

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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NUMBER 2

NOTES FROM THE NON-RESIDENT PRESIDENT

It is an ill flood that flows no good! Before the mid-January flood hit, our park was on a list of national parks being eyed for reduction or elimination. Though the deluge destroyed much of the towpath, and for a while it appeared that we'd be without our park for the better part of this season, the powers that be now know that the C & O Canal National Historical Park is truly loved and wanted. Millions of dollars of donations have poured in, materials and equipment have been donated for reconstruction, and the park office has a list of over fifteen thousand individuals who have offered their time and energy toward seeing the park brought back to usable condition. Justice Douglas envisioned a park for the people. I'm not sure even he envisioned the extent of the people for the park!

Best of all, by the time of the Douglas Reunion Hike, the towpath was usable from end to end! No amount of thanks can repay Superintendent Doug Faris and his marvelous staff for the work they've done to give us back our park. If you do no more, and as Association members you've already done so much, please don't fail to thank each and every ranger and maintenance person you meet for the miracle they've accomplished.

Mid to late April was an especially busy time. In addition to the work we were doing to assist park staff in scheduling the many volunteer work crews, we were involved with some very high level attention to the park. From the 17th through the 20th, Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt hiked the towpath from Harpers Ferry to Georgetown. Some of us were privileged to walk part of the way with him and at a ceremony at Whites Ferry, presented him with checks totaling twenty one thousand five hundred dollars that Association members had donated for flood repairs, for the Monocacy River Aqueduct and for the Barron collection of canal artifacts. We also participated in ceremonies at Harpers Ferry, Brunswick, the Monocacy Aqueduct and Great Falls Tavern, and assisted in crowd control

on the last day from Fletchers Boat House to Georgetown. Topping off the festivities, both President Clinton and Vice-President Gore came to the Great Falls Tavern for the Earth Day celebration. The Association was allowed a limited number of participants, under strict security guidelines. Unfortunately, most of you failed the security check. You know who you are. (kidding!) I wish I could say that the Association was responsible for the bald eagle circling over the stand while the President and Vice-President spoke. It was most impressive. More impressive, however was the fact that the two top men in the administration were paying honor to our park. I'm sure most of you along the Potomac witnessed the event on local TV since it merited coverage even up here in the wilds of New York State.

Finishing off my sixteen days on the Canal in March and April was the fitting tribute to Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, our annual reunion hike. The weather was prefect, the bagpipes were stirring and as always, your friendship was heart warming. We re-presented the checks (now increased by five thousand dollars) to Superintendent Faris at the Monocacy River Aqueduct where "our" mule Lil greeted the hikers as they arrived from Whites Ferry.

But of course, it's still not over and things are going on as I write. Volunteer crews will be out on weekends. A benefit art auction of the works of Jack Durham is being held. Donations continue to roll in, both for reconstruction work and for the Monocacy. Plans are being made and plans are being revised.

Misgivings I had over the distance from Belmont to the Potomac are rapidly diminishing because everyone has done such a superb job of keeping things running smoothly. To give credit where credit is due would fill the newsletter so I'll just say thanks to you all. In the now immortal words of Ken Rollins, "Nobody doesn't like the C & O Canal. It's magic!"

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AN ATYPICAL WEEK ON THE C&O CANAL

Two major events occurred between April 16 and 22: the Secretary of the Interior hiked the towpath from Harpers Ferry to Georgetown, and President Clinton and Vice President Gore came to Great Falls to help clean up trash on Earth Day.

On Wednesday, April 16, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt set off on his four-day walk along the C&O Canal towpath, accompanied by staff members, well-wishers, and representatives of the press. Babbitt chose this means to point up the need to restore and protect this historic park and other parklands in the country. The occasion was also his chance to put in a good word for the environment as the annual Earth Day observance approached.

The next day the C&O Canal Association and the National Park Service had several members waiting at the Monocacy Aqueduct to greet the secretary. Superintendent Douglas Faris briefed Secretary Babbitt on the structure's history, illustrating his remarks with photographs and engineering drawings. Former C&O Canal Association president Carl Linden told the Secretary about the Association's campaign for the Aqueduct. Babbitt then continued downstream, accompanied by his already substantial entourage and the greeters from the aqueduct.

At Whites Ferry, where 150 students from the Poolesville elementary school were waiting, the hikers stopped for lunch. Afterward the secretary spoke to the kids, describing his work and remarking that he had heard they were the brightest in the valley--a comment that brought tumultuous applause. Babbitt then invited them to demonstrate their braininess by asking him questions. The nine- and ten-year-olds had some good ones: what course would he recommend to clean up a threatened environments like the Amazon Basin; what does the United Nations do with respect to environmental problems; how would he restore the C&O Canal. The secretary's answer to the latter was to "tell the superintendent to get busy!" Faris, standing nearby, acknowledged this marching order with good grace. The

secretary told his young friends from Poolesville that his responsibility for parks, forests and public lands took him outdoors a great deal. This prompted the question: "Mr. Secretary, since you are outside so much, why do they call you the Secretary of the Interior?" Babbitt, somewhat taken aback, said that was a new one and he'd have to think about it. He soon found an answer: his responsibilities were within the United States as opposed to the "exterior," which fell to Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Carl Linden presented the secretary with an enlarged (for the press cameras) check for \$10,000 which included \$2,500 from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as a contribution toward the restoration of the Monocacy Aqueduct. Carl described the Association's purpose in raising this money, drawing attention to the deteriorating piers and the urgent need to finance an engineering survey in order to assess the damage. He referred to the aqueduct as the canal's essential feature, its most important man-made structure. Its collapse owing to its weakened condition would effectively cut the park in two because the cost of rebuilding or replacing with a bridge across the Monocacy would be prohibitive. Carl was followed by Association President Gary Petrichick, who presented another check for \$10,000 for Canal restoration. Gary said he was at some disadvantage as Carl had already said everything he had planned to say, but he winged it with aplomb and made some fitting remarks. Gary also gave Secretary Babbitt the specialedition T-shirt that had just been issued in connection with the fund-raising campaign for the aqueduct. Bernie Dennis, president of the National Capital Area chapter of the ASCE, followed with remarks expressing his organization's support for the repair of the Monocacy Aqueduct as well as the Canal's restoration. A final speaker was former congressman Gilbert Gude, who during his tenure on Capitol Hill had promoted the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

The marchers then went on to Noland's Ferry. The next day,

Friday, the secretary reached Great Falls in time for a festive lunch.

Saturday a "March for Parks," sponsored by the National Parks and Conservation Association, kicked off at the Washington Harbour at 9:30 A.M. heading west. C&O Canal Association monitors were on hand at Fletcher's Boathouse, where the two hordes were to meet. Our members' purpose was to keep the towpath clear for Babbitt's east-bound party. In addition, the Association offered water to the parched walkers. This meeting with the Earth Day hikers was the occasion for remarks by the Secretary and some photo opportunities. The multitude then proceeded to the final ceremonies in Georgetown, where Babbitt, greeted by well-wishers and dignitaries, made his closing speech.

On Monday, April 22, Earth Day, Association members assembled once again at Great Falls, this time to meet the President and Vice President Gore. After thorough screening by the steely-eyed secret service, to whom everyone was a potential assassin, we were directed to seats on the concrete roof over the Washington Aqueduct overlooking the dam. A podium had been placed here, as well as bleachers for the press. The President's party arrived after we had assembled in the broiling sun (we were grateful for the water that Ranger Susan Fauntleroy plied us with). Clinton first went to the Olmstead Island bridges, where he and Gore assisted Montgomery County Conservation Corps volunteers in removing debris. The President and Gore, in dungarees and sturdy boots, worked together to heave large logs into a gully. Their performance was carefully supervised by Doug Faris. After this useful work, which provided a photo opp, they made their way to the podium and about 150 waiting guests.

