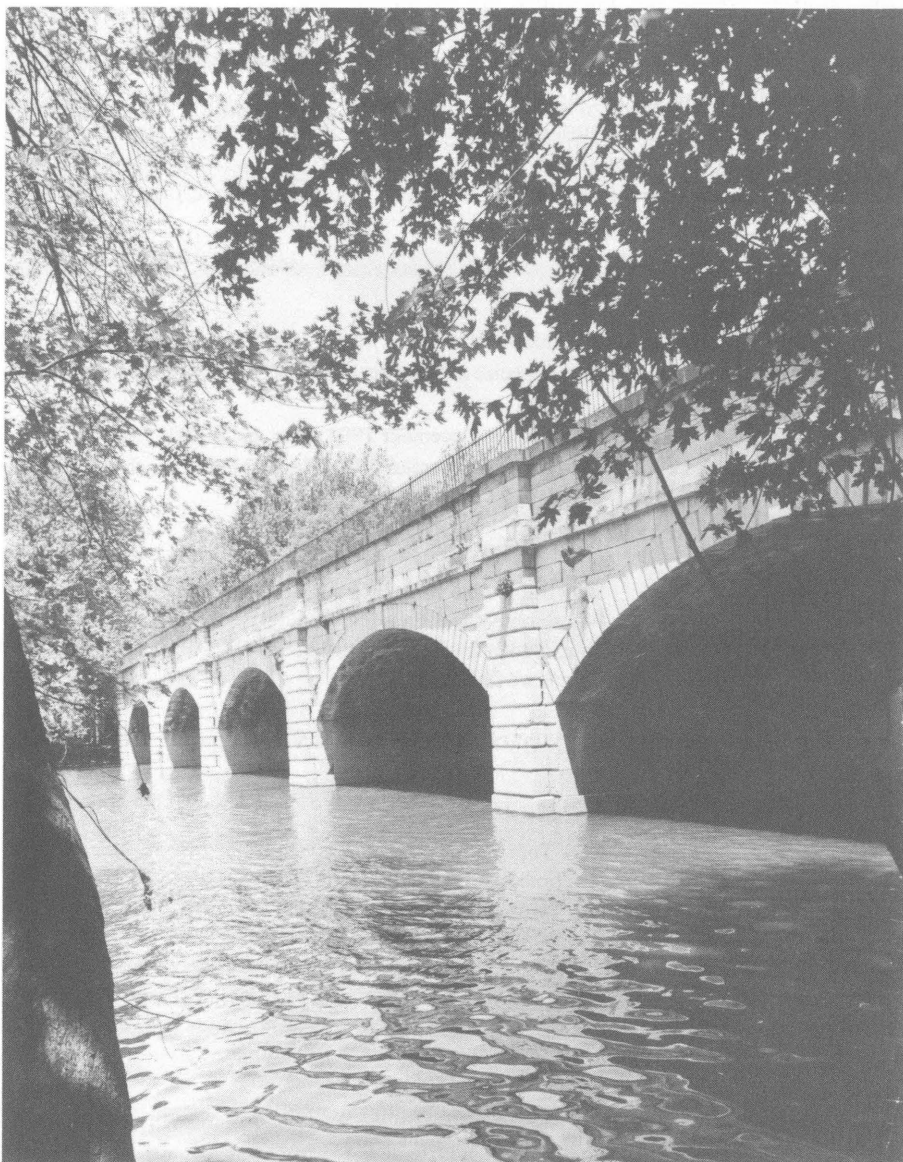
Fall She will in ruin and shame
All rubble, forgotten fame,
Consequence most regretful
Of citizens' neglectful.

What would our own Douglas do?
Who, the towpath trod for you
He'd marshal us in a wink
And save canal's master link!

A new chief now hears the call
River's Patron known to all
Ever true to call of duty
Who else but Gilbert Gude!

Stir Now! Awaken! Harken!
Noble cause timely taken,
Arise our democracy!
Uphold the Monocacy!

- - Carl Linden



The Arches of the Monocacy Aqueduct - A poetry of line and proportion. Courtesy National Audubon Society

Awake Our Democracy! Uphold The Monocacy!

Poet I am not, but why not? This is, after all, *THE POETRY ISSUE!* So our Editor-in-Chief, Bob Perry, waxed.

Our gathering band of poets in the Association may already have overshot Milepost Zero. First we acquired an Association "Poet Laureate" in Jim Preston. Next came the highly touted troubadour and poet of canal saga, Don Juran. At the Heritage Hike banquet, he sang the ballad of the towpath toe-down¹ of Paul 'Bigfoot' Tourigny versus Don Juran, The Sly. They maneuvered for the lead along the entire one-hundred-eighty-five-mile stretch from Cumberland to Washington. It was the Spring of '94 and the Fortieth Anniversary Douglas Thru-hike was the stage of the drama. Up to the last day it was a dead heat, but then, The Sly, the Bigfoot in a moment unguarded, slipped by and broke the tie. Read all about it on page five of this issue. In an irate letter to the editor, you may recall, Don denounced my dubbing him, THE SLY, as a gross misnomer.² Okay! Okay! Enough already! So let's change it to...HOMER!

The big Douglas canal hike seems to evoke the poetic passion in all who join in the trek. Indeed, it first broke loose on the Twentieth Anniversary Hike in 1974. The muse moved the hikers, delirious from foot fatigue, to something like fantasy. They set to composing verses without number keyed to the refrain: "Oh, the C & O was a'risin,' And the gin was a'gettin' low, And I scarcely think we'll get a drink, 'Til we get to Glen Echo!"³ Wait! How can an empty Canal be a'risin'? No mere quibbling fact grounded these versifiers in their flights of fancy.

Now on to the prosaic but, hopefully, not the uninspiring:

We are now well on the move in developing the fund drive for the Monocacy Aqueduct. The members of the Aqueduct Committee are meeting regularly and we are aiming at a big kickoff for the drive at the Douglas Hike in April. In this connection, we have very good news! We are delighted to announce that Gilbert Gude has agreed to lead us on our way and serve as honorary chairman. True to form Gilbert Gude is already a working chairman. Renowned for his untiring work to preserve, protect and enhance the natural surroundings, historic features, and overall quality of life of the Potomac Basin, Gilbert Gude has over the years strongly and steadily supported the

¹ Credit for this characterization of the Douglas Thru-Hike belongs to Walt Wilt of Stump Gully Estate, Indian Head, Maryland who coined this precise and poetic, of course, descriptor. See the September 1994 issue, p. 20.

². See Don's letter in the December 1994 issue, pp. 19-20. Despite Don's fit of umbrage, see the poet's second and last stanzas--there the poet invokes the moniker, *The Sly*, without as much as batting an eye.

³ For example:

With thirty-nine companions,
Whose object was the same -
To end up at the Watergate,
Unless we first went lame.

(refrain)

Or,

Now Tom Hahn was a climber -
He climbed up Roundtop Hill.
If it hadn't been for Carl and Ken,
He'd be up the hillside still!

And,

We'd been seven days away from home,
But our hearts were light and merry.
The cause of all our sudden joy -
Was passing Harper's Ferry...

Etc....

UPHOLD THE MONOCACY- continued

C & O National Historical Park both during his years as congressman and now as leading citizen. For Mr. Gude, it is essential to sustain the integrity and continuity of this unique park and not to permit the collapse of aqueducts and, thus, break the Park into isolated segments. To lose the aqueducts is to lose the Park.

Also, Robert Cole, a creative and skilled film maker, has joined us and will make a video on the Aqueduct for our fund-raising effort. Many will recall seeing his inspiring film on the Potomac River during the Fortieth Anniversary Douglas Thru-Hike in April 1994.

Carrie Johnson, former chair of the C & O Advisory Commission and long-time member of the Association is applying her considerable editorial skills to the preparation of a fund-raising brochure for the Aqueduct.

Our Secretary, Rachel Stewart, prepared the application for the grant of \$1,000 we were recently awarded by The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The money is designated for helping us to prepare publicity for the fund drive.

We are gathering impressive talent to assist in the fund drive. Our Committee members represent a wide range of skills and high ability. One example, Ralph Donnelly heads the Engineering and Technical Sub-Committee which is strong in professional expertise. Ralph knows the engineering of canal structures like no one else. You will recall his fine talk on the Paw Paw Tunnel at the banquet following the annual Douglas hike that ended at the tunnel last April. He is backed by his fellow engineers Chuck Laughlin and Charlie Diss.

All this leads me to the pitch I have made before and now make again:

Lend Us Your Talent and Energy!

Despite the talent and commitment we have already mustered, we can use more, much more. We invite you to come forward. This, again, is an entirely volunteer effort and we need all the help we can get from our members. Anyone familiar with, or experienced in, or willing to engage in fund-raising is most welcome. We'll put you to work! Further, there are a variety to tasks to be done. Let me list some of our subcommittees and their functions.

- Fund Raising Committee: Chair, Financial Officer, Individual Citizens, Corporate/Business Sponsors, Associations/Organizations, Grant Proposals, Special Events
- Publicity Committee: Media, Art/Photo/Video, T-Shirts, Pins, Etc., Along the Towpath.
- Political Liaison Committee
- Technical/Engineering Committee
- Speakers Bureau
- Volunteer Coordinator

If you are interested in any of the above and you think you might be able to help, do not delay. Call me (202 994 6348). If you are not sure you can be of help but are enthusiastic, call anyway.

In the meantime, there is one thing all of us can do to help, whether we are wise or foolish, good looking or ugly, rich or poor (all you need is a dollar you can spare).

Let's All Give to the Aqueduct Fund & Make It 100%!

A strong start in our drive for the Monocacy Aqueduct can be made if each and every one of us in the Association enrolls as a contributor. Such a display of unity of purpose can only strengthen our hand in seeking contributions from major funding sources in both private and governmental sectors. Also, the more contributors we amass, both individual and organizational, the greater will be our ability to attract funds for the Aqueduct. We need to show that a large citizen "constituency" favors action on the Aqueduct. We are keeping close track of all our contributors, large and small. The more the list mounts, the more funders will be inclined to give and our elected leaders at all levels prompted to act.

Simply include your contribution of a dollar or more to the Monocacy Aqueduct Fund and send it in with your membership renewal. Do it today and let's make it unanimous! Send it in with the renewal form inserted in this issue of the newsletter. Make your check payable to the C & O Canal Association.

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'95 HERITAGE HIKE

Two interesting reports received about this year's Heritage Hike follow for your reflection and enjoyment.

AN UNEXPECTED RAINLESS HERITAGE HIKE

The Association's annual Heritage Hike took place on October 21, 10.8 miles from Noland's Ferry to Brunswick. The day began drearily with hard rains as hikers drove to Brunswick to meet the buses for the ride to the starting point. Miraculously, the deluge ended while the first busload was being transported to Noland's Ferry, and by noon the sun was bursting through to create perfect conditions for hiking.

Some intrepid hikers camped overnight in the pelting rain before the hike, except for a few faint-hearted ones (popularly known as pikers) who sought downy comfort at a motel. Approximately 80 people made the march, perhaps fewer than might have been expected. The early morning rains were discouraging.

After the hike, the hikers went to the community center in Burkittsville for a happy hour and then an excellent turkey dinner served by the local auxiliary. President Carl Linden welcomed the diners and then briefed the assemblage on plans to transfer the Association's archives to the special collections department at George Washington University's Gelman Library. In addition, he discussed a campaign sponsored by the Association to raise funding to restore the Monocacy Aqueduct. He urged everyone to contribute to this effort to save this structure, the most important man-made feature on the canal. The aqueduct is seriously deteriorated and is held together by substantial bracing. The underwater piers are eroding badly, and the structure could collapse in a flood if stabilization is not carried out.

Don Juran then read his ballad to "set the record straight" on the now historic competition between himself and Paul "Big Foot" Tourigny to capture the yellow jersey awarded to the individual who finished first each day during last year's through hike. These well-written and eloquently presented verses described the daily contest, revealing the strategies and perfidies involved. Don now ranks closely with Jim Preston as the Association's presumptive poet laureate.

The dinner ended early enough for hikers to get home at a reasonable hour. Many thanks to Sonny De Forge for organizing this event, which transpired without a glitch.

- - Hal Larsen

UPHOLD THE MONOCACY AQUEDUCT

Association President Carl Linden used this slogan in his opening remarks to the full-house dinner guests at Burkittsville Ruritan Club assembly room. His words were very well received and everyone agreed the Aqueduct is worth keeping. It was announced, along with a flyer ad of the Association Board of Directors member John Frye's tour of the Aqueduct on Sunday, October 29, 1995.

This tour and talk is the first of a series on the Canal that will be video taped for educational and informational uses. Carl also noted Hal Larsen's efforts to update and preserve the Association's archives. The archives were in storage at Park Service Headquarters at Ferry Hill. The building was damaged by a tree that was blown down during a storm and forced the relocation of the archives.

Fast-Forward Don Juran's tell it like it is rhyme-time story of just how he overtook *Bigfoot* Paul at Fletcher's Boat House, then went on to be numero uno to reach mile marker 0 at last year's 40th Anniversary Hike was a plot that could have come from the CIA file. We now await *Bigfoot's* "rest of the story."

