

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

September 1999

NUMBER 3

THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE SEASON ISSUE Memories of Almost a Century Along the C&O Canal

Editor's Note: For many years Betty Bushell, Helen Johnston, and Betty Hensen have unselfishly shared their talents and time leading nature tours from the Great Falls Tavern. In keeping with a theme for each issue of *Along the Towpath*, it is truly fitting to dedicate this issue to the Sights and Sounds program and to *two Bettys and a Helen*. Enjoy.

My uncle came to Washington in 1903. He worked at the Pension Bureau and went to school at night at Georgetown Law School. He married a rural school teacher in Nebraska where he farmed briefly with my father. Both my Aunt Louise and my Uncle Leslie loved the out-of-doors. On weekends in Washington, they sometimes went canoeing on the Canal and watched people go by on sight-seeing boats.

Later they bought a car and ventured out on Conduit Road (now MacArthur Boulevard) as far as Great Falls Tavern. There they paid a nickel, went down the steps, crossed a bridge to an island and followed paths until they reached comfortable (?) rocks to sit on and watch the Great Falls of the Potomac.

World War I changed their lives. The Canal fell into disrepair. Finally, the Canal had fallen into the hands of its old rival--the railroad. Still later, the railroad was threatened with bankruptcy and the Canal passed into the hands of the Federal Government.

In the mid-1930s, I came to Washington, beneficiary of a Civil Service recruitment program solely for college graduates, whatever their background. A roommate and I, with the encouragement of my aunt and uncle, started exploring the woodlands around Washington. We found a path from the end of the Cabin John street car line that went downhill and then followed a ditch, filled occasionally with water,

On a hot day in late summer, we decided to find out where the path went. There were fishermen's shacks at intervals along the way. Also, some of the small stone cottages had families living in them. In some places the annual growth included many sunflowers that grew above our heads. Still, there was a path, sometimes rocky and sometimes barred by a wire or wooden fence, easy to climb over.

Worn out by the August heat, we finally reached a large empty building. At the side of the path were steps with a sign indicating that it cost a nickel to use the steps (the same steps used by my aunt and uncle years earlier). No one was there, so we ducked under the rope barrier, crossed the bridge to an island, took another path and finally came upon our first view of Great Falls.



The Sights and Sounds Team
Helen Johnston, Betty Henson, Betty Bushell

Don't Miss the Fall Heritage - October 23, 1999. For Information See Reservation Sheet.

Memories of Almost a Century Along the C&O Canal - continued

It was already past time for us to turn around and head home. We hurriedly retraced our steps to the streetcar at Cabin John. We changed street cars at Georgetown, paid an extra fare, and finally reached our living quarters in Washington.

My room mate went back to Florida, but I continued exploring the path from Georgetown to Great Falls. The people living in some of the lock houses included a Park Ranger's family living just below Glen Echo. It was then a rocky scramble to get down to the path from the street car line along Conduit Road. (The Clara Barton Parkway was built many years later.)

Park Ranger McHenry's family proved to be good friends. Young Keith occasionally walked with me exploring for birds, wildflowers, bugs, frogs, snakes, or other creatures and plants. During the early years of the Franklin Roosevelt Administration, the lower Towpath and Canal were restored. Nature walks and talks were conducted by Park rangers and a ranger-naturalist staffed a boat coming up from Georgetown.

During the 1940s the Audubon Society increased its interest in the Towpath--for good reason. The Pied Piper of bird-watchers, Roger Tory Peterson, was employed in the war effort. He lived in the Cabin John area. His first book on birds of North America had just been published.

The Audubon Society established a bird census area just below Cabin John Creek. Another member of Audubon and I joined in a census of the area in spring and midwinter. Often we were assisted by Bona Mae McHenry, the Park Ranger's wife. Wood ducks nested in a hole in a tall tree near the river. I wasn't with my friend that morning, but she reported seeing mother wood duck at the bottom of the tree, coaxing one after another of her offspring to come out of the hole and fall unceremoniously to the ground.

One of the nests we found had well-worn threads of a gunny sack woven into it. Another in the crotch of a tree had crumpled plastic at the bottom, a substitute for the usual snake skin.

At that time, there was a picnic area with tables and benches just above where Cabin John Creek flowed into the Potomac--handy for completing our bird observations for Audubon and also handy for me to bring out papers from the office to a place where I could do some quiet office work with no disturbance except for an occasional bird call and the rustle of leaves.

Upstream a short distance along Cabin John Creek was a place that we also loved. Here my friends, Ruth and Russell Lord from Illinois, had established a fern garden. Many ferns were already growing along the creek. The Lords, both good botanists knowing the ways of native ferns, sought out other species in the nearby woods and brought them together in the rocky crevices and smooth levels of a native fern garden.

Ruth and Russell Lord were part of the army of professional people coming to Washington to join in the war effort. Another

was my friend *Doc*--Orra Phelps, a physician stationed at the Torpedo plant in Alexandria. Ruth and Russell Lord, Doc, and I spent many happy hours--summer and winter--at the *fern garden* along the Canal.

During the Depression, Land Army Camp had been established along the Towpath, probably at the same place now used as an overnight campsite. The Land Army had worked on restoration of the Towpath and the Canal. By World War II, the Land Army Camp was transformed into a regular Army camp to guard the area's water supply with its main source at Great Falls. A barrier across the Towpath with a soldier beside it kept would-be hikers from going beyond Carderock.

The years passed. Conduit Road became MacArthur Boulevard to commemorate MacArthur's war exploits. I was often traveling on my job, first with the Department of Agriculture and later with the U.S. Public Health Service. My birding friend moved to New England. *Doc* moved back to her farm in New York State, Ruth and Russell Lord moved back to Illinois where they built another natural refuge around their home in Palos Park. And finally, the McHenry family was transferred to Yosemite.

I was overcome one weekend when I sauntered by myself up the Towpath to find huge boulders scattered in my way near Lock 13. That was the beginning of what is now the American Legion Bridge, destroyer of one of the Canal's chief beauty spots near Washington.

The Audubon Society (now the Audubon Naturalist Society) continued to maintain a bird census area near Cabin John Creek. With periodic floods and the construction of the bridge and the Clara Barton Parkway, that area has changed almost beyond recognition. About five years ago, I returned with the person currently responsible for the bird survey. Cabin John Creek and the river had nearly submerged the survey area. We watched a beaver swimming up the creek. The land area for the survey was completely submerged. Land birds were flying up and down the Towpath and the Canal bed, but outside the survey area.



Great Falls Tavern - A Winter Scene

Memories of Almost a Century Along the C&O Canal - continued

Backtracking...I had little time for Canal walking during the 1950s. I was an active member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) and usually went out with them on the Appalachian Trail (AT) and side trails. Fred Blackburn was then president of the Trail Club and I was chairman of the Photographic Committee and a member of the Conservation Committee.

The discussion started on what to do with the C&O Canal. It had passed into the hands of the Federal Government. Skyline Drive was being built and was enormously popular. So, it was natural to think of a similar scenic drive along the Potomac River, using the old Canal and Towpath as a base. Picnic areas could be established along the way, just as in the Shenandoah National Park.

Some of us in the Trail Club--including Philip Stone, a nature walker from PATC along the Towpath--couldn't think of a worse idea. Under Fred Blackburn's leadership, other outdoor organizations were called together for a meeting in the District Building's auditorium. This was my first public showing of slides depicting scenes along the C&O Canal.

The Audubon Naturalist Society became one of the most outstanding defenders of the Canal. When it came to the now-famous Justice Douglas Walk, the Trail Club took care of arrangements. The two editors of the *Washington Post* who had been ardent supporters of the parkway became equally ardent supporters of the creation of a national park based on the old Towpath and the Canal--a path for hikers but **not** for automobiles.

At that time, the Trail Club maintained a small cabin and swimming hole upstream where the Appalachian Trail leaves the mountains of Maryland, traverses the Towpath for a short distance, and then takes to the mountains of West Virginia. The PATC no longer has its cabin, but trail signs still show where the AT and the Towpath join.

Years passed. The *Washington Post* followed Justice Douglas' leadership and the Audubon Naturalist Society and Trail Club members, as individuals, campaigned for creating a national Canal park. Finally--in 1971--a bill was signed into law creating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

The bridges and a walkway to Great Falls were restored. The National Park Service, with a meager staff headquartered at Great Falls Tavern, took over Park responsibility.

Then came the floods of 1972. Left behind were twisted iron bridges perched on rocks between the Towpath and falls overlook. The Tavern grounds were a muddy mess. Some wondered if the Park could survive. But it had a persistent superintendent, rangers steeped in its history, and it had people like Barbara Winslow, a leader in forming *Friends of the Tavern*. The Friends adopted the Tavern as their special project, created a garden, made curtains, and refurbished other aspects of its



A Butterfly on a Button Bush

interior and exterior.

One of the rangers set up a small nature center below the Tavern near the Canal. It displayed wildflowers for each season, snakes, and other natural history items. Jack Sanderson, a living history *book* sat on a high stool in the middle room of the Tavern and talked with anyone willing to listen about the history of the Canal and Civil War history in the local area and elsewhere.

Along with the men, Lee Struble was a staff member with exceptional skill in enlisting other people for special projects. Friends of the Tavern doubtless owe much to her. Finally there was Donald Marbury, who kept the Tavern grounds and the buildings as clean as possible. Later he worked with *Friends of the Tavern* in establishing the Tavern garden.

I was nearing the end of my Civil Service career in the early 1970s. Quite suddenly one morning I fell downstairs, breaking my right leg in two places and breaking my collar bone. Workmen at my house at the time thought I was dead. They called 911 and I spent the next five weeks getting put back together again.

I went back to the office and even did limited traveling although I continued to need crutches. The spring of 1972 brought retirement after 37 years of government service. My friend, Ellen Holway, lived nearby. She didn't want me to miss anything that spring. We parked at Anglers Inn and she helped me stumble down to the Towpath. When we reached the big break at Widewater where the river had torn out the Towpath, Ellen shepherded me down one side and up the other, aided by my crutches and her trusty arm. An outstanding spring surprise on the Towpath was a bed of columbine, dangling down into the Canal prism. (Note: A small clump of columbine still grows there, survivor of several floods and Park Service mowing.)

Ellen also helped me get acquainted with the Canal staff at the Tavern. Soon my crutches were back in the trunk of my own car, and I started getting around on my own. I had studied botany in college and inherited a lifelong interest in plants and birds from my parents and other relatives back in Iowa and Nebraska. Plants and birds were different in this part of the country and I started trying to learn about them. It was fun to

Memories of Almost a Century Along the C&O Canal - continued

compare notes with the rangers back at the Tavern and they always seemed to enjoy sharing.

Finally, Lee Struble asked if I would lead nature walks for the Park Service. This was probably in the spring of 1973. That was the beginning of a wonderful experience, lasting more than 25 years. It led to my taking more courses in botany at the USDA graduate school as well as trying to catch up on my knowledge of birds.

About the same time or even earlier, Lee Struble recruited Betty Henson as a nature walk leader. The two of us took our separate walks in separate directions, mostly on separate days. Very early I started nature walks for children. These were short, lasting about an hour and we always came back to the Tavern to draw pictures or to write stories about what we had seen or heard.



"Birders"

The area was rich in bird and plant life. We had nesting wild turkeys and bobwhites on the Goldmine tract behind the Tavern. I remember once when a wild turkey hen walked across our path trying to distract attention from her chicks scattering in all directions. On another occasion I was alone when I watched a mother bobwhite herd her chicks across the road to Rockwood, then still a Girl Scout center.

Betty Bushell was still working in Indian Health Service (Public Health Service). We met originally in the old Health, Education and Welfare building near the U.S. Capitol, waiting for the elevator to take us to our respective floors. Betty grew up on an estate on Long Island. She knew many of the local plants and helped to scout each trip before we had a formal walk. Then we called them *Grab Bag* walks because we were never sure what would show up.

After one of our early spring scouting walks, we were lunching in the Tavern garden. All of a sudden, a kestrel (sparrow hawk) landed on Betty's head. I dropped my sandwich--pleaded with Betty not to move--dashed upstairs and brought back one of the rangers, Russ Brown. He had raw meat that he kept to feed his pet snakes. After I snapped a few pictures, he offered some to the kestrel and it hopped on to his hand. A bystander sent the three of us into hysterics when she asked if we were going to repeat the performance that afternoon!

Russ Brown was a good teacher. He taught me to handle a black rat snake as though I enjoyed it. I was able to fascinate some children and even enticed one small boy into holding the snake so that it wouldn't feel insecure and try to get away. **Note:** *I now watch snakes but I don't pick them up.*

After her retirement from PHS, Betty Bushell and I formed a team to lead walks, scouting each one ahead of time. On one Saturday, we watched Betty Henson with a group going upstream. We took another group downstream. Betty Bushell and I put our heads together and decided to ask Betty Henson to join us, making a team of three. That way if one of us couldn't make it for some reason, there would be at least two left. Also, at holiday time we sometimes had a larger group than one person could handle.

So, probably late in the 1970s, we became a team of three. Betty Henson was always good at recalling the names of wildflowers, and Betty Bushell's friendly approach probably accounts for the fact that some people have been coming back for years. Others move out of the area but keep in touch by correspondence.

Neither of the Bettys felt at ease with children. I continued children's walks until my hearing became too limited.

Over the years, we have had many people from different states and some from foreign countries. An English woman joined us each time her husband came to Washington to work at the World Bank. A Norwegian couple came early one spring morning just before they returned to Norway for their wedding. When floods or other disasters closed Great Falls, we met at Carderock whenever people wanted to come. We have walked in hot weather and cold, snow and rain, through windstorms and on quiet days.

We have had English-speaking people and people speaking foreign languages--usually having an English-speaking leader. We have regulars who come as long as they are physically able. Volunteering as a nature walk leader at the Tavern is a way to learn more about the world as well as a way to study nature.

Because people often come a little late, each walk starts at the Tavern with a brief slide show using pictures taken chiefly between Anglers Inn and Swain's Lock, including the river walk and the bridges. Others are taken between Georgetown and the end of the Towpath, 184 miles upriver. The pictures of wildflowers, birds, and other creatures are chosen to fit the season.

