

C & O Canal Association

ALONG THE TOWPATH

concerned with the conservation of the natural and historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin

VOLUME XXX

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NUMBER 5

THE LAW AND ORDER ISSUE A CONSERVATION LEGACY

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Act, January 8, 1971, established the C&O Canal as one of the largest cultural parks within the National Park System. This Act of Congress was the result of 14 years of hard work, frustration, and community effort to preserve the resources and amenities of the park. The leader of this great conservation project was Justice William O. Douglas. He often served as an icon of determination to preserve a resource he loved, and to educate others about the need to conserve the Canal's resources and environs. His challenge to local newspapers to join him on the grand walk of 1954 along the Canal described the Canal as a sanctuary...*not yet marred by the roar of wheels and the sounds of horns...The stretch of 185 miles of country from Washington to Cumberland, Maryland, is one of the most fascinating and picturesque in the nation...* Justice Douglas' contributions were so valuable that in March of 1977, Congress passed legislation dedicating the Canal and Towpath to Justice William O. Douglas, and recognized him for *his long outstanding service as a prominent American conservationist*. The National Park Service was authorized to undertake actions to publicly recognize the contributions of Justice Douglas. In celebration and recognition of Justice William O. Douglas' enduring contributions, today (Oct.12, 1998), we unveil a portrait of Justice Douglas painted by canal enthusiast Tom Kozar, that will be displayed by the National Park Service in the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center. The C&O Canal National Historical Park continues to be threatened by the forces of nature, and expanding development pressures throughout its length. The *conservation spirit* of Justice Douglas has never been in more need as we celebrate his unique contributions to our Nation.



-- NPS

JUSTICE DOUGLAS PORTRAIT UNVEILED

On October 12, 1998, Superintendent Faris and staff of the C&O Canal NHP, Cathleen Douglas Stone, Friends of the Great Falls Tavern, members of COCA, several government officials including Senator Sarbanes, Congresswoman Morella, Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan, and Councilman Bill Hannah, and others gathered at Great Falls Tavern to celebrate the enduring contributions of Justice William O. Douglas, *a conservation legacy*, and to unveil a portrait of Justice William O. Douglas by canal enthusiast Tom Kozar.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association will be held on March 6, 1999 at the Williamsport Volunteer Fire Hall, Williamsport, MD, at 2:00 p.m. NOTE--Revised bylaws (see page 4) will be proposed for acceptance.

Superintendent Faris began with a welcome to all and the introduction of special guests, after which he introduced speaker Carl Linden. In addressing the conservation spirit of Justice Douglas, Carl spoke of Ken Rollins' likening the origination of the Park to the forming of the Constitution...it began in crisis--a threat to the existence of the Canal. And, like our Founding Fathers, Justice Douglas gathered a group of specialists--conservationists experienced in political affairs. He called upon the people to support the idea of a canal park as our Founding Fathers did the idea of a constitution and gained public support to bring the Canal into existence. Reflecting on the '54 Hike, Carl spoke of a conservation method--to walk the land and to draw public attention to the need to preserve a *simple walk*. He recalled Justice Douglas' penchant for walking. It was the result of his bout with polio as a child. The Justice strengthened himself through his walks and hikes. In fact, walking provided Justice Douglas with inner freedom and was the medicine that enabled him to overcome this illness. Every five years, in the same spirit of freedom, the C&O Canal Association celebrates the Commemorative Justice Douglas Hike, by hiking the 184.5 miles, even staying at many of the same places the Douglas Party did in the Great Walk of '54.

COCA President, Tom Perry, also spoke of the '54 hike, commenting that the original list of hikers signed-in at Cumberland included many more hikers than the *immortal nine* that completed all 184.5 miles. Tom asked the rhetorical question, *Did they realize the outcome of what they were doing?* From their efforts of that day in 1954, we, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association, dedicate ourselves to preserve, protect, and promote this treasure that we love. Reflecting on Justice Douglas as author, civil rights advocate, and conservationist, Tom spoke of the portrait to be unveiled as a tie that binds us to this man on the trail, one who dared to swim against the tide to preserve this great park to future generations.

In closing, Tom reminded us -- *We must be eternally vigilant to preserve the park for posterity.*

In further celebrating the legacy of Justice William O. Douglas, Cathleen Douglas Stone reflected on the unveiling of the bust of her husband in 1977 and tied that to the unveiling of his portrait this day. Cathy spoke of Justice Douglas' love of the Canal, how Justice Douglas sought solace on the towpath. She recalled Sunday walks and hikes and spoke of quiet time--time to talk, to think. Cathy also told us of Justice Douglas' intimate knowledge of flora and fauna, and how he was a constant narrative in natural life and told of how he freely shared this knowledge with his clerks on spring hikes. Speaking of the '54 hike, Cathy said that the Justice didn't know what would greet him. He was optimistic--knew of the beauty of the Canal, and knew he could not allow it to be paved over. Justice Douglas believed

strongly that we are stewards. He loved the outdoors. In fact, he felt dressed-up when he was in his hiking clothes. Cathy related two stories to the attentive crowd. Because of his efforts in preserving the C&O, Justice Douglas was invited to Kentucky to mediate in a heated dispute over the Red River Gorge--obviously heated since on his arrival it was noted that many of those present were armed. The New York Times reported on his visit noting that he was accompanied by his *126 year old wife*. Again, Justice Douglas was invited to a lake area in Mongolia. It seemed the local citizens knew of Justice Douglas' efforts to preserve the C&O and asked him to lead a similar hike there. The Justice felt that this would be inappropriate and, therefore, declined. Cathy summed up Justice Douglas commitment to conservation and preservation in his words on the day he retired saying that he was most proud of *making the earth a little better*.

Doug Duncan, Montgomery County Executive, and Canal supporter, recognized Councilman Bill Hannah for his work on the Canal, particularly that of the restoration effort from the floods of '96. Congresswoman Connie Morella spoke of Justice Douglas and borrowed from the quote of Justice Douglas--*It is a place for boys and girls, men and women. One can hike 15 or 20 miles on a Sunday afternoon, or sleep on high dry ground in the quiet of a forest, or just go and sit with no sound except water lapping at one's feet*. Senator Paul Sarbanes talked of how fitting it was that on this day set aside to honor Columbus, that we would recognize Justice Douglas. The Senator spoke of Justice Douglas' reaction to the Post and his sense of stewardship, reminding each of us of our responsibility to pass a better environment on to the next generation.

So mote it be.

-- R. C. Perry



Association President Tom Perry addresses attendees at the unveiling
-- Hal Larsen

We have a challenge facing us as an organization, and I want to lay it before you. We have grown over the years, thanks to the recruitment efforts of many of our members. I want to mention here especially William and Rita Bauman. At our most recent Board of Directors' meeting, William reported that we have more than 1,000 memberships, which would translate to an estimated 1,400 or 1,500 members. That is not a problem, of course it is great news. But, there is a situation which we face which, I believe, is related to our growth. I became aware of it as I was going over our membership roster in order to appoint a nominating committee. Then, my original impression was reinforced by the response of several people whom I asked to serve in this capacity, which is this: **WE REALLY DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER!** Not just new members, but old timers as well lament that we all seem to be strangers to each other. (Of course it is different with the officers and Board members, since we are in close working relationship month after month all year long.) The problem will be intensified at the point where we would adopt our new bylaws, since that document gives the nominating as well as the electing responsibility back to the membership at large, as you will see when you read the proposed bylaws. To keep our Association running smoothly, working efficiently, and taking advantage of the wonderful store of knowledge and commitment found among us, we need to find ways to get to know each other better. I must confess that I have not yet come up with a brilliant idea or a *quick fix* which is the way we Americans seem to want to deal with things. But I do have one idea as a starter, and I would like to solicit your response to it. Various members could sponsor cluster meetings of an informal sort in their backyards or around the fireplace for others in that area, and maybe from those small gatherings, groups would get to know each other as they adopted projects and supported activities together. It is probably too much to think that anyone of us will get to know all 1,499 of the rest. But, we can widen the circle.

-- Tom Perry

SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

PARK

President Tom Perry received the Final Report of Dewberry and Davis recommending options for the Big Slackwater area. A motion *That the Big Slackwater project be assigned to Nancy Long as a committee of one to keep track of the issue and to keep the Board informed for possible future actions carried.* Nancy Brown and Debbie Ayers have suggested that the Association meet with other *friends* groups to explore ways to enlarge our role.

Archives - Chair Hal Larsen reported that Molly Schuchat has taken an oral history of Lewis Cross--born in Lander House in 1924--and obtained several documents relative to the family's occupancy of the property.

Bylaws - Chair William Evans reminded the Board that 30 days notice must be given before membership votes on the bylaws revision.

Continuing Hike Series - Patricia White has sent a list to the editor for inclusion in the calendar.

Environmental Committee - Georgetown University/Canal Road traffic light proposal is an issue.

Level Walkers - no report.

Membership Coordinator - William Bauman reports membership now exceeds 1,000.

Monocacy Aqueduct - Chair Carl Linden reported on a meeting with McMullen & Associates on plans and estimated costs of restoring the aqueduct.

Newsletter - Approved Robert Perry as new editor.

Program Committee - Chair Sonny DeForge reported plans for the Heritage Hike are in order.

Public Information Officer - Mary Lurch requested directors meet with Maryland Department of Tourism and Development to talk about the canal and Association.

Internet Website- Webmaster Olivia Casasnovas donates space for the Association web site. The address is www.omcdesigns.com/canal.

Through-Hike - Chair John Viner reported that Sonny DeForge, Tom Perry will assist him as the executive committee for through-hike decisions. All hike days and over-nights have been scheduled. A meeting of hikers will take place on December 5. Priority for hikers will be given to those who work as well as pay the deposit. Workers will be guaranteed a slot.

OTHER BUSINESS

The nominating committee will consist of John Chandler, Chair, Jim Preston, Al Cohen, and Chris Cerniglia.

The Association will fund \$1,500 towards the Tom Kozar portrait of Justice Douglas. NPS will pay \$1,500, and Cathy Douglas Stone will contribute \$500.

Motion *That Dave Humphrey be allowed to make a video not to exceed 30 minutes, to be available for sale by the end of October* carried.

Karen Gray encouraged the Association to suggest that Lock House 75 be open in Spring and Fall, not just in the summer.