The usual Hail to the Chief gave way to Vivaldi's Spring, appropriate music for this warm April day, while two bald eagles soared overhead as if on cue (or perhaps on cue; never underestimate the National Park Service). In the receiving line, Ken Rollins took the opportunity to introduce the President (Clinton) to the President (Petrichick). A Boy Scout and a Girl Scout preceded the President and Vice President at the lectern. Then Gore spoke for a few minutes, introducing several dignitaries in the audience, praising Clinton's record on environmental issues, and inviting the President to speak. The President drew attention to Gore's contributions toward preserving the environment and gave full credit to the volunteers for their work in restoring the canal. After his short speech, the President made his way around the podium's perimeter to shake hands and sign his autograph on proffered volunteer caps and Association brochures. At this point Association members presented the President and Vice-President with our new T-Shirts featuring the Monocacy Aqueduct. Guests were kept on the aqueduct roof until the presidential group departed. occasion closed with interviews with the press and more photo opportunities before the sun-burned attendees headed for their cars.

Other events this spring, reported elsewhere in this issue, were the annual Justice Douglas Reunion hike on April 27 and a silent auction that began May 25. At this auction the late Jack Durham's paintings were offered on four consecutive weekends at a Georgetown gallery. (Durham organized the original 1954 hike and helped found the Association.)

It's been a busy spring.

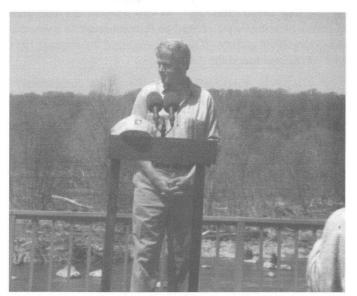
- - Hal Larsen



Rita Bauman, President Gary Petrichick, Carl Linden, and Ken Rollins at Great Falls Tavern. Photo - Hal Larsen



Jane Larsen, Secretary Babbitt, and Ellen Holway at Fletchers Boathouse. Photo - Hal Larsen





JDP



President Clinton and Vice President Gore meet and greet.

JDP

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES.....

A MESSAGE FROM PARK SUPERINTENDENT DOUG FARIS

What a crazy year! Extended shut downs, record snow levels, record cold temperatures, continuous rain, mud, and an overworked and often exhausted staff. Friends of the canal should be so very proud of the staff at the C&O Canal National Historical Park. They have met each challenge with complete confidence, unwavering enthusiasm, and a dedication that would make any manager swell with pride. The C&O Canal Association and Park supporters can be assured that the canal is in good hands and that everyone is fully committed to excellence!

All Park friends, supporters, and users should know what a great friend the Park has with the C&O Canal Association. You have been there repeatedly for us throughout the past months, and believe me, many recognize your tremendous assistance.

FLOOD RECOVERY 96

The January 1996 winter flood, similar in many respects to the Hurricane Agnes storm and flood of 1972, resulted in widespread damage to the Park and its many historic features. The flood was especially damaging due to the high water velocities and heavy winter ice. The most severe damage occurred in many of the Park areas that receive the highest visitor use. Flood waters covered about 80% of the canal, resulting in damage to more than 141 miles of the Canal and towpath. Many historical structures, lock gates, inlet locks, guard locks, lift locks, stone culverts, and 40 pedestrian bridges were lost. Many parking areas and boat ramps were damaged. Mud, debris, and downed trees covered facilities and many segments of the towpath. Picnic tables, trash cans, and portable toilets were damaged

throughout the Park. The Park was closed and evaluation teams assembled to access damage.

The Park prepared a strategic action plan for flood recovery that includes strategies for short- and long-range repair and recovery needs, park-wide high priority emergency needs, volunteerism, sustainability evaluations, to ensure a cost effective approach to repairs, fund raising, a media campaign, and a donor recognition program.

Even with the continuing rain and very poor working conditions, I am very proud to announce that Park staff, friends, volunteers, and corporate supporters have been extremely successful in completing interim repairs and opening Park facilities. Currently, all 184.5 miles of the towpath are open for foot traffic except four small segments including Olmsted Island and the Billy Goat Trail near Great Falls. To date we have conducted 117 volunteer recovery projects utilizing 2,200 volunteers. The fund raising program which is spearheaded by the National Park Foundation has already resulted in more than \$1,300,000 of funds and support services.

Congress provided \$2,000,000 of emergency support funds following the flood and recently provided another \$18,000,000 in flood repair funds! We are well along toward reaching our goal of \$23,000,000 to complete major repairs. Please help the National Park Service in thanking our Congressional delegation and other key Congressional leaders for their help and support.

The "community" of support for the repair and future of the C&O National Historical Park is simply fantastic. A park superintendent could not ask for more help and enthusiasm. The Park staff and I extend our gratitude for your long standing support. Together, we will make the Park even better than before!

DOUGLAS HIKE KICKS OFF DRIVE FOR THE MONOCACY AQUEDUCT

Ten Thousand Donated for Engineering Study

The Douglas Hike on April 27th was the kickoff for the Association's drive to support efforts to stabilize and repair the Monocacy Aqueduct. As the Douglas hikers arrived at the Aqueduct from White's Ferry they encountered a large sign in bold letters: **UPHOLD THE MONOCACY AQUEDUCT!** The sign was suspended from the first of the iron cross rods spanning the Aqueduct's boat channel. The rods are part of the "harness" that was fastened to the structure in the wake of the damaging Agnes Flood of 1972. The harness was a stop gap--now a quarter century old--designed to hold the Aqueduct's superstructure in alignment. With its repair these "braces" (Adam Foster's apt metaphor) would come off the Aqueduct and her true beauty of form would emerge for all to see.

It was a halcyon day for a lunch stop, festivity, and ceremony at the Aqueduct. The Associations and the Canal Park joined forces and staged a mini-Fair at the Aqueduct around the twin themes of Canal restoration and Aqueduct rehabilitation.

Doug Faris had his staff pitch a bright blue and white striped pavilion tent in the middle of the lush and grassy meadow next to the Aqueduct. Around the pavilion the Association raised the flags of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District. Ruffling in a gentle breeze the banners enlivened the scene with varied colors. The music of the bagpipe, the tin whistle, and fife filled the air (provided respectively by piper Elisha Julien and Ranger musician Monte Crocks).

"Lil" the Mule, and Frank Galvin, her tutor, welcomed the hikers, the Girl Scouts of Riley Lock House greeted the hikers in period dress and demonstrated some of the typical daily activities of Canal Women of yore, and artists from Glen Echo's "Yellow Barn" could also be seen busy sketching the Aqueduct vista. Ranger/Historian John Frye gave hikers a guided tour of the Aqueduct and spoke of the history that surrounds it.

Exhibit tables also encircled the pavilion.

- Rita Bauman showed off the Association's colorful new T-Shirts. They sport the Monocacy Aqueduct Logo on the front and a map of the Canal on the back with its principal landmarks and features. The T-Shirt will popularize the Aqueduct. Proceeds will go to the Aqueduct Fund.
- The American Society of Civil Engineers (Capital Section) set up a poster display and provided information on the campaign for the Aqueduct.
- The National Parks and History Association exhibited a wide array of books and pamphlets on the Canal and related topics.
- The Potomac Conservancy provided information brochures and materials on its work for Canal restoration and programs for protection of the

Potomac's shoreline.

At the pavilion ceremony after lunch the Association presented Superintendent Doug Faris a grand total of \$26,500 for the Canal Park from its C&O Canal Fund. Of this total \$10,000 is designated as seed money for a systematic engineering study of the Aqueduct. Doug Faris plans to initiate an on-site evaluation this summer both above and below water to determine exactly what needs to be done to stabilize and rehabilitate the Aqueduct.

The \$10,000 for the Aqueduct study consisted of \$7,500 in contributions from Association members and another \$2,500 from members of the ASCE (Capital Section). The money for the Aqueduct, it should be noted, was raised within a brief span of a few months, and represents many individual contributions by members of the Association and the ASCE. Not at all bad! The Association and the ASCE have joined together in common cause for the Aqueduct. Bernie Dennis of the ASCE's Capital Section is providing fine leadership and expertise for the Aqueduct campaign. An auspicious start has been made!

Broadly, the Aqueduct has two dimensions:

First, we are building up the register of our citizen constituency for the Aqueduct. We are keeping a record of the many donations from individuals and volunteer organizations interested in the Canal Park. For example, we recently received hundreds of dollars in contributions for the Aqueduct from area walking clubs--the Baltimore Walking Club, Free State Happy Wanderers, the Seneca Valley Sugarloafers, and the Washington D.C. Volksmarch Club. What could be more appropriate than walkers getting together out on walkathons for the Aqueduct! The Canal Park was walked into being. Why not walk for the Aqueduct's restoration? Here the size of individual contributions is not as central as the number of citizens and citizen associations who want action and register their intent through donations to the Aqueduct project. Our elected officials at local, state, and federal levels will respond if a large citizen constituency makes evident its desire to see the Aqueduct preserved.