In no special order, here is a top list of some happenings and remembrances of the hike and its preludes. Some observed, some reported by others, some copied from the walls of those little brown houses you find at towpath rest stops.

At precisely 1306 hours, mile area 52.04, on hike day, this hiker was accosted by Tom Perry and "others" and was instantly ordained official reporter for this event.

Upon request, Gary Petrichick will teach a class in properly pitching a tent to withstand a rain shower. Some "others" were heard to say, "Yeah, along with the class you better provide yourself with a new Cadillac back-up just in case the tent has a mind of its own." (To help you understand this inside story, the tent collapsed under Friday night's deluge and the occupants swam to higher ground and stayed in their car.)

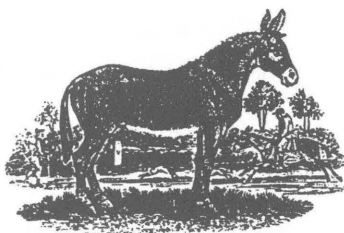
President Carl and Ken R., most reluctantly, gave up their camping space. The story from "others" is that they were on special assignment to check out Sleeper's Motel rooms for a future guide book listing. There is no limit to the sacrifices they will endure when called upon to do so.

If you haven't noticed that enormous Maple tree up-river from mile post 51, it is well worth a trip. Take your camera and a few "others" if you want to hug this ole fellow. He/she is that big around. Tom Hahn's Towpath Guide lists a Sugartree Branch (stream of water with culvert pipe at 51.4 plus mile.) There must be a connection here of which I am not aware, It's well worth a visit just to see the tree. In deference to Friday night's downpour, Saturday was a most perfect day for the Heritage Hike. The bus made two trips and several cars drove to the starting point.

Wimp Walker Wayne Cerniglia reported no problems at all with his followers. Wayne says he likes followers...it's nice to have someone to push.

It doesn't matter if you like to slow walk, fast pace, or lolly-gag along. This was a most enjoyable event. And as always, a most inspirational sight is to see the Association's flag waving, either hand-held or attached to a car marking the beginning and ending of a towpath event.

- - Jim Preston



The Mule

MUSIC

From the towpath we view trees just turning,
Those treetops are singing, I swear!
The sky, blinding blue, is the backdrop
For a disciplined, low-key choir.
The wind is conducting
The soloists are birds
Such harmony-- such bliss,
No concert pleases like this.

- - Corrie Ernst

REFLECTIONS ON PAST JOURNEYS

THE BALLAD OF BIGFOOT PAUL - - DON JURAN

There is many a tale of the C&O trail,
Passed along from the days of yore;
Beginning, of course, with the tour de
force
Of 1954.

But they'll ever remember, as the
campfire ember
Sends sparks wafting up to the sky,
The hiking brawl between Bigfoot Paul
And Don Juran, the sly.

Paul, to be frank, resembled a tank -
A man who had quaffed many brews.
He was ample of gut and expansive of
butt,
To his Size 14 hiking shoes.

He was held in regard, notwithstanding
his lard,
For he'd through-hiked the App'lachian
trail -
Which ought not be derided, for of
those who have tried it,
More often than not, do they fail.

Juran, also, must be considered robust,
Weighing in just below fifteen stone.
But next to Tourigny, he looked like a
weenie -
A specter of mere skin and bone.

With steely blue eyes and sinewy thighs,
He affected an attitude brash.
Though a neophyte green, he was
already keen
At hiking with Bigfoot to clash.

They engaged their first duel near the
end of Big Pool.
Don streaked past with a valiant burst.
But the left turn he missed, and was
royally pissed
When Paul thus fetched Fort Frederick
first.

On this spurious catch, did Bigfoot Paul
snatch
The imagined jersey of yellow.
Don's impulse was violence, but he
maintained his silence,
As Paul was a much larger fellow.

Next day did Don hasten to reach
Cushwa Basin,
But found himself once more in second.
Bigfoot early arose and, bereft of clean
clothes,
Rushed to get where the laundromat
beckoned.

Two more days then passed by - Juran
thought the time nigh
To risk yet another defeat.
To Paul he did shout, as the latter set
out,
"Hey, Bigfoot, today you're dead meat!"

The rejoinder was murky, but the
epithet "turkey"
Among Bigfoot's mumblings took
prominence.
He looked back and glared at the upstart
who dared
To challenge his vaunted predominance.

First to reach Sandy Hook, the sly one
retook
The coveted jersey of gold.
Bigfoot blandly assured, that had he not
detoured,
He'd have walloped his nemesis cold.

On the merrow, quite early, Don left,
feeling surly
At the hostess' behavior infernal.
But his lead disappeared when, at
Brunswick, he veered
To the station, to update his journal.

He summoned his strength, and passed
Bigfoot at length,
And beat him by nearly a mile.
'Though, at Kanawha's portals, cut short
were his chortles
By Jack Stickles' Cheshire cat smile.

The next morn Paul was gone, not long
after dawn,
An hour ahead of Juran,
Who had finally learned, having four
times been burned,
Not to leave before hitting the can.

By a lightning assault, Don caught
Bigfoot and Walt
Two kilometers from Edwards Ferry.
A frown crossed Paul's face, and he

tumbled from grace
With a gambit that many would query.

With unctuous wile, and avuncular
smile,
Importuning the young whippersnapper,
Putting forth all his best, he did darkly
suggest
That Don needed to locate a crapper.

But Don knew that his colon was not at
all swollen.
Abruptly he quickened his stride,
Leaving Paul in the dust, chagrined and
nonplussed,
And nursing his wounded pride.

The last day arrived, and Bigfoot
contrived
A shirt of bright yellow to flaunt.
But Don knew that tune, and was
blithely immune
To such adversarial taunt.

One last time, Don stayed back from
the rest of the pack,
For reasons above, clearly stated.
A one-mile bubble would be little
trouble
To conquer, he thus calculated.

The noontime sun burned--Don was
greatly concerned
That he'd just about run out of ground.
He stepped up the pace, but, of Bigfoot,
the trace
Was nowhere at all to be found.

Then, a shout of "Hey, turkey!" caused
his eyeballs to jerk, he
Was utterly taken aback.
For he spied the big man, with Walt and
Sue Ann,
Down at Fletcher's, enjoying a snack.

Don slowed down just a smidge, passing
under Key Bridge.
Undoubtedly he could relax - he
Now knew that big Paul couldn't catch
him at all,
Not even by hailing a taxi.

Showing his heels to the yuppie
schlemiels,

THE BALLAD OF BIGFOOT PAUL -continued

Through Georgetown Don rapidly
trekked.
Deftly shielding his tongue from the
gray pigeon dung,
Tidelock milepost he gingerly pecked.

His kingship now ended, Paul came up
and extended
His hand in congratulation,
Which, a-grin ear to ear, Don clasped in
sincere
Reciprocal admiration.

At the banquet that eve, before taking
their leave,
The erstwhile combatants embraced.
Don did vainly essay to get, more than
halfway,
His arms around Bigfoot's waist.

So, thus ends this tale of the C&O trail,
And the through-hike of '94.
Maybe many a deed will someday
supersede
This trivial snippet of lore.

But, nevertheless, it's a pretty good
guess
That the story will oft be retold,
In the campfire's glow at the HBO,
Of the quest for the jersey of gold.

By the burgundy cask, somebody will
ask -
Ken Rollins, perhaps, will comply,
And the saga recall, of Bigfoot Paul
And Don Juran, the Sly.

- - Don, the Sly, Juran

...And the 1995 Paw Paw Bends Canoe Trip

There are strange things done on the
Paw Paw run by canoeists staunch and
bold,
That Potomac creek has a wicked
streak, and I guess it's cause she's old,
The campsites there can be stark and
bare, and the weather quite unruly,
But we braved the rocks and we braved
the rain and we had a great time, truly!

- - Gary Petrichick

(Apologies to Robert Service)

ANNUAL PAW PAW BENDS CANOE TRIP BRINGS BREAK IN THE DROUGHT

(To be recited aloud to the meter of "The
Cremation of Sam Magee")

The drought had been long,
The drought had been hot
As we started our river trip--
So most of us
Didn't mind too much
When the sky began to drip.

But the longer it rained
The colder it got
And it chilled us to the bone.
And I must confess,
The most wimpy of us
Started wishing for warm baths at home.

Our gear was all wet
And I'm sure you can bet
That our glasses were too fogged to see.
But to quit we were loathe,
For we'd all made an oath
To canal society.

So the rocks we avoided
And rapids we forded
On our way to camp Stick Pile
Through the mud we ascended
And wasn't it splendid
To meet campfire and bright smiles?

The steak, it was great
And we stayed up quite late
Singing songs with the pattering tarp.
The going was rough,
But we drank enough
Not to mind being drenched in the park.

So, on Sunday we packed
And it was a fact
While to Little Orleans we went--
We were missing our friends
And regretting its end--
Good trip, good times, well spent.

Now, if you have a mind
That makes you inclined
To take your canoe trips in sun,
Then please have no fear;
You can join us next year--
We could teach you new ways to have
fun!

The seventh annual C&O Canal
Association Potomac River canoe trip
started off with a flourish on Friday
evening, September 15th, 1995 at Paw
Paw hiker/biker camp grounds. The
plan was for the 20 canoers to head
down the river on Saturday morning,
stop for lunch along the way, camp over
night at Stick Pile hiker/biker camp
grounds and arrive in Little Orleans
early Sunday afternoon.

Entertainment around the campfire
Friday night included a songfest led by
Helen Shaw, helped along by a beautiful
Irish tenor voice, a rousing rendition of
Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "The Raven,"
recited alternately by Gary Petrichick,
Jane Perry, and Bob Perry, along with
"The Cremation of Sam Magee," a
perennial favorite, presented by Ken
Rollins.

On Saturday morning a caravan of
drivers made their way along a curving,
mountainous dirt road from Paw Paw to
Little Orleans to leave their cars at the
trip's destination. The dust made for a
harrowing journey; there hadn't been
any rain for a month and a half. Since
there wasn't room for everyone in Bill
Schoenadel's van, Midge Heimer drove
the others in her van, providing high
adventure for the lucky few.

The sky was darkening as the group,
lemming-like, started into the river
around noon on Saturday. There were
extra canoes since some canoers hadn't
shown up. Carl Linden and Ken Rollins
had to solo--laden down with the dinner
provisions they had bought for us
earlier.

The month of August, which seemed to
have 46 days this year, ended while we
were paddling down the Potomac. On
Friday, the temperature had been in the
80's; Saturday seemed twenty degrees
cooler. The rain and wind were
certainly contributing factors. We
needed the drought to end, but at least
some of us were cursing the Fates for
choosing the weekend we had planned
to spend outside.

The wind against us made the trip
harder and longer than it would have

DROUGHT BREAKS... - continued

been otherwise. Some rapids were a bit challenging; most canoes got hung up on rocks along the way. Steve Carroll claimed that the reason men had brought their wives on this trip was to give them someone to yell at when something went wrong with the canoe.

At lunch, I was shivering with cold. Sonny DeForge happened to mention that paddling hard makes you warmer. Taking his advice to heart, Steve and I paddled furiously after that. It worked. I did get warm, but the trip became shorter than I might have wished it to be.

Everyone must have been glad to reach the campsite and campfire prepared by Leo Snarr and Ed Miller (who looked like Buddah, sitting peacefully by the fire in a lawn chair under his red and white striped umbrella). They had headed out earlier in the day and prepared the way for the rest of us.

Now Stick Pile is a small campsite, but this year I think the group was happy to be as close to the campfire as possible. That way we didn't have to get as wet heading back to our tents. Fortunately, Ken Glace had thrown in a large tarp as a forethought.

Ken Rollins invented a portable grate barbeque pit so that each of us could cook his/her own steak. Along with the steaks, we enjoyed salt potatoes and carrots fixed upstate New York style (Nancy Petrichick's idea), salad and bread. Dinner was topped off with Pat White's unforgettable giant, chocolate chip cookies.

Since there wasn't enough room to keep everyone dry under the tarp, our resident theater director, Jane Perry, decided to put off playing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* until a drier occasion arises. Leo Snarr filled the slack, however, with his particular form of entertainment. If you see him sometime, you might ask him for his story of "Timbuktu."

Tents were put to the test Saturday night; Wayne Cerniglia measured an inch of water that had collected in a cup left a few feet from his tent. The rain poured all night. Some slept wet and some slept dry and some didn't sleep much at all. (Not being a very experienced camper, I thought we would figure out a way to go home under those conditions--you know how in the regular world you take a rain check?--It impressed me that such an idea never seemed to enter the minds of my hardy, fellow canoers.)

Anyway, Sunday morning the rain started lightening up, as we warmed our innards with hot coffee and instant oatmeal. By the time we were making our way down the river to Little Orleans, the weather turned positively balmy.

Part of our group waited patiently at the river bank, slogging along with a pound of mud stuck to each foot. I was envious of our Johnny-Come-Latelies' who meandered in (after stopping along the way for lunch), canoes in tandem, obviously enjoying themselves gloriously.

