

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 XXXI

March 1999

NUMBER 1

## THE GREAT HIKE ISSUE

This article in part is a repeat from the March 1993 issue of *Along the Towpath*.

*The Washington Post*, January 3, 1954.

"The renewal of official interest in the proposed parkway along the old C & O Canal between Great Falls and Cumberland will stir the enthusiasm of many Washingtonians. The purpose of such a parkway would be to open up the greatest scenic asset in this area -- the Potomac River -- to wider public enjoyment. Maryland is already building a 60-mile stretch of the proposed road up the river from Hancock. Local interest is largely concentrated, however, in the section of the proposed parkway that would stretch from Great Falls to Harpers Ferry.

Any fears that this project would destroy restored sections of the old canal between Washington and Great Falls can be put aside. This stretch of the river is to be opened up by the George Washington Memorial Highway. The parkway now under discussion would extend up the river from Great Falls on the bed of the abandoned C & O Canal or on the adjacent towpath. By utilizing the old canal -- no longer a commercial or a scenic asset -- it is estimated that the parkway could be built for \$100,000 a mile. The lovely Potomac Valley could thus be made available to sightseers, campers, fishermen and hikers with little detracting from its beauty. The basic advantage of the parkway is that it would enable more people to enjoy beauties now seen by very few -- in the fashion say, of the magnificent Blue Ridge parkway. Large areas of wilderness would be left and ought to be protected permanently against further encroachment.

Behind this proposal also is the hope that, with the Potomac more accessible, it would be cleaned up and made a great recreational asset. Washington has been astonishingly tardy in

taking advantage of this natural playground. The famous founder of this Capital would be shocked to learn that the Potomac has become some sort of open sewer and that some of the most attractive portions of the valley are almost completely unknown even in a century and a half. By naming a committee to study the idea of a C & O Canal parkway, Robert M. Watkins, chairman of the Regional Planning Council, appears to have caught some of the vision of George Washington in locating the Capital here. It will take a great deal of work and practical planning, however, if this vision of a great Potomac playground is to be realized."

And so, it all began in 1954 with this editorial written by Mr. Merlo Pusey to Mr. Robert H. Estabrook, Editor, *The Washington Post*. Indeed, this editorial stirred Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas to respond with a challenge to the writer and to the *Post* editor to walk the Towpath and view for themselves its sylvan delights.

Justice Douglas' letter to *The Washington Post* on January 19, 1954 follows:

### POTOMAC SANCTUARY

"The discussion concerning the construction of a Parkway along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal arouses many people. Fishermen, hunters, hikers, campers, ornithologists, and others who like to get acquainted with nature first-hand and on their own are opposed to making a highway out of this sanctuary.

The stretch of 185 miles of country from Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Md., is one of the most fascinating and picturesque in the Nation. The river and its islands are part of the charm. The cliffs, the streams, the draws, the benches and beaches, the

### ATTENTION LEVEL WALKERS

Important Information For Level Walkers--*On the Level*--Appears on page 9 of this issue

## POTOMAC SANCTUARY- continued

swamps are another part. The birds and game, the blaze of color in the Spring and Fall, the cattails in the swamp, the blush of buds in late Winter--these are also some of the glory of the place.

In the early twenties Mr. Justice Brandeis traveled the canal and river by canoe to Cumberland. It was for him exciting adventure and recreation. Hundreds of us still use this sanctuary for hiking and camping. It is a refuge, a place of retreat, a long stretch of quiet and peace at the Capitol's back door - a wilderness where man can be alone with his thoughts, a sanctuary where he can commune with God and with nature, a place not yet marred by the roar of wheels and the sound of horns.

It is a place for girls and boys, 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. It is a sanctuary for everyone who loves woods - a sanctuary that would be utterly destroyed by a fine two-lane highway.

I wish the man who wrote your editorial of January 3, 1954, approving the parkway would take time off and come with me. We would go with packs on our backs and walk the 185 miles to Cumberland. I feel that if your editor did, he would return a new man and use the power of your great editorial page to keep this sanctuary untouched.

One who walked the canal its full length could plead that cause with the eloquence of a John Muir. He would get to know the muskrats, badgers, and fox; he would hear the roar of wind in thickets; he would see strange islands and promontories through the fantasy of fog; he would discover the glory there is in the first flower of spring, the glory there is even in a blade of grass; the whistling wings of ducks would make silence have new values for him. Certain it is that he could never acquire that understanding going 60, or even 25, miles an hour."

And on January 21, 1954 the *Post* editor responded:

"We should not want it to be supposed that we are insensitive to the call of a warbler, the blush of buds in late winter, the crunch of autumn leaves under hiking boots, or the drip of water from canoe paddles. We are pleased to accept Justice Douglas's invitation to walk the towpath...He has only to name the time and the starting point of the journey and to prescribe the equipment to be taken along."

Thank Goodness, the rest is history.

April 17, 1999, marks the 45th celebration of the historic Justice Douglas Hike of 1954 sponsored by the C & O Canal Association. The conservation spirit of Justice Douglas has never been in more need as we celebrate his unique contributions to our nation. - - Editor

## ANOTHER LETTER TO THE POST EDITOR....

February 7, 1999

Leonard Downie, Jr.  
Executive Editor  
The Washington Post  
1150 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20071

Dear Mr. Downie:

Forty-five years ago, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas challenged the editors of The Washington Post to walk with him the entire length of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to save this national treasure from becoming a highway. On January 19, 1954, Justice Douglas so elegantly wrote:

The stretch of 185 miles of country from Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Md., is one of the most fascinating and picturesque in the Nation. The river and its islands are part of the charm. The cliffs, the streams, the draws, the benches and beaches, the swamps are another part. The birds and game, the blaze of color in the spring and fall, the cattails in the swamp, the blush of buds in late winter—these are also some of the glory of the place . . .

Hundreds of us still use this sanctuary for hiking, and camping. It is 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 . . .

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. It is a sanctuary for everyone who loves woods . . .

Today, portions of this sanctuary that have been dedicated to the memory of Justice Douglas are again endangered. The C&O Canal Association, in its on-going efforts to preserve and protect this historic park, again challenge the editors of The Washington Post to come walk with us on the '99 Douglas Hike, April 17 through May 1. Walk with us, especially on Sunday, April 25, around Big Slackwater and again on Wednesday afternoon, April 28, at the Monocacy River Aqueduct.

The towpath at Big Slackwater is almost impassable, and, after a rain, is impassable. On the detour around Big Slackwater, hikers and bikers are forced to share a roadway with cars and trucks that are not expecting them to be there. There is an urgent need for towpath reconstruction to allow the towpath to continue unbroken from Cumberland to Georgetown.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has recently placed the Monocacy Aqueduct on its list of the nation's eleven "most endangered places." First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has lent

## ANOTHER LETTER - continued

her support to efforts toward its restoration. In addition, support has come from Senators Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes and from Congressman Roscoe Bartlett. The C&O Canal Association is requesting the help of The Washington Post to encourage the public and private sectors to work together and raise the funds needed to preserve this landmark.

Accept our challenge. Come walk with us.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas L. Perry  
President  
C&O Canal Association

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can hardly believe that the time of the *big hike* is almost here! The planning, of course, began long ago and many have labored toward that time, and a full complement of walkers has been signed up. But somehow for me the excitement began when I realized in the midst of the weeks of snow and ice that that would soon give way to Spring, and that when Spring comes officially we will be out on the towpath. This will be my first Through-Hike. Ten years ago I did several days' walking. And five years ago I was signed up for one week, but serious back problems turned me into a lame walker and part-time giver of help. So I am really looking forward to this adventure. As many of you know, I spend a lot of time on the Towpath, but the *big miles* are covered by bicycle, and the walks are usually for four or five miles. On this trip, I plan to look for things which can't be easily seen at 10 or 12 miles an hour. And just imagine having your tenting equipment and gear carried, and food brought in from outside! As I anticipate all this with joy I am also grateful to those of you who have worked so hard, our chairmen and committee members, and to those who have done this trek in the past, and so set a good example for us to emulate. Now I have got to leave off thinking about this venture to face practical realities: I've got to walk longer distances each week in preparation, and I need to find those polypropylene socks John Viner swears by. And, if you are going along, you probably need to do the same. But even if you are not registered to go all the way, you can join us for day hikes here and there. And I would like to challenge you to be thinking about the 2004 Hike, the first one of the new Millennium, and make plans to continue this wonderful tradition.

P.S. Any hiker is welcome to leave a bag of clothing in our *Canal Room* to be picked up at the midpoint, but it needs to be brought here before April 17.