We have seen many changes. The parking lot has been greatly expanded. Wild turkeys and bobwhites, as well as other kinds of birds, have disappeared. The Towpath is almost barren of wildflowers because of heavy usage and mowing practices of the Park Service. The swallows that used to nest at the Tavern every year have disappeared. The periodic flooding of the river removes some plants and brings others.

Memories of Almost a Century Along the C&O Canal - continued

At present, the best places to look for wildflowers include Bear Island (between the Towpath and the river in the Widewater area) and on both sides of the walkway and bridges to the Great Falls overlook. Wood thrushes and cuckoos have not been heard recently. Except for Christmas fern, many of the ferns have disappeared from the woodlands. Deer apparently don't like the taste of Christmas fern. Still there is an ever-changing river, and an ever-changing landscape to tantalize two Bettys and Helen, and those who follow them on *Sights and Sounds of the Seasons* walks around the year.

Sights and Sounds of the Seasons walks are held on the first and last Wednesday and Saturday of every month starting at the Tavern at 10 a.m. with a brief slide show.



On a Children's Walk

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

When I learned that this issue of our publication would be entitled "Sights and Sounds" I decided to share something with you (by your indulgence) out of our local lore and history. It is (somewhat) connected with the history of the Canal and definitely has to do with the production of sound here in Washington County. I have consulted with the Western Maryland Room curator, John Frye, (who is not to be held responsible for anything written herein) and with Richard Haynes, who will be shortly introduced to you.

For many years Linda and I have been attending and supporting the concerts of the Rohrersville Band, which has been in existence continually since 1837, although, understandably, there have been some changes in personnel over the years. Richard Haynes has been the long-time director of this historic organization which has its own concert hall in (naturally) the town of Rohrersville. Mr. Haynes' aunt by marriage was the granddaughter of the founder of the Rohrersville Band, George Washington McCoy. I have not been able to connect him with McCoy's Ferry. In 1954 Mrs. Haynes and her husband granted an interview to a reporter from the Herald Mail newspaper in Hagerstown in which they say that Mr. McCoy was born in Sharpsburg in 1817 (See, we're coming up to the period of great interest) and served as a "jigger boy" during the construction of the C&O Canal. That means that he (reportedly) gave a jigger of liquor to each worker five times a day. This was a substitute for water which maybe could be harmful in some unknown way. He witnessed the first deaths from Cholera and moved to Rohrersville where he founded the band and worked as an accomplished marble cutter during his mature years.

Now, it may seem inappropriate to some of our readers for a Lutheran clergyman to relate such a tale, but I pass it on to you with the solemn assurance that I have no interest in liquor, but that I do find it interesting to trace the lives and activities of those who have been involved in building and operating our beloved Canal. Take it for what it's worth!

- - Tom Perry, President

NATURE NOTES - MIDSUMMER SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE TOWPATH AND WOODS

....near Great Falls Tavern

Even in the morning it was hot, hot, HOT! By noon one day in mid-week, the mules were sent back to the barn—it was too hot for them to work pulling the boat upstream and back to its mooring just below Great Falls Tavern.

Our group left the Towpath that day with the sun beating down on our heads and took to the woods. En route to the Ford Gold Mine, we crossed a dry ditch where a stream usually flows. Farther up the trail, another gurgling stream usually threatens the unwary with a dousing if they slip on the rocks. Today the stream was a trickle slipping quietly in and out among the rocks as it hurried downhill.

An eagle made a brief appearance overhead before we entered the deep woods. At this time of year, the eagles seem to leave the local area, perhaps joining other eagles farther down the Potomac River.

The woods were quiet. We had hoped to hear a wood thrush. This was the one place where we had heard a thrush in recent years. No wood thrush sang that day, and no wood thrush has been heard during this long, hot summer. The red-eyed vireo customarily sings his monotonous question-and-answer song all day long. Cuckoos, also, sing in late summer. Neither vireo nor cuckoo was heard that day.

NATURE NOTES - continued

New York and Christmas fern were still green. The hardy Christmas fern showed little sign of suffering from hot weather. A single stem of putty root (crane fly?) blossomed near the path where there were a dozen or more last year.

On another walk across the bridges and walkway to Olmstead Overlook, we saw a healthy-looking Culver's root in bloom. Hardy trumpet creeper was also in bloom, button bush balls were starting to turn reddish brown, and scattered bits of chickory, daisy fleabane, wild onion, yarrow, butterfly pea, germander, bouncing bet, and morning glory showed themselves to those with a quick eye.

A goldfinch bounced through the air overhead and a blue-grey gnatcatcher flitted briefly across our vision before disappearing into the trees. A few butterflies lingered around the buttonbush.

Looking down from the bridges, we saw still pools where stagnant water had collected. At the end of one pool a half dozen large dead fish floated. A heron stood morosely by, becoming active only as a small live fish intrigued him into catching and swallowing it whole. At the other end of the still pool were a couple of black vultures, apparently waiting for their turn.

From the overlook, we watched kayakers park their kayaks on rocks in mid-river and start clambering over the rocks. Strange to see the bare river-scape, its "bones" laid bare by the continued dry heat.

Only along the river above the dam did we finally find lush growth—Joe Pye Weed and coneflowers growing above our heads with butterflies dancing over them. I watched as a butterfly took off to cross the river, losing him in the dancing heat of mid-river.

Most of the floating lines of ducks near the mid-river islands were mallards. A single kingfisher flew silently by as we watched. There was little to disturb the midsummer calm. Only the dusty path with its host of footprints indicated that many people had passed this way.

- - Helen Johnston

TOWN LIFE ALONG THE CANAL

Editor's Note: In the March 1999 issue of *Along the Towpath*, in the Canal Characters column, Mr. Kaplan mentioned baseball in Williamsport. In this issue, Abner takes us back to 1920 and shares his reflections on baseball in his home town, Williamsport.

SMALL TOWN BASEBALL

by Abner Kaplan

The entire community was agog. From Wildcat Row on the north to the Sand Hole on the south, from Vinegar Hill on the northeast to Goose Street southwest, excitement ran rampant. In

the stores, on the street, over the backyard fences, the word spread: The Williamsport baseball team finally had acquired uniforms.

The year was 1920, give or take a year. Up to then the players wore a wide assortment of outfits. On the field they were a scraggly crew. Two or three of the more fortunate sported baseball shirts of one pattern and pants that contrasted markedly. Others were clad in baseball pants and work shirts or vice versa. A few of the hometown lads had neither, performing only in everyday mufti.

The new uniforms arrived in a piano-size box on a Saturday afternoon at Betz' barbershop, the hangout for most of the players. The owner of the establishment, one Howard Betz served in the triple capacity of manager, business manager and treasurer of the team. Unlike many of his rough, tobacco chewing patrons, "Pickles," as he was known, was a suave, well-dressed, soft spoken gentleman, but with little knowledge of the game as we know it today. He was adequate for the times, however.

The players were notified by word of mouth (only the rich had phones) that they were to meet at the shop the next morning - Sunday - to pick up their uniforms. As a lad of nine or ten I happened to be outside, about a half block away, on that particular morning and quickly became aware of an unusual buzz of activity outside the shop. A dozen or so of easily recognized hometown lads were crowding the entrance, eagerly awaiting the arrival of Pickles. With all this to-do, I felt my curiosity getting the better of me, which was not much of a contest in a small community where the rural tranquility was interrupted only rarely by a runaway horse or an obstreperous drunk. So I hustled down the street to obtain a closer look at what was transpiring.

By this time the gang had crowded eagerly into the place and like bees swarming over a honey pot began seeking out the huge container's contents. Somewhat apprehensively I sidled into the room. My fears were groundless. The guys were so intent in prying out their uniforms that a pack of hounds chasing a rabbit could have raced through the premises without causing a raised eyebrow. After 30 minutes of heaving, shoving and preening before the emporium's half-length mirrors, and stroking each other's ego, the participants were ready to disband. Then a brilliant idea surfaced: "Why not," someone declared, "get Sam Hall to haul us around town in his truck so the folks can see us in our new uniforms?" Everyone allowed that was a great idea. No phone being available, a runner was dispatched forthwith to apprise Sam of the signal honor that was to be bestowed upon him, the adulation that he was about to receive by exhibiting local celebrities before the admiring eyes of the community's residents.

Not for a moment doubting Sam's acceptance of this clarion call to glory, the men hastily changed into their new outfits. Nor were they disappointed. For within about 10 minutes, Sam hove into view guiding his chariot up to the curb like a captain

TOWN LIFE ALONG THE CANAL - continued

proudly steering his ship into port. The truck was a long, flatbed affair with sideboards and a sturdy tail gate. Six days a week it laboriously hauled its precious ice cargo to the good citizens of the town, electric refrigerators being only an inventor's distant dream at the time. On the Sabbath it rested from its labors. On this joyful day, however, it was rudely awakened from its slumber to be charged with conveying a different kind of cargo. As for Sam, he was an ardent baseball fan himself and he no doubt sensed the reflected fame coming his way by chauffeuring such a distinguished group of hometown heroes.

Nor was this motorized tour to be like a short jaunt to the corner grocery. For Williamsport, unlike most small towns in the east, was laid out like a small city despite a meager population of about 1700. Rather than one long thoroughfare lined by a mixture of small business and dwellings, our community had a much more geometrical design. Four broad streets ran east and west, bisected by three similar ones in a north-south direction. Nor did this pattern occur by accident. It came about in the 1790s when thought was being given to establishing the nation's capital on this site, situated as it was inland along the Potomac River. (You could look it up. In fact George Washington once visited to explore this possibility.) So traversing the ins and outs of all these streets in Sam's chugging vehicle consumed almost 20 minutes.

I had a first-hand view of the proceedings since one of the men, for some inexplicable reason, hoisted me aboard. This, of course, doubled my pleasure: first, the unexpected adventure in riding in a machine powered by a combustion engine and second, the thrill of rubbing elbows with such a famous group. The journey was a triumphant one, comparable to Caesar's return to Rome after subjugating Gaul. With Sam's familiar-sounding horn bestirring the villagers, parents and children alike tumbled out of their abodes in wonderment. Cheers and hand-clapping greeted the human cargo passing. Small kids followed the slow moving carrier, irresistibly magnetized to this motorized *Pied Piper*. After traveling the streets and acknowledging all the kudos from the citizens, the players found themselves back in front of the barber shop, their egos inflated but their feet and legs deflated from the long, bumpy ride in a conveyance ill-suited for the purpose to which it had been subjected.

The ball field itself was situated on a low-lying, grassy plain within the confines of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal on the upper sector and the gently flowing Potomac river on the lower. In fact the Canal with its terraced bank and column of shade trees that provided welcome relief from the sun, marked the right field boundary. Left field came to a halt on the shores of the river. In far away center field the Conococheague Creek defined the extent of that part of the grounds. Presumably this configuration with its boundaries constricted by three different waterways held the distinction of being the only field of its kind to host the national past-time. The diamond itself with its skinned infield lay in an east-west plane. Unknown to most of the players and the town's citizens as well, the area was steeped

in Civil War history. To the left and rear of home plate, a long foul ball away, Lemen's ferry crossed the Potomac where Union and Southern armies forded back and forth many times during the conflict. The most notable of such crossings was that of Robert E. Lee and his troops on his retreat from Gettysburg. On that occasion he and his army encamped near Williamsport for several days waiting for the rain swollen stream to subside.

Beyond deep right center field loomed the aqueduct carrying the Canal over the Conococheague. That body of water was swallowed up about 50 yards or so to the south by the much larger Potomac. During the war Confederate artillery from Virginia (later West Virginia) attempted to disrupt Canal traffic by lobbing canon shells at the structure, with little effect. The missiles either fell short or bounced harmlessly off the stout limestone blocks that formed the sides of the structure.

From a baseball view, more to the point was Doubleday Hill, a steep bluff about a quarter of mile distant. It overlooked Lemen's Ferry and quite appropriately the ball diamond itself. A breastwork surmounted by three cannon pointing menacingly southward, had been erected by Captain (later General) Abner Doubleday. The fortification was later held untenable and abandoned without a shot ever having been fired. Mr. Doubleday, of course became better known for being the reputed inventor of baseball than for his military exploits.

Home plate was located directly below the upper side of the bridge which spanned the Potomac at that point. Built about 1908 by a private company, it carried U.S. Route 11 from the north down into the Shenandoah Valley and the south, since tolls were charged and with automobiles dominating the traveling patterns of the day, the bridge proved to be a bonanza for fortunate stock holders. For the ball club it was something else. Batters striding forward to make contact with the hurler's offerings would on occasion loft the ball skyward. The sphere's backward spin carried it up and over the side of the structure, landing on the wooden deck.

Baseballs being an expensive commodity, a youngster would be dispatched to retrieve the errant horsehide. Because of a toll charge for pedestrians crossing the bridge, this meant an expenditure of five cents, considered an extravagance since it also represented the price of a loaf of bread. While baseball was, and is, considered the national past-time, the bridge's stockholders were sufficiently un-patriotic as to consider it just another source of revenue.

On the mornings of scheduled games, a few players and their friends hied themselves down to the field of play, there to line up the foul lines and to rid the premises of any foreign substances. Not infrequently this included some malodorous waste material deposited inconsiderately by a few cows that had strayed from their usual grazing grounds some distance to the east.

As for the players themselves, these were a rather uncouth but good natured lot for the most part, noted more for their aggressiveness than their knowledge and skill. Fisticuffs flared on occasion, usually with little damage inflicted. At the time the

TOWN LIFE ALONG THE CANAL - continued

community lacked a high school, the few students academically inclined having to travel to Hagerstown six miles to the north to further their education. As a result a local resource for players with ability and a degree of gentility was lacking. For the most, an eighth grade education was considered the pinnacle of scholastic achievement, and few boys reached that level of learning.