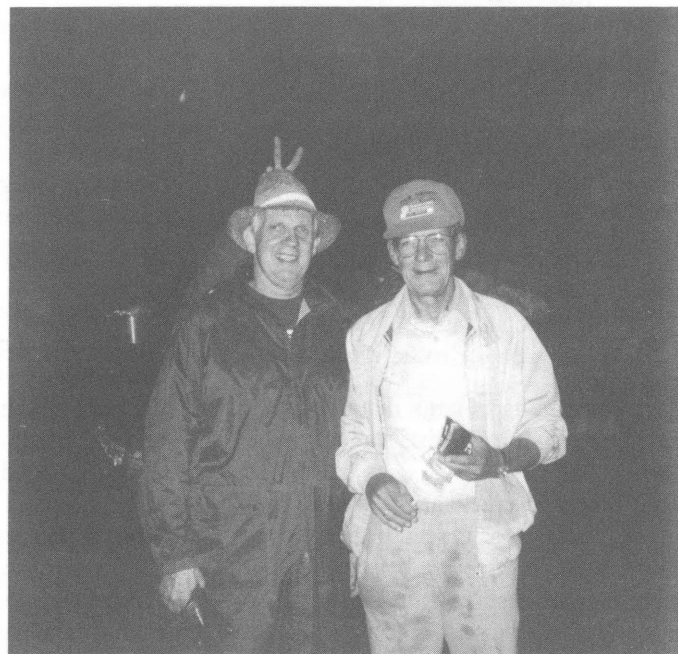
Some of us prepared ourselves for the long trek home by taking nourishment at Bill's famous restaurant. The decor was memorable, particularly the ceiling covered with dollar bills with the names and dates of hundreds of customers who want to have a dollar for a beer waiting there in case they come by some time in the future and are broke.

Looking back on the trip, Estelle Laughlin remarked that being outside, enjoying herself in the rain, helped her feel like a child again. She loved the unique colors of sky and water, watching the ripples each drop made in the river, the feel of its freshness on her face, and the special sounds and even smells it brought to her.

So this year's canoe trip was a reminder that being in a beautiful setting--with the right attitude of course--and enjoying good food and great company, (not to mention a large tarp and campfire) can make even a rainy day a warm, sunny, memorable experience. If you don't believe me, ask any of our canoers for yourself.

Very special thanks to our Association President, Carl Linden, and Ken Rollins, who made it all possible.

- - Kathy Carrol



President Carl Linden and Bottom Leo Snarr--The Top and the Bottom
Photograph courtesy Ed Miller

More Paw Paw

The world was awash in mist and rain,
clouds hung over hills in opalescent trails
and dipped in the river in splendid refrain
was an up side down world for my canoe to plane.
Beyond the surface of currents trees stood on their heads
clouds skimmed the eddies upon which my canoe sat.
I paddled on clouds on swirling wakes,
while vagueness of reality reeled in my head.
Amazed I wondered of birds in flight,
viewing the truth from a different point.
A shower of rain drops around me fell,
they bounced, they splattered, they shimmered and sang.
They nipped the river's skin and emblazoned its face
with rings that flickered and vanished and swelled.
Eager not to miss what evolved in my way,
I held the perfections I witnessed that day.
All was as it was, and not as should be,
all perfect in itself in its originality.
Though the sun was not out
and I was drenched to my bones,
I giggled and tingled while I pulled my boat.

I paddled down the river in mist and rain
and savored the truth sealed in child's play
that prime texture of life is not created,
nor joy nor beauty duplicated,
but captured.

- - Estelle Laughlin

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THE CUMBERLAND CANAL BOAT FESTIVAL

On Saturday, July 16, 1995, Bob and I traveled that hot as Hades day to attend an annual event which our friends John Millar and Tom Conlon, have trumpeted for the past few years.

Driving to Cumberland is restful and serene. The bucolic scene reminds man of where he has been and gives an inkling of where he is going. The mix is interesting: sky, wind, earth, plants and animals--and industries, now past tense.

At North Branch where the road softly bends.....there is an open field which, since 1977 is the location of the Cumberland Canal Boat Festival. Recently groomed by tractor and mower, any visitor reared on the farm will recognize and value. This spot we found on this sweltering Saturday in July was a wonderful, down-home event with canalers, musicians, country dancers, Civil War soldiers, and authentically dressed early Americans, including frontier families, renegades, and Indians.

The main attraction is a full-size model of a canal boat built by Navy Seabees, under the supervision of John Millar and permanently located in field at Lock 75 for the purpose of sharing the past with visitors. Tour guides welcome folks to a first-hand experience of life on a canal boat. On board, spaces

include storage area, living and sleeping quarters. Posted on the walls are hooks for hanging utensils and clothing. Documents such as bills of lading, boat/lock collisions, letters, and photographs of canal characters educate the inquisitive. Interesting to note: Justice Douglas and his companions visited this area during the first through hike in 1954. (A copy of the document verifying the stops on this significant and well-remembered trip by Douglas et al appeared in *Along the Towpath*, September 1994.) As they disembark, visitors to the canal boat are invited to make a contribution to help defray expenses.

Antique weapons, jewelry, tools, and cooking utensils displayed in the an authentic tepee allow visitors the opportunity to study and touch the past. Several tents lined one side of the outer perimeter of the field. Inside and out and about were early Americans dressed in pre-Revolutionary War costumes, eager to share their knowledge of the past. Particularly impressive was a teenage girl, who delighted in explaining how she handmade her outfit-- skirt and blouse--also used as a nightshirt. She proudly showed the shirt she had made for her boyfriend. In their tent were individual cots for mom, dad, girl, brother, girl's boyfriend. These cots were handcrafted by the father, using local wood and rope to sustain the hay-filled mattress, or pad. Tools and utensils needed for survival and a little comfort in the mid-1700's were not only displayed, but were in actual use. Outdoors, over a pit, was a fresh ham roasting over a fire made of hickory sticks. The sights, smells, and sounds were awesome. The *renegades*, as they call themselves, travel during the summer months, often camping for weeks at a time away from their real homes. Costumed adults and children seemed to be living history. One woman walked on a tour through the woods, sharing with the 1995 visitors many sources of food, including herbs for cooking food and preparing medicine. Some of the early Americans-- both adults and children, played a game, hatchet throwing, aiming at a large tree stump.

Lining another perimeter of the field, near the canal berm were various stands, including one with information about the C & O Canal and manned by Mary Twigg, Tom Conlon, and for a while Bob Perry. Fortunately, wonderful and majestic oaks lined the area, providing shade and comfort on a lazy, 99-degree July day. Additional booths offered visitors interesting crafts, some locally produced, to decorate or to spark conversation. One booth specialized in Indian jewelry, reproductions of postcards of Indians and handmade dream-catchers.

Another exciting scene was that of country dancers and musicians which attracted the attention of every visitor. Only the ardent lovers of music and dancing participated in the real action. Sweat beads on the young and really mature dancers quickly disappeared with cotton kerchief--an act of pure prestidigitation. Dancing went on and on with few occasions to rest, indicating to this visitor that work and fun go on no matter how hot the weather is.

We collected memories, learned from new friends, and shared information about the C & O Canal. Superintendent Faris, Mrs.

CUMBERLAND CANALBOAT FESTIVAL - continued

Faris and children came to partake of this event as did almost 1,500 others over the two-day celebration. In normal summer weather, John Millar has attendance figures between three and four thousand visitors. Smooth parking service is handled each year by the U.S. Navy Sea Cadets.

This is an event worth attending and promoting. Thanks to Messrs. Tom Conlon and John Millar for inviting us. These gentlemen truly love the Canal and enjoy regaling visitors with both factual information and humorous anecdotes. Who knows, perhaps next year a costumed canal boat captain and his wife may join Tom, John, and others with a first-person interpretation of life on a canal boat. Guess who? For an historical adventure focusing on canal boat days, plan to attend the Cumberland Canal Boat Festival on September 28 and 29, 1996.

-- Jane Perry

THE ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

(SINCE 8/28/95)

HON. & MRS ROSCOE BARTLETT	FREDERICK MD
CAROL ANN BUSSON	BALTIMORE MD
DOROTHY CAMARA	CHEVY CHASE MD
SANDRA CAMPBELL	SHEPHERDSTOWN WV
SAVANNAH-OGEECHEE CANAL SOCIETY	SAVANNAH GA
ANNE DE NOVO	BETHESDA MD
GERTRUDE T. FITZSIMMONS	BALTIMORE MD
CRAIG & DOTTIE FREEMAN	GAITHERSBURG MD
JAMES H. GILFORD	FREDERICK MD
HELEN F. GLAZER	BETHESDA MD
LINDA GOFF	MARTINSBURG WV
DR. GLENN A. GOODFRIEND	WASHINGTON DC
JOHN GREGORY	WASHINGTON DC
KATHRYN & NORM GUNDERSON	RESTON VA



VIE LEE NATHAN & JUSTIN HERLOCKER	LEESBURG VA
WILLIAM D. HIBBARD	DAVIS WV
DOUG & HEATHER HODGES	GREENCASTLE PA
BOB & LOIS HUMPHREY	WALKERSVILLE MD
M. H. (TED) KECKLER	CLARKSBURG MD
WAYNE C. KNILL	FREDERICK MD
DAVID M. LINTON	WASHINGTON DC
MARGE LOISEAU	CAPE GIRARDEAU MO
B. K. LUNDE	HAGERSTOWN MD
MR & MRS EDWARD J. MANUEL	HAGERSTOWN MD
SAMUEL V. MOORE	ANNANDALE VA
M/M DONALD H. PLUMB	ROCKVILLE MD
RON PRICE	GERMANTOWN MD
ROD & PAM REMPT	ARLINGTON VA
MARY ROSE ROGOLSKY	ROCKVILLE MD
BARBARA K. SHAPIRO	BETHESDA MD
SYBILLA SHARPS	ROCKVILLE MD
ARTHUR SILVER	BETHESDA MD
SHARON SOLSBAK	ROCKVILLE MD
SCOTT SOUTHWORTH	STERLING VA
RICHARD T. SOWERS	HAGERSTOWN MD
M/M DANIEL J. STANLEY	WASHINGTON DC
JOHN W. STONER JR.	CHAMBERSBURG PA
WILLIAM & BONNIE STUBBLEFIELD	POTOMAC MD
IRA WAGNER	BETHESDA MD

FLASH!

The Board of Directors at its December 4th meeting authorized Association President Carl Linden to conclude an agreement with George Washington University to place the Association's archives in the Gelman Library's Special Collections. The Board acted on recommendations Hal Larsen made to the Board on behalf of the Archives Committee. The Association archives will become part of the University's "Washingtoniana" Collection. Details will be provided in the next issue of Along The Towpath.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE FOR 1996

Annual memberships in the Association are concurrent with the calendar year, and all expire on December 31st. It is the Association's policy to enclose renewal forms with the winter issue of the newsletter. This saves the expense of a separate mailing, plus many volunteer hours for filling and addressing envelopes.

The code on the upper right-hand corner of your mailing label indicates your current membership status. The letter shows your membership class: "M" for Individual member, "F" for Family, and "P" for Patron. The number indicates the year through which your membership is paid: "95" means that your membership expires on 31 December 1995; "96" means you are paid-up through 1996, etc.

If your current membership expires at the end of this year, please remit your 1996 dues with the enclosed form at your earliest convenience. If you have already paid for the coming year, thank you.

You may also use the renewal form to make a contribution to one or more of the Association's special funds, and add your donation to your dues payment. The funds are as follows:

MONOCACY AQUEDUCT FUND. The Association has undertaken a major campaign to raise funds for the stabilization and preservation of the Monocacy Aqueduct, as described in the September issue.

C&O CANAL FUND. Donations to this fund are used to support projects in the park, particularly interpretive exhibits and programs, resource protection, and research and publications that would otherwise not be done because of budget constraints.

DAVIES FUND. This fund, named in memory of Bill Davies, was established to create a reserve to be available for legal actions that may be taken to protect the Park from internal and external threats to its integrity and quality.

The Association is a non-profit organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax deductible.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION - 1996 ANNUAL MEETING

The following 1996 Slate of Nominations for Officers and Directors of the C&O Canal Association at the March 2, 1996 Annual Meeting, has been prepared by the Nominating Committee appointed by the President of the Association. The nominees are for the six officer positions and the six board positions.

Many thanks to the 1996-1997 Nominating Committee members: Helen Shaw, Chair, John Fondersmith, Chris Cerniglia, Ken Rollins, and Estelle Laughlin for their efforts in presenting this slate for the new year. Members wishing to place additional names in nomination, or suggest a candidate, should contact one of the nominating committee members.

OFFICERS

For President: **GARY M. PETRICHICK**, Belmont, New York

For those who missed the last two annual election biographies, I'm a fifty-seven year old retired community planner living in an old railroad depot in Belmont, New York (population about the same as the Association membership) with my long suffering but supporting wife Nancy. We have five grown children and one grandson.

I've been a member of the Association since 1990 and am completing my second year on the Board. Although a relative newcomer to the Canal, my feelings for the "old ditch" are strong and I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve it through service to the Association. I'm on the Canal frequently, biking, hiking, canoeing and camping, both alone and with the Association, and I treasure the many good friends I've found here in such a short time.

