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# Centennial Observer

AND

# C. & O. Canal Chronicle

Vol. 1—No. 6

Your Newspaper

WILLIAMSPORT, MD.

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May—1962

## HIKING ALONG THE OLD C & O CANAL



By Justice Wm. O. Douglas, U. S. Supreme Court

The C & O Canal is a thin ribbon 185 miles long. It lies snug against the Potomac River, turning and twisting with the course of the river as it makes its way through the picturesque Potomac Valley.

I saw mile after mile of changing Canal Banks, of woods and meadows, of fields and cliffs. I found almost every mile of the Canal to contain a chapter of American history.

It is ridge and valley country. The ridges rise 1,000 or 2,000 feet; each bearing the name — North Branch, Sleepy Creek, Cacapon Ridge, etc.

They abound with Wild Turkey, Fox, Possum, Quail, Grouse, Woodcock and Deer.

There is rolling pasture for cows and sheep, and sycamores grow as large as I have seen.

There are camp sites without number and endless peaks and ridges to explore.

I was often so deep in woods that it seemed I walked with Washington, Braddock and Cresap.

We found fascinating ruins the length of the Canal. Thirty miles out of Cumberland is the Paw Paw Tunnel, 4,000 feet long. The roof is lined with brick five to seven deep. The National Park Service has put it in fine repair.

(Continued on Page Two)

## ANNUAL JUSTICE DOUGLAS HIKE SET FOR MAY 5th

Williamsport, May, 1962 — A new youth hostel will be dedicated as a feature of the eighth annual Justice William O. Douglas C & O Canal reunion hike Saturday, May 5.

Kiwanians in Washington have purchased the former Potomac View Inn. It will be furnished and opened permanently for the use of Canal hikers.

Orville Crowder, secretary of the C & O Canal Association, Washington, revealed that the Douglas Hike will cover the territory from Point of Rocks to Harper's Ferry during the first week-end in May.

It will begin at Point of Rocks Friday evening May 4, with a supper, the group's annual meeting, and a camp-out at Camp Kanawha, which belongs to the Frederick County Fish & Game Protective Association.

On the following morning the hike will be open to the public. It will start from the towpath under the Potomac River Bridge at 8:30 o'clock. The group will reach Sandy Hook in time for lunch, and the dedication ceremonies of the hostel will be held at that time.

After lunch the members of the group will have the option of continuing the Canal hike to Harper's Ferry or climbing Maryland Heights, then going down the spectacular descent.

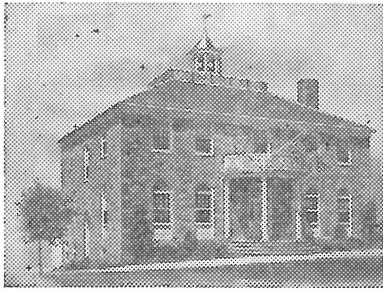
The annual banquet will be staged Saturday night at Harper's Ferry.

Lectures on points of interest and Canal facilities that are scheduled for preservation will be given in the course of the 16-mile hike.

The Douglas Hike tradition began  
(Continued on Page Two)

Justice Douglas' 8th Annual  
Reunion Hike Edition

## CITY HALL



**THE CENTENNIAL OBSERVER**  
and  
**C. & O. CANAL CHRONICLE**  
George W. ("Hooper") Wolfe, Editor  
Published infrequently by  
"Wolfe — On the Square"

as a public service and to tell of  
events of the Civil War that occurred  
in this area.

Post Office Drawer: A  
Williamsport, Maryland

—\*—  
**TOWN OF WILLIAMSPORT**  
Incorporated — 1823

James E. Byron.....	Mayor
Maurice D. Miller.....	Assistant Mayor
Chas. S. Madison.....	Councilman
Walter W. Teach.....	Councilman
Lewis P. Pfeltz.....	Councilman
George W. Wolfe.....	Councilman
Charles Miller.....	Councilman
Warren Seymour.....	Clerk
Norman Broadwater.....	Attorney

—\*—  
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Hagerstown, Maryland

**All Chronicle Back Issues  
Are Now Available**

Volume 1 — Numbers 1 and 2  
were completely sold out and we  
were unable to fill all the requests  
we had for them.

We have made a re-print of those  
issues and you can call or write  
for same at your convenience  
should you desire to complete  
your volume.

## ANNUAL JUSTICE DOUGLAS HIKE SET FOR MAY 5th

(Continued from Page One)  
when Supreme Court Justice William  
Douglas organized the first major  
walk along the Canal to call attention  
to its unique attractions. The public-  
ity from that hike eight years ago and  
the prominent persons who participat-  
ed are credited with playing a major  
part in the Canal's designation as a  
national monument and the plans for  
its improvement by the National Park  
Service.