I recall a number of the players, certainly not all. There were the Garrish boys; Tom, a long lean red haired first baseman; Bruce at second, aptly named "Dynamite," a real leader and a competitor with a trigger quick temper. Then there was Ike who was the ace pitcher on the team. Unfortunately about a week or so before the uniforms arrived Ike, so I was told, sustained a broken arm experimenting with a curve ball. He was a tall, raw-boned man, a look-alike for the famed Walter Johnson of the Washington Senators and, according to some, could hurl the ball almost as hard.

Massive Tuck Robinson roamed center field and also doubled as a catcher. In that latter position he, to the consternation of his teammates, disdained the use of a chest protector, claiming it unduly hindered his movements. Adding some refinement to this motley aggregation were the Hoffman brothers, Earl and Emmart. Educationally, the two had advanced considerably further than their teammates. Earl covered shortstop with admirable skill, having learned the nuances of the position while attending Hagerstown High. As a catcher Em was less talented, but made one outstanding contribution: He owned the only catcher's glove in town. To my childish eyes this was a black tremendous affair about the size of Rhode Island with gleaming bronze colored eyelets, the envy of every kid in town. Their dad was one A. G. Hoffman, manager of the town's overall factory. More than that he was a staunch Methodist and as such forbade his sons' engaging in the sport on Sundays. On occasion Emmart would lend his cherished glove to the team on Sunday, undoubtedly without his father's knowledge.

For several summers, from out of the mist, two itinerant performers of considerable ability hove into view. One was Reno Eaten, a fine shortstop, while the other was Pete Poindexter, a lean swift performer who roamed centerfield with the grace of a gazelle. Both of these guys, while playing for the Williamsport nine, clobbered rival pitching with gusto, a clear indication they had competed at a higher level. I guess I recalled their names because of the impression they created in my wondrous eyes. What their relationship was to members of the team or to local residents I do not know, but apparently their niche in the community was assured through their playing ability; and all the more so because anyone not born within the confines of the area was looked upon with undisguised suspicion.

Another outsider was a strong stocky individual named Hudson Norman, who played for a visiting Hagerstown club and who took a particular liking to our pitching. With annoying frequency he muscled the ball over the left fielder's noggin' and into the

friendly waters of the Potomac. Now, Hudson became enamored with one of the Poffenberger girls, a development not calculated to endear him in the eyes of the home folk. All was forgiven, however, when Hudson switched allegiance and began playing for the local lads and marrying Ms. Poffenberger, at the same time wreaking havoc on alien throwers.

Stepping into the breach caused by Ike Garrish's damaged flipper was young Russell Zimmerman, about 18 or 19, a most remarkable individual. In height he was about five feet seven inches, but his powerful chest, long stout arms and broad shoulders combined to make him appear much larger. Like most kids of families boating on the Canal, Russ' formal education peaked at about the fifth grade. After that, however, he became an avid reader of magazines, periodicals and almost any type of literature that aroused a curious mind. He was outgoing, but soft spoken and considerate. Unlike most of his contemporaries, he eschewed smoking, profanity and immoderate drinking. His incisive and probing mind justifiably earned him the nickname "Keen." Gifted with a fine tenor voice, he also entertained listeners with an endless repertoire of jokes and stories.

As a young pitcher he early-on learned to study the weaknesses of opposing batters. These he exploited with an above average fast ball, a sharp breaking curve and pin point control. His success on the mound caught the attention of the professional gentry, resulting in a contract with the Hagerstown Hubs of the Class D Blue Ridge League. Despite some initial triumphs, the overnight stops in unfriendly hotels became so depressing that Russ left the team and returned to the more hospitable atmosphere of his native Williamsport.

His skill had a trickle down effect in that he took under his wing a nephew, one Cletus "Boots" Poffenberger, who toiled in the major league for a number of years and in Triple A ball after that. Boots allowed as how he learned more from Uncle Russ than from all his professional coaches. In the late twenties the club adopted the name Williamsport Wildcats as tribute to what that feline symbolized as well as a bow in the direction of a number of players living in the aforementioned (P.1) Wildcat Row. As a member of the team for about six or seven years, bowing out in 1940, I knew all the players quite well and long after our diamond careers had ended, facilitated no doubt in a small town where family relationships were somewhat akin to tribal affinities.

The advent of the baseball uniform heralded a new era in the community, giving rise to a spiritual awakening off the field and a remarkable increase in the motivation of the players themselves. Also, like chickens coming home to roost, capable performers who had transferred their allegiance to out-of-town teams returned home once again to partake of the salubrious waters of the Potomac. Moreover about this time the first local high school had been constructed, from which a steady stream of capable players flowed, much to the benefit of the Wildcats and the satisfaction of the townsfolk.

The ball field itself took on a new look. Sturdy supports, courtesy of the Miller Lumber Company, replaced the spavined

TOWN LIFE ALONG THE CANAL - continued

locust posts that held the backstop. The snakelike foul lines were straightened, and their extremities well marked, thanks to the ministrations of a benefactor with engineering skills. The short right field was an inviting target although a batter swatting a ball in that direction was limited to two bases. With no other diversions available, Sunday baseball proved a great draw for the town's citizenry, except of course, those with deep religious convictions.

Seeing the error of his ways and returning to the flock was Bill (Windy) Zimmerman, a garrulous but crafty receiver who heretofore had donned the tools of ignorance for an outstanding semi-pro club. Windy, who rightfully had earned his nickname by his non-stop and often inelegant comments behind the plate and elsewhere, was the brother of Russ, although only those familiar with family blood lines would recognize that such a relationship existed, so vastly different were they in demeanor and life style. Nonetheless, the two combined their extensive talents to form a battery that for a number of years dominated and frustrated enemy batters and would-be base stealers. Sparked by its new attire and an infusion of young rich blood, the team came to be a dominating force among amateur and semi-pro clubs for many years. The ugly ducklings had become graceful swans, metaphorically speaking.

One of the more colorful characters to grace the local scene was not even a player. He was an umpire, Charles "Caddy" Bush, who as far as I knew, never threw a baseball in anger or otherwise. Short, stout, with a florid face and narrow set eyes, Caddy was the printer for the town's weekly, the *Leader*. As such he dressed immaculately, his well pressed trousers and starched white shirt protected by a long printer's apron. An ever-present black string tie and thin black hair pasted wall-paper tight to his scalp rounded out his appearance.

In his work and every day life Caddy (I always respectfully addressed him as Mr. Bush at this stage in my young years), kept to himself seldom straying from the line of travel that took him to and from his boarding home and place of work. Aside from the fact that he was the only printer in town he had the distinction of possessing the only baseball rule book. The few people who could afford such a marvel had little desire for ownership, while the remaining population, after providing food, shelter and clothes for their families, could ill-afford that luxury. As far as baseball's rules were concerned, Caddy was a walking encyclopedia. He probably knew the location of every comma or period. From long experience the local lads had learned the futility of raising questions. On the field he would whip out the book as an authoritative back-up to his decree. An opposing manager charging on to the diamond to take exception to what he considered an error on the part of Mr. Bush was soon sent slinking back to the visitor's bench after his iniquity was promptly and emphatically exposed. This was all grist for the fans who jeered lustily at the gentleman's discomfiture.

A maelstrom on the field, Caddy was a model of decorum and

reserve in civilian life, noteworthy for his taciturnity. There were some who thought he was a cousin of Bullet Joe Bush, an outstanding hurler for the New York Yankees and before that the Boston Red Sox. Caddy would neither confirm nor deny this claim, but then he refrained from confirming or denying anything. Such a relationship was doubtful, however, as I later learned that Bullet Joe claimed the upper mid-west as his birthplace, while his namesake had his roots in nearby West Virginia.

On the field - where he stationed himself behind the pitcher's box - Caddy's not-to-be-trifled-with demeanor was enhanced by his appearance. Unlike other umpires in the region, and elsewhere too for that matter, he came dressed for the occasion, wearing a neat dark coat and well creased trousers. His spandy, clean-starched white shirt provided the proper background for his ever-present string tie. In keeping with these accouterments, Caddy wore a bowler which he removed only to make announcements. Whether he intended or not, this fashion plate of the baseball world inspired awe from the fans and respect from the players. Only when the thermometer registered 90 degrees or above did His Honor remove his coat and loosen, though ever so slightly, his tie.

I believe he enjoyed and perhaps reveled in being the center of attention. He was the quintessential ring master with a voice that could be heard in neighboring West Virginia. In one other respect was he unique. For the uninitiated, either player or onlooker, he made it a point before the first ball was thrown to explain one of nuances of the game. In particular I remember two:

1. If a runner is on first base with less than two out and the batter foul tips the ball and catcher holds on to it, the runner is free to attempt to steal second (or third too for that matter, a runner being on second).
2. If a runner is on base with less than two out and a fly ball is caught by an outfielder, the runner may risk dashing to the next base (or the plate) as long as he does not leave the base before the ball is in the fielder's mitt.

He may have pointed out the intricacies of the infield fly rule, also. I don't recall, or it may have been over my head (if you catch the drift). He would limit his output to one explanation per game, standing pontifically in the center of the infield, his derby in hand, no doubt considering that this was the extent of the comprehension of the unwashed. In fact each such utterance was followed by murmurs of wonderment from the listeners as though a revelation had come down from on high.

Getting back to that game with the hometown heroes in matching uniforms for the first time, I am thoroughly embarrassed to say I have forgotten the outcome. Perhaps I was overcome by the accompanying trappings that had all the glitter of a movie premiere. The town dignitaries were on hand, the entire embankment from right field foul-line to right center was blanketed with fans basking in the shade of overhanging trees. Others sought refuge from the warm sun while viewing the festivities from under the lofty deck of the bridge overhead. I

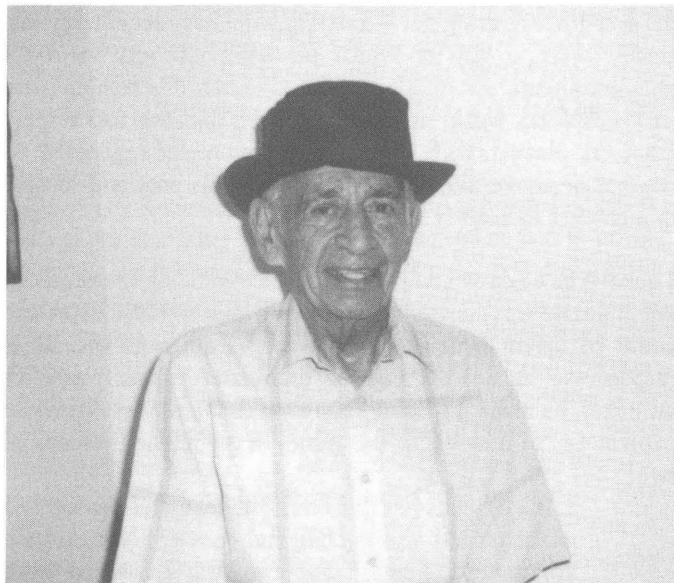
TOWN LIFE ALONG THE CANAL - continued

recall the mighty cheer that rose to the skies as the Williamsport stalwarts ran out to their positions and the umpire bellowed out that most welcome of all sounds: *PLAY BALL!!*

Unfortunately, and sad to relate, I not only forgot the score of the game, but who were the winners.

GLOSSARY:

Wildcat Row	a.k.a.	Fenton Avenue
Sand Hole	a.k.a.	Vermont Street Extended
Vinegar Hill	a.k.a.	Frederick Street East
Goose Street	a.k.a.	Vermont Street North



Abner Kaplan

BEARS ALONG THE CANAL?

There have been a number of recent news articles about bear sightings along the C&O Canal. Park Ranger Diane Ingrahm, who became a bear expert in some of the western parks, has investigated the areas in question and confirmed that there are bear *signs*. No further articles indicate that she has made an actual sighting, but the question is easy to resolve. All that's needed is a party.

On July 10, Carl Linden's family honored his 70th birthday with quite a party at the Great Falls Tavern garden. It was well attended by professional colleagues, Canal fans, Brookmont neighbors, his own family - and a bear?

It seems there was a critter quietly reposing in the corner of the garden fence who resembled the mascot of one of our canoe trips. Most of the observers dismissed it at that, but they discounted the magic associated with children. Everyone knows the story of Frosty the Snowman. The apparition was discovered by Carl's grandchildren, Lara and Karl. It had moved along the fence closer to the party and was contentedly cradling both

children in its arms.



Karl and Lara with the visiting bear

The celebration progressed, but a little later the critter was noticed leaning over the middle of the fence obviously wishing to join the party. Someone took pity and let him in. He promptly climbed a tree so he could take in the whole scene. Someone else decided the visitor needed a refreshment, so he was next seen seated at a picnic table nursing his beverage in classic fashion. So stimulated, he began to circulate through the party, sharing Carl's crown. He even *sat in* with the band (musical bears?).

As the party wound down the visitor slipped away - nobody had thought to offer him a membership, but he seemed to be one of us. If we have another party along the Canal, perhaps he will show up.



Carl and Family at Great Falls Tavern - (LtoR) Per and Judy, Gage, a friend, Carl, Laila, Leif, Neil, Derek

Everyone knows the sterling veracity of Association members and that we are never prone to exaggeration, so to prove all this, we have a series of photographs. We are sending a set of these pictures to Ranger Dianne, so if she really wants to see a Canal bear she will know where to look.

Is there a party coming up?

- - Ken Rollins

CARL'S SONG

by Judy Miller

Sung at his birthday party

(To the tune of *Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal*)

1. We 've got a friend and his names spell "C.A.L."
Livin ' right here by the C&O Canal.
He 's our favorite professor and our good ol'pal
Livin ' right here by the C&O Canal.

He's hiked and paddled since he was a teen,
Dressed to the nines, a la L.L. Bean,
If the Towpath were a college, he'd be its dean,
Livin' right here by the C&O Canal.

CHORUS:

Wait now. Hush, and lend an ear,
Ready, set. Everybody cheer!
For you 'II always have a neighbor,
You 'II always have a pal,
If you live near Carl Linden
By the C&O Canal.