-- R. C. Perry



NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that at the March 6, 1999 Annual Meeting of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association, Inc., a revision of the Bylaws will be considered for adoption as a replacement for the present Bylaws. The full text to the revision is included hereinafter as part of this edition of *Along the Towpath*. You are urged to review the Bylaws prior to the Annual Meeting so that when registering at the meeting, you can indicate any area which you will want to discuss or about which you have a question. This will give you priority of recognition for that purpose, and will give the officers an idea of the time the consideration will require.

BYLAWS (PROPOSED)

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I

Members

Section 1. Any person who is interested in the purposes of the Chesapeake and Ohio (hereafter, C & O) Canal Association and in the C & O Canal National Historical Park and the Potomac River Basin shall be eligible for one of the following classes of regular membership:

- A. Individuals. Dues shall be fifteen dollars per year.
- B. Family, consisting of one or two adults, together with their dependant children, who reside in the same household. Dues shall be twenty dollars per year.
- C. Patron, consisting of individuals or families. Dues shall be twenty-five dollars per year.

Section 2. Each member, except for Family Members under eighteen years of age, shall have all of the rights and duties of membership prescribed in the parliamentary authority. Each household shall receive notices of meetings, newsletters and other mailings. Applications for membership by letter or form addressed to the Association and accompanied by the applicable dues shall be immediately accepted and effective.

Section 3. Dues shall be assessed on a calendar year basis and shall be payable in advance on or before January 1 each year. Individuals or families joining for the first time between September 1 and December 31, shall have dues credited to the following calendar year.

Section 4. Persons who participated in the hike from Cumberland, Maryland to Washington D.C. on March 20-27, 1954, known as the Justice Douglas-Washington Post Hike Party, shall be charter members.

Section 5. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors and by a three-fourths vote by ballot at the Annual Meeting, honorary membership for a term determined by the Board of Directors may be conferred upon any person or organization in recognition of notable services rendered to the Association. An honorary life member shall have none of the obligations of membership in the Association, but shall be entitled to all of the privileges except those of making motions, voting and of holding office.

ARTICLE II

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Information Officer and fifteen Directors. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

Section 2. At each Annual Meeting a Nominating Committee of six members nominated from the floor shall be elected by a plurality vote, a tie for sixth place being decided by lot. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate a candidate for each of the offices to be filled at the next Annual Meeting. The call to the Annual Meeting shall identify all candidates and provide a short biography and statement of qualifications for each. Additional nominations from the floor of candidates for officer shall be permitted.

Section 3. The officers, except the Directors, shall be elected by ballot to serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected. Five of the directors shall be elected by ballot by a plurality vote to serve for a term of three years or until their successors are elected, any tie for fifth place being decided by lot. In cases where there are no more candidates nominated for a position than can be elected to it, the ballot may be dispensed with by unanimous consent. The terms of all officers shall begin at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.

Article II, Officers, continued

Section 4. No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no member shall be eligible to serve in office for more than nine immediately preceding, consecutive years.

ARTICLE III

Membership Meetings

Section 1. The Annual Meetings of the Association shall be held on the first Saturday of March, or within seventy-five days thereafter each year, as ordered by the Board of Directors and shall be for the purpose of electing a Nominating Committee, electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may properly come before it. At least thirty days notice shall be given in the call.

Section 2. Special membership meetings may be called by the Board of Directors and shall be called at the request of fifty members of the Association. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. At least fifteen days notice shall be given.

Section 3. Twenty-five members of the Association shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IV

The Board of Directors

Section 1. The officers of the Association, including the Directors, shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority over the affairs of the Association, except those powers reserved by these Bylaws to the Annual Meeting; to fill vacancies among officers, except the office of President, until the next Annual Meeting; to adopt a capital and operating budget for the fiscal year and to amend the same as necessary from time to time by a majority vote. The Board shall be authorized to adopt from time to time standing rules relating to the details of administration of the Association.

Section 3. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the first Sunday of February, April, June, August, October and December. Special meetings of the Board shall be called on ten days notice at the request of the Executive Committee or eight members of the Board.

Section 4. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be ten of its members.

ARTICLE V

Executive Committee

Section 1. The officers, except the Directors, shall constitute an Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Board of Directors may authorize the Executive Committee to perform, between meetings of the Board, such duties as the Board may from time to time deem expedient. The Executive Committee may act in cases of urgency which may require action before the Board of Directors can meet in regular or special session.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President or upon the request of three of its members. It shall make a complete report of any action taken by it at each meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE VI

Committees

Section 1. An Archives Committee of one or more members shall be appointed by the President annually at the April Board meeting. Its duty shall be to oversee the organization and classification of the Association's archival special collection at the Gelman Library of the George Washington University. It shall also have the duty of reviewing any archival material donated to or generated by the Association and assessing its value for retention or adding to the special collection.

Section 2. An Auditing Committee of two members shall be appointed by the President annually at the December Board meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee, after the close of the fiscal year, to audit the financial books and records of the Association as maintained by the Treasurer and report its findings and recommendations at the Annual Meeting for its approval.

Section 3. An Editorial Review Committee appointed by the President at the April Board meeting shall consist of the Editor and Assistant Editors whose duty it shall be to edit and publish a newsletter under the title *Along the Towpath*, portions of which shall also be published on any world wide web site maintained by the Association.

Article VI, Committees, continued

Section 4. An Environmental Committee of one or more members shall be appointed by the President annually at the April Board meeting. It shall identify and report to the Board or the Annual Meeting on threats to the historic and environmental integrity of the C & O Canal and the Park from proposed construction or other environmental intrusions and recommend actions or positions that the Association should take.

Section 5. A Festivals Committee of one or more members shall be appointed annually by the President at the April Board Meeting and shall make all arrangements for the Association's participation at fairs and festivals in communities along the Canal for the purposes of attracting new members and publicizing the Association and the Park.

Section 6. A Finance Committee composed of the Treasurer and two other members shall be appointed by the President at the April meeting of the Board. It shall be the duty of this committee to prepare amendments as needed during the year to the adopted budget (which may be adopted by a majority vote) and, at the December Board meeting, to present a budget for the following fiscal year for adoption by the Board and presentation to the Annual Meeting for its information.

Section 7. A Legal Advisory Committee of one or more members who are both members of this Association and attorneys admitted to practice law in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia or the District of Columbia shall be appointed by the President at the April Board meeting each year. Upon request, it shall advise the Association on legal issues of concern to it. It may call on other members of the Association who are expert in the fields of accounting, insurance, scientific issues and other areas for advice and assistance as necessary.

Section 8. A Level Walkers Committee, which shall be chaired by the Second Vice-President, shall conduct the level walker program by establishing and re-aligning current levels, appointing one or more level walker for each level, and maintain records of utilization and cleanliness with regard to each level.

Section 9. A Membership Committee of at least three members, one of whom shall be the Membership Coordinator, shall be appointed by the President annually at the April meeting of the Board. It shall be the duty of this committee to encourage the growth and retention of membership. The Membership Coordinator shall maintain an up-to-date membership list, extract useful statistics on memberships in the various classes and report on discernable trends.

Section 10. A Program Committee of at least three members shall be appointed by the President at the April meeting of the Board whose duty it shall be to make all arrangements for the Justice Douglas Hike and the Heritage Hike, coordinate with the Membership Committee in arranging a new member event and prepare and arrange for the Annual Meeting and other similar events.

Section 11. A Public Relations and Publications Committee, chaired by the Information Officer, shall act as a liaison with the membership, general public and the media. With the approval of the President, it may issue press releases and with the approval of the Board, may publish books, pamphlets, graphics and other informational and educational materials.

Section 12. Such other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the President as the Association or Board of Directors shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Association. The President shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VII

Affiliations

The Association may affiliate with such other not-for-profit organizations having objectives similar to, or compatible with, those of this Association by action of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

ARTICLE IX

Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the membership of the Association by a two-thirds vote, provided the text of the amendment has been submitted in writing with the call to the meeting.

Along the Towpath is published in March, June, September, and December by the :

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Glen Echo, MD 20812-0366

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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 home page on the WWW at <http://www.cyberrealm.net/canal>. The COCA Webmaster is Olivia Casasnovas. COCA also maintains a telephone for information and inquiries. Please direct calls to (301) 983-0825.

C & O CANAL ASSOCIATION 1998-1999 Association Officers

<u>President:</u>	lperry@erols.com Thomas L. Perry 301-223-7010	116 S. Conococheague St. Williamsport, MD 21795
<u>First Vice President:</u>	William J. Evans 410-243-6315	3813 Juniper Rd. Baltimore, MD 21218-1828
<u>Second VP & Level Walker Chairperson:</u>	kela@bellatlantic.net Keith Kridenoff 410-661-6130	1725 Red Oak Road Baltimore, MD 21234
<u>Secretary</u>	Rachel L. Stewart 703-237-4727	5914 Washington Street Arlington, VA 22205
<u>Treasurer</u>	David M. Johnson 301-530-7473	9211 Wadsworth Dr. Bethesda, MD 20817
<u>Information Officer</u>	Mary A. Lurch 301-657-9542	4701 Bradley Blvd., #104 Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Board of Directors: (Terms expire in 2001) Karen M. Gray/KMGrayPhD@compuserve.com, Fred I. Mopsik/mopsikj@pop.erols.com, Helen L. Shaw, Michael Schuchat, John G. Viner. (Terms expire in 2000) Christine Cerniglia, Carl Linden, Mary A. Moen, James Preston, Ken Rollins (Terms expire in 1999) Charles Ayres, Harold Larsen, Nancy Long, Robert Perry, Patricia White.