- - Thomas L. Perry, President

## SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 1999 MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

1. Reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting was waived.
2. Treasurer Dave Johnson's financial highlights included transfer of \$2700 to this year's budget for the Monocacy video which is not yet completed. The fund in the National Park Foundation totals \$86,688 (\$18,186 for flood restoration collected in the year following the 1996 floods and \$68,502 for the Monocacy Aqueduct). Following a discussion on combining the flood recovery amount into the Aqueduct fund, a motion was passed effecting the consolidation. Dave Johnson also reported that auditors, John Chandler and Ken Rollins, have completed the annual review of the Association's books.
3. Park Report: Ranger Nancy Brown reported on developments in the Canal Park. The Canal in the Old Angler's section is scheduled to be re-watered by mid-March, the section to Lock 5 in early April. The Park is organizing a volunteer bicycle patrol to be called the "Trailblazers." A grant of \$50,000 from the National Park Foundation will be used for a natural resources inventory of rare plants in the Canal Park. Interns will be hired to conduct the research. NPS staff presented for discussion a proposal for long-term fund raising for the Canal Park at a meeting on January 27th at the Rockwood Conference Center in Potomac. Participants in the discussion included members of the Park staff, Canal Commission, the Canal Association, the Friends of the Historic Tavern, and others. The proposal outlines a plan envisaging a combination of professional and volunteer efforts. Nancy Brown also reported that the Park is giving new focus to the use of interns and partnerships with volunteer groups like the Association. It has set aside \$6,000 for the purpose for the coming year. On behalf of the Park Nancy made the following recommendations to the Association: 1) that the Association assume the task of managing the above internship account and disbursing intern stipends, 2) that the Association contribute \$2,000 to this account, 3) that the Association co-sponsor the annual National Parks and Conservation Association's *March for Parks* on the Canal April 17th and provide a volunteer to support the hike at Williamsport on the occasion, and 4) that the Association consider establishing a committee in support of fund-raising for the Canal. The Board discussed each request. It indicated its tentative approval of the idea of managing the internship account but deferred a final decision pending the Treasurer's investigation of the legal, tax, and managerial feasibility of such an arrangement for the Association. A motion was made and the Board approved making a contribution of \$2,000 for the internship program from the C & O Canal Fund. A motion was made and approved to sponsor the *March for Parks* in April and to provide a volunteer to assist in that event. Discussion and action on the suggestion that a fund-raising committee be formed was put under New Business.

## 4. Committee Reports.

A. Archives: Hal Larsen spoke of the difficulty of providing adequate volunteer support of the Association archives.

## SUMMARY OF MINUTES - continued

Hal Larsen also submitted a letter withdrawing his candidacy for the Board and requesting that he be relieved of his committee assignments. He said that he deeply regrets that he must do this for health reasons. President Perry and Board members shared the regret and expressed appreciation for Hal's long-time service to the Association.

B. By-laws Revision: Bill Evans requested that the Board in its review of the by-law revisions correct an error in Article I, Section 5 removing the word "life" in reference to honorary members thus leaving to the Board's discretion the term of any specific honorary membership.

C. Continuing Hike Series: Pat White reported that the second annual New Year's Hike and festivities held on December 31 and January 1st was well attended and was a success.

D. Environmental: Fred Mopsik reported that an alternate plan for expanding the Canal Road entrance to Georgetown University is in the works. Under the plan some NPS land on the hillside near the entrance area would be taken. The plan does not include access to the Riders Trust parcel along the old trolley right-of-way and would preclude development of the site.

E. Levelwalkers: As unofficial acting Chair, Karen Gray gave Keith Kridenoff's report in his absence. The Levelwalkers need to be re-energized. Karen will submit the annual report and prepare the newsletter article.

F. Membership: William Bauman reported that we have 269 membership renewals so far this year (2/7) with a total of 1068 memberships (includes family memberships) so far topping last year's total a bit with 36 more memberships in the total.

G. Monocacy Aqueduct: Carl Linden reported that the Monocacy Committee met with Park Superintendent Doug Faris Feb. 5th to plan next steps for the Aqueduct's restoration. Dave Humphrey's Aqueduct film is nearing completion.

Also discussed with Doug Faris was how funds raised by the Association for the Aqueduct and flood restoration might be used. He suggested and the Committee agreed that the funds be applied to the Engineering Design phase that precedes construction work.

H. Publications: Newsletter editor Robert Perry said he plans an issue around the April through-hike, "A Great Hike" issue.

I. Public Information: Mary Lurch reported that flyers, press releases on the hike series, a newsletter article, calendars of events, have been issued. Publicity on the Through-hike is well underway and the Association's next event recorded phone message has been updated to provide details of the upcoming events. Tom Perry sent a letter of challenge to the Washington Post executive editor to come out and walk with the

through-hikers as his predecessors did on the first Douglas hike 45 years ago.

### 5. Other Business:

A. Board members engaged in a general discussion of the National Parks Foundation's proposal for long-term fund-raising for the Canal Park employing a professional fund-raiser with a volunteer board of prominent citizens and representatives of volunteer "partnership" organizations like the Association.

Board members expressed various concerns about the plan and its implications for the Association and the Canal Park itself. It was noted that the Canal needs long term fund raising as the Park budget is trimmed by Congress, but raising large donations in Washington is difficult since no major corporations or foundations are headquartered here. The Association, in turn, is weakened whenever volunteer support is enlisted without its participation--the new volunteer bike patrol being a current example. The Association is not in a position to raise money on the scale the Park needs, but it needs to do what it can and make its presence felt. There was consensus in the Board that a Committee should be appointed to deal with the fund raising issue and to consider strategy for the future in order to assure that the Association remains a key player in Canal affairs.

Several other items were mentioned (Helen Johnston's interest in producing a Canal Calendar. Carolyn Reeder's Canal books for children, and the use of proceeds from Hillary Clinton's book of childrens' letters to Socks and Buddy for restoration of historic structures).

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

## BYLAWS UPDATE

At the March 7, 1999 Annual Meeting of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association, Inc. the Bylaws as published in the December 1998 edition of *Along the Towpath* were approved with the following changes:

- ◆ In the last sentence of Article I, Section 5, remove "life" from "honorary *life* member..."
- ◆ In the first sentence of Article III, Section 2, remove "and" and insert "or from "...by the Board of Directors *and* shall..."
- ◆ In Article VI, Section 5, remove "in communities along the Canal" from "...fairs and festivals *in communities along the Canal* for the purposes of ..."

Copies of the Bylaws will be available at major events or by request from the Association's address on page 7.





**CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE**

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS		
Income:		
Membership Dues	\$ 18,175	\$ 17,400
Interest and Miscellaneous	<u>511</u>	<u>478</u>
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE INCOME	<u>18,686</u>	<u>17,878</u>
Expenses:		
Newsletter & Bulletin (1)	\$ 10,446	\$ 5,381
Membership Coordinator and Committee	3,306	2,986
Monocacy Fundraising Committee	3,933	1,125
Other Committees and Officers	1,014	1,164
Depreciation & Maintenance	1,789	2,378
Other Expense	<u>954</u>	<u>582</u>
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	<u>21,442</u>	<u>13,616</u>
NET ADMINISTRATIVE INCOME (LOSS)	<u>( 2,756)</u>	<u>4,262</u>
SALES		
Income	3,080	2,868
Expense (2)	<u>2,829</u>	<u>2,282</u>
Net Sales Income	<u>251</u>	<u>586</u>
SPECIAL EVENTS (Annual Meeting, Hikes)		
Income	5,405	4,435
Expense	<u>5,077</u>	<u>4,362</u>
Net Special Events Income	<u>328</u>	<u>73</u>
1999 THRU-HIKE		
Income (3)	6,155	0
Expense	<u>525</u>	0
Net Thru-Hike (Carryover to 1999)	<u>5,630</u>	0
C&O FILM PRODUCTION (4)	<u>0</u>	<u>2,500</u>
TOTALS		
Income	33,326	27,681
Expense	<u>29,873</u>	<u>20,260</u>
Net Operating Results	<u>\$ 3,453</u>	<u>\$ 7,421</u>
	=====	=====

Notes:

- (1) In 1998, there were five newsletters and two bulletins. In 1997, there were three newsletters and no bulletins.
- (2) Sales expense includes cost of goods sold, postage, and profits from shirts and mugs which were transferred to the Monocacy Fund.
- (3) Thru-hiker advance deposits, which will carryover to the 1999 event.
- (4) Contributions received toward production of the C&O Canal documentary film; to be expended upon completion.

BALANCE SHEET

	<u>12/31/1998</u>	<u>12/31/1997</u>
ASSETS		
Checking Account	\$ 36,320	\$22,034
Money Market Fund	13,389	12,736
Other Current Assets	1,445	3,696
Inventories - Sales Items	884	1,034
Fixed Assets - Net value (5)	<u>919</u>	<u>2,314</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 52,957</u>	<u>\$ 41,814</u>
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH		
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,396	\$ 211
Reserve - C&O Canal Fund (6)	5,777	N/A
Reserve - Davies Fund (7)	13,464	12,736
Accumulated Operating Results	<u>32,320</u>	<u>28,867</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 52,957</u>	<u>\$ 41,814</u>
	=====	=====

## SUMMARY OF FUNDS ACTIVITY

	C&O Canal Fund	Davies Fund	Monocacy & Flood Fund
Balance, 1 January 1998	\$ 9,627	\$ 12,736	\$ 63,809
Contributions received	4,316	75	12,441
Net Investment Income	0	653	9,126
Profits from shirt & mug sales	0	0	1,312
Expenditures	<u>( 8,166)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Balance, 31 December 1988	\$ 5,777 (6)	\$ 13,464 (7)	\$ 86,688 (8)

**Notes:**

(5) Acquisition cost (\$11,375) less accumulated depreciation. Most items have reached or are near full depreciation.

(6) The C&O Fund is included in the checking account.

(7) The Davies Fund is deposited in the money market account. (\$75 is currently in the checking account.)

(8) The Monocacy Fund is managed by the National Park Foundation and is not included on the balance sheet.

- -Submitted by David M. Johnson, Treasurer

### THE ASSOCIATION WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Agan Jr., Eugene F  
Baker, Wilton  
Beals, Barry W  
Berg, Linda  
Blaze, R J  
Bork, Douglas E  
Bronrott, Bill  
Brown, Artemus and Deanna  
Bunker, Gerry  
Burton, William L  
Caldwell, Patricia E  
Casey, Robert  
Clark, Linda  
Conard, Ruth  
DeMoll, Harry T  
Donoghue, Kevin and Bryson  
Finley, Sandra  
Gaffney, Thomas E  
Gienau, Melvin M  
Goldman, Ted and Donna  
Hahn, Chris  
Harrington, M/M F Brennan  
Heflin, Larry  
Hu, Shen-Yi  
Hutchins, David and Nancy  
Knox, Karen  
LaMee, Wilma  
Lesser, Susan and Larry  
Lott, David and Mary  
Loveless, Charlotte C  
Matthews, A Duane  
Matysiak, George  
McLaine, H. V  
Miceli, Brian W  
Nealey, Patricia  
P.M.P.S.I.