2. Tho ' he must be gettin ' older, can 't tell by
lookin '
Livin' right here by the C&O Canal.
When he 's not exercisin ', he 's a-gourmet
cookin '
There in his kitchen by the C&O Canal.

Since Mardie Cummins gave up the ghost,
Our Carl's taken over as Brookmont 's host,
If you 're lucky he 'II invite you to a lobster roast
On his porch by the side of the C&O Canal.

CHORUS:

Wait, now. Hush, and lend an ear,
Ready, set. Everybody cheer!
'Cause you'll always have enough to eat
And lots of wine and ale,
When you 're dinin ' at the Lindens
Near the C&O CanALE.

3. When he 's not off teachin' in parts unknown,
Just hangin ' round here by the C&O Canal,
You can see him canoein', his skills to hone,
Paddlin' right her on the C&O Canal.
We wouldn 't want to tell you what is his age,
But the year he was born, flappers were the
rage,
And a dollar, fifty cents, was a good day's wage,
Before he was a-livin ' by the C&O Canal.

CHORUS:

Wait, now. Hush, and lend an ear,
Ready, set. Everybody cheer!
For he 's always been a neighbor,
With whom you 'd shoot the breeze,
Don 't you marvel at the way he always

Brings up Socrates.

4. He likes to bike with his head bent low
Peddlin ' along by the C&O Canal.
'Cause he doesn't want the north wind to make
him slow
Tearin ' along by the C&O Canal.

We follow his lead, he is our star,
Except when he sails o'er his handlebars,
Kind of like a rocket that 's headed for Mars,
Divin ' right in to the C&O Canal.

Wait, now. Hush, and lend an ear,
Ready, set, everybody cheer!
For you'll always have a buddy,
In fair weather and in foul,
When you bike with Carl Linden
IN the C&O Canal.

5. FINALE(new tune)

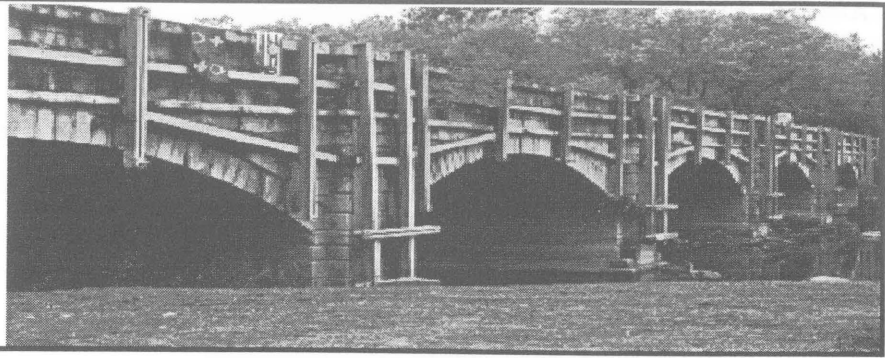
O-o-o-o-o-o-o-h,
He floats through the air
With the greatest of ease,
Right from his bike seat
If there's no near trapeze,
His movements so graceful,
Tho ' he lands on his knees,
He hops up and pedals away.



There's no doubt about who this is (just few years later)
Happy Birthday, Carl, From All Your Canal Friends

The Monocacy Aqueduct Report

by Carl Linden



GOOD NEWS.....

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has designated the Monocacy Aqueduct, C&O Canal NHP as an Official Project of the Save America's Treasures Program. Save America's Treasures is a public - private partnership of the White House millennium council and the National Trust celebrating and seeking to preserve America's historical and cultural legacy. Through a combination of public education and expanding opportunities for potential donors to support preservation projects such as the Monocacy Aqueduct project.

Our Association submitted the application for the designation in mid-August and President Tom Perry received the National Trust letter of approval in the first week of September.

The designation follows on the National Trust's 1993 listing of the Aqueduct as one of America's "eleven most endangered historical places." The Aqueduct was the centerpiece of the ceremony announcing the 1998 list. Mrs. Clinton was the featured speaker at the Aqueduct ceremony in her role as the Honorary Chair of the Millennium Committee (co-chairs are Susan Eisenhower and Richard Moe, President of the National Trust). See the June 1998 issue of *Along the Towpath* for an account of the ceremony)

Official project status for the Monocacy Aqueduct should measurably help the Association's effort to make the public aware of the need to prevent the structure's loss and to find the funds necessary for rehabilitation.

A SKIRMISH LOST BUT NOT THE WAR.....

Let's Keep up the Fight for the Aqueduct

It appears we have just lost a skirmish in our drive to uphold the Monocacy Aqueduct. Both in the Senate and House Interior subcommittees requests for funds for the aqueduct seem to have fallen on mostly deaf ears. Senators Sarbanes and Mikulski asked for two phase of the restoration project. (See last issue of *Along The Towpath* for their respective requests in the million for restoration work and

Congresswoman Connie Morella, for \$500,000 for the engineering design sub-committees.) At the same time the Senate promptly assigned \$15 million for work on the Cumberland terminus of the Canal. This obviously is a good thing for the Canal and for Cumberland. However, there is no danger in Cumberland of losing a key Canal structure essential to the physical continuity of the Canal Park as is the case with the steadily deteriorating Monocacy Aqueduct. Here we are not speaking of the looming danger of losing an irreplaceable historic treasure of the great American canal era in our C&O Canal National *Historical* Park. In Cumberland it is a case of digging up the Canal bed buried under dirt some years ago and restoring the Canal terminus to roughly what it was like in the 19th century. Here, time is not so critical.

There is one bright spot, however, and it is the reason for saying that the requests for funds for the aqueduct fell on "mostly" deaf ears. Senator Byrd of West Virginia did get agreement that an instruction be put into the budget bidding the park service to continue to work on the aqueduct project. To move ahead is difficult within the limitations of the Canal Park's bare-bones budget.

It is the Association's task to help in any way we can to keep the drive for the aqueduct on track. We are the main citizen constituency speaking for the Canal as a whole and for the aqueduct in particular. Various segments of the Canal have their local constituencies but they speak mainly for their segment and not for what the Canal as a whole needs, often desperately, for its survival as a single and unified national park. Good policy on the Canal must answer "yes" to the question "Does it contribute to preserving the C & O Canal's continuity and integrity, both physical and historical?"

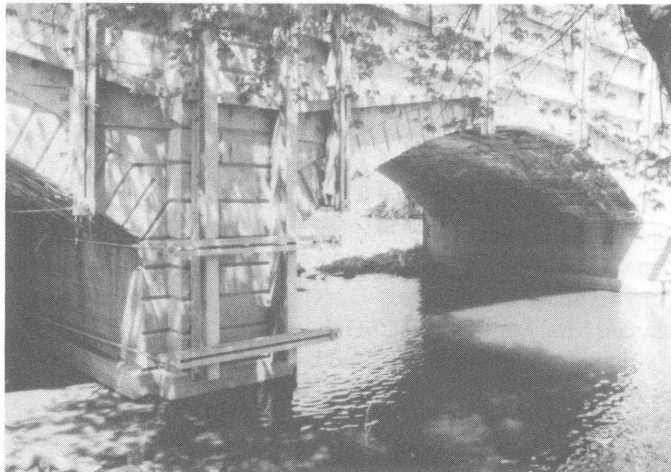
The Association's Monocacy Aqueduct Committee has set for its immediate aim to raise funds to help the Canal Park carry out the next stage of the restoration project, the engineering design phase, which precedes the final phase of actual construction. The results of the engineering feasibility study and recommendations on rehabilitating the aqueduct were announced at a news conference at the aqueduct in May. (See the last issue of *Along The Towpath*). The next step is the engineering design.

We are now seeking funds from various sources to match the nearly \$120,000 dollars we have raised so far. If our fund is matched and then is combined with some money the Canal

The Monocacy Aqueduct Report - continued

Park may be able to scrape up, the engineering design phase can be undertaken. With the design phase underway, the case for an appropriation of funds for the final construction phase will be strengthened.

Let us keep up the good work that has been done so far and not relax our effort for the aqueduct. We cannot and must not take "no" for an answer. The Monocacy Aqueduct is one of the Canal's "no lose" structures. A "no" to the Monocacy is ultimately a "no" to our C&O National Historical Park.



The Monocacy Aqueduct - Delila Hawa

Your contributions remain vitally important. The more individual contributions we receive, the more visible becomes the public constituency supporting the aqueduct. Our register of donations from individual citizens as well as civic organizations is now in its fourth volume. Your contributions are not only tax deductible but grow in value in the National Park Foundation where our Monocacy Fund is being managed until it is used. Every contribution helps us toward our goal of saving the aqueduct. Let us all work together to make sure the following ends up on the trash heap of false prophecies!

Fall She will in ruin and shame
All rubble, forgotten fame
Consequence most regretful
Of Citizens neglectful!

MONOCACY AQUEDUCT VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE - PROCEEDS GO TO AQUEDUCT

The Association's twenty-minute video, *Monocacy Aqueduct*, is now available for purchase. Proceeds from sales go to the Monocacy Aqueduct Fund. The video is the work of film maker David Humphrey of Advanced Video Artistry. It is indeed a work of art and we think it is a prize-winner! The film contains original historical material and photography long hidden away in archives. The story of the confederate attempts to destroy the structure is depicted. The price of the video is \$12.00, including postage, tax, and handling. Send your order to the Association's address: C&O Canal Association, P.O. Box 366, Glen Echo, Md. 20812-0366.

Along the Towpath

BILL DAVIES WORK TO SOON BE AVAILABLE

Many members of the Association have been privileged to walk along the C&O Canal with the late Bill Davies and /or with written commentary in hand, prepared by Bill, on the sights and structures to be seen on the day's hike. Now, material on the Canal---structures, history, commentary---compiled by Bill over four decades has been brought together in one volume, a volume which represents Bill's rough draft of his treatise on the engineering geology of the C&O Canal. The contents consist of Bill's unedited draft, complete with various handwritten notes which would have been included in the final draft as additions or substitutions.

The volume is a rare document, illustrating how a consummate engineering geologist systematically does field work and produces a report. But it is also replete with historical vignettes relative to events in the Canal's history. The volume also includes: (1) the memorial to Bill, prepared by Dan Krinsley, Bill's USGS colleague; (2) a selected bibliography of Bill's publications, prepared by Krinsley; and (3) a short description by Bill of one of the classic legal cases involving the C&O Canal Company.

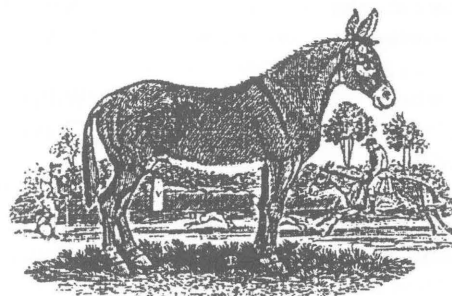
The volume will be available in the fall from the C&O Canal Association, price undetermined at present. In his pursuit of knowledge about the Canal, Bill collected and developed materials that fill 38 linear feet of files. These files will shortly be placed in the Washington County Free Library in Hagerstown, Maryland, where they will be available to interested parties.

- - Thomas W. Richards

THANK YOU

The Cumberland CanalFest is getting bigger and better each year. Volunteers for the second annual fest were Pat White, Karen Gray, Carl Linden, George Matysiak, Rita Bauman, Tom & Linda Perry, Jim Preston, and Bob & Jane Perry. Many thanks for your time spent staffing the Association table.

Also many thanks to Carl Linden, Helen Shaw, and Richard and Anita Stoll for representing the Association at Montgomery County's History Tour on July 11. They were at the Monocacy Aqueduct. Dave Johnson and Rita Bauman were at Rileys Lock and Seneca Aqueduct to answer questions on the Canal and the Association.



The Mule

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (Since 2/1/99)

Adams, Philip C	Washington Grove MD
Aler, Zoe Z	Timonium MD
Allen, Jeffrey & Mary	Lancaster PA
Apple, Paul & Ramona	Berkeley Springs WV
Aylward, Steve & Helen	Alexandria VA
Bear, Theodore E.	Brookmont, MD
Beck, Carolyn & John	Pittsford NY
Boyer, Jean E	Wheaton MD
Burke, Paul	Shepherdstown WV
Chapman, Cathy S	La Vale MD
Chiappa, Attilio	Rockville MD
Craycraft, David	Laytonsville MD
D'Amico, Joe	Washington DC
Daly, Dan & Judy	Washington DC
Doiron, Lisa	Gaithersburg MD
Doll, Amy	Bethesda MD
Dutton, Greg	Temple Hills MD
Flam, Eli	Port Tobacco MD
Freienmuth, W. Kenneth & Shirley	Severna Park MD
Gilliam, Neil M	Chevy Chase MD
Grant, Tempe C	Chevy Chase MD
Grant, Rev John A	Oakland MD
Hathaway, Caleb	Rockville MD
Hearn, Mary Alice	Garrett Park MD
Herman, Rebecca & Edward	Hollidaysburg PA
Hill, James E	Germantown MD
Hocker, Phil & Jean	Alexandria VA
Holmberg, Chris	Falls Church VA
Jelling, Jo Anne M	Leesburg VA
Johnson, Ross & Sheila	Falls Church VA
Kelly, Mary	Silver Spring MD
Lide, David R	Gaithersburg MD
Lilga, John & Judith	Sharpsburg MD
Lindgren, Celynn	Ashburn VA
Martin, Margie	Gaithersburg MD
Mashburn, Marion "Casey"	Owings Mills MD
Matula, Stephen R	Dunkirk MD
McDonough, Hayes	Cumberland MD
Mullaney, Pat	Falls Church VA
Murray, Mark	Vienna VA
Nauen, Ric	Columbia MD
Nelson, R. Bradley	Reisterstown MD
O'Brien, David & Marian	Gaithersburg MD
Rosenthal, Dr & Mrs Joel	Hagerstown MD
Ross, Malcolm	Washington DC
Rourke, Gerald S	Potomac MD
Selph, Clay & Patricia	Falls Church VA
Shuey, Diane & John	New Market MD
Skinner, Dorothy	Alexandria VA
Solan, Barbara & Joe	Potomac MD
Thorpe, Rachel	Williamsport MD
Vollmer, Erwin P	Chevy Chase MD
Walters, William	Vienna VA
Weiss, Ed	Batavia IL
Will, Wanda & William	Philadelphia PA
Wilson, M/M James G	Darnestown MD
Zauderer, M/M Donald G	N Bethesda 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 Level Walkers Program, you must take the initiative and contact Karen Gray.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Corinne AXELROD	CM
Virginia C. BOOCHEVER	CM
Francis COURTER	M
Ellen A. HENNESSEY	M
George and Cybthia HOMEWOOD	M
Bonnie S. KINSLEY and John BARKYOUUMB	C
Mary E. SEARS	M
Mr. and Mrs. James C. NELSON	M
Mr. and Mrs William N. BROWN	M
Mr. and Mrs. David M. ENGSTROM	CM
Moire M. QUEEN	M
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. FISHER	CM
Peter L. ROE	C
Maston L. GRAY	M
Jean A. WEBB	CM
Charles J WEIR	M
Mario and Jean CIOCI	C
James T. MENZIES	M
Nancy E. Page	C
Charles Michael HIGH	C
Dr. and Mrs Robert K. KAHN	M
Shirley A. PAULL	M
Barbara S. BORSCHOW	M
Sherry A. CARRIGAN	M
R. Daniel RIGAL	M
Don and Mary Ann WARD	M
R. Justin DEFORGE	M
Nancy C. LONG	M
Shirley K. BRANNAN	M
Earl and Kathy ELY	M
Jennette M. PENNER	CM
Jo REYNOLDS	M
Ken ROLLINS	M
Dr. and Mrs. Harry GALBLUM	M
AMERICAN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSN	M
SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE FOUNDATION	M
Barbara Sido SKILLMAN	M
Linda L. RICHMOND	M

.....Thank You

PLANTS IN FLOWER SEEN ALONG LENGTH OF C & O CANAL, APRIL 18 - MAY 1, 1999

...generally in order in which seen *in flower*

by Peter D. Whitney, notes from the hike

(See notes at the end of the plant inventory for location along the Canal, symbols, abbreviations, references,..)