Committees (Contact at the COCA telephone number or write to COCA))

Archives	Hal Larsen
Canal Restoration/Monocacy Aqueduct	Carl Linden
Environmental	Ralph Donnelly/Fred Mopsik
Level Walkers	Keith Kridenoff
Membership	Rita Bauman
Programs	Sonny DeForge/Ken Rollins
VIPs	John Lindt
Membership Coordinator	William Bauman

Editorial Staff
Editor: Robert C. Perry 703-590-5568
janeandbob.perry@erols.com

Associate Editors
Carl A. Linden
Jane D. Perry
Ken Rollins

DIRECTORY C & O CANAL NHP TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND PERSONNEL

C & O CANAL NHP HQTRS

Box 4, Sharpsburg, MD 21782	301-739-4200
Superintendent	Douglas Faris
Assistant Superintendent	Kevin Brandt
Chief Ranger	Keith Whisenant
Admin Officer	Ken Brodie
Asst Ch. Ranger & Chief, Visitor Protection Branch	Tom Nash (acting)
Chief, Natural Resource Mgmt Branch	Patrick Toops
Chief, Cultural Resource Mgmt Branch	Doug Stover
Chief, Interpretation Branch	Debbie Conway
Chief of Maintenance	Bob Hartman
Volunteer Coordinator	Nancy Brown
Flood Recovery Team	Bob Conway

PALISADES DISTRICT

11710 MacArthur Blvd, Potomac, MD 20854	301-413-0024
District Ranger	Tom Nash
Sup. Ranger - Fee Collection	Terry Barbot

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	Faye Walmsley

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

WESTERN MARYLAND DISTRICT

District Ranger	301-739-4200 x237 Mark Spier
Western Subdistrict	Vacant
Central Subdistrict	Matt Stoffolano
Eastern Subdistrict	John Bailey
District Interpreter	George DeLancey
	Luis Krug
	Bill Orlando
	Martin Gallery
	301-678-5463

WILLIAMSPORT VISITORS CENTER

205 West Potomac Street, Williamsport, MD 21795	301-582-0813
Park Ranger	Donna Swauger

HANCOCK VISITORS CENTER

326 East Main Street Hancock, Maryland 21750	301-678-5463
Park Ranger	Paul Apple

CUMBERLAND VISITORS CENTER

Western Maryland Station, Cumberland, Maryland 21502	301-722-8226
Park Ranger	Rita Knox

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

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Georgetown Boat Operation	202-653-5844
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

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION - 1999 ANNUAL MEETING

The following 1999 Slate of Nominations for the Board of Directors of the C&O Canal Association at the March 6, 1999, 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 five board positions.

Many thanks to the 1999-2000 Nominating Committee members 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 following committee members:

- John Chandler, Chair
- Christine Cerniglia
- Al Cohen
- James Preston

OFFICERS

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

I have been a Towpath user for 27 years, ever since an elderly friend spent a day touring me up and down in the Williamsport area. Years of leading scout troops, church youth groups, biking friends and assorted adults on short and long trips along the length of the Canal prepared me for the time when I would try to give back to the Park some service for all the pleasure it had afforded me through the years. Thirteen years ago, my wife and I moved back to Williamsport, in sight of the Park, and we joined the Association at the gentle nudging of a friend. Since then I have served as a Level Walker, member of the Board of Directors, leader of bike trips, first vice-president, and one year as president of our organization. What I take my bearings from is a vision of the Towpath as a continuous entity from one end to the other, and the pressing need to get people out on the path so that the love of this Canal Park may grow in their hearts and the public support for it spread to an ever-widening base. The past has given us a good heritage, and the future presents us with an unending task to perform.

For First Vice President: **WILLIAM J. EVANS**

Mr. Evan, as a nominee for re-election to the office of First Vice-President, would bring to that position a long and varied experience: He is a retired partner of the regional law firm of Miles & Stockbridge. In organization life he has had experience gained by holding every office normally (and sometimes, abnormally) listed by societies: director, secretary, finance-secretary, treasurer, and president. Currently, he is president of the Miles White Beneficial Society, a Quaker educational foundation. In the C&O Canal Association, he has served two terms as treasurer, a three-year term as director, and a term as vice-president. Currently, he is chairman of the Legal Committee and of the Bylaw Revision Committee. He is a member of the Monocacy Aqueduct Committee. Mr. Evans is chairman of the revisory authorship team of a well-known, classical manual on the conduct of business meetings. In seeking reelection, as First Vice-President his present goal is the regularization of democratic practices in the Association, completing the adoption of the revised bylaws, and completion of the goal of the Monocacy Aqueduct Committee.

For Second Vice President and Level Walker Chair: **KAREN M. GRAY**, Washington, D.C.

I have been a C&O Canal Association member and level walker since 1977, have served on the board for most of those years, and was Second Vice President and Level Walker Chair for three years. I also maintain the database for the Food and Lodging Guide. I have a keen interest in the history and future of the C&O Canal and I believe the Level Walker program is a vital part of this future, providing the following unique services:

1. To keep the Association board familiar with conditions along the Canal and knowledgeable of changes in its use, management, and maintenance.
2. To provide an archival record of those changes.
3. To provide the Park Service staff with a picture of conditions along the canal and its usage as seen by Association members.
4. To assist in light maintenance and litter control as well as provide information to other canal users when the opportunity arises.

If elected, my goal will be to develop a strong program with enough Level Walkers to make it possible for all levels to be walked and reported on at least twice a year. I also plan to find members willing to train as assistants who will become chairs themselves in the future in an effort to insure that the program will remain strong and well-managed.

CANDIDATES - continued

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 1995-1998, 1989-91; President 1991-93; 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 and influence the Board of Directors to exercise their responsibility to manage the membership's funds in a prudent and businesslike manner.

For Information Officer: **MARY A. LURCH**, Chevy Chase, MD

If I am re-elected to be your Information Officer, I will continue my efforts to publicize the activities of the C&O Canal Association in local newspapers, radio and televisions, and in area libraries. My goals are to increase membership and to further public awareness of the Canal's historical and recreational significance as well as its continuing needs. Public awareness is especially important in 1999 as we commemorate the 1954 Justice Douglas Hike. If I am re-elected, I will be calling on many of you for your support and help in raising the public's awareness of one of our great local treasures, a treasure that needs the support of all for its preservation for future generations.

DIRECTORS

(Listed in alphabetical order.)

Three-year term. **ROBERT HUMPHREY**, Walkersville, MD

Bob is a native-born Marylander, born in Lonaconing, Garrett County. He has been a member of the Association for 4 to 5 years. He is familiar with the entire towpath, having led a Boy Scout group on a through-hike from Cumberland to Georgetown five times. Bob is retired from the Frederick County school system, where he was a school principal.

Three-year term. **HAROLD LARSEN**, McLean, VA

President of the Association 1986-1991; First Vice President 1991-1994; director 1985-1986/1996-1999; 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.

Three-year term. **ROBERT C. PERRY**, Woodbridge, VA

I seek re-election to the Board of Directors and pledge my continued dedication to the conservation of the natural and historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin. I served as editor of *Along the Towpath* from 1992 - 1997 and as a director since 1996. Following a one-year sabbatical, I am, on-board again as the editor. Together, we have walked the towpath, canoed the river, listened to the sounds of nature, and to each other. The comraderie and devotion we share in our efforts is most gratifying.

The forces that would render the C & O Canal National Historic Park to the wind are strong. Now, as much as ever, we must be vigilant. I continue to support the Association's involvement in the Monocacy Aqueduct Restoration Project, endorse a continued close-working relationship with the NPS, and believe that we have a responsibility to ensure that the C & O Canal National Historic Park, created by the people, remains, in the words of Justice W.O. Douglas, *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 or the sounds of horns* for generations to come.

Three-year term. **GARY M. PETRICHICK**, Belmont, NY

See candidate biographies for 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997. Only the age has been changed to reflect reality. I'm now a sixty-one year old retired community planner, still living in far off Belmont, New York. My love for and interest in the C&O Canal is undiminished, even after two years as Association Director and two more as President.

I am pleased at being offered the opportunity to again serve the Association and if elected will work to see that we continue to serve the Park's interests as we have done so ably in the past.

Two-year term. **RICHARD STOLL**, Kensington, MD - (Unexpired term of Karen M. Gray)

My wife, Anita and I have been members since the late 80's. We are Level Walkers at the Monocacy Aqueduct. I took the Cumberland to Georgetown Thru Hike in '94 and plan to do same in '99. I'm Budget Committee Chairman for the '99 Thru Hike.

We've lived in Montgomery County, MD since 1963. I am retired from the Federal government, where I was employed as an Operations Research Analyst. One of my positions was in the Department of Energy, where I was involved in energy conservation in general and solar energy in particular.

As a Board Member, I will try to develop programs that will encourage other members to enjoy the facilities of the Park and to become more active in our organization.

Three-year term. **PATRICIA A. WHITE**, Gaithersburg, MD

I fell in love with the Canal during a 1994 full-length bicycle trip with my family. After we moved to the area in 1976, the Canal became my weekend playground. I joined the Association sometime in the early 1980's and have been active in the VIP program since the 1985 flood. Three years ago I was elected to the board and have faithfully attended board meetings. I chair the committee for the Continuing Hike Series and lead many of the hikes personally. The Canal has given me a lot, I wish to pay it back.

JOIN THE CONTINUING HIKERS

THE 1999 CANAL BIKE TRIP

Like preceding Cumberland to DC bike trips, 1998 participants enjoyed a great time, and participants, both veterans and new bikers, finished the trip with as much enthusiasm as when they started - so much so that planning for the 1999 trip is already in full swing. Next year's trip scheduled for October 9-14 will be unique in that it will offer either the opportunity to camp or to stay at bed & breakfast/motel lodgings. However, early sign up is important because there will be limited space for those desiring to take advantage of the B&B/motel option.

More details on the trip will appear in the March issue of *Along the Towpath*. Cost of the trip will be \$15.00 for Association members and \$20.00 for non-members. The funds will cover various administrative and transportation expenses and any surplus will be donated to the Monocacy Aqueduct Restoration Fund.

If you want to be assured of space, please send your name, address, phone number, and a check for the participation fee to Tom Perry--a great towpath interpreter who has led many, if not all, of the previous trips. Tom and Al Cohen, participant for the last two years, will coordinate the 1999 trip. You may contact Tom at 116 Conococheague St., Williamsport, MD 21795, (301) 223-7010.

-- Al Cohen

THROUGH HIKE PRACTICES



ENTERING GEORGETOWN, From the August 1, 1998 Continuing Hike Series.

-Photo by Pat White

Along the Towpath

1999 CONTINUING HIKE SERIES

Calling Through Hikers -- come practice with us. If you want to do more than our average 6 miles round-trip we will help you shuttle or pick you up after you have hiked a longer distance. For example, the January hike starts in Harpers Ferry and could be a 12 mile Through Hike practice to Point-of-Rocks. A through hiker could be picked up at Point of Rocks between 9:30 and 9:45 AM, hike with us to Keep Tryst, then keep going. Alternatively to Brunswick and back to Harpers Ferry would be 10 miles. Similar arrangements could be made for the February and March hikes. Call Pat White (301-977-5628) at least two days in advance to arrange).