Second, we will be making approaches to large-scale sources of assistance--corporations, businesses, foundations, etc. For example, Pepco has shown its interest in the Aqueduct which is close by its Dickerson Plant. Hula Edmond, the plant's chief engineer, recently met with members of our Monocacy Committee and Steve Kline, preservation architect of the Canal Park, at the Aqueduct. The group visually inspected the structure and discussed what needs to be done.

The Association's Monocacy Aqueduct Committee has been meeting regularly to plan and implement the campaign for the Aqueduct. Incidentally, Bruce Babbitt, Bill Clinton, and Al Gore are among those who already have the new T-Shirt. We have already received a letter of thanks form the Vice President. Now all we have to do is make sure they wear them! An Aqueduct brochure will soon be available for distribution and a video on the Aqueduct is in preparation.

MONOCACY - continued

The Monocacy Committee welcomes offers of assistance and invites suggestions from readers of *Along the Towpath* in connection with the campaign. This is a **volunteer** effort and we need all the help we can get.

HELEN JOHNSTON DONATES AQUEDUCT PHOTOS AS FUND-RAISERS

A recent example of how to help the Aqueduct has come from our celebrated Canaller, Helen Johnston. Helen has provided us with large, mounted color photos of the Aqueduct (circa 1953) suitable for framing. They are beautiful and will be given to anyone who would like to make a \$100 donation to the Aqueduct. Let's have more great ideas like Helen's from our readers!

KEEP CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AQUEDUCT FUND COMING!

At the same time, the Association encourages members and all readers of *Along the Towpath* to keep your contributions to the Aqueduct Fund coming. The fund drive for general Canal restoration has been very successful and the needed repairs of the damage from the '96 Flood are being made. However, the fund drive for the Aqueduct still has a long way to go. Every bit helps.

- - Carl Linden

JUSTICE DOUGLAS REUNION HIKE

The forty-second Justice Douglas Reunion Hike took place on April 27, a sunny, bracing day. (With Lyman Stucker along, we're always assured of great weather.) This day was the occasion not only for a spirited walk but for pointing up the need for funding to "uphold" the Monocacy Aqueduct.

The hike began and ended not at the aqueduct but at Whites Ferry, because of limited parking at Monocacy. Hikers were led from the parking lot by President Gary Petrichick, who held aloft the Association banner, and by a kilted bagpiper. At the towpath, to the strange and moving wail of the pipes, Senator Roesser, whose district this is, cut the ribbon that sent us off on the 6.5-mile trek to the aqueduct.

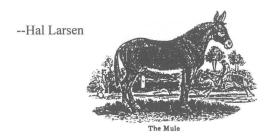
Lil the mule and her handler, Ranger Frank Galvin, greeted the group at Monocacy. Lil adopted her usual affectionate stance, nuzzling well-wishers and searching for goodies she knew lurked in pockets. Thoughtful hikers made sure she wasn't disappointed. She is a beautiful animal, her glossy brown coat flecked with gold. She reacted to the crowds and the fawning with her usual poise.

At Monocacy the bonny piper again appeared, playing duets with Ranger Monty Crooks on the fife. About a hundred hikers gathered at a large tent set up by the park service to view displays by the C&O Canal Association, the National Parks and Conservation Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Potomac Conservancy. Here at the aqueduct one could examine a structure whose piers have stood for more than 165 years but are now threatened by underwater erosion.

Hikers lazed on the sunny, dandelion-spangled meadow to eat, while Lil nosed about, waiting to be invited to join in. Superintendent Doug Faris made a strong appeal for help in restoring the flood-damaged park. At the same time he praised volunteers for their generous gifts of time and money. Dave Johnson's list of persons who offered help was stretched out to wave in the breeze--46 pages long. Gary responded with kudos for the park service, and Carl Linden presented the superintendent with oversized checks that included contributions from many Association members and others toward aqueduct restoration and other canal repairs. Carl recognized various persons, including C&O Canal National Park Advisory Commission Chairman Sheila Weidenfeld and commission members Ed Miller, Adam Foster, Nancy Long, Jo Ann Stevacek and Barry Passett. In Adam's remarks he drew an analogy between dental braces that straighten teeth and the bracing on the aqueduct. Special guests at this event were Yura Kudrashov and his wife, Elena Kudrashova, professors from Archangel, Russia.

While 60 hikers boarded buses for the return to Whites Ferry and their cars, the rest set off on foot for the 6.5-mile trip. The riders waited around to greet the tired and dusty walkers. Those who hoofed the whole thing (13 miles) included young and old, but mostly the latter, with doughty Pat Barnett a standout. Representing the younger set was Ken Glace, who took a leisurely walk but rallied to a fast march on the last mile to pass us all. He looked fresh as a daisy.

The day closed with a fine banquet at Potomac's St. Francis Episcopal Church hall. Presiding at the bar was faithful John Fondersmith, while Sonny DeForge oversaw the catering operation, to make sure it was up to our high standards. Gary offered thoughtful remarks about the Association, which he described as one that readily accepts and assimilates new members, as witness himself: they elected him president only five years after he joined. "It's not an old-boys' club," he said. He thanked various individuals for their support and for keeping things running so well without his continuing presence. (He's usually home in Belmont, New York.) The evening closed with well-wishing all around and special thanks to guests from the park service--Clyde Bell, Susan Fauntleroy and Nancy Brown-who have labored so valiantly since the Winter of '96.



On The Level By Keith D. Kridenoff 1996 Level Walker Chairman

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

Thanks go out to all the level walkers who volunteered to help out with the massive clean up effort. And thanks also to all who went out early to examine and photograph the damage on their levels. There is still a lot to do but I think we can be a great help to restore our park. Becoming a first time father on March 12th has put me a little behind in paperwork but I'm finally getting caught up on correspondence. Thanks for your patience, (and we now have a new future level walker!)

Reports received by the May 5th deadline. The next cut off is August 5th.

3 - 5 to 7.5

Lock 5 to Cabin John Creek James & Joan Wilson (4/23)

Towpath recently reopened after flood damage. Wildflowers seemed to have survived the washouts with many breaks in the prism still leaving the canal empty.

5 - 9.4 to 12.3

Lock 14 to Cropley

Sam Moore (4/3)

This section of canal relatively undamaged by flooding. Water level receded about 20 feet.

6 - 12.3 to 14.3

Cropley to Great Falls Helen Johnston (1/5,6)

Canal boat grounded under tent at Tavern undergoing repairs for '96 boating season, Lower level of canal has made crossing Widewater easier but still continues to erode.

7 - 14.3 to 16.6

Great Falls to Swains Lock 21

Mark Page (4/2)

Level was open only for the first 2000 yards with very eroded areas beyond that, Flora completely washed out from the banks.

11 - 25 to 27.2

Tenfoot Island to Sycamore Landing Sharon Freedman (3/23)

Towpath in excellent shape after winter of 96. Culvert seemed to be unaffected by high water. Debris was chest high along level.

14 - 33 to 35.5

Harrison Island to Whites Ferry

Herbert Madison (4/8)

Turtle Run HBO was closed with amenities removed. Large amounts of sand washed up on towpath between 33 & 34. Signs of NPS grading towpath.

15 - 35.5 to 39.3

Lock 26 to Whites Ferry

Herbert Madison & Dick Tibbetts (4/11) Marble Quarry HBO was closed. Maintenance men were repairing bulletin board at Whites Ferry. Towpath in good shape all along.

26 - 87 to 69.4

Lock 37 to Antietam Creek

Rick Clement (4/14)

Collected 5 bags of trash with more tires than usual. Still no trash can at Mountain Lock (37), which is greatly needed.

31 - 79.4 to 81.6

Lock 40 to Marsh Run Culvert Barry & Debbie Kistler (3/1)

Area from Mondell to Lock~40 closed off with boat ramp still underwater. Towpath and prism at Marsh Run under at least one foot of sand, making it hard to maneuver.