With the prospect of our archives coming under the guidance of professionals and with the monumental responsibility as the lead

group for the Monocacy River Aqueduct fund-raising, 1996 promises to be an arduous yet fulfilling year. It is an honor beyond belief to be asked to preside over such a wonderful group of individuals at this auspicious time.

For First Vice President: **THOMAS L. PERRY**, Williamsport, Maryland

I have served two years as vice president, previously have served as a board member and give voice and representation to the mid-section of the Canal. 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.

CANDIDATES -continued

For Second Vice President and Level Walker Chair: **KEITH KRIDENOFF**, Baltimore, Maryland

I have been level walker chairman for three years and have greatly enjoyed working with all the dedicated volunteers who have made their levels their own. It has been wonderful reading and collating all the reports and to see how knowledgeable the level walkers have become on their levels.

With the Park Service budget becoming increasingly smaller, I feel our work has become even more valuable. Not only with the multitude of trash picked up, but also noting potential trouble spots that could become very expensive later. I would very much enjoy continuing working with this great group of volunteers. I have been a member of the association for nine years and a member of the American Canal Society for ten.

For Secretary: **RACHEL L. STEWART**, Arlington, Virginia

I admit it: Having served as Secretary just since March 1995, I am hooked. Preservation of the natural and historical environment of the Canal Park and the Potomac River basin are the goals of our organization. With the projected fund-raising campaign for the Monocacy Aqueduct, it is important to keep continuity in the direction of the Association. As Secretary I can in a limited manner contribute to preservation of the Aqueduct, and to the continued existence of this greenway sanctuary.

For Treasurer: **DAVID M. JOHNSON**, Bethesda, Maryland

Treasurer 1995, 1989-91; President 1991-94; director 1985-89; level walker; NPS volunteer; member of the Board of Directors of the American Canal Society and Pennsylvania Canal Society. As Treasurer, I will continue to work to maintain the Association's accounts and financial affairs in accordance with standard and accepted accounting procedures, and attempt to guide the Board of Directors to make sound and responsible budget and business decisions.

For Information Officer: **KATE MULLIGAN**, Washington, D.C.

As a writer and editor I have published cover stories in the Weekend Edition of the *Washington Times* about attractions along the C&O Canal. The stories were inspired by my first extensive experience on the towpath--the Douglas Hike--and are the basis for a book in progress. I have worked as a marketing director, director of public relations and promotional writer for more than a dozen non-profit organizations.

DIRECTORS

(Listed in alphabetical order. Six to be elected.)

JOHN ANDERSON, Leesburg, Virginia

I have been a member of the Association since 1970 and an active Level Walker since 1975. I have been active in many activities, projects, and kindred organizations which support the association's goals and objectives. I believe that we need to attract individual and corporate support for canal projects which we are trying to accomplish. E.G., we could enlist corporate financial giants for the Monocacy Aqueduct restoration in a way similar to the way performing arts and other outdoor

organizations do. Indeed, we need to "Uphold the Monocacy -don't let her down."

I am a member and past officer of other related organizations and enjoy the camaraderie of membership in these groups. I would like to contribute to the board and association in a more active role.

CHARLES AYRES, Forest Hill, Maryland

I have been a member of the C & O Canal Association since 1986. Currently I am a Level Walker with my wife Mary on section 61, from Town Creek to Lock 68. I am completing my first term on the Board of Directors. I chaired the Committee for the 1993 Heritage Hike. I went on the thru hike in 1994. For years I was Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 816 in Baltimore and in that capacity have done the entire canal twice. Our modes of transportation included hiking, biking, and canoeing. After my scouting, I have continued to enjoy using the canal and park for recreation, accessibility to nature, and a historical background to our state. I like belonging to a group that is dedicated to preserving the Canal and Park. As a member of the Board I would like to see more emphasis placed on the historical aspects of the Canal. I would also like to see the NPS and the Association continue their close relationship in the preservation of the canal. I was an assistant camp director on the 1986 Clean-Up Camporee and was able to see first hand the Fragility of the Canal. From that experience I was able to see how important volunteerism is to maintaining the Canal and the role the Association Plays in lending a hand to get the job done.

STEVE CARROLL, Tacoma Park, Maryland

Steve Carroll was born and raised in Takoma Park, DC where he now lives with his wife and 2 children in the house his grandfather built in 1913 not a stones throw from Rock Creek and an 8.5 mile bike ride to Thompsons Boathouse. He owns and operates a printing and Graphic Arts business there. Steve and his wife, who was born and spent much of her childhood about 20 yards from Canal Lockhouse #8, have been lifelong canal/river rats. They are members of the Sycamore Island Club and spend a lot of time canoeing, hiking, biking, and swimming the river/canal.....and skating when feasible. Steve and Kathy enjoyed the last through bike trip and the recent overnight canoe trip, seeing many parts of the upper canal for the first time.

RALPH DONNELLY, Hancock, Maryland

I have been a member of the C&O Canal Association since the mid-fifties and am the western-most member of the Board of Directors representing the upper-end of the Canal. 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 the archives. I am a member of the Archives committee and am Co-Chairman of the Environmental Committee and Chairman of the Technical/Engineering Subcommittee of the Monocacy Aqueduct Fund Drive 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 maintaining the continuity of the towpath and the restoration and preservation of its major structures, most importantly, the stabilization of the Monocacy Aqueduct.

CANDIDATES -continued

HAROLD LARSEN, McLean, Virginia

President of the Association 1986-1991; First Vice President 1991-1994; director 1985-1986; chairman, Archives Committee, 1991-1995. Level walker and VIP volunteer.

I am dedicated to expanding the Association's role as an advocacy organization, and I would support efforts to help preserve the man-made structures on the canal, especially the Monocacy Aqueduct. I believe in programs designed to expand our membership in order to increase our influence as advocates for the C&O Park and the Potomac Basin.

NANCY LONG, Glen Echo, Maryland

The C&O Canal Association recently announced that it is organizing a campaign to raise funds for the rehabilitation of the Monocacy Aqueduct, considered by many to be the premiere structure on the C&O Canal. I whole-heartedly support this endeavor, and am working with the steering committee to help get the drive underway. My membership in the Association dates from 1969, and in subsequent years, I have served as president, board of directors member, "Along the Tow-path" editor, secretary, and hike chairman. In 1974, I hiked the length of the canal as part of the Association's first full length hike; in 1975, I was part of the group that traveled the length of the Potomac River with then Congressman Gilbert Gude. I have participated in nearly all Justice Douglas Reunion Hikes and Heritage Hikes, and have been with two other full-length hike groups, most recently in 1994. When the C&O Canal National Historical Park Commission was established, I was privileged to have been named its first chairman; since then, I have been appointed an at-large member of the Commission, and am currently one of the two Montgomery County representatives to the Commission. I believe there will always be a need for the C&O Canal Association to work with the National Park Service to protect, preserve, and promote the C&O Canal National Historical Park for this and future generations.

ROBERT C. PERRY, Woodbridge, Virginia

Nineteen hundred ninety six marks my fifth year of service to the Association as Editor, *Along the Towpath*. My wife, Jane, and I have been members of the Association since the late '80's. I have a passion for the Canal, its preservation and restoration, and that of the Potomac River Basin. Certainly, the camaraderie and fervor which we share in our efforts is most gratifying. I support our involvement in the Monocacy Aqueduct Restoration Project, endorse a continued, close-working relationship with the NPS, and believe that we, the C&O Canal Association, have a fiduciary to ensure that the C&O Canal National Historic Park, created by the people, remains, *a refuge, a place of retreat, a long stretch of quiet and peace at the Capital's back door--a wilderness area where we can commune with God and with nature, a place not yet marred by the roar of wheels and the sound of horns* (Justice William O. Douglas).

DONALD SHAW, Bethesda, Maryland

I joined the C&O Canal Assoc. when I first heard of it in Jan. 1989 and immediately signed up for the '89 thru-hike. There was such camaraderie on this hike that I became completely hooked on the C&O Canal; its people and activities. I also joined the '94 thru-hike and was chairman of the budget committee during the preparation phase. The annual PawPaw Canoe trip is one of the highlights of the year which

both my wife Helen and I look forward to each September. The Canal Association has given so much to me, that I would like to more actively contribute time and effort to further the goals of the Association in ensuring the preservation and conservation of the C & O National Historical Park.

PATRICIA WHITE, Gaithersburg, Maryland

I fell in love with the C&O Canal in 1974 when our family did a through bicycle trip. In '75 and '76 I brought Girl Scouts from Philadelphia's Main Line to the Canal for shorter trips. Then after we moved to Maryland in 1976, the Canal became my weekend leisure site. I joined the Association sometime in the early 1980's and continued to hike and camp along the Canal. When the Canal was damaged severely by flooding in 1985, it was time to pay the Canal back for all it had given me; and I joined the Association's monthly work parties. Ten years and two Through Hikes later, I still owe the Canal. Serving on the Association's Board is another way to help preserve my Canal.

WHY WE EXIST -- Gary M. Petrichick

Most members are aware of the evolution of the Association from the "Immortal Nine" back in 1954 through the present. The bonds that were formed and cemented by the Canal itself lasted and grew into what we know today, and those early feelings about the need to protect the Canal were formalized.

As we approach the tenth anniversary of our latest incorporation, it is appropriate that we review our *raison d'être*.

Excerpt from the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL ASSOCIATION, INC., dated JANUARY 6, 1986.

The purposes for which the Corporation is formed are:

- (i) To bring into close contact with each other and the United States Department of Interior persons interested in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Potomac River Basin.
- (ii) To present, organize and facilitate programs teaching about and using the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Potomac River Basin by itself or in cooperation with the United States Department of Interior and other organizations.
- (iii) To publish papers, documents, reports and magazines relating to the dissemination of information concerning the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Potomac River Basin.
- (iv) To assist the United States Government in maintenance, restoration and protection of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.
- (v) To undertake activities for the protection of the environment.
- (vi) To cooperate with other individuals and organizations with the same goal.
- (vii) To receive gifts and grants of money and property of every kind and nature and to administer the same for the purpose of promoting the objects of this corporation.
- (viii) To engage lecture halls, construction equipment and facilities and do all things necessary for the advancement of the purposes of this corporation.
- (ix) To engage generally in any cases or objects to promote the above purposes or purposes similar thereto and to do anything necessary or proper for the accomplishment of these purposes.

On The Level

By Keith D. Kridenoff
1995 Level Walker Chairman

This has been a very productive quarter in the level walker program. For the first time this year, the weather has begun to cooperate. We have had several openings filled with still a few more to go. Thanks go out to all who reported and have done a great job on cleaning up their levels. As always, If anyone is interested in becoming a level walker please feel free to contact me at:

1725 Red Oak Road
Baltimore Maryland 21234
(410) 681-8285

Reports received by the November 5th deadline. The next cut off is February 5th.

3 - 5 to 7.5

Lock 5 to Cabin John
James & Joan Wilson (10/21-23)
Beaver has felled tree across canal below
Sycamore Landing Parking lot at Lock 7
finally open. Towpath needs resurfacing.

4 - 7.5 to 9.4

Cabin John to Lock 14
Carolyn Reeder (8/20)
Cabin John culvert clear. Cribbing at Lock
12 needs repair.
Erosion of towpath above Lock 8
worsening.

6 - 12.3 to 14.3

Cropley to Great Falls
Ernest Green (6/9)
Temporary rock walkway put in by VIPs at
Widewater still serviceable. Spotted Great
Blue Heron in same area.

7 - 14.3 to 28.8

Great Falls to Swains Lock 21
Mark Page (8/1)
Water level high and clear,

8 - 18.8 to 19.8

Swains Lock to Pennyfields Lock 22
Paul & Maggie Davis (8/8,9/29,10/13)
Grass freshly mown along entire level.
Parking lots unusually clean but trash from
fisherman excessive (8/1) Pennyfield area
has been cleaned and NPS was clearing
roadway to Pennyfield.(9/29) One of the
Pennyfield houses is being repaired. (10/13)

12 - 27.2 to 30.8

Sycamore Landing to Edwards Ferry
Stephen Pollock (8/21) Teresa
Cummings & Dave Hoerauf (8/28)
Filling of potholes by NPS around Mile
30/31. Towpath recently trimmed.(8/21)
Trash can still needs to be replaced at
Sycamore Landing. Resurfacing of towpath
looks good. (8/28)

13 - 30.8 to 33

Edwards Ferry to Milepost 33
Bert Grose (10/20) Betty Bushell, Betty
Henson & Pat Schindler (9/73)
Collected mostly food wrappers and
beverage containers. (10/20) NPS has been
filling areas of towpath. Canal prism very
dry. (9/13)

14 - 33 to 35.5

Harrison Island to Whites Ferry
Betty Bushell Betty Henson, Pat Schindler
(9/13)
Same as above.

15 - 35.6 to 38.3

Lock 26 to Whites Ferry
Dick Tibbetts & Herbert Madison (9/13)
Trash at Lock 26 was primarily containers
from Far East. HBO in good shape. Saw 4
people headed to mile 38.7 to clam in the
river.

18 - 44.8 to 48.2

Nolands Ferry to Point of Rocks
Paul Redmer (8/25)
Light usage and very little trash.