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	FAMILY	BOOK P.	COMMENTS
1. Twinleaf	Jeffersonia diphylla	Barberry	364	lvs div in 2 lflets; single 1" flr w/ 8 pet; frt pear-sh, hinged lid
2. Purple Dead Nettle* §	Lamium purpureum	Mint	86	top lvs sht stalk, blunt ser, pur tinged; sep lob spread outward
3. Cut-leaved Toothwort or Pepperroot	Dentaria laciniata	Mustard	162	stem lvs 3, lance-sh, deeply ser or lobed, no bas lvs in flr; <i>dens</i> -fm ser scales on rhiz, <i>laciniata</i> -torn into divisions
4. Virginia Bluebells or Virginia Cowslip	Mertensia virginica	Borage	196	flr pink when young then bl, showy, nodding, trumpet-sh; plant disappears above ground after spring; Mertens-botan
5. Dutchman's Breeches	Dicentra cucullaria	Poppy	34	4 pet, wide spurs top of flr; <i>kentron</i> -spur, <i>cucullaria</i> -hoodlike
6. Spring Beauty	Claytonia virginica	Purslane	270	pink/wh flrs dark pink veins, 1/2-3/4" w; nar lvs
7. Thyme-leaved Speedwell*	Veronica serpyllifolia	Figwort	74	wh/pale bl, darker stipes; creeping; lvs like- <i>Thymus serpyllum</i>
8. Flowering Dogwood	Cornus florida	Dogwood	AuT 615	flrs 3/16" w. w/4 yel/grn pet, 3/4" head, w/ pet-like wh bracts
10. Bradford (Callery) Pear *	Pyrus calleryana "Bradford"	Rose	ET 273	CT 234; not keyed out, escaped fm garden; <i>kallos</i> -beauty
11. Common Blue Violet	Viola papilionacea	Violet	30	flr stlk smoothish; low spur pet smooth, l. hairs on side pet
12. Smooth Yellow Violet	Viola pensylvanica	Violet	54	alt lvs, 1 or more bas lvs, smooth stem
13. Common Chickweed*	Stellaria media	Pink	274	5 pet so cleft appear 10, <i>Stellaria</i> -3 styles; <i>stella</i> -star
14. Yellow Corydalis	Corydalis flavula	Poppy	70	flrs 1/4" l., spur < 1/4 flr l.; <i>Corydalis</i> -lark (spurs), <i>flav</i> -yel
15. Bloodroot	Sanguinaria canadensis	Poppy	364	single lf 5-9 deep lobes, 8-12 pet, eliasomes w/ seed, extract fm plant in Viadent toothpaste
16. Garlic Mustard* Alliaria officinalis		Mustard	138	lvs coarsely ser, l. stalk, lvs smell of garlic when crushed, many uses related spp EH 228
17. Small Flowered Crowfoot Ranunculus abortivus		Buttercup	244	stem & usu few bas lvs divided, some bas lvs heart sh; seeds or " " Buttercup (EM 29) w/ minute, usu straight beak
18. Northern White Violet	Viola pallens	Violet	28	prob Northern (wet places) lvs blunt tip, fragrant, flr < 1/2" l., cf flr no. 32 (rich woods/blooms 2 wks later); <i>pallens</i> -pale
19. Common Shadbush, or Juneberry	Serviceberry	Rose	314WV 470	fragrant, 5 pet l. > w.; lvs oval, ser, white-woolly beneath flr time; tr 5-20 m; or Juneberry, Serviceberry frt often parasitized by sawfly larvae
20. Spicebush	Lindera benzoin	Laurel	442	flrs 1/8" w; 6 sep, no pet; twig, lvs- <i>benzoin</i> -fragrant gum
21. Trout Lily or Yellow Adder's Tongue	Erythronium americanum	Lily	338WV 236	bulb deep, sending out shoots; lvs oblong, usu mottled w/ brn, or entirely grn; flr yel sometimes tinged w/ pur, recurved
22. Smooth Rock Cress §	Arabis laevigata	Mustard	136	stem smooth, grn/wh or wh bloom; flrs 1/6-1/4" w., gen to one side; pods(siliques) nar, recurved or horizontal
23. Common Winter Cress* or Yellow Rocket	Barbarea vulgaris	Mustard	144	bas lvs w/ 2-8 sm lobes, upper lvs egg-shaped or rounded, coarsely ser, ± clasping; pods nar (siliques), up
24. Golden ragwort	Senecio aureus	Composite	378	bas lvs rnd, blunt ser, up lvs lob; <i>senex</i> -old man-pappus
25. Ground Ivy or Gill-over-the-ground*	Glechoma hederacea	Mint	86	flrs bl or vio, 1/3-1/2" l., stem creep at base, lvs lng stalk, bluntly ser; <i>hederacea</i> -resembling ivy

PLANTS IN FLOWER SEEN ALONG LENGTH OF C & O CANAL, APRIL 18 - MAY 1, 1999 - continued

26. Early Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga virginensis</i>	Saxifrage	180	bas lvs egg-sh, ser; flrs wh; <i>saxum</i> -rock, <i>frango</i> -to break
27. Apple, Common or Sweet Crab - not keyed	<i>Malus sylvestris</i> or <i>Malus coronaria</i> (common)	Rose	AuT490/491	flr types: 5 rnded pet, wh tinged w/ pink; wh or pink (sweet crab)
28. Blue Cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Barberry	354WV 402	flrs- 6 pted sep & sm hood-sh pet; lvs 2, each 3X(triternate)compound; <i>L</i> -stem leaf + like <i>Thalictrum</i> -lvs 3x pinnate
29. Pennsylvania Bitter Cress	<i>Cardamine pensylvanica</i>	Mustard	148	flrs 1/5", lvs-bas rosette, other lvs 3-15 lvlets, term leafwider, pods v/nar, erect; <i>Cardamine</i> -Mustard family(Gk)
30. Wake-robin, Birthroot or Purple or Red Trillium	<i>Trillium erectum</i>	Lily	124	flr stalked, maroon or dark pur, ill scented, pet 1/2-1 1/2" l. (wh, unsented var exists, yel/grn rare)
31. Red Bud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Pea	104	flrs bef lvs; bud/flr/young pod edible EP 122; <i>Cercis</i> -Judas Tree
32. Sweet White Violet	<i>Viola blanda</i>	Violet	28	lvs pted tip; lv & flr stalk reddish; flr 1/2" l., 2 up pet nar, bent
33. Shepard's Purse*	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Mustard	150	stem lvs arrow-sh, clasp; pod triangular, indent tip, bas lvs (when present) deep lob; <i>bursa-pastoris</i> -§
34. Bugle*	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Mint	84	flrs bl, lfy spike, sta proj bey up lip; <i>Ajuga</i> -§, <i>reptans</i> -creeping
35. Nodding Star-of-Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum nutans</i>	Lily	WV 236cf 334	flrs - 6 seg, 2-3 cm l.; fil notch, anth in sinus; backs of wh pet grn w/ wh margin; <i>ornis</i> -bird, <i>gala</i> -milk, <i>nutans</i> -nodding
36. Squirrel Corn	<i>Dicentra canadensis</i>	Poppy	34	spurs rnd & l. < flr stalk; tubers res corn kernels or yel peas
37. Grape Hyacinth*	<i>Muscari botryoides</i>	Lily	332	flrs bl, glob, dense rac; <i>Muschio</i> -musk, <i>botry</i> -bunch grapes
38. Field Mustard or Rape*	<i>Brassica rapa</i>	Mustard	142	flr yel 1/2", stem wh bloom, lvs ent/lob clasp; <i>Brassic</i> -cabbage
39. Toad Trillium	<i>Trillium sessile</i>	Lily	124	flr maroon (or grn var), pet erect, lvs gen mottled
40. Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Buttercup	228	flr scarlet, yel cen, protru sta; on rock ledge; <i>aquila</i> -eagle
41. Wild Blue Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Phlox	248	up stem/sep hrs; sta not protru, pet indent; <i>P</i> -flame, <i>d</i> -spread
42. American Bladdernut	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	Bladdernut	318	droop rac wh flrs; lvl finely ser; bark striped; <i>staphyle</i> -cluster
43. Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Custard Apple	AuT 446	flr triang grn/brn/pur pet; lvs odor; <i>A</i> -Latinized fm Fr/Indian
44. Box Elder	<i>Acer Negundo</i>	Maple	AuT 572	flr 3/16", 5 yel/grn sep, droop stalks, m/f diff trees
45. Jack-in-the-Pulpit or Indian Turnip	<i>Arisaema atrorubens</i>	Arum	36	lvl usu pale beneath, spathe tube ± ridged; <i>aris/aron</i> -arum & <i>haima</i> -hood, <i>Atropos</i> -1 of 3 Fates to snip thread of life
46. Henbit*	<i>Lamium applexicaule</i>	Mint	86	up lvs clasp, blunt ser; sep not spreading; <i>applex</i> -clasp
47. Common or Philadelphia Fleabane	<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	Composite	384	flr head 1/2-1" w., 100-150 rays, pink/wh, up lvs clasp, soft-hrs; poss fm <i>eri</i> -early, <i>geron</i> -old man
48. Indian Strawberry*	<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Rose	240	lvl 3, flrs 1/2-3/4" w., cluster of 3-ser bracts below sep; botan
49. Celandine*	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Poppy	142	yel 1/2-3/4" w., in sm umb; lvs alt, div into irreg lob lfls; juiceyel; <i>C</i> - Greater celandine, <i>chelidon</i> (Gk)-swallow, flr coincide
50. Wild Ginger §	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Birthwort	116	flr pur/brn 1" w., 3 pte lob, at base of 2 hrt-sh lvs; root-ginger
51. Cow Parsnip	<i>Heracleum maximum</i>	Parsely	218	broad flr cluster emerging, lvl 3, ocrea; stem woolly
52. May Apple or Mandrake	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Barberry	354MP 46	flr wh 6-9 waxy pet und 2 lvs, no flr if 1 lf; <i>podos</i> - foot; rt & lvs poison, mature frt-edib; derivative FDA-approved for cancers
53. Sweet Cicely	<i>Osmorhiza claytoni</i>	Parsely	224	umb wh flrs, sty sh< pet; stem hrs; <i>osme</i> -fragrant
54. Early Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	Buttercup	146	grnsh flrs, droop sta, yel anth; lvs 3X pinnate
55. Black Haw	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Honeysuckle	302	sta 5, lf stalk <1", flrs uniform size; lvs finely ser

PLANTS IN FLOWER SEEN ALONG LENGTH OF C & O CANAL, APRIL 18 - MAY 1, 1999 - continued

56.Field Chickweed	<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Pink	274	pet $\leq \frac{1}{2}$ cleft, pet 2/3X l. sep, 5 sty; <i>kerastes</i> -horned(seed cap)
57.Field Pennycress*	<i>Thaspi arvense</i>	Mustard	136	stem smooth, pods rnd(silicle), deep notch at tip; <i>Thlaspi</i> -cress (Gk), <i>arvensis</i> -cultivated field
58.Mountain Sandwort	<i>Arenaria groenlandica</i>	Pink	276	curious, escape fm garden?, $\frac{1}{4}$ -1" wh flrs, term clus, lvs v/nar, blunt, not stiff, pet notched tip
59.Wisteria	<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>	Pea	WV 556	dense rac lilac/pur pet; lvl 9-15 ovate, ent; botan
60.Golden Alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Parsley	226	sm yel 5 part flrs in umb, lvs 2-3X div, fine ser, stem branching
61.Rough Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla norvegica</i>	Rose	240	flrs $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ " w., sep l.> pet; stem-stout&hrs; <i>potens</i> -power(med?)
62.Cow or Tufted Vetch*	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Pea	112	flrs vio/bl, $\frac{1}{2}$ " l., dense 1-side rac, lvl nar, stip $\leq \frac{1}{4}$ " ent; hrs pressed to stem; <i>Vicia</i> & <i>Cracca</i> = vetch
63.Bulbous Buttercup*	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Buttercup	242	flr 1"; alt/div lvs; sep bent to stalk; usu stem hrs; bulbous base
64.Royal Paulownia* or Princess Tree	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Figwort	AuT 661	flrs 2" l. bell-sh pale vio cor, end w/ 5 uneq lob, lvs opp, hrt-sh base; <i>Paulowna</i> -daughter of Czar Paul I
65.Morrow's Honeysuckle*	<i>Lonicera morrowi</i>	Honeysuckle	WV 892	1.5-2m; downy, peduncle l. \leq flr l.; lvs hrs beneath; sep ser w/ hrs; intro fm Japan; botan

Notes:

Of the 65 plants seen in flower, 19 (indicated with * next to the common name) were exotic (71% native species and 29% non native).