33 - 84.4 to 88.1

Dam 4 to McMahons Mill

Nick & Peggy Weber (4/5) Paul & Rita Marth (3/30), William Rosencroft (2/10) Towpath still wet from flooding with lots of silt. Towpath undamaged. (2/10) Work crew repairing road to dock area. Canal still closed below 88.1. (3/30) Area around boat ramp had been cleared and new picnic tables were being installed. Towpath and dirt around winch house 4 being repaired. Towpath cleared and in good shape. (4/5)

34 - 88.1 to 91

McMahons Mill to Opequon Jet.

Tom & Linda Perry (3/16)

Port-a-pot missing at Opequon Jct HBO with a lot of silt in the area. Towpath had been recently graded. Spotted little trash.

37 - 99.4 to 99.3

Falling Waters to Lock 44

Ellen Holway (4/27)

Towpath fairly clean probably owing to NPS work. Only one area near Falling Waters had erosion problem. Removed many branches and twigs from towpath.

38 - 99.3 to 102.3

Lock 44 to High Rock Quarry

David & Margaret Brown (3/16)

Very muddy on sides of towpath with surface graded. Visitor Center at Basin open and damage at Lock 44 being repaired.

40 - 105 to 106.8

Nessle RR piers to Dam 5

Bill Hibbard (4/18)

Parking lot at Dam 5 remains closed. Towpath open below mile 106.5 with no bridge at Dam 5. Bridge across Lock 45 lying in lock chamber.

42 - 108.6 to 110.4

Lock 47 to Culvert 142

John Ziegler (4/18)

McCoys Ferry and Campground were heavily silted but much repair work has been done. Paving of the Four Locks Culvert has helped spare any flooding damage. Spotted no other people on entire level. Along the Towpath is published in March, June, September, and December by the :

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

Please mail articles to:

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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.

The C&O Canal Association maintains a telephone for information and inquiries. Please direct calls to (301) 983-0825.

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Supv Ranger - Fee Collection Terry Barbot
Supv Ranger - District Interpretation Clyde Bell

GEORGETOWN VISITORS CENTER

1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, Washington, D.C. 202-653-5844
Park Ranger - Subdistrict Interpretation Kathy Kupper

GREAT FALLS TAVERN VISITORS CENTER

Great Falls Tavern Information 301-299-3613
Park Ranger - Subdistrict Interpretation Nancy Brown

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

WESTERN MARYLAND DISTRICT

301-739-4200 x237

District Ranger Mark Spier

Monocacy Subdistrict

Conococheague Subdistrict John Bailey
Four Locks Bob Gray
Paw Paw Rick Erisman

Supv Ranger District Interpretation Martin Gallery 301-678-5463

WILLIAMSPORT VISITORS CENTER
Williamsport Subdistrict Interpretation Donna Swauger

HANCOCK VISITORS CENTER

301-678-5463 326 East Main Street

Hancock, Maryland 21750

Bill Orlando

Park Ranger Sherilyn Seyler

CUMBERLAND VISITORS CENTER

301-722-8226 Western Maryland Station

Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Park Ranger Rita Knox

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

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Georgetown Boat Operation	202-653-5844
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

1933 WASHINGTON CANOE TRIP RECALLED

David L Harmison, River Road, Romney WV, a semi-retired farmer and cattleman, recently related his experiences on a hair raising 1933 canoe trip to Washington D.C. to a cousin, John D. Millar III. Mr. Harmison, age 84, was born in a log cabin at Headsville, WV in 1911. His parents were Luther C. Harmison and Elizabeth Katherine Millar Harmison. Later his family moved to the Millar home place at the down stream end of the Trough. The Trough, named from George Washington's time, is the seven-mile stretch of the South Branch of the Potomac that flows between Sycamore, near Moorefield, and the former Hampshire County Poor Farm. The Trough is actually a 1500-foot deep gorge between two parallel mountain ridges.

Harmison was already a good boatman at 22 when he embarked on the trip, although he said he wasn't a very good swimmer. He had worked for years as a guide, bringing doctors, lawyers, and businessmen safely through the Trough on fishing parties. He said there was always plenty to eat and drink on the fishing parties and he enjoyed the work. The Trough Club was in operation then, a private club located on a 600-acre tract beside the river. Club members and corporate guests were brought in by rail on man powered speed or paddy cars operated by track men, and later by rail cars on the Hampshire and Southern Railroad, over the present route of the Potomac Eagle.

The idea for the canoe trip originated with Manning Williams, a young college man, now a resident of Romney, WV. He wanted to go down the Cheat River to the Ohio River, and down the Mississippi, and then get a boat to Europe where he could visit Germany. Harmison wasn't willing to go that far, but did agree to go down the Potomac to Washington D. C.

Their 8-day trip started from the Millar property boat landing at Devils Hole Run, now called Saw Mill Creek, the first week in September, 1933. Their provisions, including canned pork and beans, roasting ears, pork, peanut butter and bread, and ginger bread, were stored in lard cans. They also stowed a small tent on board. The heavy, 18-foot,wood construction canoe had had some rotted out sections, but Harmison made repaires by covering the bad sections with canvas.

The first day they made it to the Taylor farm near Blue Bridge on South Branch of the Potomac, where they camped under the up turned boat. The next day hurricane weather arrived with very heavy rain, and they were forced to leave the river at the Fields farm at Indian Rock. Little did they know that is was the location of a Girl Scout camp. They lived with the girl scouts for several days until the weather improved.

They made good progress the next couple of days because the river was swift, but it was filled with a lot of floating objects such as watermelons, pumpkins, etc. They boated right over all the dams on the Potomac except one. They went around that one because they were advised that it had a 17-foot drop, and that information scared them off. They talked to a canal worker at

one of the dams who told him his job was to keep logs in the river from blocking the canal inlets. He said the two workers who preceded him in that job had drowned doing that work.

They camped several nights on islands in the river, and remember one night on an island where there were a bunch of ruffians and one well dressed man. They suspected something illegal was going on.

They also encountered a man at a place called Frog Hollow near Shepherdstown, who had a big, long boat, and he said he made his living bringing people across from West Virginia to buy liquor on the Maryland side.

They went by Harpers Ferry with a swoosh due to the high waters and fast current. They couldn't see any rocks along the river for they were all covered up by the high waters. They watched the B&O trains going East and noticed they were going as fast as the freight trains also. There was a large crack in the water where the Shenandoah meets the Potomac. They steered the canoe right down the crack. About forty people watched them from a foot bridge as they passed Harpers Ferry.

Approaching Great Falls on the river, they talked to some people on an island about how bad the falls were. They said, "Well, you might make it." They decided not to take the gamble, and instead entered the canal at Great Falls; even though they knew it was a lot more work to paddle in the canal, rather than go with the current in the river. They paddled about 10 miles in the canal and then returned to the river. The river was too rough, so they returned to the canal again. They decided they didn't need their life preservers any more, so they threw them away.

David and his Cousin John finally arrived at the end of the canal at Georgetown, where they camped along the canal. They said there were people walking along the canal all night drinking alcohol, and a lot of people were fishing in the canal.

They sold their canoe to a young girl from Georgia for \$2.00 and proceeded to do sight seeing in Washington. They spent two days riding all over D.C. on street cars for ten or twenty cents, visiting all the museums, monuments, and government buildings. They went to the movies, and saw how a hurricane had torn up the beach and boardwalks at Atlantic City. Of course, they had experienced a little bad weather themselves on the way. Finally, a coal dealer brought them the rest of the way back to Romney.

- - John D. Millar



CANAL CHARACTERS

Here follows the fourth in a series of articles by the Canal Character HIMSELF, Ken Rollins.

ORVILLE CROWDER

Measurer of Towpath Miles and Creator of the Level Walkers

Orville Crowder was one of the two leading ornithologists of his day. I'm not sure how that came to be, since I knew him as pretty much a "city boy" from Baltimore. He was evidently prominent in the Audubon Society and was familiar with the River basin because of a shelter the Society used in the Paw Paw-Little Orleans area. He did not participate in the 1954 hike with Justice Douglas, but he became active in the Association soon thereafter.