19 - 48.2 to 51.5

Point of Rocks to Catoctin Creek
Jack, Pat & Bob Cook (9/10)
Lock 29 which had been broken into has
been repaired. Cleanest this level has ever
been,

20 - 52.6 to 55

Catoctin Creek to Brunswick
Mario & Anne Abbate (9/6) Sylvia Diss
(10/10)
Bailey bridge over Catoctin Creek freshly
painted, River and creek low. Usual mess at
53.75 included vacuum cleaner.

22 - 68 to 60.7

Lock 31 to Lock 33
Robert Schoen (10/15)
Many hikers and bikers on this fall day.
Level in good shape.

24 - 62.3 to 65.1

Dam 3 to Dargan Quarry
Ron Howard (8/23)
Level clean with very little usage.

27 - 89.4 to 72.8

Antietam Aqueduct to Lock 38
Harry Robinson (9/14) Ken Rollins (8/18)
Trash concentrated at fishing areas. Cana
Road being repaved between Lock 38 and
Antietam Creek. (8/14) Most summer
flowers gone for the season. Good usage of
towpath on this day. (8/19)

32 - 81.8 to 84.4

Marsh Run Culvert to Dam 4
Rill Wentzel (9/8)
Level very clean. Almost no other users.

33 - 84.4 to 88.1

Dam 4 to McMahons Mill
Paul & Rita Marth (9/24) Nick & Peggy
Weber (8/21)
Grasses and brush trimmed back near mile
87. Recycling containers now at boat ramp.

34 - 88.1 to 91

McMahons Mill to Opequon Jct
Tom & Linda Perry (8/16)
Towpath clean perhaps because of heat
keeping people away.

35 - 91 to 93

Formans Ferry to, Lock 43
Ruth & Jack Swan (R/20)
Towpath area recently moved. Many power
boats in river.

39 - 102.2 to 105

High Rock Quarry to Nettle Railroad Piers
William & Rita Bauman 18/5)
Trash was mostly at parking area. Purple
phlox in abundance.

40 - 105 to 106.8

Nettle RR piers to Dam 5
Sheri Burdick (10/20)
Collected 13 bags of trash. Mostly collected
from canal prism thrown from road.

ON THE LEVEL - continued

42 - 108.8 to 110.4
Lock 47 to Culvert 142
John Ziegler (10/19)
Road culvert at McCoys Ferry needs resurfacing. Spotted many almost tame deer.

44 - 112.4 to 114.5
Fort Frederick to Ernstville
Jane & Hal Larsen (9/24)
Downed tree at 113.5 partially obstructs towpath. Caused by beavers.

46 - 118 to 120
Licking Creek to, Milepost 120
John Popenoe (9/18)
Towpath needs mowing. Saw several deer between mile 119 to 120.

48 - 124.1 to 127.4
Hancock to Roundtop Cement Mill
Fred Seitz (9/2)
Sinkhole on canal side of towpath seems to get larger. It's fenced off but still a hazard.

62 - 184.8 to 167
Lock 68 to, Lock 71
The Sinkhole (8/1)
Very little trash and Lock 71 sign still missing.

VIP NOTES

The Palisades District National Park Service staff sponsored a VIP Picnic at Carderock on October 14, 1995, to recognize the contributions of the many Volunteers in Parks (VIP) to: interpretive activities, Concerts on the Canal, VIP Workdays, administrative assistance, and community support. Superintendent Doug Faris and many of the NPS staff attended the festivities organized by Clyde Bell, Nancy Brown, and Sue Fauntleroy. Volunteer tee-shirts were awarded to those attending.

VIP Workday volunteers have recently made substantial improvements to the access trail at Lock 8, stabilized and cleared vegetation along the Towpath. This winter we will clean and paint (an inside job) the parking lot chains at Great Falls. In the spring we will stain the lock-gates and have planned a day at Riley's Lock in Seneca.

WANT TO HELP?

You are welcome to join the VIP Workdays by merely showing up at 9:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month (See Calendar for location) except July and August when it is often too hot and many people are on vacation. See the Calendar of Events in each issue of *Along the Towpath* for details or call John Lindt at 310-469-6381 or Nancy Brown at 301-229-3613.

Note: In the event of snow or inclement weather the workday is cancelled. No makeup dates are scheduled.

- - John Lindt

CANAL CHARACTERS

Hereinafter follows the third in a series of articles by Ken Rollins about *Canal Characters* that have helped and in this particular case continue to help mold the history of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Who among us is better qualified to edit such a column than Mr. Rollins?

A TRIBUTE TO JIM GILFORD--HERO OF THE CANAL

Those of us who came to know Jim through his various outdoor activities and his role on the C&O Canal National Historical Park Commission have always had some difficulty in recognizing his more formal identity as Dr. James Gilford, Professor of Biology at Hood College (recently retired). Jim seems to prefer the more informal identity.

Representing Frederick County on the Commission, generally referred to as the "Advisory Commission", Jim is the only member who has served continuously since its inception in the early 1970's. He is an outstanding illustration of the value of continuity within the membership of any organization, which we shall soon see. Turnover and new membership are invaluable in assuring growth and adaptability of any group, but continuity is also vital lest it unwittingly stray from its intended purpose or lose the history of its various considerations through time.

The Commission meeting in January 1995 was a mutual introduction between the membership and the new Superintendent, Doug Faris. The agenda was somewhat unspecific for that reason. Discussions finally came down to the problems facing the Park, and this was the opportunity for Jim Gilford to bring up the question of the Monocacy Aqueduct, somewhat equivalent to recalling some tabled matter for action. The discussion rapidly evolved to cost, which has always frightened the question back into obscurity. Other projects—anything costing less than the estimated \$25 million for aqueduct restoration—have often been easier to fund by comparison, and some such projects have been much less urgent than the Monocacy Aqueduct.

After the \$25 million figure was bandied about for awhile, Jim pointed out that no one knows where it came from, how valid it is, and whether good or bad why it should continue to push the question aside until it no longer matters; i.e., the Aqueduct follows the arches of Catocin and Seneca into the stream. Loss of the Monocacy, being the *Queen* of all Canal structures, would certainly be the disaster which would forever break the continuity which makes the Park what it is. Other lesser aqueducts can be, as they have been, "patched" or bypassed—the Monocacy cannot.

There is also the question of what really needs to be or can be done. The visible structure appears to be reasonably safe in its "harness"^{2/} for the time being, but recent quick surveys indicated problems below the water which need more serious study, and the floor is obviously leaking rainwater down through the arches.

Jim, having heard all the arguments through all the years, moved to the effect that the matter be either pursued or forgotten, but the decision should be based on better facts and more reliable estimates. Further discussion involved the question of funding, leading to the possibility of non-governmental sources^{3/}. The position taken was that the Aqueduct is much too important to tolerate further delay, and that the matter should be pursued through the initial steps of physical surveys to spell out the options and developing more reliable cost estimates,

As matters stand, the Park Service is pursuing the surveys and is making cost estimates for the least that must be done to preserve the structure "as is" through ultimate restoration which would permit removal of the harness now holding the superstructure together. The Aqueduct has been given the highest priority in the Park program. Still tentative figures indicate that minimum amounts could run into millions. Such money is not in sight in Park Service programs; in fact all of the survey costs are not clearly visible at present. The recourse is a fund drive beyond government sources.

The Commission has no legal authority to either "pass the hat" or to receive and administer funds. The C & O Canal Association has in place a fund administered by the National Parks Foundation comprising the C & O Canal Fund. We could thus serve as a medium for funding Aqueduct preservation and restoration by merely establishing a Monocacy account in our C&O Fund. Through a reference to the Monocacy in connection with membership renewal in our newsletter, contributions for that purpose immediately began to flow in before the account had been formalized- all the Board had to do was ratify a de facto situation, and the arrangement with NPF has been made. This shows that the interest is out there. The Board has also formalized our partnership with the Park Service and the Commission to serve as the fund raising spearhead appealing to the public, foundations and trusts, corporate sponsors, and any other sources.

A steering committee has been established and is functioning well- look for a big kick-off in connection with the annual William O. Douglas Reunion Hike. Our success will go a long way to support appeals for governmental funds at all levels. We have already received a "start up" grant through the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Grant Fund, and we have an optimistic application in process for the Johanna Saveroy Fund. One success leads to another.

We are thus involved in an effort comparable to the drive for saving the Canal in the first place. Justice Douglas' foresight and

efforts saved it intact--we now face the challenge to keep it that way. We can do it the same way he did--by mustering popular support. The interest is out there. To borrow from one of Jim Henson's earliest successes, "nobody doesn't like the C & O Canal."

The digression into a sales pitch for the Aqueduct was unavoidable, but Jim Gilford's quiet, firm insistence that something be done, and that we can wait no longer has set all this in motion. I hereby nominate Jim for the title "Hero of the Canal".

1/ I had the same problem with our venerable President, having known him from the towpath before I knew him as the distinguished Dr. Linden. (Have you heard the sexy voice that answers his voice-mail number?)

2/ I once referred to the harness as resembling a teenagers dental braces; the description stuck and was used for a while. I was hoping at the time that the structure would be equally temporary.

3/ Could it be that Dr. Gilford was mindful of the presence of Dr. Linden?

-- Ken Rollins

.

+++ ACROSS THE BERM +++

BRADLEY LEE HAIGH, 1940-1995

Brad Haigh, a long-time C&O Canal Association member, died on September 29 at his home in Annadale. He suffered from mesothelioma, a rare lung cancer. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and by his father in Woburn, Massachusetts.

Brad, who was born in Winchester, Virginia, grew up in Boston, graduated from Tufts University and did graduate work at the University of Massachusetts. In 1964 he moved to the Washington area, where he worked first at the Civil Service Commission and then at the Agriculture Department, where he headed program analysis in the Child Nutrition Division. He received several citations for his distinguished contributions in this field.

Brad had wide interests, including photography, astronomy, nature preservation and conservation, mathematics, particularly sports statistics, and art and history. He was a music lover and was very knowledgeable about classical compositions and Celtic folk music. He was among the first to accumulate compact disc recordings, especially in the classics.

An avid hiker and photographer, Brad is remembered by his many friends in the Association as a companion on the towpath, a discerning nature lover and a man with a dry and delightful wit. He participated in many activities and willingly volunteered when there was work to do, e.g., organizing hikes or banquets.

Brad was a person who rose above adversity to enjoy life to the fullest possible extent. Troubled by increasingly poor eyesight, he nonetheless saw beauty everywhere, photographed it, talked about it, and pointed it out to others with good vision but without

ACROSS THE BERM - continued

the instinct to seize on the beautiful or unusual in their surroundings. I remember those walks on the hiking trail when he peppered conversation with humor and a healthy cynicism. However, we saw little of him recently, because of his failing health and eyesight. I'll cherish the memory of those canal walks with Brad, an easy friend and interesting companion.

I'm sure I speak for many other Association members when I extend my condolences to Shirley and urge her to come out and walk with us on the canal.

- - Hal Larsen

CANOEING AND COLLECTING

I collect
golden rings
that glisten and swell in rivulets,
dissolving echoes,
passing clouds
that skim the surface of rivulets.

I collect
passing lights
from dawn to dusk,
dancing glitters
of fractured rays.

I collect
green forest mist,
mountain's soaring grace,
mantras in streams,
and leaves' quivering space.

I collect
rainbows,
crystal rain drops,
frost painted fiiigrees,
and season's color changes symphonies.

I collect
all that cannot be lost,
or shattered,
or separated,
eternity of moments
and unity of universes.

- - Estelle Laughlin

.....

1995 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HISTORIC CANALS

The 1995 International Conference on Historic Canals was held in Augusta, Georgia during the first week in October. This year's conference was organized and hosted by the Augusta Canal Authority, with the support of the National Park Southeastern Region.

More than eighty delegates from around the eastern United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom attended the three and one-half day conference. As always, the conference brought

together members of many canal societies with representatives and officials of national, state, and local canal parks, commissions, and active waterways. The C&O Canal Association was represented by a large delegation, including John and Janice Frye, Dave Johnson, Hal and Jane Larsen, John and Gloria Lindt, Earl and Lesley McFarland, and Katie Mulligan.

The conference opened with a warm welcome from the chairman of the Augusta Canal Authority and the mayor of Augusta, followed by many excellent presentations, with emphasis on southern canals.

Highlights of these conferences are the field trips, and we explored the Augusta Canal, starting at the headgates on the Savannah River, and continuing by foot along the towpath (or by golf cart, for those who chose not to walk), and by boat, including a replica of the "Petersburg"-type boat used on the river and canal during the nineteenth century. One interesting structure visited was the three-arch Rae's Creek Aqueduct (pronounced "akeydux" in Georgian), which carried the canal across the creek that, a mile or so upstream, slices across Amen Corner at Augusta National Golf Course. An all-day trip, during which Hurricane Opal poured its remnants across the south, took us to Old Santee Canal State Park in South Carolina. Other tours included historic areas of Augusta and Graniteville, S. C.