Granville OH  
Bethesda MD  
Gaithersburg MD  
Alexandria VA  
Monroeville PA  
Silver Spring MD  
Bethesda MD  
Dumfries VA  
Baltimore MD  
Warrenton VA  
Olney MD  
Takoma Park MD  
Rockville MD  
Timonium MD  
UnionBridge MD  
Vienna VA  
Greensburg PA  
Bethel CT  
Germantown MD  
Clarksville MD  
Shepherdstown WV  
Ellicott City MD  
Cabin John MD  
Kensington MD  
Sharpsburg MD  
Tabernacle NJ  
Arlington VA  
Washington DC  
Gaithersburg MD  
Hagerstown MD  
Corriganville MD  
Baltimore MD  
Fairfax VA  
Frederick MD  
Rockville MD  
Germantown MD

Pogell, Burton M  
Price Sr., H. Jack  
Rainey, William B  
Rosen, Jon and Amalia  
Sainsott, P  
Schlegel Cory  
Schulz, John D  
Sengers, Jan V  
Simonsen, Anne  
Steinmann, Scott  
Taska, Betty Keene  
Venn, Porter and Maggie  
Vining, Donna R  
Wheeler, Charles B  
Whitney, Peter and Martha  
Wickowski, Sheila  
Wilson, Jon M  
Wirth, Noel C  
Wisel, Lee Marie

Gaithersburg MD  
Cumberland MD  
Nashville TN  
Potomac MD  
Baltimore MD  
Valley View PA  
Bethesda MD  
Rockville MD  
Middletown MD  
Bethesda MD  
Bethesda MD  
Upper Marlboro MD  
Baltimore MD  
Bethesda MD  
McLean VA  
Washington DC  
Bowie MD  
Willingboro N.  
Silver Spring MD

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 Leve Walkers Program or the Volunteers in the Park Program, you must take the initiative and contact the respective leader.

- - William Baumai



*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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Woodbridge, Virginia 22192  
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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.omcdesigns.com/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 1999-2000 Association Officers

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Baltimore, MD 21218-1828

**Second VP & Level Walker Chairperson:** kmgrayphd@compuserve.com  
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**Treasurer**  
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Bethesda, MD 20817

**Information Officer**  
Mary A. Lurch  
301-657-9542  
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Chevy Chase, MD 20815

**Board of Directors:**(Terms expire in 2002) Robert Humphrey, Donald R. Juran, Robert C. Perry  
Gary M. Petrichick petrichick@aol.com, Patricia White paw@the.usp.org (Terms expire in 2001)  
Richard Stoll, Fred I. Mopsik mopsikj@erols.com, Helen L. Shaw, Michael Schuchat  
mmschuchat@aol.com, John G. Viner.(Terms expire in 2000) Christine Cerniglia  
cerniglia@erols.com, Carl Linden clinden@gwu.edu, Mary A. Moen, James Preston, Ken Rollins

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

Archives	Molly Schuchat
Canal Restoration/Monocacy Aqueduct	Carl Linden
Environmental	Ralph Donnelly/Fred Mopsik
Level Walkers	Karen Gray
Membership	Rita Bauman
Programs	Sonny DeForge/Ken Rollins
VIPs	John Lindt
Membership Coordinator	William Bauman
Editorial	Robert C. Perry

**Editorial Staff**  
Editor: Robert C. Perry 703-590-5568  
Associate Editors Carl A. Linden, Jane D. Perry, Ken Rollins

#### C & O CANAL NHP DIRECTORY TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND PERSONNEL

**C & O CANAL NHP HQTRS**  
Box 4, Sharpsburg, MD 21782  
Superintendent Douglas Faris  
Assistant Superintendent Kevin Brandt  
Chief Ranger Keith Whisenant  
Admin Officer Pat Clark  
Asst Ch. Ranger & Chief, Visitor Protection Branch Tom Nash (acting)  
Chief, Natural Resource Mgmt Branch Vacant  
Chief, Cultural Resource Mgmt Branch Doug Stover  
Chief, Interpretation Branch Debbie Conway  
Chief of Maintenance Bob Hartman  
Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Brown  
Flood Recovery Team Don Copenhaver

**PALISADES DISTRICT**  
11710 MacArthur Blvd, Potomac, MD 20854

District Ranger 301-767-3707 Tom Nash  
Supv Ranger - Fee Collection 301-767-3703 Terry Barbot

**GEORGETOWN VISITORS CENTER**  
1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, Washington, D.C. 202-653-5190  
Sup. Ranger - Interpretation Kathy Kupper

**GREAT FALLS TAVERN VISITORS CENTER**  
Great Falls Tavern Information 301-299-3613  
Sup. Ranger - Interpretation 301-767-3702 Faye Walmsley

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

**WESTERN MARYLAND DISTRICT**  
District Ranger 301-842-3128 Mark Spier

Western Subdistrict 301-478-5063 Matt Stoffolano

Central Subdistrict 301-842-3279 John Bailey  
George DeLancey  
Luis Krug  
Bill Orlando  
Martin Gallery  
301-582-0813

Eastern Subdistrict 301-432-6348  
District Interpreter

**WILLIAMSPORT VISITORS CENTER**  
205 West Potomac Street, Williamsport, MD 21795 301-582-0813  
Park Ranger - Interpretation Donna Swauger

**HANCOCK VISITORS CENTER**  
301-678-5463  
326 East Main Street Hancock, Maryland 21750  
Park Ranger - Interpretation Paul Apple

**CUMBERLAND VISITORS CENTER**  
301-722-8226  
Western Maryland Station, Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
Park Ranger - Interpretation Rita Knox

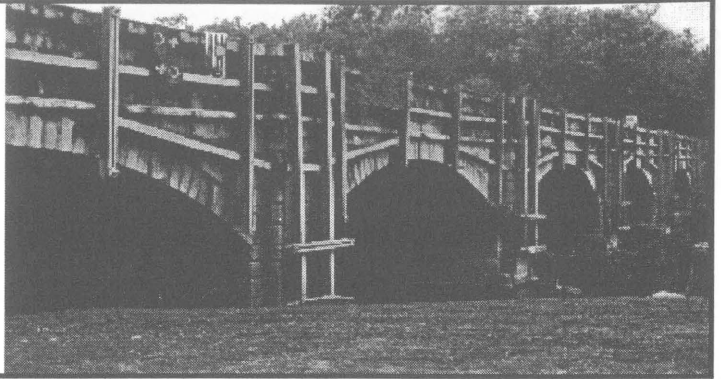
The Western Maryland District begins at Milepost 42.19 (Monocacy River) and ends at the Canal Terminus, Cumberland, Milepost 184.5.

**OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

24-Hour Emergency	301-739-4206
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
Carderock and Marsden Reservations	301-299-3613

**FOR LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES DIAL 911**

# The Monocacy Aqueduct Report



## THE MONOCACY AQUEDUCT--NOT THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT YET IT IS A MONUMENT TO WASHINGTON

If the Washington Monument were laid across the Monocacy River next to the Monocacy Aqueduct the two structures would be roughly equal in length -- the monument extending further than the aqueduct only by a nose.

Of course, the Monocacy Aqueduct is not the Washington Monument nor would the monument serve well as bridge over the Monocacy. Nonetheless, the Aqueduct is a monument of sorts to Washington. It was he who envisioned a canal going West along the Potomac and who promoted the Potowmack Company which built the old by-pass canal around the Great Falls. The C & O Canal and its structures, epitomized in the Monocacy Aqueduct, realized Washington's vision. If Washington had lived to see the great Aqueduct he would surely have delighted in this artful offspring of his inspiration as he would have been saddened to see it in its present state of deterioration. No doubt also that he would have wanted it restored and preserved.

Our 45th anniversary Douglas Reunion Hike in April honors another eminent American who walked hard and worked hard to see that the C & O Canal and all its fine structures are preserved for all our citizens' inspiration and enjoyment. The members of the Association have the example of Washington and Douglas to urge us on in our effort to see the Aqueduct restored as a key element in the aim to preserve the integrity of the C & O Canal National Historical Park as a whole.

We in the Association have come a good way on the path to save the Aqueduct, but still have a way to go to reach our destination. The restoration plan has three stages: 1) an engineering study of the Aqueduct's condition concluding with recommendation of a restoration plan, 2) the preparation of the detailed engineering design for the restoration, and 3) the actual restoration construction work itself. Stage one is now virtually complete. Stage two will soon begin. Here is where we in the Association can prime the pump.

The Monocacy Aqueduct Fund is now close to the \$100,000 mark. That total has come mainly, though not entirely, from within the ranks of the Association over the past three or so years. This shows to all that the Association is not averse to putting its money where its mouth is.

### Let's Push the Aqueduct Fund Over the \$100,000 Mark

A few more generous donations from our friends and us plus the annual dividend the fund earns from the National Park Foundation and the \$100,000 mark will be easily topped. Currently, there is a little over \$92,000 in the account. Superintendent Doug Faris suggests that a good use of the fund would be to commit it to the Engineering Design stage. It would represent a major contribution to the cost of developing the design. Of course, the amount we would contribute would only be a small portion of the over five million required for the complete restoration of the Aqueduct. It will prime the engine to get it started. The amount of fuel required is not a lot but vital in the journey to our goal.