As I recall the story from Grant Conway, Orville was director of public relations for Martin-Marietta until 1956 or 1957 when, as Grant liked to put it, "he retired early without a pension" because of his wish to take full time to the outdoors. He had never married because of his elderly dependent parents, but after they had passed away in one-two order, he surveyed his assets and concluded that he could retire in large part based on some real estate investment in the Baltimore area.

One of the first things he did (in 1957 perhaps) was to spend some six weeks pushing a surveyor's wheel up the entire towpath, making careful records and taking copious notes. Those mileages are the basis for the guide books since published, and in several cases where mileages were questioned re-measurement proved Crowder's records to be accurate. Someone recently told me that Crowder actually made two sweeps with his wheel. There is no question that he did much re-measurement.

It was his dream to consolidate and publish his materials, but as he spent more and more time "fleshing out the skeleton," he realized this was no one-man job and he could use lots of help. He reflected on the operating days when observers were assigned by the Company to walk the levels between locks on a regular basis looking for problems such as leaks, fallen trees, or "mushrat" holes. These were usually members of locktender's families or others who lived nearby. Why not reconstitute the "Level Walkers?"

Some of the Company assignments were quite long and some of the walkers carried messages, mail, and packages, as well as tools such as shovels and axes for immediate minor repairs. It

¹ Mileages were identified with physical features. Obviously, there were no mile markers--those came later, and that's where some discrepancies came up. Crowder's measurements usually prevailed, and some of the original mile markers had to be "adjusted."

was Orville's idea to divide the towpath into approximately three mile "levels" depending on reasonable access points, and to ask for volunteers to assume responsibility for each section. The program was kicked-off in 1959 and proved very popular--most levels were readily assigned, the remote ones being problems as they still are.

I previously spoke of my welcome to the Association by Lew Shollenberger and Aubrey Graves at Camp Strauss in 1959. These two gentlemen introduced me to Orville Crowder, then Secretary,² to sign me up. Orville said, "I think we can fix him up." He not only issued my membership card, but embossed it with one of the C&O Canal Company seals which he had found somewhere "languishing in neglect" during some of his historical research. Somewhere I still have the card, the imprint flattened from wallet pressure, but still clearly visible. Anyone who got one of these has a valuable collector's item. Eventually came the realization (encouraged by the Park Service) that the seal was actually United States property and it was "surrendered." This may well be the seal displayed for some time at Great Falls Tayern museum.

This seal was also part of the contents of a huge battered suitcase in which Crowder carried all the official documents of the Association, such as they were at the time. Other contents were the level walker papers and no doubt many of the notes Orville was always gathering along the Canal.

It was also in the 1959 Reunion hike that I got to know Orville. As we began to move out, just before Gene Castleberry led out with his bagpipes, Orville surprised me by yelling at Justice Douglas, "and don't go so damn fast we can't see anything." Douglas did go fast, but I dawdled along with Crowder trying to see everything. The Justice went so fast that he arrived too early at Hancock and our arrival had to be held up, but that's another story involving Adele Donnelly and the mule "Maude." Meanwhile, Orville and I brought up the rear and arrived just in time.

It seems that Crowder's retirement plans soon ran into unanticipated problems with inflation which considerably reduced the value of the income from rental property. Orville countered with his resourcefulness. For example, he discovered in the darkening days of our relationship with Cuba, that the tourist industry went begging and the airlines were offering such deals as two weeks free in Cuban hotels with the price of a round-trip ticket. Orville immediately took advantage, and further extended his resources by renting a bicycle on which he "rode all over the Island."

He was a great story teller, and one of his recounted memories

² At that time the Secretary was an appointed office and the Secretary was not a voting officer. Orville soon after became a member of the Board. The Secretary became an elected officer after 1970.

CANAL CHARACTERS - continued

of Cuba was that of a guided tour in which the party reached a point where the guide called a pause and asked for a solemn moment--removing hats and silence in respect for "expired military." The party was about to pass a huge mound of discarded beverage containers--"dead soldiers."

Conway was watching all this with a great deal of sympathy, and by 1959 had "encouraged" Orville to accept a job with the Park Service to supplement his income doing historical research at Harpers Ferry. Crowder's office and quarters were in the Headquarters then housed in the big brick building on the Shenandoah side³ nearest "the Point." When I looked him up there in the summer of '59, he interrupted my afternoon visit to run down front to see if he had any customers for a bird walk. It seems his official duties were not sufficient to keep him from sharing his talents. He had a little sign on the lawn, "Bird walks begin here at 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M."

If he found anyone waiting, Orville would lead a tour around the Shenandoah side--there were only wilds where the parking lot is now. On that afternoon he had customers, but I declined a tour because I wanted to go on to my level at Antietam.

On returning the following afternoon, I came just in time to join his tour. We walked out to the Shenandoah River and then upstream. There was abundant bird activity--all the males were loudly declaring and defending their territory. One of the ladies who was particularly interested and pointing at one bird we could not see, asked if we could go closer. Orville said, "No, that's not necessary--let's bring him over here." He brought the back of his wrist to his mouth and made a series of squealing, squeaking sounds. All the birds fell silent, and suddenly the tree tops all around us were filled with curious birds. Orville had watched for the one in question and then said "Oh, that's a _____." We started on, and all the birds went back to what they were doing.

Among my early fond memories of Orville was on the reunion hike from the Cardinal Club to Cumberland in 1960. Contrary to stories about "no women," I was accompanied by my daughter Peggy and her female college room-mate. Somewhere along the way, she had met Orville and we walked along together for a while, mixing as has always been the delightful tradition on the Towpath. Later, we fell behind and Orville trudged ahead. Peggy began to notice the similarity between Orville's physique and his backpack--both somewhat pear shaped. Peg began to speculate about the contents of the pack, but we never found out.

Eventually, Orville's broad interest led him into more ambitious schemes. He wanted to see birds all around the world. His

³Known as the Virginius Island apparently because of its separation by the canal that powered the Hall Rifle Works.

dream resulted in creation of the "World Nature Club" in which he served as the principal guide. His trips went all over the world and became a full time job. One trip even went to the Arctic Circle in Norway and, I believe, one or more trips to the Galapago's.

It was in connection with the World Nature activity that Crowder made an exploratory trip West to East across the Soviet Union on the Trans-Siberian railway. His assigned in-tourist "guide"4 for the first half of the trip was a delightful young lady who was enchanted by the assignment, but was to be relieved by a male for the arduous rest of the journey to Vladivostok. She was disappointed because she had never seen the Pacific Ocean. When they arrived at the change point, there was no relief "guide," and she had to stay with him. Their inquiries got nowhere. Soviet bureaucracy being what it was, frustration reigned for a day or more until Orville said, "Let's resolve this the good old U.S. way." They wired the in-tourist bureau in Moscow that the relief failed to show and it would be necessary for the original guide to continue. They took the next train, the young lady got to see the Pacific, she was impressed with the "American Way," and nobody heard anything more of it.

The World Nature venture was successful enough to support acquisition of a headquarters in one of the townhouses near the bottom of the hill in downtown Harpers Ferry. This and other activities became a distraction from the C&O Canal. Although he did show up for most of the reunions during the 60s, few people could keep up with his whereabouts. The Level Walker activity began to languish until the Annual Meeting in 1969 when Captain Thomas Hahn asked what had become of it. As usually happens in a generally informal organization, such a question is tantamount to volunteering as Chairman.

Through Captain Hahn's effort, the Level Walkers were revived and towpath materials began to be published. Thanks to a succession of dedicated, hard working Chair-persons, the Level Walkers are alive and well, and we have been a valuable resource to the Park Service. What a legacy we have from Orville Crowder's vision!

Sadly, none of his surviving friends have an accurate memory of his demise. Paul Hauck thinks that Crowder took to the heavenly towpath in 1972 because of a heart attack. If anyone has something more, such as an obit, it should be incorporated in our archives. Orville certainly deserves it!



⁴Translate "guard"

Along the Towpath

FROM THE AMERICAN HIKER

AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY, AMERICAN HIKERS SAY THANKS TO BUTCH HENLEY

Say the words "American Hiking Society" to people who have been around awhile and ask what image the words conjure. Chances are it wouldn't be our booted logo, hip in the 1970s and now endearingly dated. Nor would this magazine, the instrument by which all members know us, come first to mind.