§ = Common name is a translation of the botanical name.

A couple of plants in conspicuous seed from previous season

American Bladdernut	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	Bladdernut	318	fruit an inflated, 3-pointed pod
Beefsteak*	<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Mint	WV828	C 925, orig learned fm EM (Martin) 18; stout stem w/ conspic open brownish mericarps; plant in clumps

Location and dates plants seen in flower

Nos.	Date	Part of Canal	Miles
1-17	April 18, Sun	Cumberland - Spring Gap	11.1
18-23	April 19, Mon	to Town Creek hiker/biker	11.3
24-27	April 20, Tues	to Stick Pile campground	12.5
28-33	April 21, Wed	to Bill's 10.0	
NB: left to teach my economics class and to attend my father's 90th birthday in Georgia			
34-39	April 26, Mon	Dam 4 to Antietam Creek	15.0
40-47	April 27, Tues	to Brunswick Campground	15.3
49-51	April 28, Wed	to Monocacy Hill	11.9
52-55	April 29, Thurs	to Sycamore Landing	15.0
56	April 30, Fri	to Great Falls	13.0
57-65	May 1, Sat	to Tidelock	14.2

Reference Books

page	Newcomb's Wildflower Guide, Lawrence Newcomb, Little Brown & Co., 1977
AuT	The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees, Eastern Region, Elbert L. Little, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1980
WV	Flora of West Virginia, 2nd ed, P.D. Strausbaugh & Earl L. Core, Seneca Books, Morgantown, WV, 1978
C	Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas, Albert E. Radford, Harry E. Ahles & C. Ritchie Bell, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 1968
ET	Eyewitness Handbooks Trees, Allen J. Coombes, Dorling Kindersley, Inc., New York, 1992
EH	Eyewitness Handbooks Herbs, Neil Fletcher & Matthew Ward, Dorling Kindersley, London & New York, 1994
CT	City of Trees, The Complete Field Guide to the Trees of Washington, D.C., Melanie Choukas-Bradley & Polly Alexander, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1987
MP	Peterson Field Guide: A Field Guide to Medicinal Plants, Eastern and Central North America, Steven Foster & James A. Duke, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1990
	Peterson Field Guide: A Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants of Eastern and Central North America, Lee Peterson, Houghton Mifflin, 1978

PLANTS IN FLOWER SEEN ALONG LENGTH OF C & O CANAL, APRIL 18 - MAY 1, 1999 - continued

EM A Beginner's Guide to Wildflowers of the C & O Towpath, Edwin M. Martin, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1984
 Latin Stern's Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners, William T. Stearn, Cassell, London, 1996

Latin Dictionary of Word Roots and Combining Forms, Donald J. Borror, Mayfield Publishing Company, 1988

Abbreviations used under comments on plants

anth	anther	gen	generally	opp	opposite	sht	short
bas	basal	glob	globular	p.	page	sm	small
bef	before	grn	green	pedun	peduncle	spp	species
bey	beyond	hrt	heart	pet(s)	petal(s) (corolla)	sta	stamen
bl	blue	intro	introduced	poison	poisonous	stip	stipule
botan	Botanist, name	irreg	irregular	poss	possibly	sty	style
from		l.	length	prob	probably	term	terminal
cap	capsule	lar	large	protru	protruding	tr	tree
cen	center	lf	leaf	pte	pointed	twi	twigs
cf	compare	lfy	leafy	pur	purple	umb(s)	umbel(s)
col	c o l u m n o r	lob	lobed	rac	raceme	usu	usually
columnar		lvl	leaflet	res	resembling	v/	very
cor	corolla	lvs	leaves	rhiz	rhizome	var	variety
diff	different	m	meter	rnd	round	vio	violet
div	divided	m/f	male/female	rnded	rounded	w.	width
edib	edible	nar	narrow	rt	root	w/	with
fil	filament	notch	notched	sep	sepal(s) (calyx)	wh	white
flr	flower	occ	occasionally	ser	serrate, toothed	wk(s)	week(s)
fm	from	odor	odorous	sh	shaped	yel	yellow
frt	fruit						

Abbreviations used under comments on plants

alt	alternate	lar	large	rnd	round
anth	anther	lf	leaf	rnded	rounded
bas	basal	lfy	leafy	rt	root
bef	before	lob	lobed	sep	sepal(s) (calyx)
bey	beyond	lvl	leaflet	ser	serrate, toothed
bl	blue	lvs	leaves	sh	shaped
botan	Botanist, name from	m	meter	sht	short
cap	capsule	m/f	male/female	sm	small
cen	center	nar	narrow	spp	species
cf	compare	notch	notched	sta	stamen
col	column or columnar	occ	occasionally	stip	stipule
cor	corolla	odor	odorous	sty	style
diff	different	opp	opposite	term	terminal
div	divided	p.	page	tr	tree
edib	edible	pedun	peduncle	twi	twigs
fil	filament	pet(s)	petal(s) (corolla)	umb(s)	umbel(s)
flr	flower	poison	poisonous	usu	usually
fm	from	poss	possibly	v/	very
frt	fruit	prob	probably	var	variety
gen	generally	protru	protruding	vio	violet
glob	globular	pte	pointed	w.	width
grn	green	pur	purple	w/	with
hrt	heart	rac	raceme	wh	white
intro	introduced	res	resembling	wk(s)	week(s)
irreg	irregular	rhiz	rhizome	yel	yellow
l.	length				

BLACKFORD'S FERRY HILL JOURNAL

Kathy Bilton writes that Blackford's Ferry Hill Journal is now online. The web address is:
<http://metalab.unc.edu/docsouth/blackford/blackford.html>

THE NEWS FROM ENGLAND

Since the British government's decision in February 1999 to finance the rebuilding of England's crumbling canals, British Waterways has moved vigorously on a number of projects designed to enhance the inland-waterway system. According to the Times of London of June 18, British Waterways proposed a scheme to extend the Lancaster Canal by ten miles to connect with Lake Windermere in west England's Lake District. This project would build one of the first new canals in 200 years. The connection to a popular vacation spot, which is expected to cost 50 million pounds, will open the national canal system to access by boat to one of the principal vacation destinations in England. This development is expected to provide a boost to the local economy.

In addition, as a move to encourage popular interest in the canals, British Waterways is establishing a Friends organizations that would be associated with a new charitable trust. The trust would eventually generate income to help preserve the 2000-mile canal system and to fund environmental, historical and educational projects. David Fletcher, the chief executive of British Waterways, said: "The impact of canals is even greater today than two centuries ago. Their potential to affect people's lives for the better is vast and all too often untapped."

Another ambitious British Waterways scheme will restore, at a cost of 78 million pounds, city-to-city and sea-to-sea navigation on the Forth, Clyde and Union canals between Glasgow and Edinburgh. This planned project won for British Waterways the prix d'honneur of the Henry Ford European Conservation Awards; in May the Duke of Edinburgh presented BW outgoing chairman Bernard Henderson a 5000-pound prize.

Meanwhile, restoration projects have been in progress for some time. The huge Avon cliff aqueduct on the Kennet and Avon Canal is being rehabilitated with special care being taken to hue to the structure's original appearance. Work on the Droitwich Canal in the industrial Midlands continues apace. By now a sufficient stretch has been restored and re-watered to allow for summer cruises by a 30-passenger excursion boat, which got underway on June 19. One of the oldest canals in the system, dating from 1771, the Droitwich was built as a barge canal. Its fourteen-foot width enabled Severn River barges to reach the saltworks at Droitwich. When better connections were made for moving salt by rail, the Droitwich Canal became obsolete. The last boat used the canal in 1918. The Droitwich Canals Trust, with British Waterways support, has undertaken the restoration of the canal. In addition to work on restoring and re-watering the canal, the trust has opened the towpath to walkers for the entire length of the canal. Because of grade crossings made since the canal's abandonment, the trust has the same problems that we have with the Wiley Ford Crossing: the safety of towpath users and the problem of getting the boats under the bridges. There is no news yet on how they intend to deal with these concerns.

- - Hal Larsen

WORLD CONFERENCE CANAUX 99

The twelfth annual World Canals Conference, "CANAUX 99", was held in June at Lille, France, and La Louviere, Belgium. The 1999 conference was presented by Lille University, under the patronage of Inland Waterways International in partnership with Voies Navigables de France, the Nord - Pas de Calais Regional Council and tourist board, the Wallonian Ministry of Works and Transport, and the Compagnie du Canal du Centre.

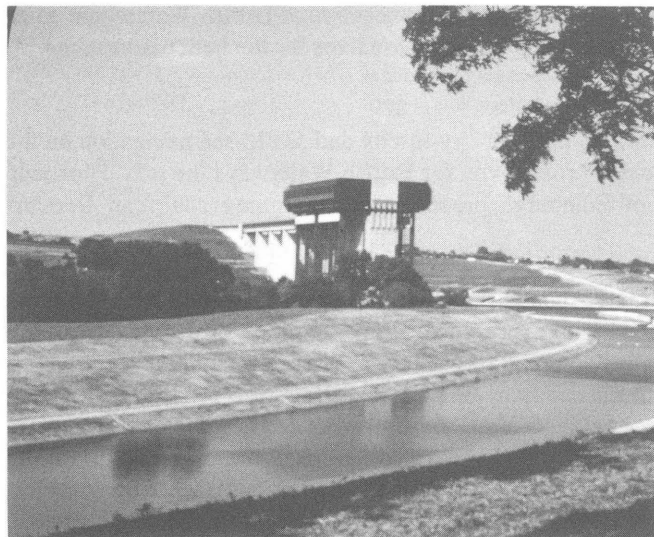
The conference was attended by about two hundred delegates from many nations, including Australia, Canada, China, Eire, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States in addition to the host countries. The C&O Canal was represented by Doug Stover, chief of the Park's Resources Management Branch, and his wife; advisory commission members Adam Foster and Barry Passett; and C&O Canal Association board of directors members Carl Linden and Dave Johnson. Also attending were Association members Nolan and Joan Jones of Milford, NH, who represented the Middlesex Canal Association.

The themes of this year's conference were "Inland Waterways in the Heart of Regional Tourism" and "Canals, Large and Small, and Local Development." The location of the conference was in the border area of Belgium and France, at the heart of a bustling waterways network. Despite intense development in recent years, much of the heritage waterways remain intact. Freight traffic on the waterways is experiencing a revival, while waterway tourism and leisure uses are also growing fast. Ways to accommodate both types of use without conflict was the topic of several presentations. Overall, the seminars were interesting, covering topics such as industrial archaeology; maintenance, restoration and development of historic canals; and applying modern technology to the design of high head navigation structures. The simultaneous translation of French to English and vice versa was excellent.

I found the Belgian portion of the conference of particular interest. It was held on the Canal du Centre, with the meetings in a tent-like temporary building erected next to one of the historic hydraulic lifts that raised and lowered boats nearly seventeen meters.

The Canal du Centre was built at the end of the last century to accommodate the passage of 300-ton barges serving the prosperous

industrial zone between the Meuse and Escaut basins. It connected the Charleroi-Brussels Canal with the Canal Nimy-Blaton. At the time of construction a major problem faced by the engineers was how to cross the ridge dividing the two valleys. It was decided to build four hydraulic lifts, patterned after the Anderton lift built in England in 1875 which connected the Trent and Mersey Canal with the River Weaver. The first of the four Belgian lifts was put into service in 1888. Each of the four had two 45-meter long, water-filled steel chambers mounted on hydraulic pistons, like giant lube racks. The pair worked in unison; as one descended, it forced the opposite chamber to rise. The reason for building lifts is that each is the equivalent of about five conventional locks, and they consume virtually no water in operation, an important consideration on a summit level canal where the water supply may be limited.



A Hydraulic Lift - Dave Johnson

There are only eight such hydraulic lifts in the world. During the conference we also visited the Fontinettes lift, at Arques, France, built in 1887 and closed in 1967 when the Neufosse Canal was enlarged. The other two, still in regular use, are at Peterborough and Kirkfield on the Trent-Severn Waterway in Ontario.

The summit section of the Canal du Centre was made obsolescent in recent years with the decision to develop the waterway into a European wide-gauge canal for boats of 1,350 tons capacity. As at Fontinettes, the old lifts and narrow canal will not accommodate the larger boats. Preservation of the hydraulic lifts and the adjoining sections of the Canal du Centre that will be bypassed by the new canal was not initially on the list of priorities. However, they have been saved by the Compagnie du Canal and the Wallonian Ministry of Works and Transport, with the goals to operate the canal and the lifts for the use of recreational and tourist boats, and to preserve the historic value of the site. In 1998, UNESCO added the four hydraulic lifts and the historic Canal du Centre to the list of world sites of outstanding heritage.

The old lifts are being replaced by a huge funicular lift at Strepv-Thieu on the new canal, which will raise boats 73 meters in chambers 112 meters long, twelve meters wide and four meters deep. Certainly, the ultimate highlight of the conference was the comprehensive, bottom-to-top tour we were given of the Strepv-Thieu lift, which is nearing completion. It is truly one of the great wonders of modern waterway technology.