We welcome any help you can give on our way to this goal!

- - Carl Linden



## *On the Level*

by Level Walker chair, Karen Gray

Having just taken over, this column will be my initial communication with the membership in general, but especially to the current Level Walkers. In the future I will be including summaries of level walker reports, listing levels that need walkers, highlighting certain levels with bits of history and descriptions of structures and things of note seen along them, and discussing issues relevant to Level Walkers and the program.

First of all I want to say THANK YOU to all current Level Walkers for your commitment to the program and the time and effort that goes into fulfilling your Level Walker responsibilities! I'm really pleased to be handling the Level Walker Program again and I look forward to renewed contacts with many of you who are still with the program since I last served as the chair, and to meeting those who are new since then.

Secondly, I want to say to all the members that WE NEED LEVEL WALKERS and EVERYONE willing to undertake the responsibilities (which are quite light) IS WELCOME to become one. I will do the best I can to assign you to a level you want and what we will ask of you is simply to WALK your level, PICK UP LITTER AND GARBAGE ALONG IT, and submit a WRITTEN REPORT on it. You need to do this AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR to remain on the active list. Levels vary from 1 to 6 miles in length, but most are only 2 to 2.5 miles long.

There are multiple ways Level Walkers can contact me and submit reports:

- ◆ Mail to 825 New Hampshire Ave. NW #304; Washington DC 20037-2307
- ◆ Phone 202-333-6947. The answering machine always answers but if I am home and can do so, I will pick up the phone as soon as you identify yourself. Otherwise leave a message. Be sure to speak clearly and leave a call-back number if your message requires a return call.
- ◆ E-mail to [kmgrayphd@compuserve.com](mailto:kmgrayphd@compuserve.com).

Several important things I need to say to all Level Walkers:

1. The list I received from the former chair indicates that approximately 1/3rd of the level walkers have not reported in the past year or two, so I would like to make the following request:

- ◆ If you don't wish to remain in the program but never resigned, please let me know.
- ◆ If you wish to continue as a level walker, please confirm that with me in one of two ways: Simply contact me and let me know, or send me a report on your level sometime this year.

If you send your report to me by e-mail, I will acknowledge immediately. If you mail it to my address, a note will be mailed

back to you as soon as I, or a member of the Level Walker committee I am forming, can do so.

If you leave a message on my phone let me know if you want me to call you back and/or if you want a follow-up report or communication on the subject of the message.

A couple basic guidelines to level walkers:

1. Any Level Walker unable to walk and formally report on his/her level in any calendar year is moved to an **INACTIVE LIST**. All it will take to be reactivated is a written report on a recent walk. Being on the inactive list means that your name is removed as a Level Walker assigned to your level.

2. For a walk to be counted in the Level Walker record, a **WRITTEN REPORT MUST BE FILED**, preferably within a week or two but certainly within 2-3 months of the date in which the walk occurred. If you walk regularly you may submit a report periodically. In this case **BOTH** the **NUMBER OF REPORTS** and the **NUMBER OF WALKS** will be entered in the database. However, verbal reports made to me in person will not be entered as either a walk or a report. Sorry, but we need those written reports, a copy of which will go to the Park Service and into the archives.

Level Walkers need not use the established form, but their report should include all the information on it, in the appropriate order. This information includes:

- ◆ Full identification by level (starting and ending mileages, etc.) and of themselves (name, address, phone);
- ◆ Date of the walk, time of day and weather conditions;
- ◆ Amount of litter picked up (indicate the size and number of bags) and any major garbage or litter problem that remained
- ◆ Conditions of note along the level (changes in structures, comments on them, and especially a report on the condition of the towpath)
- ◆ Human usage (number of people encountered on the towpath and whether they were walking, cycling or horseback riding and the number and types of vehicles in lots, etc.)
- ◆ Observations on plants and animals, water in the canal, etc.

Again, my profound gratitude to all the level walkers in the program and especially those who have continued to walk even without acknowledgment. You are a treasure and your importance to the park will increase with the improvement of the program. I look forward to a period of revitalization and growth and to working with you in making the Level Walkers a highly effective arm of the Association.

### *1999 Calendar of Upcoming Events*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monthly	Wed, Sat	<i>Sights and Sounds of the Seasons</i> nature walks are scheduled four times monthly on the first and last Wednesday and Saturday. Meet in Great Falls Tavern at 10 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 or 301-714-2233.
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 ( <b>Association Work Day at C&amp;O Canal Visitors Centers</b> ) 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.
May 1-2	Sat-Sun	Cumberland CanalFest. Western Maryland Station, Cumberland MD. Contact Bob Perry, 703-590-5568.
Apr 17	Sat	Through-Hike Bus Leaves Great Falls at 10 AM. 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 starting at 2 PM. Banquet at Channel Inn.
May 8	Sat	Canal Day ( <b>Association Work Day at C&amp;O Canal Visitors Centers</b> ) 9:00 AM. Call John Lindt 301-469-6381 for details.
May 1-2	Sat-Sun	Canal Fest Cumberland.
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.
<b>Jul 11 changed</b>	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.
<b>Aug 14-21 added</b>	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 ( <b>Association Work Day at C&amp;O Canal Visitors Centers</b> ) 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 Paw Paw 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 23 Corrected	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.

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## GIVING WITH SECURITIES

### .....To the Association's FUNDS

In a stock market that has seen significant growth in recent years, appreciated securities are very common and are much less expensive to donate than cash.

The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Association, Inc., a charitable and educational organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS Code, has established three Funds to receive donations -- the *C & O Canal Fund*, the *Monocacy Aqueduct Fund*, and the *Davies Legal Fund*.

Making a gift of appreciated securities benefits the donor in two ways:

- ◆ The donor receives a charitable income deduction for the full fair market value of the securities and, at the same time, avoids capital gains taxes on the appreciated securities.
- ◆ The gain is ordinarily measured by the difference between the cost basis (the amount originally paid for the stock) and its current fair market value. In certain cases it may be from an estate or otherwise adjusted.

For example, ten years ago Mr. A bought 100 shares of X Company's stock for \$1 a share. Over the years X Company has been very successful, and Mr. A's stock is now worth \$100 per share, for a total of \$10,000. If Mr. A makes a gift of these securities outright to one of the funds of the Association he immediately receives a \$10,000 charitable income tax deduction and avoids capital gains taxes. At a capital gains tax rate of 20%, the tax due on the gain of \$9,900 would be \$1,980. So, Mr. A will save \$3,100 in the 3 1% tax bracket as a result of the gift, for a total cost of \$4,920 for a \$10,000 gift. Note that only a long-term gain gets this break.

Before making a gift you are encouraged to consult your tax advisor.

To transmit securities to the Association, simply contact the Treasurer. Depending on the format in which you currently hold them, securities can be mailed to the Association. The Treasurer will advise you on the simple steps to take to make the transfer of securities.

- - Bill Evans



## Canal Characters.....

### Reminiscences of the C&O Canal, Part Two

by Abner Kaplan

*Editor's note: This is the second account of Mr. Kaplan's recollection of events taking place during his boyhood in Williamsport. You'll read of a tour through town by some baseball players. In fact, the players lifted Abner aboard for this tour. Abner is active in the Association and resides in Baltimore.*

When activity on the Canal came to a halt in 1924, the number of boats in operation approximated 100 at most, contrasting sharply with the estimated 700 or so that plied the waterway in its halcyon days.

At Williamsport only about two families were boating, then. Although one's memory plays tricks, or is clouded over, I recall the names of others, seven or eight, beginning with Anderson and ending with Wolfe. In between were the Bowers, the Bowers, the Shups and Turner. Their homes were located in the lower end of town, bearing such inelegant names as Frog-Eye and the Sand Hole, both within close proximity to the Canal. Most families were sufficiently perceptive to grasp how the economic winds were blowing and had abandoned the waterway as a means of livelihood years prior to its demise.

Articles have been published occasionally, casting a somewhat romantic aura over boating on the Canal. Except in retrospect this for the most part was only partially true. The peace, the serenity and scenery were all enhancing, enjoyed by week-end and evening strollers. But for those who plied the waterway for a living it was not infrequently another scenario. They were often occupied swatting flies and mosquitoes, warding off bees or administering to an ailing mule. Sleeping and living quarters were cramped, affording little protection from the sun's rays.

At Williamsport, as many of our readers are aware, a broad, level plain extends southward from the mouth of the Conococheague creek. Prior to the erection of the Potomac Edison Power plant, it extended uninterrupted almost to the waste-weir nearly a mile distant. Its dimensions were such that the town's baseball team played its games there until the early twenties when flood waters forced its abandonment. Each Sunday the town folks gathered to cheer vociferously their local heroes. Their opponents were treated with disdain. Hagerstown teams, in particular, were on the receiving end of the kind of invective usually reserved for process servers.

In those days we viewed Hagerstown residents as rich city people, while we were simply poor country folks. In our town, a middle class as we know it today, just didn't exist. Those outlanders, although only six miles to the north, lived in homes with running water, electric lights and even bath rooms. The first house in which we lived, along with most in town, had none of these amenities. After several years we were considered

fortunate to take up residence in a dwelling equipped with electric lights.

Nor was our hostility assuaged when a few of these "city" individuals came to Cushwa Basin to ice skate. Not only were they from out of town, but these outlanders were the possessors of gleaming shoe skates that we viewed with bitter envy. We had to be content with clamp-ons which not infrequently became detached and left the wearer looking skyward from a posterior position. Clamp-on skates long ago have been consigned to the dust bin and are probably unfamiliar to many of our readers.