For 1999 we are going to hike the fourth weekend of the month (except December) alternating Saturday and Sunday. All hikes will be at 10:30 AM and are listed in the Calendar of Upcoming Events.

Someone suggested that we change the name to Loopy Loops since we usually do circuit hikes. However, if we start shuttling, would we be the Shufflin' Shuttles?

Regardless of name, join us. We have fun and in the last two years have covered a third of the canal in conjunction with the Reunion and Heritage Hikes.

--Pat White, 301-977-5628

THE ASSOCIATION ACKNOWLEDGES CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUNDS

We sincerely thank the following members and friends who have made contributions to the following Association Funds:

- C** *C&O Canal Fund* - to support projects and interpretive programs in the Park which cannot be budgeted with appropriated funds.
- M** *Monocacy Aqueduct Fund* - for preservation and restoration of the aqueduct, one of the most important structures on the Canal.

Mary Carmel CLEM	C
James and Ann NELSON	C
Robert and Marianne SMYTHE	M
Sandra CAMPBELL	CM
Michael COREN	M
Barry PEOPLES	M
Judith R. DINSMORE and	
Alvin D. HOWELL	C
Dennis R. MCCANN	M
Ami and Nancy SHEINTAL	M
Douglas G. SANDERS	C
Edward T. MILLER	C

Linda L. RICHMOND	M
Cathleen Douglass STONE	C
Paul W. TOURIGNY	M
John C. MARZIANI	M
Timothy H. OMLEY	M
Edward C. VERNON	M
John L. BOWMAN, JR	C
John H. HILL	M
Debra Appel JAGGARD	M
Beth F. RHOADES	M
Nancy FALK	M
Dr. and Mrs. DeWitt E. DELAWTER	M
THE CHARLES DELMAR	
FOUNDATION	M
Laurence M. EVANS	M
Ernest B. JOHNSTON JR	M
H. J. PRICE JR	M

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (SINCE 5/10/98)

Adle, Dena	White Hall MD
Allnutt, Anne C.	Silver Spring MD
Beale, Henry B. R.	Washington DC
Blanton, Lucy W.	Chevy Chase MD
Brenneman A.I.A., Dean K	Rockville MD
Carroll, Thomas E.	Washington DC
Chaufournier, Stephanie	Potomac MD
Cogswell, Peg	Washington DC
Cook, Norman J	Manassas VA
Corbett, Carol	Chevy Chase MD
Cumberland, Dominic	Germantown MD
De Franco, Anita	Arlington VA
Dooley, James C	Arlington VA
Dreyer, Larry	White Hall MD
Eastham, Stephen C.	Potomac MD
Eggert, Steven	Monrovia MD
Eichers, Alice	Arlington VA
Evans, Diane	Alexandria VA
Fry, Chris	Kensington MD
Gardner, Vivian M.	Williamsport MD
Garrett, Barbara	Washington DC
Gavenas, Clement W.	Baltimore MD
Gray, P. Burton	Cabin John MD
Groen, Hendrick G	Alexandria VA
Hagen, Paul	Washington DC
Harrington, M/M F. Brennan	Ellicott City MD
Heffernan, Patrick	Pittsburgh PA
Heins, James K.	Kensington MD
Henry, Linda	Winchester VA
Hooker, Eric	Ellicott City MD
Jacques, M/M Windsor M.	Buxton NC
Kelly, Helen B.	Arlington VA
Laughlin, William & Virginia	Myersville MD
Laureigh, Page	Martinsburg WV
Layn, Martha	Gaithersburg MD

NEW MEMBERS - continued

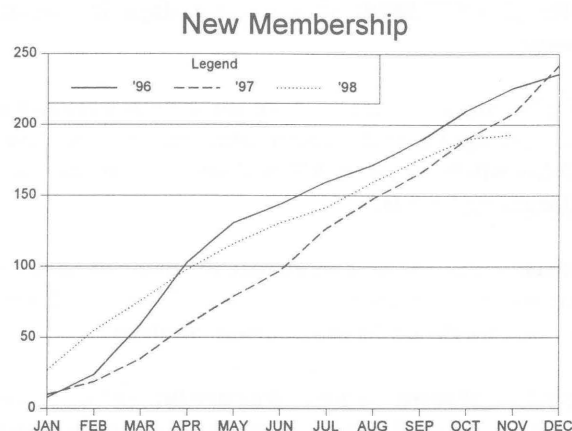
Line, Bryon
 Long, Mrs. E. E.
 Lovejoy, Ambrose
 Lowery, Earl K
 Matysiak, George
 Mc Nellis, Don & Urte
 Mc Graw, John A
 Milberg, Ronald P
 Miller, Ron & Judy
 Moberly, Kirk
 Myers, Carole
 Nauen, Ric
 Newbury, Barbara & Dale
 Oler, Betty
 Olmer, Judy
 Pear, David W
 Pfefferkorn, Richard M.
 Platt, Betsy
 Polvinale 3rd, Joseph J
 Preish, Jim & Kim
 Price Sr., H. Jack
 Quigley, Donald L.
 Rhoades, Beth F
 Robinson, Ann Mc K.
 Romano, Bill & Marsha
 Rowat, Peter F
 Ryschkewitsch, Michael
 Sainsott, P.
 Savage, Rowland & Maureen
 Schlegel, Cory
 Sengers, Jan V
 Sheintal, Mr & Mrs Ami
 Shelden, Suzanne & Craig
 Skinker, Cleveland
 Snow, Jerry & Nancy
 Sokolow, Jayme A
 Soloway, Irv
 Steinmann, Scott
 Stelmach, Roman
 Stockham, Edwin H
 Sullivan, Jake
 Tourmanoff, M/M V. I.
 Ulricksen, Stephen
 Venn, Porter W
 Vining, Donna R
 Vogel, Don
 Von Schweinitz, Tina
 Wachter, Charles R.
 Waldron, Patsy
 Walker, Beth & Sam
 Warner, Jonathan M.
 Wheeler, Charles B

Silver Spring MD
 Rockville MD
 Concord NH
 Hagerstown MD
 Baltimore MD
 Potomac MD
 Bethesda MD
 North Potomac MD
 Bethesda MD
 Springfield VA
 Hagerstown MD
 Columbia MD
 Gaithersburg MD
 Martinsburg WV
 Cabin John MD
 Potomac MD
 Cumberland MD
 Glen Echo MD
 Germantown MD
 Swannanoa NC
 Cumberland MD
 Keymar MD
 Frederick MD
 Washington DC
 Reston VA
 La Jolla CA
 Burtonsville MD
 Baltimore MD
 Bel Air MD
 Valley View PA
 Rockville MD
 Rockville MD
 Crofton MD
 Gaithersburg MD
 Washington DC
 Wheaton MD
 Alexandria VA
 Bethesda MD
 Columbia MD
 Sykesville MD
 Mc Lean VA
 Washington DC
 Arnold MD
 Upper Marlboro MD
 Baltimore MD
 Montgomery Village MD
 Germantown MD
 Frederick MD
 Hagerstown MD
 Chaptico MD
 Frederick MD
 Bethesda MD

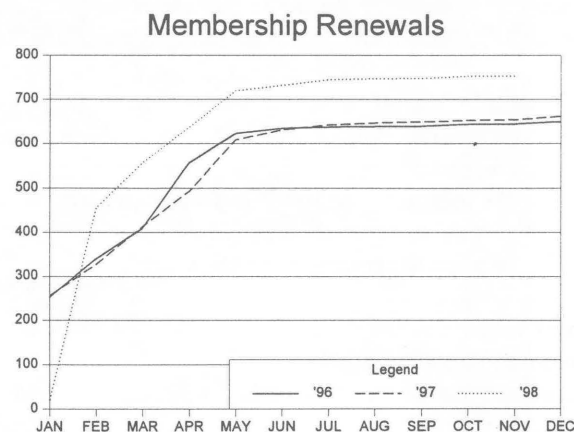
Program, you must take the initiative and contact the respective leader. Current members are encouraged to meet these new members and help them get involved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New membership in the Association continues to hold strong. In 1996 we recruited 236 new members; in 1997, 242 new members joined; and 193 new members have joined so far in 1998. We need to keep recruiting our friends and families. Anytime we are along the towpath, we should have a supply of brochures to hand out. Wearing your name badge is a good conversation starter.



Membership renewals have recovered from a late start. In 1996 we had 650 members renew; in 1997, 662 members renewed; and 753 members have renewed so far in 1998. On a cumulative basis, we are at 115% of the average renewals for '96 and '97.



After adding in the 85 memberships that carried over from 1997, we now have 1031 total memberships. A small celebration would seem appropriate for exceeding 1000 memberships at long last. Let us keep recruiting.

-- William Bauman

Along the Towpath

We welcome you all and hope you will take an active part in the affairs of the Association. For those having an interest in the Level Walker Program or the Volunteers In the Park

CANAL CHARACTERS (One).....

A BOY'S LIFE ON THE C&O

Lewis Cross was born at the Lander lockhouse, which still stands at Lock 29. His birth date was July 19, 1924, the year the C&O Canal Company went out of business. Lewis's father, locktender L. H. "Bugs" Cross, continued until 1962 to live with his family in the one-and-a-half-story brick house with a full basement. Before ca.1918, he was a boat captain on the canal. Then he became the locktender and occupied the lockhouse, which he later rented, first from the trustees of the C&O Canal Company until 1930, then from the U. S. Department of the Interior. His first rental charge was \$1.25 per annum, gradually increased to \$10.00.

There were four children in the family. Lewis Cross said his elder sister, Lavinia, was born on the canal boat ca. 1912, he was a little hazy about the date. She lived on board, tethered to a table leg so that she wouldn't fall overboard. When she was three or four years old, her parents allowed her, under their watchful eyes, to ride the mules. When she was about six (ca. 1918), a new law mandated schooling for all children six and older. Lavinia couldn't go to school if she was constantly moving about on a boat, so her father appealed to Mr. Fisher, the canal superintendent, for a lock so that he could live in a lockhouse. The superintendent gave him the Lander Lock and lockhouse, where the elder Cross and his wife lived until they died, he in 1962 and she earlier. Lewis, the son, stayed here as well for his first 20 years. In World War II, ineligible for military service because of a leg injury, he worked at a Hagerstown factory that made airplane bearings.