Another fascinating stop on our tour was the inclined plane at Ronquieres, on the Charleroi - Brussels Canal. Built during the 1960s as part of the post-war modernization to bring that canal up to 1,350-ton capacity, the incline is 1,432 meters long and rises more than 67 meters on a 5% grade. It comprises two water-filled caissons which can hold one boat of 1,350 tons or four 300-ton boats. Each tank is 91 meters long by twelve meters wide and four meters deep. The two chambers work independently. They move on rails, each chamber supported by 236 wheels on 59 axles, pulled by electrically-powered cable mechanisms. (The Ronquieres plane was especially interesting because of its technical similarity to the Georgetown incline on the C&O Canal, which during the late 1870s carried boats in a water-filled caisson rather than on the carriages that were typical of most inclined planes, such as those on the Morris Canal. The Georgetown incline, of course, was much smaller than Ronquieres.)

As always, the field trips were the highlight of the conference, although the gastronomical treats and native beverages with which our hosts continually plied us certainly must be considered a very close second. The conferees enjoyed a memorable evening of dining and dancing under a huge tent by the canal on the Champ de Mars in Lille. The next night featured a twilight cruise down the Canal du Centre at La Louviere on three old peniches converted to restaurant boats, climaxed by a night descent of lift number 4.

Two optional tours were offered on the day after the close of the conference.



Just Ask Dave

While my colleagues went to Bruges, I returned to France with another group to visit the Roubaix Canal. Opened in 1877, the canal allowed important industrial development between the Deule and the Escault. It supplied water to the textile factories and carried ore and coal to the growing industries around Roubaix and Tourcoing. The industry declined after World War II and in 1983 navigation ended on the canal. It was proposed to build a road on its route. Although we don't know if they had a judge to lead a hike, it was decided to restore the canal for tourism navigation and as a linear urban park. The Tourcoing branch has been developed very nicely, and it appears that restoration of the Roubaix section is also progressing.

The World Canals Conference began in 1988 as a symposium for historic canal park managers. It quickly grew to include participation by members of state and local canal societies, providing an ideal forum for interaction between canal enthusiasts and their professional counterparts. It became international in 1990 when the conference was hosted by the Rideau Canal in Ontario. The 1992 conference was held on the C&O Canal, co-hosted by the Association and National Park Service. Since then, outside sponsors, especially tourism councils and similar agencies, have joined with the canal parks and friends groups that were the traditional hosts and have substantially subsidized the conference budgets. Of the eleven conferences prior to this year, seven were in the U. S., three in Canada and one in England. The current schedule calls for conferences in North America in even-numbered years and across the ocean in odd years. The next conference will be in September 2000 at Rochester, New York, commemorating the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal. Future meetings are planned in Ireland (2001), Montreal (2002), and Scotland (2003).

- - Dave Johnson

CUMBERLAND DIG UNCOVERS CANAL BOATS

Archaeologist Joseph F. Balicki suspected that at least one Chesapeake & Ohio Canal boat lay buried beneath eight feet of dirt and clay near downtown Cumberland. Still, he was surprised when his team unearthed the keels and bottoms of two boats that apparently sank in the mud around the time the Canal ceased operations in 1924. They are the largest intact pieces of Canal boats ever found along the 184.5-mile shipping channel between Cumberland and the District of Columbia.

Balicki is overseeing an archaeological dig near the Canal's western terminus in preparation for sewer work and other development. Douglas Faris, Superintendent of the C & O Canal National Historical Park, said he will seek funds to unearth, preserve and display at least one of the boat bottoms.

- - David Lepkowski

VOLUNTEERING AT LOCKHOUSE75

I wasn't sure what I was getting into when I responded to Rita Bauman's appeal to serve as weekend docent for the lock house at Lock 75. I had picked a time (July 17 and 18) not likely to appeal to other volunteers or to conflict with other events. It turned out as the time approached, Carl Linden became available—I drafted him and away we went.

We stayed at the Cumberland Holiday Inn, but for anyone preferring to camp, Iron's Mountain Hiker-Biker is next to the parking lot at Lock 74, almost in sight of Lock 75. Spring Gap is less than two miles away.

We picked up the key at the Park Service Information Station at the Western Maryland Depot. We found that Ranger Rita Knox had a good supply of brochures at the lock house and she came by to furnish us a clipboard with information sheets to note visitation. The lock house is not air conditioned, but there is a big floor fan to circulate the air and it provided adequate comfort together with the water and soft drinks we

brought along.

We had an interesting variety of visitors on both days. These included two Boy Scout groups of a dozen or more, together with their leaders, who were out to cycle the whole Canal, several smaller cycling groups, a number of elderly visitors, many of whom live in a 30-40 mile vicinity – who seem to come out regularly to visit *their* Canal, and other smaller groups.

Of particular interest was a group of about a dozen inner city teenage girls out to cycle the whole thing. They had obviously attempted nothing like this in their lives. They had an amazing array of equipment draped on their bikes and two were pulling trailers. One wanted to know whether the Canal was built by slaves. I'm not sure of her reaction when we assured her that it was not. Another confessed to being homesick already. We were able to give them lots of useful advice including use of the HBOs.

We did some subtle (and not so subtle) recruiting, and got in some words about the Monocacy Aqueduct. One gentleman from Marlboro, MD spontaneously made a \$2 cash donation for the aqueduct.

Some of our visitors came across from the replica boat, and some others we sent to it. This happened throughout the day Saturday, but unfortunately there were no volunteers at the boat on Sunday 'til early afternoon, and they soon left because of threatening weather.

All in all, it was a gratifying experience to exchange views with the visitors and to see the variety of those who are discovering the *magic* of our beloved Canal. We heartily recommend it to anyone with some time to spare. Rita Bauman, who coordinates with Ranger Rita Knox, will be glad to sign you up, and our services are much appreciated by the Park Service

- - Ken Rollins

NOTICE

Mary Bird, an artist working in Arlington, Virginia, will be exhibiting over 50 oil paintings at the United States Geological Survey from October 4 - 29, 1999, with ten percent of all sales to be donated to the C & O Canal Association general use fund. Association members are invited to meet the artist at a reception on Tuesday, October 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the USGS exhibit hall. The show can be viewed any weekday between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. For more information on the exhibit or to purchase a painting, you may contact the artist at (703) 525-7651.

The USGS is located at 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston, Virginia.

The landscape paintings that will be on exhibit at USGS include a number of scenes along the Potomac River and kayaking at Great Falls. A special group of paintings were inspired by the schemata used by geologists, and another group was inspired by recent space probes.

The artist has volunteered to donate 10% of all sales to a program of special interest to Survey employees. Mr. Charles Nethaway, USGS show chairman, suggested the C&O Canal Fund. The paintings range in price from \$165 to \$350 and in size from 8" x 12" to 28" x 36".

In the past three years Mary Bird has had solo exhibits at the Arlington County Library, the National Institutes of Health, and the Unitarian/Universalist Congregation of Oakton. She was selected as an "emerging artist" by Holly Block, executive director for Art in General in New York City, for the Arlington Arts Center "Painting '98" exhibit.



In the past two years Mary Bird's work has been selected for over 12 juried and invitational group exhibitions sponsored by the American Art League, Capitol Hill Art League, Woman's National Democratic Club, and Washington Theological Union.

Mary Bird studied at the Art Students League of San Juan (Puerto Rico) and, after moving to the Washington, DC area, joined Gladys Kazigian's painting workshop at the Arts Club of Washington.

The USGS can be reached by taking Route 66 to Fairfax County Parkway (north), then turning right onto Sunrise Valley Drive after passing Fox Hill Road.

FROM THE *POTOMAC REVIEW*

The C&O Canal Towpath is featured in the summer issue of *Potomac Review*, a nonprofit, regionally rooted quarterly with a strong environmental bent. In a special section called Twining Trails, the Towpath is woven into the opening essay, *A Trail for All Seasons*, by Ellen Dudley. She writes about hiking the 10 miraculously wild miles of the Potomac Heritage Trail (PHT), opposite the Towpath on the mostly steep, rocky Virginia side.

A native Washingtonian, Dudley writes, I knew that (the Potomac Heritage) trail's Maryland counterpart intimately, having walked, jogged, biked and cross-country skied along the C&O Canal Towpath for decades....The PHT and its sister trail, the C&O Towpath, are now conjoined in the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, and while both offer many river vistas, on the Virginia side...the trail itself is intimate, a narrow ribbon for walkers only--no need to share the experience with bicyclists and baby buggies, setters and shepherds, or even the goat on a leash that I had often seen on the Towpath.

Some day, Dudley notes several pages later, you might follow a 700-mile Potomac Heritage Trail to the Ohio River, connect with the Buckeye Trail to Cincinnati, continue on the American Discovery trail across the Great Plains, over the Rockies,.. In the meantime, she concludes in Potomac Review, Only a heart of stone could fail to be seduced by the PHT's wild and beautiful riverine solitude.

After the poem *Travel*, by David B. Prather, a roundup carries a range of material from several issues of *Along the Towpath*, including Ken Rollins' on Supreme Court Justice William Douglas's hike, Abner Kaplan's reminisces, and a spring walk to Georgetown by Helen Johnston and friends. The C&O Canal and Towpath are also highlighted in a report, with drawings, on a new edition of *Circling Historic Landscapes: Bicycling, Canoeing & Walking Trails near Sugarloaf Mountain, MD*.

Other entries in the 128-page journal, published out of Port Tobacco, MD, include illustrated poems and essays on paddling the Severn, Oswego, and Missouri rivers--the last all the way in a kayak by Bethesda's Don Besom. In *The Pull of the Trail*, Reg Saner literally takes you into his boots out West, and Slavomir Rawicz tells in *The Long Walk* how he and a handful of fellow prisoners made their own 4,000 mile trail from Yakutsk, Siberia, to India.

Now in its sixth year, *Potomac Review* offers sections called Around the Region, More Prose & Poetry (several short stories include the powerful *Simon*, by transplanted Albanian Aleksander Dardeli), Young Talent Pages (for students through high school) and Potomac Reader. The 501(c)(3) quarterly is edited by C&O Canal Association member Eli Flam, 301-931-1412, elilu@juno.com, www.meral.com/potomac). Potomac Review can be bought at many area bookstores or from P.O. Box 354, Port Tobacco, MD 20677 for \$5 postage-paid or \$15 for a year's subscription.

- - Eli Flam, Editor/Publisher
Potomac Review

ON THE LEVEL

by Level Walker Chair Karen Gray

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Think being a Level Walker is hard? John Barnett passed on a copy of the June 24 Brunswick Citizen's "The Latest from the Last Century" column. It included miscellaneous items from the June 23, 1899 issue of The Valley Register. Among them was a paragraph about Mr. Edward Moore who had completed 25 years as a C&O Canal level walker, and as such had for nine months each year walked down the Towpath and back along the berm from Harpers Ferry to Catoctin. With an additional mile between his home and the Canal, this meant he walked: 22 miles each day; 660 miles each month; 5,940 miles each year; and 148,500 miles in his 25 years. In addition, the original "working" level walkers did some maintenance along their levels, including filling in woodchuck holes, etc.

The deadline for reports mentioned in the next issue is NOVEMBER 11. And please folks, remember that your reports need to include and clearly designate each of the following types of information: (1) FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE LEVEL with the number, and official landmark and mileage at each end; (2) FULL NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE, (3) DATE, TIME AND WEATHER; (4) AMOUNT OF GARBAGE AND COMMENTS; (5) VEHICLES (in Park parking areas) and HUMAN USAGE; (6) CONDITIONS OF NOTE concerning the Towpath and Canal/park structures or facilities; (7) FLORA AND FAUNA; and (8) ADDITIONAL COMMENTS on anything that didn't fit in the other categories.

LEVEL WALKER ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITY AS OF 8/13:

Only one level is without a walker: #68 from Evitts Creek/#11 Aqueduct at Mi. 180.66 to the Wiley Ford Bridge at 182.62. **Any one willing to take this level on?**

There were 132 Level Walker assignments (some assignments include more than one person), with 94 reports from 64 of these. Fifty of the 69 levels have been reported on including: Nos. 4, 5, 6, 16, 17, 22, 30, 33, 35, 36, 46, 52, 53, 54, 60, 61, 62, 68, 69.

This means two things: First, WE STILL NEED LEVEL WALKERS (call, write or e-mail me to join up); and second, we are within reach of the goal of getting a report on every level on the Canal during this calendar year.

LEVEL WALKERS ASSIGNMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:

We welcome the following to the Level Walker program: Marty Heavner, #69; Bob & Lois Humphrey, #22; John & Judith Lilga, #60; John Lindt, #28; Don Quigley, #38; John & Eliane Viner, #13.

After approximately two decades, first on Level 14 and then later also on 15, Herb Madison has resigned for health reasons. Herb first came to love the Canal as a frequent member of Helen Johnson's nature walks. Thanks Herb for all your years of work on these levels!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NEW LEVEL REPORTS:

#1, Tidelock (Mi. 0.0): 5/27, 6/10, 6/17 & 7/8, and 7/29 (4 reports), JOHN BARNETT: Raked off debris on water of Lock #3 on 5/27; found trail freshly mowed and Park staff trimming the plants away from the side of the Towpath on late June-early July walks. On 7/29 encountered the boat on a test run preparatory to being returned to service. 7/20, DOUGLAS BORK accompanied by Bruce Thomas: Found very little trash and noted signs announcing the return of the Canal boat rides.

#2, Fletchers (Mi. 2.26): 5/26, BILL QUINN: Compared newly-painted and without graffiti Capital Crescent Trail bridge (old B&O trestle) with part of Chain Bridge over the Canal showing both graffiti and rust. Lots of construction at Fletchers where Towpath walkers are detoured onto the Capital Crescent Trail for a short distance.

#3, Lock 5 (Mi. 5.02): 7/13-15 (1 report), JAMES and JOAN WILSON: Noted that the river was at the lowest they have seen it in 20 years of level walking. They noted that the "highlights" of this level include Sycamore Island and Little Falls. Level ends at: Cabin John Creek (Mi. 7.5)

#7, Great Falls Tavern (Mi. 14.3): 6/1, JACK MARGARRELL: Looking for litter after the Memorial Day weekend but found very little.