Another highlight of this conference was the good southern cooking everyone enjoyed. This included an outdoor barbeque supper, a "Low Country Boil" on the Santee Canal, and a fried chicken picnic from the mill kitchen in Graniteville. The final banquet began with mint juleps at the Morris Museum of Art, followed by dinner with entertainment provided by Savannah's Emma Kelly, the "Lady of Six Thousand Songs"

The coveted Rory Robinson Trophy, presented annually to the "Dink of the Conference", was awarded to Bill Trout, president of the American Canal Society, for his very entertaining talk on James River batteaus.

The Augusta Canal is approximately ten miles in length, reaching from the Bull Sluice Dam above the falls of the Savannah River to the industrial heart of the city. It was completed in 1846 and enlarged in the 1870s to its current width of 150' at the surface and a depth of 11 feet. It was used for both transportation and water power. Currently owned by the City of Augusta, it continues to be used for power generation and to supply drinking water to the city, as well as for recreation. Seven miles of trail have been developed on the towpath and are included in a canal park. Plans are underway to continue developing the canal as a recreational, transportation and economic resource.

Jeanie Alien, Secretary/Treasurer of the Augusta Canal Authority was chairman and hostess for the conference, and Marsha Downing, assistant to the Authority, served as co-chair. These two ladies were responsible for all of the planning and work that went into organizing and preparing for the conference. They deserve high praise and appreciation for their efforts.

- - Dave Johnson

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

Membership in the C & O Canal Association is open to all persons with an interest in the C & O Canal, the C & O Canal Historic Park, and the Potomac River Basin. Annual membership dues are \$15 individual, \$20 family, and \$25 patron, and are assessed on a calendar-year basis. Dues should be mailed to the C & O Canal Association at the above address. A newsletter subscription is included with membership. The Association is a non-profit organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax deductible.

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Park Ranger - Subdistrict Interpretation

202-653-5844
Kathy Kupper

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Great Falls Tavern Information
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301-299-3613
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Hancock, Maryland 21

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Sherilyn St

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301-722-8226

Western Maryland Sta
Cumberland, MD 2151

Park Ranger

Rita Kno

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OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

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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

ROCKS & LOCKS

This is the second in a series of four articles researched and prepared by Dr. Dave Gardner describing the different type of stone which was used in construction of the Canal.

SENECA RED SANDSTONE

What with the sad endless litany of floods, bankruptcy, labor unrest, sickness, and the looming threat of the B&O Railroad, the C&O Canal builders could well have used a bit of good luck in the early days of construction. They found it in a large deposit of high quality building stone right on the canal, just above the mouth of Seneca Creek in Montgomery County, Maryland. This was the Seneca red sandstone (or *Seneca stone*, or *Seneca freestone*). Ranging in color from reddish brown to reddish gray to lilac gray, the sandstone was ideally suited for production of *dimension stone*, that is, stone that could be cut into blocks of precise dimensions for use in a wide variety of masonry structures. Earlier, toward the end of the Eighteenth Century, the stone had been used in the bypass locks on the Virginia side of Great Falls as part of George Washington's old Potowmack Company.

Of Triassic age (225 to 190 million years old), the stone was used in most of the C&O Canal locks, lockhoused, and other structures between Locks No. 15 and No. 27. It is very much in evidence in the lockhouse and the unique, contiguous Seneca Creek Aqueduct and Lock No. 24 (Riley's Lock).



Smithsonian's red sandstone castle on the Mall. Nineteenth century engraving.

Eventually, there were five separate quarries at the Seneca site. At the largest, the Peter's quarry, the Canal Company installed a rock crusher to provide *road metal* (surfacing) for the canal towpath. Another, known as the *Government quarry*, was purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Captain Montgomery C. Meigs for use in construction of the great Washington Aqueduct. Seneca stone went into the Engineers' Potomac dam and the other Aqueduct structures, most spectacularly the beautiful *Union Arch* over Cabin John Creek. Downtown, the stone was used in the Smithsonian Castle, the

original Corcoran Gallery of Art (now the Smithsonian's Fenwick Gallery) and countless *brownstone* houses in the District of Columbia. Thus, the good fortune of the Canal Company was two-fold: First, the quarries supplied an immense quantity of stone for the Canal's own structures and, secondly, the Canal Company continued to earn extra revenue by hauling boatloads of stone downstream to a variety of building sites. The stone was best employed if laid horizontally, parallel to its original bed of stratification: when it was laid up vertically (as in the Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown) is also badly *spalled* and crumbling away.



Seneca quarry. Freshly quarried blocks frozen in time for a century. (Note line of grooves along edges of blocks, showing how and where they were split.

The great economy of water transport on the canal might be compared with an earlier experience:

When the Baltimore Catholic Cathedral was constructed...(1806-1821)...the granite was hauled from Ellicott Mills to Baltimore in huge wagons drawn by **nine yoke of oxen** (emphasis added).

When the U.S. Congress authorized construction of the Smithsonian Building in 1845, the process was firmly taken in hand by the Hon. Robert Dale Owen, a renaissance man whose broad interests included architecture. It was he who selected the Norman Castle design of architect James Renwick, Jr. Serendipitously, Congressman Owen had a brother, Dr. David Dale Owen, who was a geologist, and it was Dr. Owen, the geologist, who supervised the work of selecting a building stone for the castle.

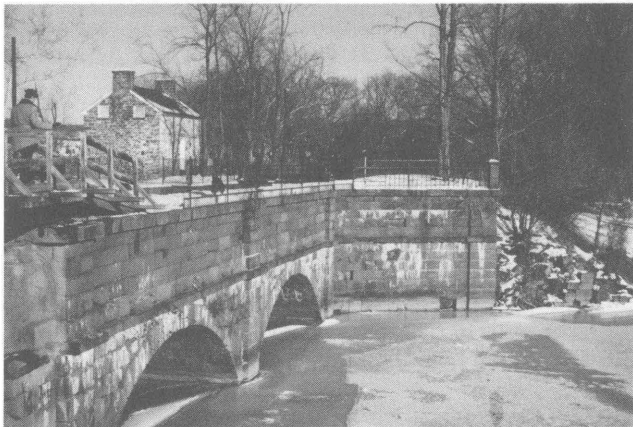
Several types of stone were sampled and tested in what may well have been the most thoroughly scientific analytic procedure used for any public building of the time. The finalists were the granite and marble from Baltimore County, Maryland, and the Triassic red sandstone from Seneca. After examining the Seneca quarries and the nearby canal aqueduct, Owen, writing in 1848 reported that:

The freestone of the upper Potomac, in the vicinity of Seneca

ROCKS & LOCKS - continued

Creek, and found in quarries close to the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is probably not surpassed by any freestone ever used in the United States; and its tint harmonizes well with the gravity of style and purpose appertaining to the Institution building.

When first quarried it is comparatively soft, working freely before the chisel and hammer; but by exposure it gradually indurates, and ultimately acquires a toughness and consistency that not only enables it to resist atmospheric vicissitudes, but even the most severe mechanical wear and tear. Thus, on the tow-path of the Aqueduct, near Seneca creek, over which horses and mules have been travelling almost daily for upwards of twenty years, this freestone was found still unimpaired. Even the corners around which the heavy lock-gates swing, showed no signs of chipping or decay: and on the perpendicular wall of the aqueduct, where the water is continuously oozing through the joints and trickling down its face, forming incrustation of carbonate of lime, this freestone was observed, where the calcareous crust had scaled off, with the grooves and ridges of the surface still nearly as distinct as when the blocks came from the hands of the stone mason, more than twenty years age.



Seneca Creek Aqueduct, Riley's Lock, and Lockhouse, all built of Seneca red sandstone.

Another very important factor in the choice of Seneca stone was its proximity to the city (23 miles) and the availability of the C&O Canal for transport. Seneca stone could be delivered on site at the Castle for twenty cents per cubic foot, less than half the cost of the granite or marble.

Meanwhile, back at the quarry, the success of the stone trade had led to construction of a large cutting mill beside the creek. The mill, erected around 1850 or earlier, and rebuilt in 1873, was built of (what else?) Seneca stone. Rough quarried blocks were hauled to the mill by mules on a narrow gauge railway. Water, fed from the canal via a millrace, powered a large waterwheel in the center of the mill, with the power transferred by overhead shafts and leather belts to the separate machines for cutting, milling, and polishing the stone. Cutting was accomplished by

various toothless blades of steel or copper working in an abrasive slurry of sand and water. The mill was so effective that other types of stone were hauled in from the surrounding area to be cut and dressed. The cutting mill provided employment of local people for many years. The late Mr. Raymond Riley, who was born in the lockhouse bearing his name, and who was affectionately euologized by Ken Rollins in the June 1995 issue of this journal, had a father and grandfather who worked in the mill.

The advent of structural steel in building, with the concomitant drop in demand for building stone coincided with the gradual extraction of the better grade of stone at the Seneca site. Activity at the quarries and mill diminished and eventually shut down about the turn of the century.

The massive ruins of the cutting mill are easily accessible and well worth a visit: From Riley's lock, cross the aqueduct, turn right at the cofferdam, and follow the short stretch of road to the left.

Trivia Question: Which U.S. President invested his own money in the Seneca stone works?

Answer: U.S. Grant. When the retired general occupied the White House, he got personal investment advice from Washington political chief Alexander R. Shepherd. Boss Shepherd, who was in the process of rebuilding (and ultimately bankrupting) the city, knew all about building stone and persuaded the president to invest \$25,000 in the Seneca Sandstone Company.

-- Dave Gardner

BOOK REVIEW

THE ALEXANDRIA CANAL: Its History & Preservation

By Thomas Swiftwater Hahn & Emery L. Kemp

Institute for the History of Technology & Industrial Archaeology

Monograph Series Volume 1, Number 1, 1992

West Virginia University Press - 76 pp.

Book Review

Canal buffs will be delighted to know that the very first monograph, published by West Virginia University's Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology, is on a canal. And as a Virginian, I am especially pleased that this is a Virginia canal - it branched off the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, but it was built by a separate company in 1843 to take coal freighters from Georgetown, now part of Washington, D.C., down to Alexandria's deepwater port on the Potomac.

The Alexandria Canal was only seven miles long, but it had all of the engineering features a notable canal requires, including a flight of four locks, a stone-arch aqueduct over Four-Mile Run, and a 1100-foot aqueduct across the Potomac.

BOOK REVIEW - continued

Unfortunately for the canal, the same progress which was responsible for its construction, has been responsible for eliminating nearly all traces of it in this solidly developed area surrounding the nation's capital. In fact, there is some debate about the exact route of the canal in relation to modern buildings. Could one of the secret rooms under the Pentagon be in the old canal bed?

The canal's most famous structure, the Alexandria Canal Aqueduct, was almost completely demolished in 1962, the victim of a foolish law in our land requiring that old bridge piers be removed because they "obstruct navigation," even when there is no longer any navigation to be obstructed. Therefore it takes a campaign to save a historic bridge or an aqueduct, and it took the Arlington Historical Society a lot of work to save one pier on the Virginia side.

The flight of locks, too, was almost lost forever. Over the years the locks became completely buried and lost to view. Even the ownership of the lowest lock in the flight, the Tide Lock, was in dispute because the federal government claimed all the land up to the high tide mark in 1776. Two centuries later when developers wanted to use the site, the federal claim was part of the leverage which led to a compromise - the development of the site, but the uncovering and preservation of the lock as a waterfront feature, and the establishment of the Alexandria Waterfront Museum beside it.

The first excavation at the lock was by Vivienne Mitchell and Pamela Cressey in 1979, to prove that the lock was still there to preserve and to place it on the National Register of Historic Places. Then in 1982 and 1985 Tom Hahn and Emery Kemp systematically excavated the lock for interpretation and restoration. It should be pointed out that their restoration recommendations were not entirely accepted by the developers. The lock is a static display today, without working gates, to avoid the "dirty Potomac water." Someday we hope to see the lock brought back to life so historic small craft can be berthed on display in front of the Waterfront Museum.

The Alexandria Canal is a 76-page, well-illustrated account beginning with the history of the Alexandria Canal (with a good study of the Tide Lock). It even has a glossary of canal terms, and extracts from the notebooks of the canal's engineer, Maskell C. Ewing. There are precious few books available on canal archaeology in this country, so this important book is a must for every canaller's shelf. It is also a welcome change from useless contract archaeology reports made by investigators who may be good archaeologists, but who don't know a breast wall from a stop-gate slot. As anyone reading American Canals knows, Dr. Tom Hahn is a world-class canal archaeologist, one of the founders of the American Canal Society twenty years ago. And Dr. Kemp, who started the new Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology, in 1989, is also a member of ACS and knows his canals. It ought to be a law that contract archaeologists doing a canal site, should be required to

include a recognized canal archaeologist or a canal expert as an integral part of their team. Canal archaeology is a specialty, and it takes special knowledge to pose the relevant questions of use to canal historians. Fortunately, Tom Hahn and Emery Kemp know what they are talking about. Let this book be a good example for future work in the field of canal archaeology.

The Alexandria Canal is available at \$15 postpaid (plus 84 cents tax in WV) from the American Canal & Transportation Center, P.O. Box 310, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

Submitted by Bill Trout - Richmond Virginia, and published in "The Tiller", Vol. 14 Issue 1 - Spring 1993, Virginia Canals and Navigations Society.