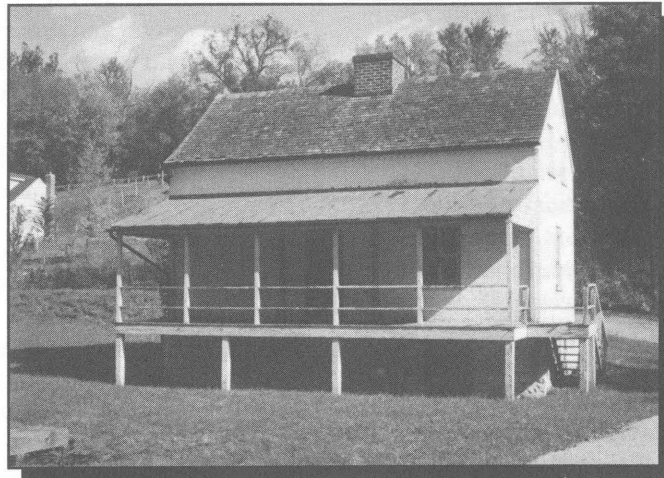
Cross's childhood recollections tell us what life was like on the canal after the company shut down. The waterway was open, and the water level remained constant from Dam 3 at Harpers Ferry to Georgetown. Interviewed for an oral history by Mollie Schuchat on September 1, 1998, Cross recalled: "It was real nice, just growing up with the kids, you know, didn't realize how nice it was until after I grew up. I didn't realize what a childhood I had there.. You know, we had the railroad on one side of the house, and then we had the canal, and then just over the bank a little ways we had the Potomac River. We could go fishing in the canal because there was still water in it, water from Harpers Ferry, it run all the way to Georgetown. Real good fishing, nice big bass...." After the canal company's demise, the elder Cross rented boats to fishermen from as far away as Baltimore,

Washington and Pennsylvania. This enterprise lasted until the 1936 flood devastated the C&O Canal.

After that flood, the washed-out banks no longer held water, according to Cross. The lock gates rotted. Before the flood, as he recalled, they operated during his childhood. But then a general decay set in, and no restoration efforts were made.

Cross described the simple living conditions in the house: Coal-oil lamps provided illumination, and wood stoves heated the modest home. Lewis's mother had a little kerosene stove in a corner that she used for cooking in the summer. In the winter she used a wood stove. The lockhouse had a large chimney in the center for the stoves in the kitchen and the living room, the two spaces on the main floor. Two rooms on the upper floor were unheated bedrooms. The elder Cross slept on a couch on the main floor so that he could get up to lock boats through during the night without disturbing the family. After the boats stopped running, he continued to use the couch from force of habit. The full basement was used to store potatoes, tools and nonperishable foodstuffs. There was a large hole containing spring water in a basement corner. (The house received electricity in 1952.) The family bathed in a basin or a

washtub under the porch. When the train came by, the engineer would sound a special signal if he had some extra ice, which he would throw off as he whizzed by. The block would be covered with cinders, which the children who responded to the signal washed off with water. Almost all their food was dry goods and canned products. The pantry was unheated. Mrs. Cross served dinner at 4 o'clock. If the children were not on time, they didn't get any. If they were fishing at the river they would hear the train that passed at 3:30 p.m., the signal to head for home if they wanted anything to eat.



Lander Lockhouse

- Photo Hal Larsen

Lewis Cross's description recalls quiet simplicity, enjoyment of life in the out-of-doors, and the difficulties and pleasures in a time filled with hard work, deprivation and uncertainty about the future. We learn about resourcefulness, familial cohesion and quiet endurance in an era far different from our own, with the high health standards, nutrition and creature comforts that we enjoy today -- aspects of life that could hardly be imagined when Lewis Cross lived at Lander. Although the canal company failed, life continued to thrive along the canal, individuals making their livelihood as best they could, the elder Mr. Cross, for example, renting boats to fishermen until the 1936 flood wiped out the waterway.

Now the lockhouse stands quiet and solitary on its grassy bank, squeezed between the railroad and the canal. Trains

still roar by frequently, but the waterway is dry. The restored lock recalls the past, as does the bypass flume between it and the house. The building sleeps today, and one can only imagine the childish voices and laughter in and around the premises. For Lewis Cross the memories are real enough when he visits the quiet little house. Now a bit dilapidated, especially on the porch along the front facing the canal, this simple house symbolizes a chapter in the canal's history, the decades during which the C&O fell into decay. Now come to life again as a park, the towpath rings with the laughter and voices of hikers and bikers who pass by. But the house remains a mute witness to the past, which we now know a little more about, thanks to Lewis Cross.

- - Hal Larsen

CANAL CHARACTERS (Two).....

REMINISCES OF THE C&O CANAL

by Abner J. Kaplan

Editors note--Mr. Kaplan grew up in Williamsport during the last years of the Canal's operation. In this issue he shares some thoughts on his growing up--recollections of social and recreational activities in the town. Abner is active in the Association and currently resides in Baltimore. Enjoy.

Having had an opportunity to review the two winning essays on the history of the C&O Canal by high school students, I should like to commend the authors on their accomplishments. Their efforts, I am aware, involved a not inconsiderable amount of background and research as the Canal affected my home town of Williamsport.

Aside from the historical accounts, as portrayed by the above mentioned authors, I should like to set forth the impact of the Canal on the lives of Williamsport's residents from a sociological and recreational standpoint. Every summer for seven or eight years of my young life, the Canal was an integral part of my existence. In those early days my experiences took me from the waste weir, about a half mile below Lock 44, to what was known as Turtle Pond, a short distance above the aqueduct. The waste weir was a great place for swimming since you could jump or dive directly from the wooden planks, covering the weir, into the Canal. Generally, however, swimming was confined to locations closer to where the town-folk lived: the Culvert below the lock, Steffey and Findlay's wharf, Cushwa's Basin, and Turtle Pond, all above the lock.

It seems that all the kids in town learned to swim in the Canal's placid waters. Canoeing flourished and fishing, camping, and overnight hikes were regular occurrences. The grassy towpath, protected by overhanging trees, provided an ideal walkway where on Sunday afternoons young couples

strolled in romantic complacency. My own love affair with the Canal extended from 1918, when I was in my eighth year, until long after the waterway became a cropper in 1924.

At the time we were living on South Conococheague Street near Salisbury Street. As if by some irresistible, magnetic force, my feet transported me down to the Cushwa's Basin. Tied to the wharf was a 14 or 15 passenger motor-craft that on weekends carried visitors to Big Pool and return. For me, however, as I rested, daydreaming in the stern, it took me into far more exotic places way beyond the confines of the 48 states. Two years later when the adjoining aqueduct crashed, my reveries came to an end as my flying magic carpet went earthbound. The excursions, of course, came to a halt and the little craft departed for parts unknown.

The aqueduct also provided the opportunity for diving directly from the Towpath into the Canal. Added to the allure was the advantage of reaching the opposite bank and climbing up on the broad limestone walkway, an ever welcome goal. This was not without its risks, however, since swimming in the aqueduct was forbidden by law. Perhaps that added to its enchantment.

The overseer of this level of the Canal was one Jimmie Richards, whose duty it was to inspect the waterway's banks for deterioration and supervise maintenance. Mr. Richards traveled in an early Model T Ford which could be heard a half mile away, giving aqueduct trespassers ample time to depart the premises. Along with my companions, I swam there on a number of occasions, keeping a wary eye and ear alert for sight or sound of the aforesaid Mr. Richards.

Ice skating was also a popular recreational activity on the Canal's frozen surface. Freezing was facilitated by the fact that the Canal was drained after boating ceased in the fall, to a depth of a mere two feet or less. Cushwa's Basin, with its broad expanse, was the focal point, although skaters were enabled to traverse areas above and below that location.

Other less acceptable activities, particularly from a moralistic standpoint, found the towpath a welcoming playground. On a small grassy offset bordering the upper or western side of the aqueduct and sheltered by a lofty shade tree, four or five sporting gentry of the town, during the summer afternoons, whiled away the time playing poker for modest stakes. This was my first exposure to gambling and I watched enthralled. Although my presence was tolerated it was not, as I look back on the experience, calculated to endear myself to the participants.

Nor was this the only game of chance taking place. As a locale for a more active diversion, the Towpath again proved to be the logical choice. Each Sunday when boating was practically at a standstill - and weather permitting - four to six gentlemen would engage in dice throwing activities, otherwise known as *craps*. The level Towpath provided an excellent *floor* for the participants who came together a short distance above the area occupied by the aforementioned

poker players. The latter, probably in observance of the Sabbath, departed the premises on the Lord's day. Their compatriots had no such compunction, however. On one or two occasions that I was an observer, I maintained a safe distance, not wishing to incur the wrath of any of the dead-serious participants who looked upon any onlooker with disguised suspicion, whether adult or juvenile.

Insofar as I could discern, a man's skill was measured not so much by the amount of money he won, but rather his ability to toss the dice for distance and accuracy. Occasionally, either by accident or design, depending upon the thrower's fortunes, one of the dice would bounce into the Canal. This called for a change in the cubes and hopefully in the player's luck.

For sheer drams, there was a time in the Spring of 1920 when, on an early morning, the north, or berm, side of the aqueduct gave way hurling the huge limestone blocks into the Conococheague Creek below. A boat captained by Frank Myers as the only occupant, was entering the structure at the precise moment. Mr. Myers had the agility and the presence of mind to leap to the Towpath, cut the tow line and save the mules from being dragged to an almost certain death in the creek below.

Like all the townspeople, I rushed down to this unforgettable scene, having been awakened by the cascading of the waterfall, a miniature Niagara, crashing into the Conococheague. Nor were the townspeople the only onlookers. People from Hagerstown, having gotten wind of the disaster somehow, jammed all available street cars (and extras were provided) to gaze in awe at what had to be a once in a lifetime happening. The huge stones filled a large portion of the creek bed below, making passageway by skiff or canoe, under the arches rather hazardous for many years. The boat remained embedded in the Conococheague for a number of years, providing an inviting spot for diving or fishing. Its demise occurred when flood waters swept it out into the Potomac which carried it downstream to a spot known as the Icebreaker. There it anchored itself and later disintegrated.