It would be Butch.

For many, that word and the image of one tireless, committed spirited woman also known as Susan Henley, are synonymous with American Hiking. That is altogether fitting.

Butch, as she has been known since her childhood in Ohio, kept a light burning for hikers in the halls of Congress and federal agencies for half our organization's 20 years. For several years, hers was the only voice on the other end of the AHS phone and one of the few voices for hikers nationally.

She came to us as a hiker, and has spent far too little time on the trail these recent years, working long hours, attending to an astonishing array of duties. And like a true outdoorsperson, when asked about her accomplishments, she talks about the great hikes and rides, not about her professional accolades, of which there have been many. A veteran of Hike-a-Nation, the 1980-1981 coast-to-coast hike that brought American Hiking into the national spotlight, she also has ridden a bicycle from coast to coast. She's an Appalachian Trail thru-hiker (1978-79) and at last count, had visited more than half of all National Park System units. Butch, you see, gave not only time, energy and smarts, she gave a great love for the outdoors and our nation's special places. The hikers of America owe her for it.

Although she would never tell about it, with Butch as executive director of the American Hiking Society, we launched the American Discovery Trail and National Trails Day, collaborated on Trails for All Americans and made sure it didn't end up gathering dust on a shelf, helped create staff positions supporting trails in the National Park Service and Forest Service, testified on countless bills in Congress, gave away hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to trail projects, and on and on. And while the big stuff is notable, so are the days and nights of just plugging away so the rest of us could take a hike.

Over the past year or so, she's been slowly turning over duties to latecomers on the AHS staff so she could be at home to help out a loved one. The AHS staff has grown to nine, but it seems to take all of us to do the work Butch did.

At the end of February, Butch retired to care full-time for her husband and to spend some more time with her grandchildren, who know her, appropriately, as Grandma Butch.

It will be impossible to truly pay her the tribute she deserves, but as a start, American Hiking will inaugurate in 1996 an honor to be known as the Butch Henley Award, recognizing the careers of trail professionals who, by their contributions to their organizations, have made a difference for hikers.

As for the rest of us, we're doing our best to do half as well as she, and to build upon her success in a way that honors her years of service.

- - David Lillard

OCTOBER BIKE TRIP A GO!

When we take into consideration the disaster which befell the Canal and towpath this past Winter, it is not easy to give you in detail our final plans for the Through-Bike Trip we have scheduled for October. But we do want to assure you that we plan to do it and, if necessary, will work out detours around those (few?) sections which remain closed at that time.

Our trek is set for its old traditional date, taking advantage of the Columbus Day holiday (He was an adventuresome traveler, too!). We will begin in Cumberland on Saturday October 12, assembling at the wonderful new plaza by the railroad station, and we hope to be to Georgetown by midday on Thursday, October 17. By the way, hospitality, cider, music and showers are to be provided somewhere in Williamsport, near the midpoint.

For those who may be new to this sort of thing, camping facilities are provided along the towpath, for which you need your own tent and sleeping gear. You will also need a mess kit or some sort of utensils.

While each participant is responsible for his/her own transportation to and from the trek, we don't want that to keep anybody from participating. If you have a problem please call Sonny DeForge downriver at (301) 530-8830, or Tom Perry upriver at (301) 223-7010. Unfortunately, Amtrack is of no help here.

Look for an update of plans in the next issue of *Along the Towpath*; in the meantime, let us hear from you if you can go or if you want further information. Remember: October is a wonderful time to be out and we are looking forward to having you along.

- - Tom Perry, Sonny DeForge



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS- 1996

<u>Date</u>	Day	<u>Event</u>
Monthly	Wed, Sat	Sights and Sounds of the Seasons nature walks are scheduled four times monthly on the first and last Wednesday and Saturday. Meet in Great Falls Tavern at 10 a.m.
Jun 27-30	Thu-Sat	World Conference. Birmingham, UK.
Jul 6	Sat	Canoe the River from Brunswick to Monocacy landing. Contact Carl Linden (301) 229-2398 or Ken Rollins (804) 448-2934. No VIP Workday .
Jul 14	Sun	Potluck dinner with Friends of the Tavern and the C&O Canal Association. Details later.
Aug 3	Sat	No VIP Workday
Aug 4	Sun	Board Meeting, Glen Echo Town Hall, 1 P.M.
Aug 24-25	Sat-Sun	Williamsport C&O Canal Days. Contact Tom Perry (301) 223-7010.
Sep 7	Sat	VIP Workday. Tentative-Meet at Great Falls Tavern. Call John Lindt (301) 469-6381 or Ranger Nancy Brown (301) 299-3613 for details.
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 21	Sat	C&O Canal Bike ride. 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 P.M.
Oct 5	Sat	VIP Workday. Tentative-Meet at Great Falls Tavern. Call John Lindt (301) 469-6381) or Ranger Nancy Brown (301) 299-3613 for details.
Oct 12-17	Sat-Thu	Through-bike trip Cumberland to Georgetown led by Tom Perry. Details in this issue page 12.
Oct 26	Sat	Annual Heritage Hike. Details in this issue page 15.
Nov 2	Sat	VIP Workday. Tentative-Meet at Great Falls Tavern. Call John Lindt (301) 469-6381) or Ranger Nancy Brown (301) 299-3613 for details.
Dec 1	Sun	Board Meeting, Glen Echo Town Hall, 1 P.M.
Dec 7	Sat	Annual FROSTBITE HIKE. Contact Ken Rollins (804-448-2934). VIP Workday.
Dec 14	Sat	Canal Commission Meeting.

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 14, 1996 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The President, Gary Petrichick, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Dave Johnson, Treasurer, will send out a mid-year review request, and the Budget Committee will recommend budget amendments at the next Board meeting.

Ranger Clyde Bell reported on the status of post-flood cleanup projects, which are lined up though May, and will continue through the Summer. There will be no canal boats this year, but the Superintendent wants the canal re-watered; the bridges to the islands should be open by the end of May with the help of the Potomac Conservancy. He also reported on the shifting plans for Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's walk from Harper's Ferry to Georgetown, beginning 4/17 and ending 4/20 at Washington

SUMMARY - continued Harbour.

Archives Committee Chair, Hal Larsen, reported that the Archives was moved to GW's Gelman Library 3/1/96. He will organize volunteer members who can help the Library staff with identification of names, places, and photographs. Material received by the President from Potomac Appalachian Trail Club was given to Larsen. Finally, Canal Captain's Press is interested in republishing "Canal Boat Children" by Bill McKelvey; the President requested that Larsen as head of the Archives Committee look into the availability of sheet negatives for the book and get back in touch with Mr. McKelvey.

Environmental Committee Co-chair, Fred Mopsik, reported on a public hearing with the NCPPC and local zoning board to build some sort of elder care facility near the entrance to Great Falls. He moved that we convey to the Board of Zoning Appeals our serious opposition to a project of this size. The motion was seconded and carried.

Level Walker Committee: Charles Ayres reported that Keith Kridenoff, Chair, has asked Nancy Brown of the Canal Park for information on work projects at each level so that he can coordinate with level walkers who wish to help. There are no reports on vacant levels; President Petrichick will call the Chair for an update.

Membership Coordinator William Bauman 's report generated extensive discussion on getting both renewals and new members. Ellen Holway moved that Bauman send renewal request letters; the motion was seconded and carried. President Petrichick will continue to send thank you letters for donations over \$100.

Program Committee Chair, Sonny DeForge, reported that a special Bulletin will go out regarding the Douglas Hike and the post-Hike Dinner.

Public Information Officer, Kate Mulligan, reported that although the *Washington Times* has had extensive coverage of post-flood projects, the *Washington Post* has had little. She reported that Gordon Gay of the Canal Park will fax our press releases and calendar listing of events to regional news media. William Bauman moved that the Board approve an additional \$100 for the Public Information Officer from contingency funds for necessary expenses of publicizing the Association. The motion was seconded and carried.

Editor Robert Perry requested funds for upgrades of equipment and software for "Along the Towpath" and for an INTERNET Web page. The Membership Coordinator offered to transfer to the Editor the fax/modem purchased by the Association for Membership Coordinator. Karen Gray moved that up to \$1,200 be authorized for upgrades as stated in Perry's request and for INTERNET access; Dave Johnson moved that the motion be tabled until the next meeting, after the Budget committee's midyear review report. The motion to table was seconded and carried.