#8, Swains Lock (Mi. 16.64): 7/21 and 8/5 (2 reports), PAUL and MAGGIE DAVIS: Found lots of litter in the parking areas at each end. Trees in the Canal at 18 and 19.1 miles. On 7/21 saw more butterflies than they have ever seen at one time. The Potomac was so low it looked as if they could have walked across it. Also encountered a WTOP reporter interviewing Fred Swain and later themselves.

#9, Lock 22 (Mi. 19.63): 6/12, MIKE SCHUCHAT: Capstones on the embankment at Blockhouse Point are loose and in danger of being lost in the next flood. ENDS at Seneca Aqueduct (Mi. 22.82)

#11, Tenfoot Is. (Mi. 25): 5/30, SHARON FREEDMAN: Collected 3 tall kitchen garbage bags of litter, almost all of it from around the parking area and at the culvert near popular fishing location. Grass along the Towpath recently cut.

#12, Sycamore Is. (Mi. 27.21): 7/4 & 9 (1 report), STEPHEN POLLOCK: A few potholes in Towpath but generally in good condition. Parking area at Sycamore Landing needs mowing of fence line and repair of fence.

#13, Edwards Ferry (Mi. 30.84): 8/3 & 4, JOHN and ELIANE VINER: Met Scout Troop from Newport News making annual approx. 60-mile trip backpacking and biking with heavy gear floated by canoe. Poison Ivy overhanging Towpath along much of the level.

#14, Harrison Is. (Mi. 33.27): 7/15, BARRY BEALS: Trimmed vines and brush that appeared to be a potential hazard to cyclists and moved fallen limbs back from mowable areas.

#15, Whites Ferry (Mi. 35.50): 7/18, RICHARD TIBBETS: Identified Joe Pye Weed, Beebalm, Daisy Fleabanes, Wild Hydrangea, Bottle Brushes and Stinging Nettles in bloom; and saw or heard Song Sparrows, crows, grackles, cardinals, Carolina wrens, chickadees, red eyed vireos, Acadian flycatchers, wood thrush and gold finch. ENDS at Lock 26 (Mi. 39.37)

#18, Nolands Ferry (Mi. 44.58): 6/9, ERIC DUTROW: Notes the good repair job on the Towpath after the floods. 7/9, JOHN AND PATTY HAWLEY: More trash at parking locations since "Trash Free Park" program initiated.

#19, Point of Rocks (48.2): 1/18 & 5/16 (1 report), JOHN and SUSAN ANDERSON: Picked up 1 bag of trash in Jan. and 3 in May—most of it around the boat ramp. ENDS at the Catoctin Aqueduct (Mi. 51.53)

#21, Lock 30/Brunswick (Mi. 55): 4/18, REBECCA G. TAYLOR and nine 9-11 year-old girls from Scout Troup 1625: Most of the litter was around the Brunswick bridge. 5/15, RON MILBERG: Parking lot full, about half the vehicles with boat trailers. Six-inch tree growing out of stone wall of lock 30. ENDS at Lock 31 (Mi. 58.01)

#23, Lock 33/Harpers Ferry (Mi. 60.7): 5/30, GEORGE WYETH: Encountered a 6-foot rat snake and broadhead skink 9"-12" long. Encountered hundreds of people along this heavily-used level on the Memorial Day weekend.

#24, Dam #3 (Mi. 52.27): 6/1, RON HOWARD: Because the Canal was dry, was able to retrieve mostly old trash from the Canal prism. Hauled tire to milepost 64 and alerted Park maintenance for pickup.

#25, Dargan Bend Recreation Area (Mi. 64.89): 7/5, DON and CAROL JURAN accompanied by Bill and Regina Cour: Parking lot in heavy use and a third of the vehicles had boat trailers. Most of the litter was in the parking area; otherwise not much more than before the Trash-Free Park Program implemented.

#26, Lock 37/Mountain Lock (Mi. 66.96): 7/18, THAD HECHT: Saw one deer. Trash was mostly beverage containers. Encountered 1 hiker, 1 jogger and 23 bikers.

#27, Antietam/#4 Aqueduct (Mi. 69.36): 4/26, KEN ROLLINS: Cleanest Towpath and berm in memory. [This is significant as Ken is perhaps our only Level Walker from the days when the program was first started about 1959.] Vegetation growing in downstream wingwall. 5/4, RUTH CANARD assisted by Phil Adams: Towpath newly graveled in some areas. Very little litter. 5/15 and 8/16 (2 reports), JUDY PETERSON assisted by Carol Branscome: Undergrowth heavy and hides usual trash where road follows berm side of Canal. Towpath in good condition but extremely dusty and Potomac exceptionally low.

#28, Lock 38/Shepherdstown (Mi. 72.8): 4/6, SONNY DEFORGE: Towpath clean despite heavy use from Shepherdstown. ENDS at Lock 39 (Mi. 74)

#34, Charles/McMahon's Mill (Mi. 88.1): 5/6, 6/1, 6/30, 8/3 (4 reports), EARL LOWERY: On 5/6 saw 3 deer, rabbits and a variety of birds. Cleaned rocks fallen on Towpath from cliff. One weighed about 40 lbs. June 1 saw 7 deer and noted paw prints are growing slowly with few on the trees. 7/7 & 10 (1 report): TOM and LINDA PERRY: Found evidence of at least one illegal fire. Cleanup on 7/10 involved 6 persons including members of the Williamsport High Honor Society doing community service. ENDS at Foreman's Ferry (Mi. 90.94)

On THE LEVEL - continued

#37, Falling Waters (Mi. 94.44): Report by Elizabeth Scott with 6 others (and one dog) for L.W. ELLEN HOLWAY who was unable to go on the walk: Collected 5 grocery bags of garbage. Noted blue, yellow and **On** white violets, Dutchman's britches and squirrel corn among other wildflowers.

#38, Lock 44/Williamsport (Mi. 99.3): 7/14, DON QUIGLEY: Encountered Park staff in vehicles who had marked area of a hornets nest. Noted termite-infested tree at risk of falling across the Towpath at mi. 101.9.

#39, High Rock Quarry (Mi. 102.26): 6/6, PAUL KIMBLE: Saw 4 deer, squirrels, rabbits, 14 cyclists; very little litter.

#40, Old Nettle Bridge (Mi. 104.98): 7/21, BILL HIBBARD: Saw a groundhog and found the level relatively trash-free.
ENDS at Dam #5 (Mi. 105.80)

#44, Big Pool/Fort Frederick (Mi. 112.4): 6/4, JOHN BOWMAN: Big Pool very low. Gullies on both sides of the Towpath at about 112.6 that cut into the Towpath could be a hazard to cyclists. 6/28, PETE and THELMA PETERSON: Sighted a blacksnake, day lillies in bloom. Greenery lush.

#45, Ernstville (Mi. 114.52): 6/13, JOE KOCHENDERFER: Noted 18 vehicles in the new parking lot of the Western Maryland RR trail on the berm side of the Canal. Culvert at mile 115 has a sinkhole in the prism and the one downstream has two large ones and several small ones. Licking Creek Aqueduct sign missing.

#46, Licking Creek/#6 Aqueduct (Mi. 116.4): 5/29, GERRY BUNKER: Signs the level recently mowed and limbs removed. Met a couple on a through bike trip who mentioned how impressed they were with the condition of the trail and maintenance of the hiker-biker campsites.

#47, Little Pool (Mi. 119.84): 6/9, MARK PODVIA: Level in good shape, very little litter.
ENDS at Hancock (Mi. 124.1)

#50, Lock 53 (Mi. 129.96): 5/30, GREN WHITMAN and JANICE PLOTCHYK: 12 cars at Mi. 131 access point and 8 campers in 3 tends on the river bank near mile 132. Gren notes that this was his 24th level walk!

#51, Dam 6 (Mi. 134.06): 6/1, JOHN POPENO: Found Towpath recently mowed and cleaned and in excellent condition. Two ruffed grouse at about mile 135. 6/11, AUBREY PEARRE: Old chassis and 7 tires at about mile 135.5 are an eyesore.
ENDS at Sideling Hill/#8 Aqueduct (Mi. 136.56)

#55, Lock 60 (Mi. 149.69): 8/1, NORM and RONNI COOK: Towpath contained fallen limbs that appeared to have been cut by someone. Lots of wildlife including turkey, deer, and grey fox.

#56, Culvert 208 (Mi. 151.18): 7/3, PAT WHITE: Canoe being walked down the unusually-dry river by two people. Gate at Outdoor Club Road was bent, one post broken, padlock on post, still locked. At Lock 61 footbridge still in lock but also still appears to be in good condition. Level which usually has water in it was dry. No fresh beaver sign but deer and fawns were sighted.

#57, Lock 61 (Mi. 153.10): 5/15, PAT WHITE: Footbridges now on the locks (rather than in the Canal prism) but the Lock 63 2/3rds footbridge was blocked off because of its poor condition after being vandalized. Muskrat between mile 154 and Twigg Hollow and beaver at work repairing its dam at the old turning basin above lock 62. Two other beaver seen. [Also reported on by Barbara Sheridan below.]

#58, Lock 63 1/3 (Mi. 154.48): 4/20, FRED and JUDY MOPSIK: New beaver dam just below south portal. Graffiti at two places inside the tunnel. 5/23, BARBARA

SHERIDAN (Report includes both of her levels, #57 and #58): Wood duck hens with ducklings, one with 10 and one with 8. Concerned about litter and likelihood that it won't be carried out in these remote areas where it must be carried so far. Found trash piled behind trees at Sorrel Ridge Hiker-Biker and the Section Superintendents House at the Paw Paw Tunnel parking/canoe camp area. Also a very large bag piled against "Trash Free Parks" sign at Sorrel Ridge HB. Noticed people climbing over north tunnel portal and absence of "keep off" signs that used to be there.
ENDS at Paw Paw Tunnel parking area (Mi. 156.24)

#64, Kelly's Road Culvert (Mi. 170.84): 5/30, MARY ANN MOEN: Big oak tree down at mile 173, tree near Rt. 51 has fallen into the Canal, and HUGE tree has fallen over at 172 with a root radius of 12 feet. Spring Gap Campground was overflowing with tents, trailers, etc.

#65, Spring Gap Campground (Mi. 173.37): 4/18 and 5/23 (2 reports), JIM PRESTON: At the steel RR bridge passing over the Canal at 175.43, the wooden barriers that contain the RR road-bed ballast have broken and ballast coming down onto the Towpath.

#66, Lock 74 (Mi. 175.47): 5/23, JIM PRESTON: Milepost #177 broken below ground level. The stone interior walls of Lock 73 and 74 are overgrown with vines and vegetation.
ENDS at Mexican Farms Road (Mi. 177.69).

BE ALEVEL WALKER

LEVEL 68

Evitts Creek Aqueduct to Wiley
Ford Bridge - Mile 180.66 to
182.62

Contact Karen Gray

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	DAY	EVENT
Monthly	Wed, Sat	<i>Sights and Sounds of the Seasons</i> nature walks are scheduled four times monthly on the first and last Wednesday and Saturday. Meet in Great Falls Tavern at 10 A.M. 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.
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. No space Available. 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	Sat	Heritage Hike near Cumberland. Details page XXX
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. Contact Pat White at 301-977-5628.
Dec 4	Sat	Frostbite Hike. Location to be announced. Contact Ken Rollins at 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 Year's Eve Hike. Meet at Hancock Visitor's Center at 2:00 P.M. Note: This year, we will meet and hike in Hancock. Dinner will probably be at Weaver's--plans are in progress. Call Pat White at 301-977-5628

2000

Jan 1	Sat	New Year's Day Hike. Meet at Hancock Visitor's Center at 10:30 A.M.
Mar 4	Sat	Annual Meeting , Shepherdstown, WV

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

C & O Canal Association
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Glen Echo, MD 20812-0366

Articles for publication should be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please mail articles to:

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

The C&O Canal Association maintains a home page on the WWW at <http://www.omcdesigns.com.net/Canal>. The COCA Webmaster is Olivia Casasanovis. COCA also maintains a telephone for information and inquiries. Please direct calls to (301) 983-0825.

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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
Eastern Subdistrict 301-432-6348 Bill Orlando
District Interpreter Martin Gallery
301-582-0813

WILLIAMSPORT VISITORS CENTER
205 West Potomac Street, Williamsport, MD 21795301-582-0813
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

**C&O CANAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL HERITAGE HIKE**

October 23, 1999

Choose from an 11.2-mile hike from Spring Gap or Mexico Farms area to Cumberland, MD. Following the hike, enjoy dinner and a program at the VFD. See details on the enclosed reservation form.

Year 2000 Nominations Committee

Robert Perry, Chairman703.590.5568
Pat Barnett-Brubaker.....301.925.7371
Chris Cerniglia.....301.340.6361
John Fondersmith.....202.966.8431
Nancy Long.....301.320.2330
Mary Ann Moen.....301.777.0734

All offices and five directors are up for election at the next annual meeting. Contact any of the above committee members to place a name in nomination. The named individual should consent prior to being nominated.

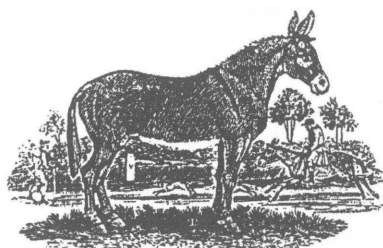
In this issue.....

Memories of Almost a Century Along the C&O Canal.....	1
Presidents Message.....	5
Nature Notes.....	5
Towns Along the Canal.....	6
Bears Along the Canal.....	10
Carl's Song.....	11
The Monocacy Report.....	12
Bill Davies Work Soon Available.....	13
Welcome New Members.....	14
Acknowledgment of Contributions	14
Flowers as Recorded on the April Through Hiike....	15
Blackford's Ferry Hill Journal On-Line.....	18
The News From England.....	19
International Canal Conference.....	19
Canal Boat Find.....	21
Volunteering at Lock 75.....	21
Notice From Artist Mary Bird.....	22
Potomac Review.....	22
On the Level.....	23
Calendar of Events.....	26
Directory.....	27
Heritage Hike.....	28
Nominations Committee.....	28

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