Of course, the aqueduct was never the same after that. With the water drained, a swarm of workers arrived on the scene and erected a wall of wooden, tight-fitting boards. Not sufficiently tight fitting, however, to prevent a constant stream of canal water from escaping through the cracks and soaking anyone unfortunate enough to be boating underneath. Under this make-do, pressurized arrangement, the Canal was operative again in about three weeks, but the aqueduct had lost its appeal and beauty as a result. The limestone walkway was gone and in a few years the same fate befell its not-to-be-mourned makeshift replacement.

As if a harbinger of the future, the broken vessel lying helplessly in the Conococheague symbolized the fate of the

Along the Towpath

Western Maryland Railroad, it ceased operation in 1924, bringing to a close a colorful and significant chapter in the nation's transportation history.

NATURE NOTES

Three towpath walkers hiked quietly down the towpath from Wood's Lock to White's Ferry on a damp weekend morning in early October. They were trying to reach Georgetown by noon. The three walkers dawdled as they watched pileated woodpeckers and downies going about their business of finding food and calling to each other.

The walkers detoured to the river bank where the shallow water revealed what appeared to be a *fish trap*, pointed downstream, a rare relic of the days when Indians hunted and fished along the Potomac. Now a lingering trace of their presence continues chiefly in the names of the Potomac and some of its tributaries--Conococheague, Monocacy, and Seneca Creek.

Insects hummed constantly, but few showed themselves. Their hum at times was drowned out by the rapid drumming of woodpeckers. Enough dead or dying branches or trees make this good woodpecker territory, not only for pileated, but also for downy, redbellied and hairy woodpeckers, Chickadees, an Acadian flycatcher, a blue jay, a cardinal, goldfinches and crows were among other birds heard or seen along the towpath. Near a lunch table at White's ferry, English sparrows congregated on the low branches and trunk of an old maple tree.

Purple and white wild asters clumped together in patches of color. A few late jewel weeds continued to show yellow blossoms. Most had fat seed pods ready to fire seeds in all directions with the slightest touch of their tips. The berry-like seeds of pokeweed dyed fingers a beautiful shade of purple when barely touched. Wormwood, a foreign plant invader, grew conspicuously in some places. White snakeroot and yellow goldenrod provided splotches of color in other locations. Near White's ferry, mallow branches in the canal prism bore large seed pods.

Grey sky persisted overhead, but no rain hindered our progress. We left reluctantly after watching the ferry cross back and forth across the Potomac a dozen times.

Six weeks later, I watched the towpath from an Amtrak window as we sped from Harper's Ferry toward Washington. The color change was warmly beautiful under the late fall sun. At least a dozen walkers and a few bicyclists loitered along the towpath. Low water made the rocks in mid-river more conspicuous than ever. Seeing the towpath and the river made me feel at home again.

-- Helen L. Johnston

1999 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	DAY	EVENT
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 AM to begin with a brief slide show. Hikes are led by Park Service Volunteers Betty Bushell, Betty Henson, and Helen Johnston.
Spring and Fall		NPS Workday - location and activity to be determined. Call NPS Volunteer Office for information, 301-767-3706 at 301-714-2233.
Dec 31, 1998	Thur	New Year's Eve Hike at 2:00 PM. Meet at the Days Inn parking lot in Williamsport. Dinner and Festivities in Williamsport during the evening. Pat White 301-977-5628. The Days Inn has reserved a small block of rooms for us at \$52 plus 8% tax; make arrangements directly with the Days Inn in Williamsport.
Jan 1	Fri	New Year's Day Hike, 10:30 AM. Meet at the Days Inn parking lot in Williamsport.
Jan 24	Sun	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 AM. Harpers Ferry to Lock 31 (Keep Tryst Road). Meet at footbridge in Harpers Ferry. Pat White 301-977-5628.
Feb 7	Sun	Board Meeting, Glen Echo Town Hall, 1:00 PM.
Feb 27	Sat	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 AM. Sycamore Landing downstream. From Potomac follow River Road (MD 190) about 15 miles to a left on Sycamore Landing Road. Pat White 301-977-5628.
Mar 6	Sat	C&O Canal Association Annual Meeting, Williamsport, MD, 1:00 PM. Happy Hour 4:30 PM, Dinner 5:30 PM.
Mar 28	Sun	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 AM. Oldtown MD downstream (to PawPaw with shuttle). Take Route 512 south from Hancock to Berkeley Springs, right turn on WV route 9 to PawPaw WV, cross Potomac follow MD51 to Oldtown. Pat White 301-977-5628.
Apr to Nov	Sat	NPS Workdays. 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Bring Lunch. Call 301-767-3706 for details, specific dates, and locations.
Apr 10	Sat	Canal Day (Association Work Day at C&O Canal Visitors Centers) 9:00 AM. Call John Lindt 301-469-6381 for details.
Apr 11	Sun	Board Meeting, Williamsport Library, 1:00 PM.
Apr 17-May 1	Sat-Sat	Douglas Through Hike.
Apr 17	Sat	Through Hike Bus Leaves Great Falls. Banquet in Cumberland.
Apr 18	Sun	Through Hike Begins. Cumberland to Spring Gap. Day hikers are welcome, but they will have to arrange shuttles.
Apr 24	Sat	Through Hike, Ft. Frederick to Williamsport. Day hikers are welcome, but they will have to arrange shuttles. Banquet in Williamsport.
Apr 25	Sun	Through Hike, Williamsport to Dam 4. Day hikers are welcome, but they will have to arrange shuttles.
May 1	Sat	Reunion Hike, Great Falls to Thompsons Boat House. Buses will return hikers to Great Falls. Banquet at Channel Inn.

May 8	Sat	Canal Day (Association Work Day at C&O Canal Visitors Centers) 9:00 AM. Call John Lindt 301-469-6381 for details.
May 16-16	Sat-Sun	Canal Fest Cumberland. Contact Bob Perry 703-590-5568.
May 23	Sun	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 AM. Lock 75 upstream. MD 51 south from Cumberland about 7 miles. Pat White 301-977-5628.
Jun-Aug	Sat-Sun	Lock 75 at North Branch, The Association is recruiting volunteers to staff the lockhouse on weekends, interact with the public, and provide information about the park and the Association. Contact Rita Bauman, 540-888-1425.
Jun 6	Sun	Board Meeting, Glen Echo Town Hall, 1:00 PM.
Jun 19	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 26	Sat	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 AM. Shepardstown Bridge (Ferry Hill -- Park Headquarters) downstream. From Boonsboro follow route 34 through Sharpsburg to left turn opposite Ferry Hill. Park under bridge. Pat White 301-977-5628.
Jul 11	Sun	Montgomery County History Tour. Rileys Lockhouse, Contact Dave Johnson, 301-530-7473.
Jul 11	Sun	Potluck Dinner, 6:00 PM. Friends of the Tavern and the C&O Canal Association. Great Falls Tavern.
Jul 24	Sat	Canoe the Potomac from Brunswick to Monocacy landing. Contact Carl Linden 301-229-2398 or Ken Rollins, 804-448-2934.
Jul 25	Sun	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 AM. Dargans Bend upstream. From 340 West turn left at the blinking yellow light, take the 1st right to Sandy Hook, drive past Sandy Hook, ascend the mountain, take 1st left after descending, and follow to the boat ramp. Pat White 301-977-5628.
Aug	Sat--Sat	Montgomery County Fair -- the Montgomery County Historical Society, C&O Canal Association, and other preservation groups share a booth. Contact COCA Coordinator -- Nancy Long 301-320-2330 for information.
Aug 1	Sun	Board Meeting, Williamsport Library, 1:00 PM
Aug 28	Sat	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 AM. Edwards Ferry upstream. Follow River Road to T intersection with Edwards Ferry Road. Turn left, bear left at bottom of hill. Pat White 301-977-5628.
Aug 28-29	Sat-Sun	Williamsport Canal Days. Contact Tom and Linda Perry, 301-223-7010
Sep 12	Sun	Happy Birthday Montgomery County, Rockville. Co-hosted by the Montgomery County Historical Society. Contact Ellen Holway 302738-7894.
Sep 11, 12	Sat, Sun	Hancock Canal Apple Days. Contact John and Jeri Popenoe, 301-678-6379.
Sep 11	Sat	Canal Day (Association Work Day at C&O Canal Visitors Centers) 9:00 AM. Call John Lindt 301-469-6381 for details.
Sep 17-19	Fri-Sun	Sharpsburg Heritage Festival.

Sep 18-19	Sun-Fri	Frederick County Fair. Contact Jack Smith, 301-663-9073.
Sep 18-19	Sat-Sun	Annual overnight PawPaw Bends canoe trip. Contact Carl Linden 301-229-2398 or Ken Rollins , 804-448-2934.
Sep 19 -25	Sun-Fri	Sharpsburg Heritage Festival. Contact Joan and Bob Fisher, 301-416-6379.
Sep 26	Sun	Continuing Hike Series 10:30 AM Lock 56 (Pearre) upstream to Sidling Hill Aqueduct.
Oct 2-3	Sat-Sun	Brunswick Railroad Days. Contact Mary Lurch, 301-657-9542.
Oct 3	Sun	Board Meeting, Glen Echo Town Hall, 1:00 PM.
Oct 9-14	Sat-Thr	Thru Bicycle Trip. Contact Tom Perry, 301-223-7010.
Oct 11	Sat	Canal Day (Association Work Day at C&O Canal Visitors Centers) 9:00 AM. Call John Lindt 301-469-6381 for details.
Oct 24	Sat	Heritage Hike near Cumberland. Details to be announced.
Nov 28	Sun	Continuing Hike Series, 10:30 AM. Whites Ferry downstream. Route 28 west from Rockville, to left fork (107) to Poolesville. Follow 107 through Poolesville to White's Ferry. Pat White 301-977-5628.
Dec 4	Sat	Frostbite Hike. Location to be announced. Ken Rollins 804-448-2934.
Dec 5	Sun	Board Meeting, Williamsport, Tom and Linda Perry's, 116 Conococheague St., Williamsport, 1:00 PM.
Dec 31	Fri	New Years Eve Hike. Location to be announced.