While youngsters in the community resorted to swimming and ice skating in their free time, their elders derived their recreational kicks from baseball and unstinting support of the local team. Among the fans were the inhabitants of the half-dozen or so canal boats tied up at nearby Cushwa Basin, since their activity came to a halt on the Sabbath. The terraced bank marked the right field boundary and they, along with a large contingent of local fans, viewed the action from that vantage point. In addition a column of shade trees provided welcome relief from the hot rays of the summer sun.

An occurrence of momentous proportions in local baseball history involved the acquisition of uniforms in 1921 or 1922. Prior to then, the players wore makeshift outfits, ill fitting and colorless. The new ones arrived in huge boxes at Bett's barber shop on our main street where a number of players congregated in anticipation. After donning their new apparel someone prevailed upon Sam Hall, an avid baseball fan, to fulfill his civic duty: Making available his open-bodied, chain-driven truck, which he used daily to deliver ice to the town's residents, to transport the newly uniformed players throughout the community. With a half-dozen or more of the hefty aboard, Sam charted a course through the town's broad streets, sounding his horn incessantly. Startled citizens rushed to their doorways to confront this unwelcome intrusion. They remained to applaud. Small children, mesmerized, followed the slow moving vehicle, laughing and shouting. The Pied Piper of Hamelin could not have transfixed a more loyal flock of juveniles. But unlike the youngsters of Hamelin who vanished, all returned home happily.

With limited incomes, families in our town learned to become self-sufficient in a moderate way. If a plot of tillable ground presented itself, a garden followed. Many supplemented their food supply with a variety of farm animals. On the poultry line, the most prevalent were chickens in abundance, and to a lesser extent ducks and geese. A number of families also raised hogs. Late fall butchering parties, a multi-participating event, took on all the trappings of a family reunion.

Strange as it may seem from our current sophisticated outlook, a few families possessed cows. The Castle brood, who lived within shouting distance of our home on Salisbury Street was in this category, as were the Pearmans whose residence was a short distance from the Canal and river bottom. The Castles had three cows and each summer when the boys, Ed and Leroy, were out

## CANAL CHARACTERS--continued

of school, they would shepherd the bovines from their backyard stable down the street to the river bottom about a third of a mile distant. The lush grasses and vegetation provided ample grazing nourishment and at the end of the day the animals headed home, not infrequently leaving a malodorous message on the thoroughfare, much to the discomfiture of neighboring residents.

From the Cushwa Basin to the Potomac River was, distance-wise, a long stone's throw. I was probably about nine years old when in another one of those inexplicable reasons I found myself along the river bank in company of the aforementioned Castle and Pearman brothers. We all had a great time swimming - actually wading and splashing much of the time until we learned to swim. We played tag, belly-flopped, and wrestled in the crystal clear Potomac, sans bathing trunks of course. We enjoyed a near private circular pool created by low lying willow bushes that sheltered us from curious eyes. While we were all cavorting thusly, the cows inconsiderately would wander off in all directions much to the dismay of their care takers. This was several years before the construction of the Potomac Edison power plant and its accompanying dam. As a result our swimming hole vanished beneath the rising waters. The construction of a roadway and spur railroad leading to the plant resulted in the loss of grazing grounds for the cows and a premature trip to the slaughter house.

The Canal and river were steeped in Civil War history - although the extent of this was unknown to most of the town's citizenry when I was growing up. Union and Southern armies crossed and recrossed the Potomac at what was known as Lemen's ferry, within the shadow of the bridge now spanning the river. Most notable of such fording was that of General Robert E. Lee and his troops both to and from Gettysburg. On the latter occasion his army encamped near what is known as Mt. Tammarly, a little more than a mile from Williamsport and on what much later became U.S.Route 11.

Unable to cross the Potomac because of high waters, the result of heavy rains earlier, the Confederates were forced to wait several days in order for the waters to recede. On one occasion General Lee accompanied by several aides, rode into town and sat on a large limestone at the corner of what was then known as the Taylor Hotel. (This was later purchased by our well-known Canal historian, the late "Hooper" Wolfe). While relaxing he was informed that Mrs. Taylor was about to give birth; and according to my information he cordoned off the premises to prevent any undue disturbance. (The stone is still in place.)

Indeed on that day of July 1863 a female infant came into this world. I am uncertain as to her precise given name, but she was known later to all and sundry as Miss Lute Taylor. A very gracious lady she frequently invited young girls to her small apartment on West Potomac Street where she plied them with cookies and tea while relating stories of her past.

General Lee and his troops were enabled, after a delay of several days while high waters were receding, to return to more familiar territory in the Shenandoah Valley. Military action thereafter shifted almost exclusively to the South and activity on the Canal resumed at its normal leisurely pace.

One visible indication that the conflict targeted this area is the presence of Doubleday Hill, a steep bluff rubbing shoulders with the bern side of the Canal. A breastwork surmounted by several canon pointing menacingly toward Lemen's ferry was erected by one, Capt. (later General) Abner Double-day. Few of my contemporaries were aware that this was the same A.Doubleday, who was reputed to be the inventor of baseball. In this particular instance, however, Mr. Doubleday would have been better advised to stay with baseball because the fortification had to be abandoned without ever having lobbed a canonball southward. Because of bends in the river both above and below, the position was highly vulnerable to invading troops. Cannon, though not the originals, are still in place. For photographers, both professional and amateur, the Hill was particularly inviting. Kids posing on cannon and an unparalleled view of the picturesque Potomac were the attractions in my boyhood.

As I reach back in my memory for what I have chronicled here I am sometimes awed or even startled to realize that during my boyhood some of the elderly residents whom I knew, lived as youngsters through the Civil War. Moreover, although I was unaware of it at the time several Negroes of my acquaintance were children of slave families; and one of indeterminate age was reputed to have been a slave himself. This was a matter never discussed openly in our community.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Michael and Molly SCHUCHAT	C
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Harriet V. MCLAINE	C	Shirley STRONG	M
Robert and Donna MECKLENBERG	M	Glenn E. WATKINS	C
Carolyn Ann PECK	M	Robert B. WOODALL JR	M
Robert J. REYNOLDS	CM	Harry M. KEMSTEDT	CM
A. Dan SCHNYER	CM	Donald R. JURAN	C
Sybilla SHARPS	M	Fred and Judy MOPSIK	CM
Paula M. STRAIN	M	Louis A. ODOM	C
		James R. PRESTON	M
		Judith RATCLIFF	CM
		Tom and Gayle REID	M

## CONTRIBUTIONS - continued

Barbara M. ROBINSON	C
Mr. and Mrs. Blair BOWER	D
Forrest and Lorraine MINOR	C
Frank and Mary Pat WILSON	C
Thomas R. COOK	C
Timothy S. REULING	C
John and Valerie WHEELER	CM
Bob and Donna BOIES	CM
Thad HECHT	M
Mr. and Mrs. Carl NORDEN	C
Patricia Ann WHITE	D

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

Membership in the C&O Canal Association runs concurrent with the calendar year and expires on December 31. Renewal forms are enclosed with the December and March issues of *ALONG THE TOWPATH* (ATP) to those members who have not yet renewed. **If a yellow renewal form is in your copy of ATP your 1999 dues were NOT paid prior to the February 15 publication date.**

We hope you will consider making a donation to one or all of the Association's funds. Contributions to the MONOCACY AQUEDUCT FUND are used toward restoration of the aqueduct, one of the most important structures on the canal. The C&O CANAL FUND supports various projects and interpretive programs proposed by the Park Service that cannot be budgeted with appropriated funds, and the DAVIES LEGAL FUND provides funds in the event of litigation involving the Association.

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

**Your continued membership is the key to the Association's success.** Prompt renewal benefits both you and the Association. It ensures that you will continue to receive *ALONG THE TOWPATH* and will be eligible to vote for officers and board members at the annual meeting. It also ensures that the Association will continue to sustain its activities for its members and the Park. We appreciate your past support and hope that you will continue to be an active member of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Association, Inc.

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR.....

In the last newsletter, President Tom Perry observed that we all seem to be strangers to each other, except the officers and board members. Mr. Perry suggested that various members sponsor cluster meetings of an informal sort in their backyards or around the fireplace for others in that area. If you do not know who in your neighborhood is a member, send me a postcard or e-mail with your request.

For example: if you request the membership on Veirs Dr, Rockville, MD, I would send 11 names, addresses and telephone numbers; for Ijamsville, MD you would get information for 3 members; however, for Bethesda, MD with 288 members (more than would fit in most of our backyards), I would have to narrow the search somewhat. If you want to car pool or exchange babysitting duties so your families can attend Association functions, perhaps I can find another member in your area. (I can not provide dating services). But you get the point. Let's see what we can do to meet our membership.

- William Bauman  
103437.2666@compuserve.com

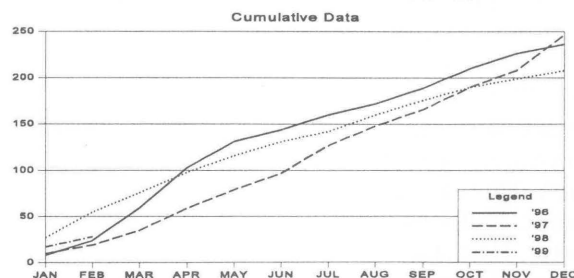
## REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR - 1998

The following table reflects Association membership at the end of each of the last 6 years:

Type	12/93	12/94	12/95	12/96	12/97	12/98
Member	462	418	413	444	437	495
Family	278	290	285	311	325	335
Patron	159	157	132	191	201	210
Totals	899	865	830	946	963	1040

As of the end of the year, we have exceeded 1,000 memberships for the first time in the history of the Association. In the charts below I have shown the number of new memberships and then the membership renewals for each month.