Volunteer's-in-the-Park Committee Chair, John Lindt, reported that 60 different cleanup projects had been scheduled by the Canal Park.

The following motions were all seconded and carried:

- 1. Dave Johnson presented a motion to lend to the Canal Park the framed print "Old C&O Canal at Georgetown," by Paul McGehee.
- 2. Superintendent Faris requested that the Association contribute toward the \$7,500 cost to purchase the Barron Museum Collection of canal artifacts, and Carl Linden moved to authorize \$1,500 for purchase of the collections, contingent upon the Canal Park taking some steps to value the collections.
- 3. Karen Gray moved to authorize purchase of an additional gross of Monocacy Aqueduct t-shirts if 100 are sold by May 1.
- 4. Karen Gray moved that the June meeting be permanently moved to the first Sunday in June.
- 5. Patricia White moved to authorize maintenance of stock of books from proceeds of sales.

The next meeting will be on June 2, 1996 at the Williamsport, MD Library. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

- - Respectfully submitted by Rachel L. Stewart

CANALLERS DIG OUT AND DIG IN

May 18 didn't look promising, but nearly three dozen of us showed up in the morning mist to repair a wash-out upstream from Sycamore Landing Road. The task was to spread into the hole about 10 cubic yards of gravel. However, what we found was the dump-truck sitting atop the gravel like a brood hen protecting her eggs--stuck up to her axles. Armed with rakes, shovels, spades and hoes, we eventually dug her out and sent her on her way for more gravel.

Much of what once constituted the towpath was spread 20 feet or more river-side, along the sides of the washout. Bill Speck began lining up fist-sized stones in the wash, to mark what should be the outer edge of the towpath. Soon the demarcation between towpath and washout was a rough retaining wall as others joined him, tossing the stones like horseshoes or softballs. Joan Paull organized a shovel brigade to carry gravel from wash-out to towpath while others went back to the parking lot for wheelbarrows. With 3 to 5 shovellers per wheelbarrow, we moved a lot of gravel. With that, and with two more truckloads of gravel, the towpath was, well, not exactly level--but close!

The hard-working canallers were: Anne and Mario Abbate, Norman Burnett, Chuck Poore, Rachel Stewart, Kathy Ollry, Mercer Cross, Patricia White, Jed Tucker, Joy Pike, Sonny DeForge, Sue Houser, John Lindt, Ernest Green, Bill Speck, Carl Linden, Maureen and Amy Knesel, Marilyn and Miriam Quintal, Jim Preston, Don Juran, Sandy Spencer, Thad and Ruth Hecht. They were joined by Girl Scouts Anne and Jessica **DIG**

OUT - continued

Flaggs, Beth Brawning, Elizabeth and Barbara Peterson, Kim Devonald, and the ever-ebullient aforenamed Joan Paull. We rated three Rangers: Kathy Kupper, Frank Galvin, and John Wagner.

- - Rachel Stewart

ALL ABOARD

This is a strange call to hear on the canal, but not for the Association's next hike. Under the direction of *Conductor* Michael Ditkoff, our fall Heritage Hike will take place on October 26, 1996, and will cover Brunswick (Mile 55) and Harpers Ferry (Mile 60.2), continuing where the Association left off on the 1995 Heritage Hike from Nolands Ferry to Brunswick. *Conductor* Ditkoff selected this portion of the canal because it parallels the former Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad, now CSX.

As an avid railfan (not **Train Buff!! Thank you**), Conductor Ditkoff will talk about railroad rules and the operation of the signal system at the eastbound signals at Weverton (B&O milepost 78.8), adjacent to Weverton Lock 31. He will carry his scanner to eavesdrop on all railroad communications.

The itinerary includes five railroad signals (Maple Avenue, Cattle Pen, Weverton, Miller's Bend, and Harper's Ferry), four locks (Brunswick, Weverton, Sandy Hook, and Harper's Ferry), two highway bridges, the railroad tunnel at Harper's Ferry, and a partridge in a pear tree. **Bring your own bagels.**

Dinner will be served at the Hilltop House at 5:30 P.M. Happy hour begins at 4:30 P.M. Rooms at the Hilltop House are booked, however there are rooms available at the Cliffside Inn. Call (304) 535-6302 or (800) 782-9437. For a two night minimum stay, call the Comfort Inn at (304) 535-6391 or (800) 221-2222. Cost for the dinner is \$18.00. Reservations are not required for the hike, but are required for dinner. A special event is planned for after dinner (Hint: Halloween is five days after the hike).

The hike is designed for railfans and closet railfans who are afraid to admit to other Association members that like trains.

All hikers will meet at the Harper's Ferry Visitor's center at 10 A.M. and will be shuttled to the origin of the hike. After the hike, drive to the Hilltop House for a sumptuous banquet.

A registration form will be included in the September issue of *ATP*. Seating for dinner is limited to the first 1,000.

If you have any questions, please contact *Conductor* Ditkoff at (301) 459-7945.

- - Michael Ditkoff

ANN WRIGHT REPORTS ON JOHN FRYE'S EDUCATIONAL WALKS

PART I

Sunday, March 17th dawned with snow falling in Montgomery County and dire weather predictions all around, until about noon, when all precipitation would turn to rain, the skies would remain grey, and the temperatures would be in the forties. None the less, John Frye said that when the Association scheduled a walk, it pretty much went. Those of us who participated in this walk to Huckleberry Hill, Guard Lock 3 and Fort Duncan were, indeed, the recipients of a wealth of knowledge and humor concerning the structures and people of times past, along that part of the canal.

There were a few houses along the way. John reviewed the presentation made during his October 31 walk--thrown in at no additional charge. There was a beautiful area, hued out and hidden, down by the canal, about 500' long, which in itself is worth the trip to see. We also saw where a huge section of the lock had fallen away over time and left this misshapen and compelling view of natural rock surrounded by human intervention. Then it was on to Fort Duncan. At least one of us was looking through the trees for a fort. But, alas, we stood where it had been instead. And as we stood there, we got a review on the Confederate march to, and retreat from, Gettysburg via Williamsport and the surrounding area.

If you have not yet experienced a John Frye Walk, you are cheating yourself. Much information was presented, and a lot was instilled in our minds due to the depth of knowledge, wisdom, and humor of the leader, John Frye--and the weather didn't bother us at all. Thank you, John.

PART II

On Sunday April 21st, the C&O Canal Association sponsored an educational and recreational walk around AntietamVillage, including the Antietam Iron Works, Antietam Creek, and the Antietam Aqueduct. The one thing we learned on this walk, if we didn't learn anything else , was where Antietam is located. Antietam National Battlefield IS NOT Antietam. Sharpsburg is not Antietam by a Southern name. Antietam Village, three miles out of Sharpsburg on Harper's Ferry Road IS Antietam. If you agree with a local person to meet in Antietam, where ever you go to meet them, they will be in Antietam Village to meet you.

As we visited Antietam Aqueduct, we learned that in the eastern United States an aqueduct is taken to be a water bridge or water conveyance over the water, whereas elsewhere, the term *aqueduct*, may be used simply to refer to a bridge of water, without regard to what is underneath.

We visited the remains of the Antietam Iron Works and learned about charcoal, limestone, and iron ore being used to create pig iron which was then transported to the forge for further working.

WALKS - continued

Occasionally, iron products were cast directly from the furnace by being poured into molds.

We had fine weather for the walk, good fellowship, excellent leadership (Thanks again, John) and we missed the rest of you.

NATURE NOTES

March, April, May 1996

Can a winter flood in late January demolish a park, leaving only memory of past spring seasons? The proof to the contrary can be readily supplied by a dozen or more hardy outdoor types who met regularly in the late winter and early spring at Carderock or Anglers Inn. Betty Bushell's phone was kept busy with inquiries about places and times of meeting. The other two volunteer *Sights and Sounds* leaders also got their quota of telephone calls.