FLOOD RECOVERY CONTINUES TO PROGRESS



Recovery from the damage caused by the two great floods of 1996 continues, with a number of major contracts in progress or complete. The Anglers breach and Widewater washout repairs are both complete, with only soil and sediment erosion control devices remaining in place until Maryland Department of Environment Inspectors give the contractor permission to remove them. The towpath is now permanently open to public traffic at that location.

The Fletchers contractor began to excavate for the bridge abutments in November. The bridge will replace the earthen dike across the canal which is used by park service vehicles to reach the towpath. (A bridge will also be installed at Anglers to replace the dikes there. The bridges will allow unimpeded flow of water in the canal.)

Meanwhile, URS Griener continued their excavation and archeological testing on the river side of the towpath and Capital Crescent Trail at Fletchers. The archaeologists are excited about the discovery of eight underground storage pits which they estimate were built about 2,000 years ago, when Indians were not known to have lived in villages or used such pits. The magnitude of the site and the amount of artifacts uncovered is drawing significant attention from the regional offices of the media. The initial scope for this work is being reevaluated to determine if further work is necessary.

Park day labor staff initiated repair work on Culvert #10 (milepost 8.67). The crews installed a temporary towpath bypass trail around the work area.

At Great Falls, work continues on grouting Mary's Wall. The contractor completed installation of the concrete deck on bridge #4 on Olmsted Island. They still must apply the epoxy coating on that bridge and repair patches on bridges #1 and #3. An additional one day closure of the bridges is upcoming--date unknown.

Construction at Dam 5 began in October. The contractor has demolished the old guard dike, salvaged the cut stone, installed a sandbag cofferdam at the foot of the old guard dike, installed drainage pipe in the inlet lock and stabilized the inlet lock and bypass flume, and began pouring concrete for the footing of the new guard dike. A short towpath detour allows pedestrian and bicycle traffic to traverse the Dam 5 area.

Work on the proposed new wastew weir at Candoc is on hold because the Maryland Department of the Environment wants additional information on the impacts of storm water and flood discharges. Dewberry and Davis is writing a FLOOD report which will provide the data MDE is requesting. MDE also received a set of proposed plans by the City of Cumberland pertaining to wastewater outfall conveyances. Until MDE's questions are resolved, permits for this project

RECOVERY- continued

will not be issued.

Proposed Major Project Start and End Dates:

Project Name	Start Date	End Date
1. Lock 7	October 1997	Complete
2. Culvert 10 (Mile 8.67)	September 1998	December 1998
3. Silt Removal/Towpath Repairs	January 1998	September 1998
4. Anglers Area Breaches	April 1998	Complete
5. Cabin John Bridge	May 1998	Complete
6. Great Falls Phase I	July 1998	December 1998
7. Anglers Bridge	November 1998	March 1999
8. Fletchers Bridge	September 1998	March 1999
9. Georgetown Retaining Wall	November 1998	March 1999
10. Great Falls Phase II	Removed from Program	
11. Culvert 142	April 1998	Complete
12. Dam 5 Rehabilitation	October 1998	April 1999
13. Paw Paw/Four Locks	Unknown	Unknown
14. Candoc Flood Mitigation	Unknown	Unknown
15. Fifteen Mile Creek Aqueduct	Summer 1999	Fall 1999
16. Conococheague Aqueduct	October 1998	November 1998
17. Paw Paw Tunnel	Spring 1999	Summer 1999
18. Harpers Ferry Rehab	Spring 1999	Summer 1999

Questions related to visitor use, impacts, area closures, etc., should be directed to Bob Conway, Flood Recovery Team, at (301) 745-5819.

-- NPS Flood Recovery Status Report

C&O CANAL BOAT, *THE GEORGETOWN*, BURNS

The C&O Canal National Historic Park's canal boat, *The Georgetown*, caught fire around 2:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 12. The popular Georgetown visitor attraction received extensive damage which required the boat to shut down for the remainder of the 1998 season. The fire is under investigation by the U.S. Park Police, the District of Columbia, and the U. S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. In addition to the damage to the boat, tack for the three mules which pull the boat was destroyed.

National Park Service officials have determined that the hull of *The Georgetown* can be saved and re-used. Damage costs are still being determined. The Cafritz Foundation donated the boat to the park in 1982. They and the National Park Foundation have maintained an insurance policy on the boat which will help with most of the reconstruction costs.

With *The Georgetown* down for repairs, ridership on *The Canal Clipper*, the park's canal boat at Great Falls Tavern was expected to increase. Additional trips were added to the schedule to accommodate the increase through the end of the boat season. (The season ended on November 1, and will

start again in April.)

HIKER-BIKER WATER SHUT OFF FOR WINTER

Park maintenance staff began removing the handles from the water pumps in the park's hiker-biker campgrounds on November 16. The handles are removed to prepare the pumps for the winter season and to prevent damage from freezing. The campgrounds are open year-round. However, campers must supply their own water during the winter months. If you have questions regarding camping along the canal, please call 301.739.4200.

-- NPS News Releases

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This is our best list of e-mail addresses. If yours is missing or wrong, please e-mail me so that the records can be corrected. Some members have moved or changed carriers so I expect some corrections. Some members may like to have their e-mail addresses deleted; that's OK. Just let me know.

W. Bauman

POTOMAC SELECTED AS AN AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER

In July, President Clinton formally designated the Potomac River as one of the first fourteen American Heritage Rivers in a program designed to streamline federal participation in local efforts to protect and enhance the natural, cultural, and

economic resources inherent in the waterways.

On November 6, a celebration was held at Mount Vernon to mark the designation. Following speeches by several politicians and National Park Service Director Robert Stanton, there was a ceremonial tree planting on the lawn of the mansion facing the river. The tree was grown from seeds taken from another tree on the grounds that was reportedly planted by George Washington.

American Heritage River designation provides the Potomac River basin communities with enhanced federal technical and financial assistance to implement their locally led projects. The Friends of the Potomac, the basin-wide group that nominated the river, will serve as a liaison with federal agencies and will continue to provide coordination as local communities and organizations implement agricultural technology, fisheries enhancement, heritage tourism, environmental education, recreation, information sharing, and other programs. Some of the efforts noted in the nomination include restoring living resources and fisheries throughout the basin, cleaning up acid-mine drainage in the upper basin, reducing nutrient runoff from agricultural operations (both crop land and animal farming), increasing the amount of riparian buffer throughout the basin's streams, restoring the Anacostia watershed and other urban areas, developing tourism development in an ecologically sound manner, increasing public awareness and education about and for the Potomac River, and greater citizen involvement in decision-making and community life.

-- from *Potomac Basin Reporter*, ICPRB



Crowd listens to NPS Director Stanton during the celebration at Mount Vernon.

--Dave Johnson

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS PROGRAMS

There are many opportunities for Association members to participate in activities in the C&O National Historical Park. For example, one may volunteer as at NPS WORKDAYS; at C&O Association CANAL DAYS; as a C&O CANAL ASSOCIATION LEVEL WALKER; as a VISITOR CENTER VOLUNTEER; or, as a volunteer at LOCKHOUSE 75.

NPS WORKDAYS are held on selected Saturdays in the spring and fall months. You can spend a morning with park staff repairing trails, clearing vegetation, removing trash and debris, painting, or cleaning campgrounds. Details of the date, place, and tasks are determined by NPS and are included in *Along the Towpath* and in special announcements to the general public. Call the NPS Volunteer Office at (301) 767-3706 or (301) 714-2233 for information or to sign up. Projects are generally scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring work gloves and lunch. In the case of severe weather, the projects are canceled.

CANAL DAYS sponsored by the Association are aimed at performing similar activities with close identification with the Canal. The most recent event on October 13--painting the fences for a new mule corral at Great Falls--was attended by only three members. There were competing activities, but even so, there has been a decline in participation in recent months. If this activity is to continue it needs your support. If you would like to have CANAL DAYS continue, contact John Lindt, (301) 469-6381, or Pat White, (301) 977-5628.

The C&O Canal Association LEVEL WALKERS program allows *Level Walkers* to select a level of about three miles along the Towpath which is visited several times during the course of a year. *Level Walkers* make notes on the Towpath noting conditions and needed repairs which are passed on to NPS. In addition, *Level Walkers* note wildlife and pick up trash. *Level Walker* reports are carried in each edition of *Along the Towpath*. Contact Karen Gray at (202) 333-6947

or KMGrayPhD@compuserve.com, if interested.

VOLUNTEER (docent) at a VISITOR CENTER or LOCKHOUSE 75. Association volunteers supplement NPS staff in providing assistance to visitors. For example, volunteers answer questions, do office work, provide roving interpretation, or lead nature walks. Interested? If so, call the interpretive ranger at a visitor center near you--see directory in this issue. Volunteers are asked to commit to a regular schedule for a period of time. LOCKHOUSE 75 volunteers, see the following article.

-- John Lindt

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER AT LOCKHOUSE 75

The C & O Canal Association served as volunteers staffing Lockhouse 75 on weekends during June, July, and August 1998. During this first successful summer, 1,431 park visitors toured the lockhouse. Association members staffed the lockhouse from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday, answering questions distributing maps and park information and sharing their enthusiasm for the canal with visitors.

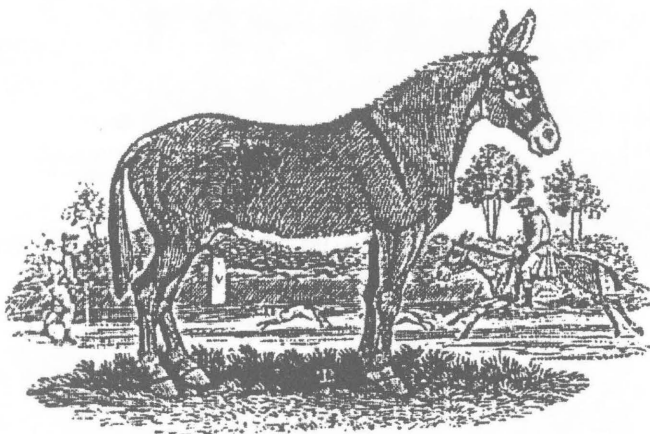
Many thanks to the following C & O Canal Association members who assisted at Lockhouse 75 during 1998:

John and Marge Ziegler
Will and Sara Ann Godwin
Jim Preston
Karen Gray
Sue Ann Sullivan
Tom and Linda Perry
Fred Slick
John Popenoe
Steve and Kathy Duex
William and Rita Bauman
Ron Howard and Shirley Paull
Jerry Bunker
Darren Jessop
Walt Wilt
Frank Daspit and Nell Hennessy
Sonny and Lynn DeForge

Special thanks to Rita Bauman and Tom Perry for assisting with scheduling of volunteers.