With appreciation, the C&O Canal Association acknowledges the following persons who have contributed to the Davies Fund (D), C&O Canal Fund (C), or the Monocacy Aqueduct Fund (M) since the last report in *ATP*:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Weir	M
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Margaret M. And Nicholas C. Weber	M

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 are scheduled four times monthly on the first and last Wednesday and Saturday. Meet in Great Falls Tavern at 10 a.m. to begin with a brief slide show. Hikes are led by Park Service Volunteers Betty Bushell, Betty Henson, and Helen Johnston.
1996		
Jan 6	Sat	VIP WORKDAY, 9 a.m. to Noon. Meet at Great Falls Tavern to remove, clean, and paint chain link fence (inside work). Call John Lindt (301-469-6381) or Ranger Nancy Brown (301-299-3613) for details.
Feb 3	Sat	VIP WORKDAY, 9 a.m. to Noon. Meet at Great Falls Tavern to continue work on chain link fence; paint and replace chains. Call John Lindt (301-469-6381) or Ranger Nancy Brown (301-299-3613) for details.
Feb 4	Sun	Board Meeting, Williamsport Library, 1:00 p.m.
Mar 2	Sat	C & O Canal Association Annual Meeting , Williamsport, MD
Mar 2	Sat	VIP WORKDAY, 9 a.m. to Noon. For those not attending the annual meeting. Meet at Great Falls Tavern to continue work on chain link fence, etc. Call John Lindt (301-469-6381) or Ranger Nancy Brown (301-299-3613) for details.
Mar 9	Sat	Canal Commission Meeting
Apr 6	Sat	VIP WORKDAY, 9 a.m. to Noon. Meet at Great Falls Tavern (for transportation) or at Lock 8 parking lot for pruning on lock levels 8 to 11. Call John Lindt (301-469-6381) or Ranger Nancy Brown (301-299-3613) for details.
Apr 14	Sun	Board Meeting, Glen Echo Town Hall, 1:00 p.m.
Apr 21	Sun	Antietam Village Tour led by John Frye, 2:00 p.m. See article in the December issue of <i>Along the Towpath</i> .
Apr 27	Sat	42nd Anniversary Justice William O. Douglas Hike. Whites Ferry to Monocacy River Aqueduct and return.
May 4	Sat	VIP WORKDAY, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at Great Falls Tavern to paint fence and stain lock-gates. Bring picnic lunch and wear clothing suitable for painting. Call John Lindt (301-469-6381) or Ranger Nancy Brown (301-299-3613) for details.
May 11	Sat	C&O Canal Bike ride. Details in March issue of <i>Along the Towpath</i> . Contact Mario Abbate (301-540-6974).
May 12	Sun	Paw Paw Tunnel walk with Ralph Donnelly. Details in March issue of <i>Along the Towpath</i> .
Jun 1	Sat	VIP WORKDAY, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at Riley's Lock (Seneca) to clear vegetation from lock and nearby structures. Bring lunch if you wish. Call John Lindt (301-469-6381) or Ranger Nancy Brown (301-299-3613) for details.
Jun 8	Sat	Canal Commission Meeting.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS - continued

Jun 15	Sat	Canoe from Violettes Lock to Great Falls. Ideal introduction to canoeing -great for old-timers, too. Contact Carl Linden (301) 229-2398 or Ken Rollins (804) 448-2934.
Jun 27-30	Th-Sat	World Conference. Birminham, UK. Dates provisional.
Jun 30	Sun	Board Meeting, Williamsport Library, 1:00 p.m.
Jul 6	Sat	Canoe the River from Brunswick to Monocacy landing. Contact Carl Linden (301) 229-2398 or Ken Rollins (804) 448-2934.
Jul 14	Sun	Potluck dinner with Friends of the Tavern and the C&O Canal Association. Details later.
Aug 4	Sun	Board Meeting, Glen Echo Town Hall, 1:00 p.m.
Aug 24-25	Sat-Sun	Williamsport C&O Canal Days. Contact Tom Perry (301) 223-7010.
Sep 7	Sat	VIP Workday. Details later.
Sep 7	Sat	Canal Commission Meeting.
Sep 14-15	Sat-Sun	Annual overnight Paw Paw bends canoe trip. Contact Carl Linden (301) 229-2398 or Ken Rollins (804) 448-2934.
Sep 14-15	Sat-Sun	Hancock Apple Days. Contact John Popenoe (301-678-6379).
Sep 23	Sat	C&O Canal Bike ride. Details in March issue of <i>Along the Towpath</i> . Contact Mario Abbate (301-540-6974).
Sep 28-29	Sat-Sun	Cumberland Canal Boat Festival. Contact John Millar (301-729-3136)
Sep 29	Sun	Board Meeting, Tom and Linda Perry's, 116 Conococheague St., Williamsport, 1:00 p.m.
Oct 5	Sat	VIP Workday. Details later.
Oct 12-17	Sat-Thr	Through-bike trip -- Cumberland to Georgetown led by Tom Perry. Details later.
Oct 26	Sat	Annual Heritage Hike. Details later.
Dec 1	Sun	Board Meeting, Glen Echo Town Hall, 1:00 P.M.
Dec 7	Sat	Annual FROSTBITE HIKE . Contact Ken Rollins (804-448-2934).
Dec 15	Sun	Holiday Sing-Along at the Great Falls Tavern, 3:00 p.m. Bring a snack to share.
Dec 14	Sat	Canal Commission Meeting.

1997

Mar 1	Sat	C&O Canal Association Annual Meeting.
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C & O CANAL COMPANY RECORDS AT THE ARCHIVES

The National Archives facility at College Park, Maryland, Archives II, now houses the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company records, which Bill Davies worked on for many years. These materials have now been finally collated and filed away, with an inventory available to users. The documents provide much valuable information on the canal's operation as a transportation artery and on the earlier Potomac Company established to build a waterway using the Potomac River and bypass canals.

The Potomac Company, chartered by Maryland and Virginia in 1784, was organized in 1785, with George Washington as president, to improve the Potomac River navigation by deepening the channel and cutting canals around the falls. Construction began in 1785 and continued rapidly until 1802 when financial difficulties forced curtailments. From 1810 to 1818 the company sponsored a lottery in a fruitless quest for funds. The company survived until 1828 when its property passed to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

The C&O Canal Company operated under charters issued by the United States, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania during 1824 to 1826. Subscription books were opened in 1827, and the company was established in June 1828. Construction proceeded in fits and starts from 1828 until 1850, when the canal reached Cumberland.

By 1836 Maryland held a controlling interest in the company. In 1890 court-appointed receivers took over the canal in response to a petition by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In 1892 the B&O organized the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Transportation Company as a financial measure to enable the C&O Canal Company to show a profit. In 1903 the Canal Towage Company was set up to provide boats, teams and equipment to shippers.

Early cargo carried on the canal was mainly farm produce, but during the 1850s coal emerged as an important commodity, which it continued to be until operations ceased in 1924. In 1938 the canal was sold to the United States and assigned to the National Park Service, which received the C&O Canal Company and Potomac Company records.

The incomplete Potomac Company records concern mainly finances. The C&O Canal Company papers include accounts or minutes of meetings, correspondence, legal documents concerning mostly land titles, records about construction and operations, financial data, and reference materials. These materials originated with the president and directors, the trustees during the receivership, the treasurer, the commissioner, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Transportation Company, the Canal Towage Company, engineers, and collectors, but because many records are not identifiable as to origin, the inventory has series entries arranged by subject or type of record.

Particularly interesting collections from the Potomac Company include the minutes of meetings of stockholders and between the president and directors from 1785 to 1828; and deed records, indentures and other papers relating to shares of stock from 1791 to 1828.

Among the C&O Canal Company papers, the following series appear after preliminary scanning to be particularly interesting: proceedings of the president and directors from 1828 to 1890; letters received by the president and directors from 1828 to 1889; acts and resolutions enacted by federal, state, and city governments, 1829 to 1897; waybills issued at Georgetown from 1893 to 1919; ledgers from 1893 to 1919; and maps and plans relating to the canal from 1826 to 1937. Other papers might have specific interest, e.g., the letter book of the resident engineer of the 5th residency of the first division from 1828 to 1831, which probably contains interesting information concerning the building of the Monocacy Aqueduct; the assessment book of the 5th residency from 1829 to 1833, which may have detailed information concerning construction costs of the aqueduct; and drawings and other records concerning construction from 1828 to 1937, arranged mostly by subject.

Although these records may be dry, technical reading material, they probably relate in great detail the drama of building and operating the two early canal systems. The papers are available to individuals who have a researcher's permit issued by the National Archives. Archives II is located on Adelphi Road in College Park.

- - Hal Larsen

LEARN ABOUT THE CANAL FROM JOHN FRYE

The Association will sponsor 3 series of educational walks during the coming year. The walks will be led by John Frye, a member of the Association's board of directors and well known as a leading authority on the history of the C&O Canal and the Civil War. He has built a wide reputation as a premiere interpretive ranger in the National Park Service during the last fifteen years, and his programs have always drawn appreciative audiences.

The first two walks will be in southern Washington County, adjacent to the canal, to explore the remains of one of Western Maryland's early industries, the Antietam Iron Works:

Sunday, 17 March, 2:00 P.M. - Ore banks and Fort Duncan. The walk will view the pits where iron ore was mined for Antietam Furnace. A side trip to Fort Duncan, a Civil War fortification within the park boundaries, is also planned. This will be a two-mile circle walk on unimproved trails. Wear heavy shoes and long trousers. In case of bad weather or bad road conditions contact John Frye (301 432-8878), for a makeup date.

LEARN ABOUT THE CANAL -continued

Meet at the Pleasantville (Monocacy Subdistrict) maintenance building. This is located on Pleasantville Road, off Ferry Road between Sandy Hook and Sharpsburg.

Sunday, 21 April, 2:00 P.M. - Antietam Village and iron works. The second walk will be at the site of the Iron works in Antietam Village near the mouth of Antietam Creek. This will be a one-mile circle tour, featuring the Antietam Aqueduct, the loading basin, the site of the furnace stacks, and the only visible remains of the industry that operated from 1763 through 1883, the dam, mill race, and wheel pits.

Meet at the east end of Antietam Creek Campground, along Canal Road off Harpers Ferry Road, three miles south of Sharpsburg.

Sunday, 12 May - Paw Paw Tunnel (with Ralph Donnelly). Watch for additional details on this walk in the March newsletter. Additional programs are planned for fall.

VOLUNTEER VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED

President Carl Linden appointed a committee consisting of Dave Johnson, Ken Rollins, Susan Fauntleroy, and John Frye to plan the program of interpretive walks. The board of directors endorsed the committee's proposal to record the walks on video tape, so that they can be preserved for future reference and use in educational programs. One or more videographers are needed to serve on the committee. Members who can provide VHS equipment and who would like to volunteer to assist on this program are requested to contact Dave Johnson, (301) 530-7473, or John Frye (301) 432-8878.

NATURE NOTES

Some Residents of the Great Falls Tavern Area and What Seems to be Happening to Them

Where have all the turtles gone? A summer stroll on the trails of the Gold Mine Tract once produced not just one, but several box turtles. They lumbered slowly along the trail or through the woods on paths best known to box turtles. Not a single one has shown itself during several 1995 excursions along the trails.

Unlike box turtles, water turtles seem to be holding their own. Turtles with shells ranging in size from about a dime or a quarter, to 10 or 12 inches or more, bask in the sun at the canal's edge or swim to an out-jutting rock or log. Some of the nearby wetlands also have their quota of turtles.

Garter snakes, green snakes, and ring-necked snakes seen to have practically disappeared. A black rat snake occasionally shows himself on the rocks or hiding in the greenery below the board walk on the way to the falls overlook. Especially in early spring, and occasional brown water snake swims rapidly up or down the canal. A copperhead was last observed crossing the towpath about eight years ago. (Some would say *good riddance!*)

Skinks (5-lined?) seem to like the sunlit railing of the boardwalk. At any rate, they can often be seen in late summer basking in the sun or running rapidly along the top railing. They also show themselves on the trunks of trees at the edge of the towpath--usually on trees that have started to lose their bark. Such trees sometimes look like skink hotels with small bodies appearing in open crevices up and down the trunk.

Like the box turtles, wild turkeys used to be seen rather often on the Gold Mine Tract. On one memorable hike about 10 years ago, a turkey hen did her *broken wing* act to distract our attention from a covey of young.

The bobwhite is another former *nester* on the Goldmine Tract. The bird's soft call could often be heard in the area where a number of Allegheny Mound Builder ants have established large mounds over the years. A mother bird with about a dozen *chicks* was once seen crossing MacArthur Boulevard to the grounds of Rockwood, then a girl scout retreat.

Summer used to also bring the oven bird whose *teacher, teacher, teacher* could be heard resounding through the woods. Oven birds are skillful at hiding their round-level nests, and no nest was ever found. No oven bird has been heard on the Gold Mine Tract for years.

On one long-ago day in early spring, a woodcock appeared on a Gold Mine Tract trail. Was he just passing through? At any rate he was never heard again.

Although heard less frequently than in the past, a wood thrush song still permeates the woodlands, especially on the berm side of the canal upstream from the Tavern. Occasionally, the Louisiana water thrush (not a thrush but a warbler) can be heard singing by one of the woodland streams. An observer may be lucky enough to see the bird as he teeters along a fallen log.