## NEW MEMBERSHIPS



In the chart above I have shown the cumulative new memberships over each of the last three years. In '96 we had 236, in '97 we had 246, and in '98 we had 208 (just so you do not have to interpolate the year end totals). Now you might ask, "How well are we retaining these new members?". Lets look at new memberships over the last 7 years:

	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
Totals	307	115	173	113	236	246	208





## NPS REPORT

## NEW PARK PROGRAM - VOLUNTEER BIKE PATROL

The C&O Canal is forming a new volunteer bike patrol to provide a better presence on the 184.5 miles of towpath. Volunteer members will ride the towpath trail in pairs assisting visitors by providing information on park resources, educating visitors on the natural and cultural history of the park and its significance, and assisting visitors and rangers by providing basic first-aid, safety information and resource protection reminders. Extensive training will be required which will be scheduled to begin in April. The program will officially kick-off on May 29, 1999, Memorial Day weekend.

Applications and/or more information can be obtained by calling 301-767-3706.

## 1999 CANALBOAT OPERATING SCHEDULE

The National Park Service's mule-drawn canal boat the *CANAL CLIPPER* will begin the 1999 season on Saturday, April 3rd. The season will continue through the end of October. One-hour trips on the *CANAL CLIPPER* will be offered at Great Falls, Maryland on the following schedule:

3 APR - 31 MAY		
MON - FRI		3:00 *
SAT, SUN, HOLIDAYS	11:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30	
3 JUN - 13 JUN		
WED - FRI		3:00 *
SAT, SUN	11:30, 1:30, 3:00	
16 JUN - 6 SEP		
WED-SUN, HOLIDAYS	11:30, 1:30, 3:00	
9 SEP - 31 OCT		
WED - FRI		3:00 *
SAT, SUN, HOLIDAYS	11:30, 1:30, 3:00	

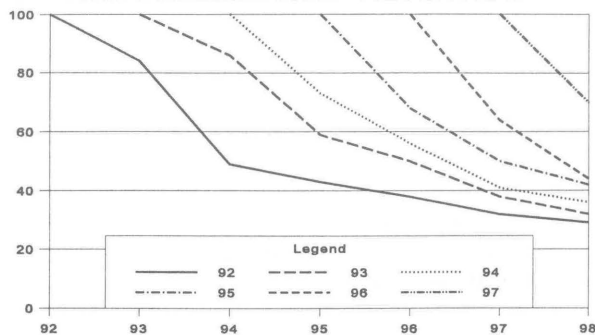
\* Group trips by reservation during these periods at 9:45, 11:00, and 12:15.

Note: The *CANAL CLIPPER* will not operate on Mondays or Tuesdays (except holidays) after May 31st. The boat will not operate on Wednesdays after the following holidays:

2 JUN, 7 JUL, 8 SEP, 22 SEP, and 13 OCT

The park's other boat, which operates from Foundry Mall in Georgetown, was seriously damaged by fire last fall and is undergoing major repairs. It is expected to return to service in June. The schedule for the *GEORGETOWN* will be announced at a later date.

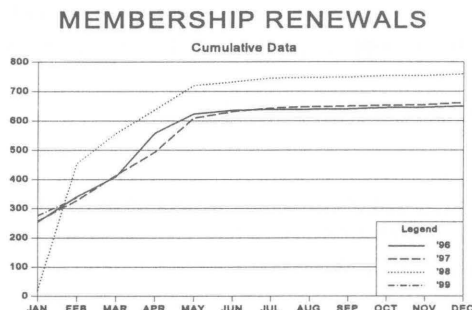
## NEW MEMBERSHIP RETENTION



Of the 307 new members in '92, 259 renewed in '93 (which is 84%); of those 259, 151 renewed in '94 (which is 49% of the 307 in '92); of those 151, 131 renewed in '95 (which is 43% of the 307); of those 131, 116 renewed in '96 (which is 38% of the 307); of those 116, 98 renewed in '97 (which is 32% of the 307) and of those 98, 89 renewed in '98 (which is 29% of the 307). All right, let us look at it graphically:

We will do the same for '92, '93, '94, '95, '96 and '97. It would seem that we are retaining between 30% and 40% of each year's new membership after 6 years. The attrition in the first year is dramatic (over 30% lately), then it slows down and appears to level off. It is something to watch over the next few years.

Getting back to the membership renewals, the chart at the right shows the cumulative renewals over each of the last three years.



In '96 we had 650 renewals, in '97 we had 662 renewals, and in '98 we had 759 renewals. 1998 was our best year ever for renewals.

In summary, our membership looks stronger at the end of '98 than it was at the end of '97, which I thought was a pretty good year.

-- William D. Bauman

## NPS REPORT - continued

### MARCH FOR PARKS @ WILLIAMSPORT

March for Parks is a national event – one of hundreds of marches taking place in all 50 states in conjunction with Earth Day on the weekend of April 17, 1999. March for Parks is sponsored nationally by the National Parks and Conservation Association. The C&O Canal Association will sponsor the local march at Williamsport Visitor Center. All money raised from the march will be used to build an outdoor amphitheater at the Williamsport Visitor Center. The amphitheater will allow rangers to provide a multitude of outdoor programs for school children along with other visitor programs.

The 4-mile round trip hike will begin at 10:00 am, with registration beginning at 9:00 am. A committee comprised of members from both the association and park staff are looking for participants to march on April 17 and to solicit pledges from family members, business associates and friends in order to help us build the new amphitheater at Williamsport. Please call 301-767-3706 for more information.

### NPS VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION &amp; MILEPOST</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
Saturday, March 27	Thompsons Boathouse Edwards Ferry Point of Rocks Williamsport Little Tonoloway in Hancock	MP 0 MP 30 MP 48 MP 99 MP 124
	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup</b> –Join us along with thousands of other volunteers to clean up along the riverfront. Help protect the Potomac Watershed.	
Saturday, April 10	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Canal Cleanup –</b> Georgetown Fletchers Boathouse Great Falls Seneca Lander Antietam Creek Hancock	MP 0.4 MP 3 MP 14 MP 22 MP 50 MP 69 MP 122
	<b>Trailblazing continues @ NEW Civil War Trail</b>	
Saturday, April 17	<b>March for Parks @ Georgetown &amp; Williamsport</b>	10K run @ Georgetown or a 4 mile hike @ Williamsport
Saturday, April 24	Ft Duncan Snyders Landing Leopards Mill Hiker-Biker	MP 62 MP 76 MP 129
	<b>Clean vegetation from towpath</b>	
Saturday, May 1	Fletchers Boathouse Monocacy Lock 38 15 Mile Creek	MP 3 MP 42 MP 72 MP 140
	<b>Clean camping areas: seed/mulch, grills, paint</b>	
Saturday, May 8	Brunswick Potomac Fish & Game Hancock	MP 55 MP 93 MP 122
	<b>Remove trash &amp; debris, clean picnic area</b>	
Saturday, May 15	Whites Ferry Dam 4 Hancock	MP 35 MP 84 MP 122
	<b>Clean vegetation, remove trash &amp; debris from towpath</b>	
Saturday, June 5	Foundry Branch Tunnel	MP 1
	<b>Clean vegetation, clean campgrounds: seed/mulch, grills</b>	
	<b>Paint tunnel, repair trail: replace timbers &amp; blacktop</b>	

## CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK TRASH FREE PARK

The C&O Canal National Historical Park is proudly instituting a new "Trash Free Park" program this spring. The concept is being initiated to actively reduce solid waste within the park. The premise is a partnership that will provide a safer, healthier, more satisfying experience for all of us who enjoy the park and its exceptional resources.

The success of this type of program has been realized in many parks and park systems across the country including Maryland's State Forests & Parks. Recognizing the six years of exceptional results with their program, the C&O Canal will join the State of Maryland and implement the "trash free" practice throughout the 184.5 miles of the park beginning April 1, 1999.

Under the guidelines of the "Trash Free Park" program, all trash receptacles are removed from the park and visitors are required to take their refuse when they depart, leaving an unspoiled, trash free park! This initiative encompasses all recreational sections including the day use, picnic grounds, pavilions, boat ramps, hiker/biker and camping areas.

The C&O Canal will install "Trash Free" signs and provide park users with bags at the various access points throughout the park as a convenience for refuse removal. However, please plan ahead when you visit the park this season. As you prepare items to carry into the park, make accommodations to carry your garbage out when you leave. Make creative choices on what to bring, as trash receptacles will not be available anywhere in the park. This program is designed to encourage reuse and recycling practices, so we all share in being responsible for managing solid waste and the park's environment.

**Reduce** wasteful habits by purchasing reusable products, avoid individually wrapped products, use less paper.

**Reuse** resources by selecting washable and refillable items (and containers), prepare for leftovers and borrow or rent items infrequently used.

**Recycle** and return glass, plastic, paper and metal products.

The many benefits of this Program include removing garbage and recycling containers within the park and associated odors, reducing annoying pests and unsightly conditions, and helping users to be more aware of the need to recycle. Eliminating the need for trash receptacles and disposal services will also allow the park an opportunity to make more productive use of its available resources.

Please take your trash when you go! When everyone does their part, the reward is realized by all users when we return to a beautiful C&O Canal.

Thank you for taking Pride in Your Park!

-- NPS■

## NATURE NOTES

### Bird-Watching in January Near Great Falls Tavern

The last Saturday of January 1999 smiled warmly as a dozen bundled-up humans gathered at Great Falls Tavern. Armed with binoculars, they moved slowly down the towpath. Three mallards busily poked at the edges of the river channel just below the towpath. A turkey vulture lazily wheeled overhead.