Occasionally, the *regulars* on *Sights and Sounds of the Season* walks were joined by newcomers, including a couple from Ireland who had heard about the walks when they visited the nature center at Brookside Gardens. By June we hope the park will be again publishing its regular monthly schedule of activities. Until that time, you can count on finding three volunteer leaders--all members of the Association--waiting for anyone who wishes to join them at 10 a.m. at Great Falls Tavern on the first and last Wednesday and Saturday every month of the year. They promise new sights and sounds for every season.

By March this year, the group had slipped and slid down an icy towpath from Carderock to Lock 10. Below Lock 10, the towpath was closed. Where the ice had melted between the towpath and the river, silt an inch or so thick covered the ground. The tracks of mallards criss-crossed in the silt. Upstream, in crevices on the railing of the small bridge crossing the canal, a tiny lichen--British soldiers--grew in every damp crevice. A pair of barred owls appeared high in a sycamore tree near the towpath.

Beaver cutting was rampant on the bridge. One day we watched as a beaver nonchalantly slid through the water undisturbed by the interested beaver-watchers on the towpath.

We explored a number of trails leading to the river. Some of us kneeled to sniff the fragrance of the arbutus hugging the ground beside one blue-blazed trail. Later we watched the emergence of toothwort and spring beauties, sometimes through thick silt. We marveled at the debris left by the river several feet above our heads. As the ground became white with spring beauties in some places, we also found field and star chickweed, wild geranium, saxifrage, speedwell, trout lily, and Dutchman's breeches.

Violets--blue, yellow, and white--appeared along some

woodland trails. On a path leading toward the river from the Marsden Tract, some of us had our first sight of the green violet, a rather rare plant. At a lower level, near the river, Virginia blue bells were common.

As redbud and dogwood started blooming along the towpath, we found the tiny violet wood sorrel, Solomon's seal, Jack-in-the Pulpit, and what seemed like May apples. Fiddleheads of Christmas ferns started to uncoil about the time that May apples bloomed.

Twenty-eight turtles lined up close together on logs on one sunny day, all headed in the same direction. At other locations, many of the sizable dead branches extending into the water from the canal berm furnished resting places for two or more turtles, some with shining backs to show they had just emerged from the water. Invariably, they headed toward the canal berm.

In late April, a mother goose had established herself in a nest on the canal berm. Within a very short time, or so it seemed, mama and papa goose with six goslings were floating along, single file, in the water.

Small flocks of bluebirds often showed themselves in the Carderock area and along Berma Road in the winter. By spring, they had disappeared. A pair of little green herons and a single great blue were observed in late April. In early May, the Louisiana water thrush started singing in the trees near the canal cross-over at Anglers Inn. Red-eyed vireos and parula warblers were also singing. At the Tavern, the Baltimore oriole took up residence in early May. Parula warblers sang in the trees nearby. A goldfinch sometimes bounced through the air, singing as he flew.

On one weekend at Carderock, hordes of gold-capped volunteers (not birds) swarmed over the canal prism, towpath, and nearby woods, picking up trash, some of which had accumulated over many years. They moved quickly, leaving piles of trash on the towpath to be picked up by the Park Service truck that followed them.

Five Sights and Sounds regulars met at 8 a.m. at the Tavern on May 11 to take part in the annual bird census conducted by the Audubon Naturalist Society. Altogether, the five listed 40 species during the 4-hour trek above the Tavern via towpath and paths along the creek and river. One family of more than 20 goslings followed watchful parents along the creek. Geese were the most numerous of the birds sighted. The question arises: What is the carrying capacity of a limited space for Canada geese? We remember, a little wistfully, when the sight of a single Canada goose was something to get excited about. That was only about 10 years ago.

Excitement this year concentrated on a lone surf scoter making his solitary way up and down the river near the upper shore of Conn Island. Our group of amateurs would never have been able to identify this bird--a stranger to the area. A Maryland Ornithological Society observer found the bird first and got it

NATURE NOTES - continued

confirmed by two other birders with powerful telescopes.

The most cooperative bird for our group was a barred owl. The owl stared down at us as we stared up at him. A pair of teetering sandpipers at the river's edge seemed not to notice our presence. Red-eyed vireos, a Louisiana water thrush, parula warblers, pileated woodpeckers and Baltimore orioles were among other birds we saw or heard.

Bird-watching will continue as some spring migrants move northward and others settle in with year-round residents for the nesting season. Also to be continued is our amazement at the return of plant life to soil so recently scoured by winter flooding. Slender roots held as raging water surged above them, and the warmth of spring sun called forth green shoots and later blossoms through the desolation of inches of silt and river debris. After the January flooding, this spring seems more than ever a miracle!

- - Helen Johnston

BIRDS IDENTIFIED BY SIGHT OR SOUND ON TOWPATH, CREEK, AND RIVER TRAIL BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND NOON, MAY 11, 1996

Double-crested cormorant	1
Great blue heron	5
Canada goose	More than 50 including several
8	flocks of goslings
Mallard	10
Surf scoter	1
Turkey vulture	2
Bald eagle	1
Spotted sandpiper	2
Mourning dove	2
Yellow billed cuckoo	1
Barred owl	1
Belted kingfisher	1
Red-bellied woodpecker	1
Downy woodpecker	3
Pileated woodpecker	3
E. wood peewee	1
Acadian flycatcher	3
E. phoebe	1
Great crested flycatcher	3
N. rough winged swallow	10
Blue jay	5
American crow	5
Ca. chickadee	1
Tufted titmouse	4
Wh. br. nuthatch	1
Blue grey gnatcatcher	10
American Robin	4
Cedar waxwing	25 (flock)
Starling	1

Red-eyed vireo	10
Blue w. warbler	1
N. parula	6
Yellow warbler	2
Louisiana waterthrush	3
Scarlet tanager	2
N. cardinal	3
Common grackle	20
N. oriole	2
House finch	2
American goldfinch	7

Later in the afternoon, 1 indigo bunting was heard.

The surf scoter--a rare bird for this area--was first identified by Sue Alexander, a member of the Maryland Ornithological Society. She obtained assistance from two birders with telescopes in confirming the identification. All other sightings were made by a team comprised of Pat Schindler, Herb Madison, Dick Tibbetts, Andrea Tibbetts, and Helen Johnston.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

With appreciation, the C&O Canal Association acknowledges the following persons who have contributed to the Davies Fund (D), the C&O Canal Fund (C), and the Monocacy Aqueduct Fund (M). This acknowledgment covers the period since the March issue of *Along the Towpath* through May 15, 1996.

All donations to the C&O Canal Fund in 1996 will be used for restoration of the damage to the canal caused by the January flood. Contributions for this purpose from Association members and friends through May 15, 1996 are \$17,253.

Donations to the Monocacy Aqueduct Fund since its inception in 1995 through May 15, 1996 are \$11,974. This total includes \$2,500 contributed by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

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LONG-SLEEVE T-SHIRTS

Our new Association T-Shirt with the map of the C&O Canal National Historical Park on the back of the shirt is now available in long sleeves. It is a beefy t-shirt--100% cotton. The color is natural (buff). Sizes:

Small - 34-36
Medium - 38-40
Large - 42-44
Extra Large - 46-48

(Measured across chest - Medium 18', Large 191/2", Extra Large 201/2")

The price is \$25.00. There is a dwindling supply of this shirt with **short** sleeves which is priced at \$20.00.

Maryland residents please add 5% sales tax. Mailing costs:

- 1 shirt \$2.80 2 shirts - \$3.00
- All profits on these shirts are donated to the Monocacy Aqueduct Fund.

Alice E. Eichers

James P. Marshall

Glenn E. Watkins

The C&O Canal Association Acknowledges With Appreciation Blue Ridge Outfitters For Donating Bus Service for the Annual Douglas Hike



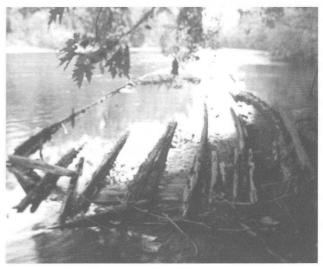
President Gary Petrichick presents Doug Faris, C&O NHP Superintendent, with a T-Shirt at the Monocacy Aqueduct Festivities.



Let the Hike begin! And it did, in true Justice Douglas style. RCP



Association Members enjoy Earth Day kick-off. JDP



Remains of a canal boat hull photographed by Ken Rollins several years ago.