In past years a barred owl could be depended upon to be watching towpath users from a large hole in a giant sycamore overlooking the path. Since a storm felled the tree several years ago, we have been unable to find the owl as easily. He--or one of his close relatives--sometimes appears in a more or less hidden place in the same general area en route Swain's Lock.

For a number of years, barn swallows nested every spring under the eaves of the Tavern. A half-dozen or more nests were plastered at the sheltered top of posts supporting porch roofs upstairs and down. As babies matured, they kept their nests clean by perching with tails hanging out over the edge of the

NATURE NOTES - continued

nest. A bystander looking up from below was in danger!

For several years, a phoebe nested under the bridge just below the winter "parking" for the canal boat. Apparently, the people crowding the part in recent years have been too much for the phoebe. Usually we hear him sing, sometimes as early as the last of February, but he doesn't choose to stay.

The soft body of a flying squirrel was once found lying lifeless near a trail on the Gold Mine Tract. No sign of flying squirrels has been seen since, though as creatures of the night, they may still be hiding in the woods.

A raccoon was once observed looking out of a hole high in a tree. Although the animals are seldom seen, their tracks often appear on the towpath, or on woodland trails, showing where they have prowled the night before.

Little striped chipmunks used to entertain Tavern visitors. Discouraged by crowds and probably especially by dog walkers, they seem to have practically disappeared. On an early fall walk in 1995, one was observed minding his own chipmunk business in the woods on the canal berm.

Beavers continue to be rather common sights in the Park, especially in early spring. As many as three or four may be seen sitting on the canal bank or swimming in the canal. Generally their presence is most easily recognized by the wood chips left at the foot of a tree where they have worked during the night. Occasionally they cut down rather large trees, seemingly with no real purpose. Whenever the water in the canal is drained for some reason, their dam-building skills become apparent as a small lake forms in the canal prism behind a newly created beaver dam.

Continuing to attract interest on the Gold Mine Tract are the Allegheny Mound Builders. Over the years, these small ants have built at least fifty mounds from a foot or so to several years in circumference at the base. They hibernate within the mounds during the winter. An industrious flicker was seen one winter day, busily poking holes in the base of an ant mound. Unlike many of the Park's wild creatures, the deer have increased in recent years. On a Gold Mine Tract walk several years ago, we were lucky to see a fawn lying motionless in a patch of sunlight not far from the trail. On winter walks when there are no leaves to hide them, we often see small herd of six to ten deer standing motionless as they watch us, or moving rapidly out of sight. Just as in suburban gardens, they seem to be having an effect on the Park's vegetation. Peeled bark on young trees and the practical disappearance of patches of club moss are two clues to deer damage.

River watchers often see great blue herons or black-crowned night herons patiently watching for a fish dinner. Great Blues and little green herons also hunt along the canal. Overhead turkey, and the less frequent, black vultures soar lazily

on the wind. Most exciting is the occasional sight of one of the bald eagles with its white head and tail and outstretched wings, usually flying very high. About ten years ago, a pair of eagles returned to nest on Conn Island just upriver from the Tavern. This was after an absence of fifty or more years. In at least two recent years, they lost their young, once when a flood took down their whole tree and once when a severe cold snap occurred early in nesting season. Each January we watch eagerly to make sure the eagles are nesting again.

NATURE NOTES, Part II

The record-breaking hot, dry days of the 1995 summer left the Potomac valley with only languid traces of the usual broad stretches of rushing water. In nearby woodlands, dry leaves started curling and falling to the dry earth. The birds were mostly silent, keeping to themselves in the dried-out woodlands.

On one summer walk, a chipmunk scurried out of sight on the path at the Ford goldmine. On another, a box turtle lumbered up the canal bank and vanished into the woods. Even the river-side path above Great Falls Tavern became dusty.

Then the fall rains came. Some rode the fringes of storms far to our South. Some blew in from the North and West. The grateful earth soaked in the moisture. Flocks of chimney swifts--early fall migrants--darted over the rushing brown flood that surged down the Potomac River valley. High overhead, broad-winged hawks circled. Below them turkey vultures and an occasional black vulture lazily rode the wind.

Along the walkway across the Potomac Islands to the Falls Overlook, the false foxglove bloomed--the only place we have found it in the Park. Nearby were purple and white asters and yellow goldenrod. Pawpaw fruits started to ripen in the trees along the towpath and at the river's edge. Tricky seed pods of tick trefoil and Spanish needles demonstrated ways to travel to new locations by clinging to the clothing of passers-by. A bare touch to the tip of a ripe seed pod on jewel weed sent seeds in all directions as the pod exploded. Bladder nut seeds dripped with rain at times, but the pods remained closed with the seeds not yet ready for dispersal.

The cool nights reddened the dogwood leaves and turned the tulip trees to gold. Hunting for ripe pawpaws became a game, with a tasty bit of fruit for a reward. Persimmons started littering the towpath in places, tempting passers-by, but sometimes leaving mouths puckered by unripe fruit.

Miniature forests of moss covered the decaying trunks of trees lying prone in the woods, downed by long-past wind storms. Red berries appeared on the holly along a woodland trail. Fungi presented a variety of shapes and colors. Squirrels busily harvested the year's crop of acorns. Maidenhair, New York, and other summer ferns turned brown and disappeared, leaving the sturdy Christmas ferns as rare greenery lasting all winter. Crane fly and putty root, two native orchids in the local woods, pushed new leaves through the damp earth--leaves ready to receive

sunlight for the manufacture of food for the plant during winter, but disappearing as trees leaf out again in the spring.

With Halloween past, November emerged--still colorful, but with shortening days and chilly winds. Leaves started falling in earnest, and rustled underfoot. Small birds scratched in the underbrush at the side of the towpath--possibly juncos and white-throated sparrows returned for the winter from their summer homes in the north. A kingfisher silently watched from his perch on a low tree limb just above the water on the canal berm. A great blue heron patiently stalked the still water of a woodland pool, looking for his dinner. He concentrated all of his energy on the chore at hand, oblivious to the half-dozen "heron-watchers" on the nearby towpath.

On a memorable walk along the river in early November, a bald eagle swooped low over our heads, showing his white head and tail feathers. His flight was reassuring. We hadn't seen him recently, nor had he appeared to be counted on the breeding bird census in the Park in early June.

On the same early November walk, the ubiquitous crows made their noisy presence known, a downy woodpecker called, and a pileated woodpecker disappeared among the trees. Small birds rose from hiding places along the path just ahead and settled down again in new hiding places.

As the first snow fall just after Veterans Day lets us know that winter is really here, we will start looking for blue birds and an occasional robin, both winter residents in the Great Falls Tavern area. Blue birds nest further upstream, but seem to find a better food supply in the winter woods downstream. Forty or fifty years ago, they nested close to Washington. In recent years they have been observed examining possible nesting sites near Great Falls Tavern. Each time, starlings soon took over and the bluebirds disappeared.

During the 1995 year, perhaps the most outstanding natural history event along the towpath was the breeding bird census in early June. Under the leadership of Dianne Ingram, Natural Resources Management Specialist, 74 volunteer birders and assistants took part, covering the entire 184.5-mile length of the towpath. A total of 106 breeding bird species were counted, including 49 species breeding locally but wintering in the South as far away in some cases as Central and South America.

The ten species most often recorded included the Northern Cardinal, American crow, tufted titmouse, red-eyed vireo, Acadian flycatcher, red-bellied woodpecker, Eastern woodpeewee, common grackle, blue-grey gnatcatcher and indigo bunting. The vireo, flycatcher, woodpeewee, gnatcatcher, and indigo bunting are migrants to the local area, found only during the spring and summer. Cardinals, crows, titmice, grackles, and red-bellied woodpeckers are among the many birds that make the C&O Canal Park a fascinating place year round.

Note: See the **Calendar of Events** in each issue of *Along the Towpath* for information about Sights and Sounds of the Seasons walks.

SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 24 BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors met on September 24, 1995 in the Williamsport, MD. Library. President Linden opened with remarks regarding the Monocacy Aqueduct fund-raising campaign and asked for input for a slogan. Some of Ken Rollins' suggestions: "Uphold the Monocacy" and "It ain't London Bridge that's falling down, it's the Monocacy Aqueduct."

The Treasurer's Report was read and explained by the Treasurer, who also distributed a budget call to all officers, committee chairpersons, and program coordinators. The budget will be presented to the Board at its December meeting. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was seconded and passed.

Committee reports:

a. Membership Committee: The President asked Joy Bloom to serve as chairperson of this committee. The Board appointed an ad hoc committee of Joy Bloom, Ellen Holway, Fred Mopsik, William Bauman and Rita Bauman to develop a statement of its responsibilities.

b. Archives Committee: The Chair, Hal Larsen, was not present, and the President reported in Larsen's absence. Regarding negotiations with George Washington University's Gelman Library Special Collections, the stipulations presented at the last meeting were sent to William Evans to be put in legal form for approval by the Committee as an agreement with the University. The Chair and the President will accompany two representatives of Special Collections, Francine Henderson and Cheryl Choiniere, on a visit to the Archives so that they can informally review our Collection.

c. Monocacy Aqueduct Committee: Carl Linden is ex officio chair and reported on the first meeting, held Sept. 18, 1995 at his home; it was attended by Dr. James Gilford, who is chair of the Monocacy Aqueduct Committee of the C & O Canal National Historical Park Commission, and Charles Weir, also a member of that Commission, and by Association members Ken Rollins, Helen Shaw, Rita Bauman, Rachel Stewart, and Carrie Johnson. That committee determined, first, to gather from other organizations samples of their fund-raising information packets; second, to sketch the functions and responsibilities of a fund-raising committee; third, to design a fund-raising information packet; fourth, to apply for a Montgomery County Historic Preservation Grant for funds to pay for the packet.

d. Publications Committee: Robert Perry, editor of *Along the Towpath*, requested that the Board approve

SUMMARY - continued

some means of acknowledging special donations to the Monocacy Aqueduct Fund. Fred Mopsik reported that the new membership brochure will be printed as soon as the telephone number is secured. Karen Gray moved that "The Association order and have installed a telephone for the Association as soon as a satisfactory location can be found"; the motion was seconded and passed. Printing cost estimates were discussed.

e. Environmental Committee: Fred Mopsik reported on the public hearing on the proposed "Canal Road Entrance Improvements for the Georgetown University". He presented to the Board a draft of the Association's written statement, which, upon motion made and seconded, was approved by the Board.

f. Volunteers-in-the-Parks: The President reported that the NPS staff is organizing a day of recognition for VIPs at the Great Falls. It was moved and seconded that "the Association contribute \$50.00 toward the day of recognition", which the Board passed.

Other business:

a. The President reported that Superintendent Faris has requested the Association's assistance in paying the printing costs of several fliers. It was moved and seconded that the Association pay for the fliers out of the C & O Canal Fund, with the stipulation that credit for Association funding be printed on the fliers. The motion passed.

b. Nominations Committee for officers and directors to be elected at the March Annual Meeting will be Helen Shaw, John Fondersmith, Estelle Laughlin, Chris Cerniglia, and Sonny De Forge.

c. Gary Petrichick reported the results of the small committee set up 1 1/2 years ago to evaluate comments of the Directors.

d. Maryland Volkspport Association has contacted the Association to establish a series of one-day walks over a three-year period to cover the entire length of the Canal.

e. John Gregory, who made a presentation to the Board regarding rock-climbing overuse of the Carderock area, will report at the December 3 Board meeting on specific mountaineering needs along the Canal.

f. Regarding the mapping project, Gary Petrichick will be in touch with Bill Clague before the December meeting and will report then.

There being no further business, and upon motion made, seconded and passed, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel L. Stewart, Secretary

DAVE GARDNER'S HISTORY OF THE C & O CANAL CLASS OFFERED THIS SPRING

Montgomery College will be offering Dr. Dave Gardner's class on the history of the C & O Canal this spring. The class is scheduled for four Tuesday evening lectures from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. on April 2, 9, 16, and 23, with two Saturday field trips on April 20 and 27. Call Montgomery College for registration information at 301-279-5188.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

Because of space limitations, it was impossible to publish all of the articles and information received since the last issue of *Along the Towpath*. In fact, our new column, **News from the Potomac River Basin** was eliminated from publication in this issue along with several photographs which many of you had submitted to complement articles contained herein. The decision was a difficult one, but was necessary to keep within budget in spite of the record 28-page length of this issue. I hope to print the balance of these articles in the March 1996 issue of *Along the Towpath*.

One letter and accompanying photograph, received back in September from Mr. Harold Hankins of Chambersburg reported on the progress (everything is going well) at Lock 44 in Williamsport and asked for assistance in identifying the circular structure at the bottom of the photo below. It appears to be a well, but it is located in the Canal prism just east of Lock 44. If you can help identify the structure, please let me know or contact Harold at 52 Glen Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201-1008.



Many members of the Association contribute to make *Along the Towpath* a creditable publication. I am grateful to each for the dedication of time and talents to this endeavor.

Jane and I wish you all a happy and safe holiday and hope to see you *Along the Towpath*.