A muddy towpath absorbed attention as the group approached the area still blocked off for continuing work on *Mary's Wall*. Single file, we proceeded past the fenced-off area to the sunny Towpath at the other end.

Few birds showed themselves but the path below the stop-lock beckoned enticingly. Passing under the stop-lock bridge we entered a quiet world with no one else to interfere. We recalled the beavers we had watched in the same areas in past years. With a greatly lowered water level, the beavers apparently have deserted. Overhead a solitary blue heron steadily flapped his way toward the horizon. A chickadee appeared briefly. Several turkey vultures rode the thermals. A red-winged blackbird briefly showed himself in a swampy area. A small flock of juncos busied themselves poking through grasses at the towpath's edge.

For would-be bird-watchers, the day was turning out to be sunny, but not promising. On the spur of the moment, we crossed the dry canal bed, going up the hill to Berma Road. The place was nearly as quiet and devoid of bird life as the towpath had been.

Then we reached the old whitewashed stone lockkeeper's house, surrounded on both sides by tall ivy-covered trees. Suddenly the trees started to explode--a dozen robins, a couple of song sparrows, a red-winged blackbird, a chickadee, a downy and a redbellied woodpecker gave us brief glimpses, flying swiftly into trees on the other side of the road and then returning to hide themselves again in the tangle of vines around the lock-keeper's house.

Estimates of the number of each kind of bird were hard to determine in the active flurry. As afternoon came on, the activity continued.

Reluctantly we left, well satisfied with the bird life we had just observed. As we walked back to the Tavern, we recalled seeing an outburst of cedar waxwings in the same vine-covered trees on a midwinter day in another year. We also recalled observations in other seasons of the year along Berma Road and on the Gold Mine Tract.

We remembered the wild turkey mother that vainly tried to steer us away from her nest full of young as we strolled along a path on the Gold Mine Tract. In another year, even longer ago, a mother bobwhite led her chicks safely across MacArthur Boulevard to what she hoped was a safe haven on what was then the grounds of the Girl Scout camp, now a country park.

## NATURE NOTES - continued

Back in the Tavern garden, we opened our lunches and tallied our observations in the sunlit garden. Altogether, we had seen 17 species and 77 individual birds. We compared this count with one we had made on the preceding Wednesday. That, too, was a sunny day, warm for January. We had gone by towpath upstream from the Tavern and returned by the woodland path by the river's edge. Our count for the day (January 27) was 18 species and 784 individual birds.

But the birds on Wednesday were very different from those observed on Saturday. The bald eagle made himself seen settling into his nest on Conn Island. (The nest is now a dozen years old, remodeled to a limited extent each year by the pair of bald eagles.) A golden-crowned kinglet pair displayed themselves in low bushes almost within arm's reach. A Carolina wren, a white-throated sparrow, a female cardinal, two American goldfinches, a tufted titmouse, and three chickadees made at least brief appearances. Five crows sailed overhead.

From the river path we saw hundreds of Canada geese, with their incessant gabbling, lining the opposite shore of the river. Nearby were a couple of hundred ring-necked ducks. Five tundra swans stood out among the gabbling geese and about fifty ring-billed gulls hovered over the water nearby,

Downstream the gabbling of the geese receded in the distance as we again approached the Tavern. Gradually the world quieted to the point where the chief sound was of the river water rushing toward the dam that is the major intake for the area's water supply.

Although our count of 784 individuals and 18 species may seem high, the constant movement of geese and low-flying gulls made an accurate count almost impossible. Perhaps the most outstanding memory of the day is not the hordes of noisy geese, gulls, and ducks, but a single tiny individual in the bushes by the overlook at the dam. There a small golden-crowned kinglet danced from branch to branch, tilting now and then to display the golden crown that gives the bird its name. His more modest mate hovered nearby on lower branches. More often observed high in the branches of a tall tree, such a close look gave the observer a warm feeling of contentment, having briefly entered into the life of one tiny resident of the world we share.

- - Helen L. Johnston

## THE NEWS FROM ENGLAND

The C&O Canal Association's recent success in having the



Monocacy Aqueduct listed by the National Trust for Historical Preservation as one of the eleven most endangered landmarks in America is paralleled by a similar move for recognition by our cousins across the sea. British Waterways has proposed Britain's 200-year-old canal system as a United Nations World Heritage site to rank alongside the Great Wall of China, the Acropolis and the Taj Mahal.

According to London's *Daily Telegraph* of December 3, 1998, David Fletcher, the British Waterways chief executive, has proposed to the culture secretary that the network be included among proposed sites that Britain is invited to submit to UNESCO in 1999. Fletcher and his fellow Brits hope that if their proposal is accepted, it will boost canal tourism and renew public appreciation of and interest in this historic industrial development that is half-forgotten by the British people. In a consultation paper of August 1998, the culture secretary, Chris Smith, said that Britain's manufacturing, cultural and scientific influence on the world is inadequately represented. This thought triggered the British Waterways proposal.

Nigel Crowe, British waterways heritage manager, said the canals, derided in their decline as rubbish-filled ditches but now enjoying a renaissance, constitute a relic of early entrepreneurial



A British Waterways Narrowboat on the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal  
- - Photograph by Hal Larsen

drive and invention that no other country can match. While other nations might propose heroic architectural features that symbolize glories long past, the waterways constitute "living history" that not only helped shape Britain's social and commercial destiny but led the way for the industrialized world.



## THE NEWS FROM ENGLAND - continued

The government's August list "tentatively" included Thomas Telford's 1,007-foot-long Pontcyslite Aqueduct, which takes the Llangollen Canal over the Dee in North Wales, and the historic Ancoast, Castlefield and Worsley areas around Manchester that are the system's birthplace. But Tom Brock, who heads special initiatives for British Waterways, said that "only when viewed as a whole does [the system's] true significance come into perspective."

British Waterways is not suggesting that the complete 2,500-mile network be nominated but instead wants the "core" 500 miles nominated to symbolize the whole. The core centers on the "Great Cross" that links England's four main rivers: the Severn, Thames, Mersey and Trent. Mostly developed in the late 18th century by James Brindley, the core comprises many locks and tunnels and some major structures including the Pontcyslite Aqueduct, Cheshire's Anderton Boat Lift, the Dudley Tunnel in the West Midlands, and Europe's longest flight of locks at Tardebigge, Worcestershire. A spokesman for the Department of Culture said that "the proposal is being considered for inclusion in the final list."

One wonders what, if anything, the U.S. is submitting as proposals for inclusion as United Nations World Heritage sites. Might not the C&O Canal, with its splendid aqueducts and tunnel and its intact system with original locks and other man-made structures, be included? Given its importance in early American commercial and industrial development, the C&O stands out as a major factor in the country's westward expansion and it would be a worthy candidate for the United Nations World Heritage list.

- - Hal Larsen

*Editor's Note: We sincerely regret that Hal Larsen has had to resign from active service with the C&O Canal Association. For many years, Hal has honorably served as a Board member, president, and friend. We wish Hal good health and hope that he will continue to provide educational and stimulating articles like this one for the Association. Thank you, Hal.*



Hal prepares to cut the ribbon to start the October 1990 Heritage Hike

*Along the Towpath*

## THE THROUGH HIKE

Everything is ready for the Douglas Hike, April 17-May 1, thanks to the efforts of John Viner and his committees. All 50 full-support slots have been filled and there is a waiting list. However, everyone is welcome as a day hiker. For the convenience of day hikers, the end-to-end hiking schedule follows:

Sunday, April 18	Cumberland to Spring Gap
Monday, April 19	Spring Gap to the Town Creek Hiker/Biker
Tuesday, April 20	Town Creek to Stickpile Hill Hiker/Biker
Wednesday, April 21	Stickpile to Cacapon Junction
Thursday, April 22	Cacapon Junction to Hancock
Friday, April 23	Hancock to Four Locks
Saturday, April 24	Four Locks to Williamsport
Sunday, April 25	Williamsport to Dam 4
Monday, April 26	Dam 4 to Antietam Creek
Tuesday, April 27	Antietam Creek to the Brunswick Campground
Wednesday, April 28	Brunswick to Monocacy Hill
Thursday, April 29	Monocacy to Sycamore Landing
Friday, April 30	Sycamore Landing to Great Falls
Saturday, May 1	Great Falls to the Tidelock.

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.

Day hikers and non-hikers may sign up for the banquets and motel accommodations in Cumberland and Williamsport and the final banquet in Washington on May 1. Refer to the Hike Registration Form for motel rates. The banquet at the Holiday Inn in Cumberland is \$20 per person, at the American Legion Hall in Williamsport is \$10 per person, and at the Channel Inn in Washington, D.C. is \$30 per person. Reservations, together with your check payable to the C&O Canal Association, are due on or before April 9. Please mail your reservation request and check to the Association at P.O. Box 366, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812-0366 or call Don Juran at (301) 231-8622.

On Saturday, May 1, the final day of the Through-Hike and also the annual Douglas Hike, we will be hiking from Great Falls to Georgetown. The hike will start at 8:30 a.m. Hikers will assemble in front of the Great Falls Tavern for picture taking and the final sendoff ceremony. Great Falls has ample parking; however, the Park Service has requested that Association member's park in the lot furthest from the Tavern toward the back. Shuttle buses from the Tidelock back to Great Falls will run from 2-6 p.m. The shuttle fee, at \$4 per person, will be collected on the bus. A banquet to celebrate the hike will be held at the Channel Inn. The Channel Inn is located at 6560 Water Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. Happy hour is at 7; dinner at 8 p.m.