Next year, Lockhouse 75 will feature an improved exhibit in place of the temporary photograph display which was on exhibit this summer. Some members of the Association have expressed an interest in extending the schedule into mid-May and later into mid-September. To learn more about volunteering at Lockhouse 75 or to sign-up for a day or a weekend at the Lockhouse, call Ranger Rita Knox at the Cumberland Visitor Center at (301)722-8226.

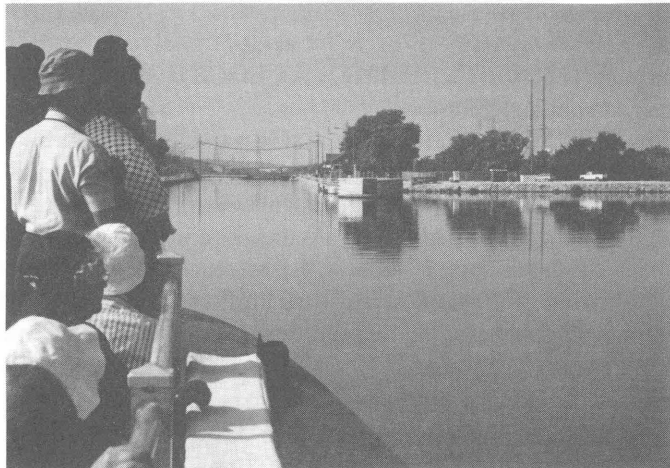
-- Rita Knox (NPS)



The Mule

WORLD CANALS CONFERENCE

The 1998 World Canals Conference was held in September at Joliet, Illinois. This year's conference was hosted by the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, who were backed by many state, local, and volunteer organizations to organize and produce a most excellent and memorable event. It was attended by more than 130 delegates who came from around the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and France.



Delegates to the 1998 World Canals Conference approach a lock during a cruise on the modern Illinois Waterway.

The conference marked the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Illinois & Michigan Canal in 1848. The I&M, which linked Chicago and Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, via the Des Plaines and Illinois Rivers, was the initial impetus that made Chicago the great metropolis of the Midwest, even before it became the hub of railway routes that ensured its position. The canal was enlarged several times before being superseded in the 1930s by the present lock and dam Illinois Waterway, which is managed by the Corps of Engineers.



The Fox River Aqueduct, at Ottawa, is the longest on the Illinois & Michigan Canal. The prism trunk and towpath are supported by a series of piers. The aqueduct is maintained as part of the I&M Canal State Trail.

This year's conference was titled *Historic Canal Preservation: Our Past Teaching Our Future*. The conference offered a wide variety of activities and programs, some of which ran concurrently, requiring the delegates to choose in which to participate. These included walking, bicycling, and motorized tours of sections of the I&M and the Hennepin Canals, and a boat tour of part of the Illinois Waterway. Speakers' and panel discussion topics included the various aspects of public and private ownership and collaboration of historic canals; examining the issues of canal boat archeology and canal boat operation on historic canals; and a workshop to examine the issues around natural disasters at historic canals and how they have recovered from these disasters. (C&O Canal Superintendent Doug Faris discussed the recovery effort of the C&O Canal from the 1996 floods during this workshop.)



The earthen dike that contributed to the massive towpath break at Anglers Inn during the January 1996 flood will be removed and replaced by a bridge. This will allow the water in the canal to flow unimpeded and hopefully reduce the chance for future overtopping of the towpath during floods. Completion is scheduled for March 1999.

-- Dave Johnson



The repaired towpath at Anglers Inn.

-- Dave Johnson

WORLD CANALS CONFERENCE - continued

Conference participants also took part in three site planning sessions at historic sites along the I&M Corridor which have yet to be developed. Each of the three groups focused on the potential uses of one of the sites for historic interpretation, educational programs, community outreach, and adaptive re-use. The three sites were an old hotel, a grain elevator, and a hydro-electric plant.

The C&O Canal Association was represented at the conference by E. R. Dieter, Adam Foster, John and Janice Frye, Tom Hahn, Dave Johnson, and John and Gloria Lindt. Superintendent Faris and Doug Stover, Chief of Cultural Resources, represented the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

This was the eleventh annual World Canals Conference. The first, in 1988, was also hosted by the I&M Canal NHC, so this tenth anniversary meeting marked a return to the original site (nearly; the 1988 meeting was in Morris, IL). Since then, conferences have been held in Pennsylvania, Ontario (twice), Ohio, Nova Scotia, Georgia, England, and Rhode Island. The 1992 conference was on the C&O Canal, jointly hosted by the C&O Association and the National Park Service.

-- Dave Johnson

THE 1999 JUSTICE DOUGLAS HIKE

Final preparations are underway for the 1999 Justice William O. Douglas Hike, April 17-May 1. As of our publication deadline, all 50 *first week* full-support slots have been filled. *Three full-support slots remain for the second week.* A waiting list is currently available for hikers desiring first week full-support in the event a cancellation occurs. Once the second week full support list is full, a waiting list will be provided for that period as well.

Full-support participation will be limited to 50 campers each week. The basic cost for two weeks is \$375 and covers the complete package (bus transportation from Great Falls to Cumberland, all meals and support, all banquets, and motels in Cumberland and Williamsport).

The basic registration fees for first week only and second week only hikers are packaged similarly for the respective periods with both including accommodations and the banquet in Williamsport and the final banquet in Washington on May 1.

The bus from the Tidewater Lock to Great Falls on the final day of the hike, at \$4 per person, is the only item *not included* in any of the packages and will be collected on the bus. Day hikers and non-hikers may sign up for the banquets and/or motel accommodations in Cumberland, Williamsport and Washington.

Along the Towpath

Registration will be accepted in the order of the date received. A non-refundable deposit (\$100 for 2-week hikers, \$60 for 1-week hikers, and none for day hikers) must accompany each registration. The balance of the hike fee is due on or before March 15, 1999.

To obtain a registration form, call Don Juran at 301-231-8622 or mail your deposit with a request for a registration form to the Association at P.O. Box 366, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812-0366. A written confirmation will be sent to each participant.

Association members and friends are welcome to join the hike anytime. The end-to-end hiking schedule follows:

Saturday, April 17	Banquet at the Holiday Inn, Cumberland
Sunday, April 18	Send off ceremony; Cumberland to Spring Gap
Monday, April 19	Spring Gap to the Town Creek Hiker-Biker
Tuesday, April 20	Town Creek to Stickpile Hill
Wednesday, April 21	Stickpile Hill to Cacapon Junction
Thursday, April 22	Cacapon Junction to Hancock
Friday, April 23	Hancock to Four Locks
Saturday, April 24	Four Locks to Williamsport; banquet at the American Legion Hall, Williamsport
Sunday, April 25	Williamsport to Dam 4
Monday, April 26	Dam 4 to Antietam Creek
Tuesday, April 27	Antietam Creek to Brunswick
Wednesday, April 28	Brunswick to Monocacy
Thursday, April 29	Monocacy to Sycamore Landing
Friday, April 30	Sycamore Landing to Great Falls
Saturday, May 1	Great Falls to Georgetown; banquet at the Channel Inn, Washington.

Day hikers must make their own arrangements for transportation and meals. For information about access points, please call the NPS Headquarters at 301-739-4200.

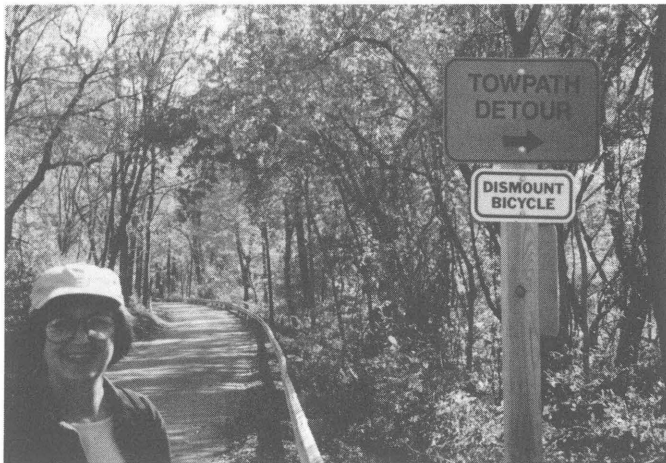
Banquets have been planned to celebrate the hike at the Holiday Inn in Cumberland at \$20 per person, at the American Legion Hall in Williamsport at \$10 per person and at the Channel Inn in Washington, D.C. at \$30 per person.

HELP WANTED

COCA is looking for a volunteer to sew an Association Banner. Interested? Call 301-983-0825

ALL HALLOWS EVE FALL HERITAGE HIKE

On October 31, a beautiful fall day, about 150 Association members and non-members alike took off on the Fall Heritage Hike. The weather could not have been better. Hikers had the choice to hike from McCoy's Ferry, or a shorter version from Dam 5, to Williamsport. It was good to see old friends and meet a few new friends. Listening and thinking--hikers also had the time to enjoy the surroundings and recreation that the Old Ditch provides.



Happy Hiker Rachel Stewart at Dam 5

- - Mary Ann Moen

Following happy hour and a buffet dinner at the Williamsport Fire Hall, Ranger Martin Gallery provided an informative discussion of current NPS plans for restoration and interpretive use of the Cushwa Basin area.

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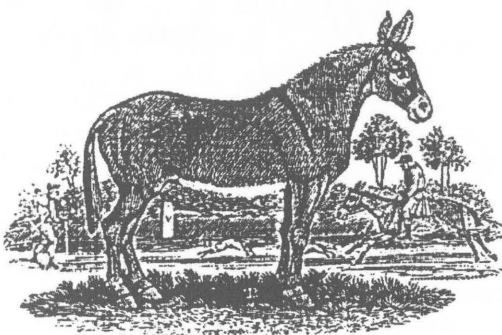
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