- - Mary Lurch

## The FALL 1998 THROUGH-BIKE TRIP

### In Search of the Elusive Paw Paw.....

The 1998 C&O Canal Fall Bike Trip started off with six hardy souls and ended 6 days later with two of the hardest. Contrary to reassurances, it does (and did) rain in October! In fact, this year's event was memorable for its lack of sunshine throughout the trip. It was also memorable for the "mythical" paw paws—although we did find a number of spherical objects that were (1) too small, (2) too big, (3) too green, and (4) not green enough.

Our trip began at the end—at mile marker 185.4 at Cumberland Railroad Station—on the morning of October 3. The first day was overcast but dry, and it didn't start raining until we were stopping for the night in Paw Paw, West Virginia. We weren't quite as lucky the second day. During the night, a soaking rain had made the towpath muddy and "energy-sucking." For most of us, this was when the reality of what we'd signed up for began to sink in. It's a tribute to Tom Perry's leadership and unflagging good humor that no one considered giving up. (At least, no one tried to find a taxi in Hancock.)

On the third day, we stopped for lunch at Fort Frederick and spent some time wandering around the fort. That night was spent in Williamsport, Tom's hometown. After a spaghetti dinner at Jeanne's, we walked to Tom's house for cider, dessert, a roaring fire, and organ music. We were all impressed by Tom's collection of over 900 organ pipes and by his wife Linda's hospitality.

We ended the fourth day in Sandy Hook, across the river from Harper's Ferry. The entire day's ride was not as eventful as getting our bikes from the towpath to the night's lodgings. We pushed (and pulled) the bikes up a steep incline, over the railroad tracks, down the other side, and then up the narrow, winding road. Tom kept talking all the way up the hill, while some of us could barely draw breath.

The next day, we stopped at Point of Rocks to pick up lunch and then continued on to the Monocacy Aqueduct to eat. When we arrived at White's Ferry, we locked up our bikes and waited for Sonny DeForge to arrive from Bethesda to take us into Leesburg. In a miracle of space planning, all seven of us managed to wedge ourselves into Sonny's car.

The last morning dealt us the only disappointment of the trip. The weather had moved from overcast to downpour, and we agreed that the Bike Trip should be declared officially over. Alison and Wendy, however, decided to brave the rain and finish the trip as scheduled. Of the six of us, they were the only two who biked straight through the entire trip. Patty and Katrina returned two days later (on Saturday) and finished the last 35 miles into Georgetown.

Who were the members of our group? In addition to Tom, the group included Al Cohen, Alison Jones, Patty Caldwell, Katrina Hedlesky, and Wendy Carter. Al, who is retired from USIA,

also participated in last year's Bike Trip. Alison has been biking for a year and usually prefers to bike rather than drive. Katrina had biked and camped along parts of the C&O Canal over 15 years ago and had always wanted to bike the entire canal. Patty hadn't been on a bike for 20 years and began training for the Bike Trip in May of this year. Wendy, who commutes from Washington, D.C., to Bethesda by bike, had wanted to bike the canal ever since first seeing it during a train trip from Chicago to Washington. Sonny joined us for the first day of biking and later provided much appreciated chauffeuring.



1998 Through-bikers

Although we were a varied group, we all shared an appreciation for the natural and engineering marvels of the C&O Canal. We also enjoyed sharing bits of ourselves with each other throughout the day and during our meals together; we learned a great deal about the workings and history of the Canal; and we met a variety of interesting and friendly individuals. For us, the pleasure of the trip was being outside and catching sight of deer, herons, geese, ducks, and many other animals as we rode along each day.

Among our favorite "tales of the trail":

- Tom's vindication when we spoke with a man at Point of Rocks who had actually seen paw paws along the Canal towpath.
- Matching spots on everyone's back from the mud splattering up.
- Katrina's conversation with a man who was training his sled dog to pull a snow sled by pulling him and about 280 pounds of other equipment on the towpath. (He became very offended when Katrina compared his dog to a mule.)
- Wendy's psychedelic cycling shorts.
- The 4.5-mile detour between McMahon's Mill and Dam No. 4 along narrow, hilly roadways (especially for Patty, who had always ridden on level bike trails).

## 1998 THROUGH BIKE TRIP - continued

- Visiting the antiques and curio shops in Brunswick. Tom bought a 4-foot replica of a canal boat (Merry Christmas, Linda!).
- Al's bright yellow whistle, which works under water.
- Tom's announcement in the office of the Hancock Motel that he had had an aneurism coming up the hill—he was talking about his bike tire. He got a ride to Williamsport, had both his tires replaced the next morning, and rode back and met us at Fort Frederick by noon the next day.
- Alison's search for fresh fruits and vegetables among the "down-home" meals.
- Caves along the towpath that Tom encouraged us to explore. Finally, one was big and enticing enough to lure us in.

Without exception, we all agreed that our biking adventures on the C&O Canal have just begun. This year, we spent each night in either a bed and breakfast or a motel (no camping). Plans for next year's trip include a two-pronged approach: a group of campers and a group of non-campers. Is there interest in this?

- - Patty Caldwell and Katrina Hedlesky

And, speaking of *next* year's trip.....

## THE 1999 THROUGH BIKE TRIP

Of all the events the C&O Canal Association sponsors, the 184 mile bike trip from Cumberland to DC has to be one of the most satisfying. Held each year in October, the trip provides a modicum of exercise, great camaraderie, and an opportunity to see the entire canal and towpath in six days with in-depth interpretation about the people, places and events that made the canal one of the engineering marvels of its time.

After a day on the trail with the wind in one's face, flashing past the ever present verdant foliage and towering trees, and hypnotized by the Potomac alternating between tranquillity and rushing currents, the biker looks forward to enjoying a well earned meal and a solid night's sleep. To B&B or not to B&B - that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler to camp or to take flight to yonder motel? Contrary to previous years the 1999 bike trip will offer both options.

The dates of the trip will be October 9-14 which includes the Columbus Day holiday so those who are gainfully employed will have to take only three days leave. However, these dates also overlap with the Berkeley Springs apple festival so those who opt for the B&B/motel version will have to make their reservations very early, certainly not later than April 15. In addition, the first stop on the trip will be Paw Paw and there is only one place to stay (other than the camping area) and that is the B&B run by Bill and Kay Miller. It is a cozy house full of mirth, tales of yore and a great breakfast, but it has only three bedrooms and one guest bath. With roll-aways and other

devices, six people can stay commodiously but more than that will find somebody sleeping on a coach or a mattress in the hall.

It is because of the limited space in Paw Paw that we are getting this info out early. There is an alternative for those wanting to mix camping and motels: camp out in Paw Paw and spend the other nights in motels. Other combinations will also work but we need to know early which nights you are planning to spend where.

The trip will have two coordinators: Tom Perry who has ridden the towpath more times than he can count and is a marvelous source of canal history, and Alvin Cohen, who has been a participant for the past two years. Tom will lead the campers and Al will coordinate the B&Bers. In the interests of keeping the group cohesive, we will limit the trip to a maximum of 14 riders - eight campers and six B&Bers. There is no minimum. Both mountain bikes and hybrids are adequate for this trip and some riders have even used narrow tire road bikes.

Most days we will cover about 30 miles but the fourth day will be a bit longer and the penultimate day will probably be a bit less. There will be a number of short rest/interpretive stops and a longer stop for lunch. This is a relaxed trip for those who are regular long trip bikers but it is also very doable by new cyclists. Cost of the trip will be \$15.00 for association members and \$20.00 for non-members which is non-refundable and must be received by April 1. The funds will be used to cover various administrative and transportation expenses and any surplus will be donated to the Monocacy Aqueduct Restoration Fund. In addition, B&Bers will be responsible for making their own reservations from a list we will provide when you send in your participation fee. Campers will be responsible for bringing food (or buying it along the way) to take breakfast and dinner at the campsite. All camping equipment must be carried on the bikes; there will not be an accompanying "sag wagon." B&B/motel riders will take their meals at nearby restaurants. Lunches will be sandwiches purchased prior to each day's ride or at stops along the way.

Because of the limited space, this will probably be a one time announcement but more details will be sent to participants shortly after sign-up. Candidates should submit their names, addresses and phone numbers along with a check for the participation fee to Tom Perry, 116 Conococheague St., Williamsport, MD 21795 Tel: (301) 223-7010 by April 1. Please indicate whether you will be participating as a camper or prefer a B&B/motel and whether you will be staying alone, with a roommate, or are willing to share a room in Paw Paw.

We look forward to another great through bike trip in 1999.

- - Al Cohen

## ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

### HELP WANTED

Contact Molly Schuchat at 202-362-4745  
or e-mail at mmschuchat@aol.com

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## YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE

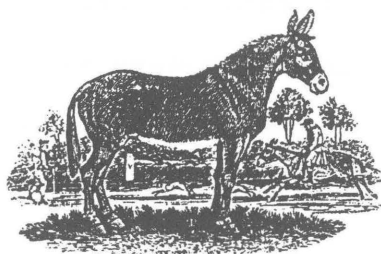
An article appeared in the December edition of *Along the Towpath* article entitled *Successful Summer at Lockhouse 75*. In that article, I failed to include the names of **Dick and Pat Blackman**. The Blackman's were the first people to contact NPS Ranger Rita Knox to volunteer. Along with the folks previously listed, Dick and Pat staffed the lockhouse answering questions, distributing maps and park information, and sharing their enthusiasm for the Canal with visitors.

I sincerely regret this and any other errors and welcome the opportunity to make corrections.

-- Robert C. Perry

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