## CAMP FIRE KILLS SOLDIER IN FUNKSTOWN

By Wm. C. Bireley

A soldier was sleeping under a hol-  
low tree in the north end of Funks-  
town the night of the battle, July 10,  
1863. His camp fire burned through  
the hollow part of the tree in the  
night and it fell across the sleeping  
man. He complained to citizens that  
he felt his kidneys were bruised. His  
kidneys were injured for he died a day  
later. He was buried in Funkstown  
Cemetery and Funkstown citizens  
turned out that Sunday for his funeral  
like he was one of their own. His  
name was Calhoun from somewhere in  
Ohio.

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## FUNKSTOWN BATTLE GUIDE

Following is a battle guide for those  
who have read the April issue about  
the "Battle of Funkstown":

1863	Now
Stover's Woods	Funkstown Com- munity Park
John W. Stonebraker's	Fox Deceived ed Farm
Stover's Barn	Torn down; half mile out Beaver Creek Pike
Stockslager Farm	Red Barn, Funkstown-Chewsville Road
Gilbert's Field	Behind Ball Diamond
Jacob Hauch Farm	Howard Artz Farm
National Pike	Frederick Road
Boonesboro Pike	Route 40-A
Corn Field	Field South side Beaver Creek Pike at Park

The hill west of Funkstown where  
Robert E. Lee rested after Gettysburg  
and where Braddock cut a road in  
1775, was named Braddock's Ridge,  
and Funk's Court House Hill. Both  
East and West of Funkstown had a  
Stover and Stockslager Farm.

## HIDES HORSES IN BARN

By Wm. C. Bireley

In July, 1863, Jacob Bireley led his  
three horses to the Cooper Shop at  
the Court House Hill, on Braddock  
Ridge, the night before the battle and  
hid them in Stockslager's Barn, wrap-  
ping their feet in bags so they would  
not make any noise. Soldiers were  
all around the place, but Bireley didn't  
lose the horses. He found them safe  
where he had left them a day or two  
later.

ADS IN THIS NEWSPAPER PAY  
DIVIDENDS! TRY US!!

## HIKING ALONG THE OLD C & O CANAL

(Continued from Page One)

The towpath and the walks are intact.

If you should want to hike the canal as I did, you can start at either  
end or you can reach the canal by car at many places. You can come to fish,  
to camp, to hike or just to sit. To stay until deer come out at dusk. To listen  
for the lonely cry of the loon across the water. To lose yourself in the woods  
and untangle your own problems in solitude. To learn about time from the  
old Canal and the energy of the universe from the nearby Potomac that never  
sleeps.

(Printed by special permission — "Home and Highway")

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CONSERVATIONISTS OF MARYLAND

Following is the framework of an affirmative program directed to conserving the natural resources of Maryland. There is nothing in this program which cannot be accomplished in a four-year period if the people of Maryland really want it. There is no single item contained herein on which I have not spoken or written over the years of my work in this field.

In the final analysis, the fate of this program will depend on whether our individual citizens care enough to vote for it and then to fight for it.

Respectfully,

DAVID HUME

### FRAMEWORK OF A PROGRAM FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

1. We must have clean water.
2. We must stop the pollution of our waters and to maintain the purity of this most precious of all natural resources; we can and must:

(1) Enforce existing laws against water pollution and establish new laws which can make enforcement quicker, easier and more certain.

(2) We must establish and maintain uniform water quality standards throughout our State.

(3) We must reorganize the present antiquated system of bureaucratic control, subject to even further deterioration, through political influence by creating a new agency to have jurisdiction of those phases of the discovery, analysis, treatment, pollution control and conservation of water now under the jurisdiction of the Water Pollution Control Commission, the Department of Health and the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources.

(4) Two new functions must be added to the streamlines agency described above: The conversion of saline and brackish water for our basic supply and the utilization of the great Southern Maryland aquifer for use in the event of a thermonuclear or bacteriological attack on us.

(5) We must increase and strengthen those interstate compacts with our neighboring States to make certain that they match our efforts.

3. We must treat the problems of the Bay and the rivers which flow into the Bay as parts of one major need.

4. We must ask for a voluntary agreement from our legislators by which the strange interpretation of the principle of senatorial courtesy now employed in the Maryland Senate

will be abandoned in the field of natural resources. There are no local issues here.

5. We must protect and insulate from political influences those scientists and specialists who have the major responsibility for the conduct of our various conservation departments.

6. We must establish lobbying laws aimed directly at preventing the activities of those few lobbyists who have found this a profitable area for their activities.

7. We must have an emphasis on research, both short-term and long-term range, which will supplement present state action with the individual research of private citizens and the full utilization of industrial research teams.

8. We must educate our people to the problems in this field which confront us and we must recognize with this that private industry should help on a voluntary basis.

9. The almost 3 million acres of forest land of Maryland, worth well over one-half billion dollars, requires the implementation of programs which have been on paper for a long time. Further, what is now in effect a tax deterrent under our tax structure must be converted to a tax incentive.

10. We must direct a re-emphasis on small watershed development, on the restoration of our wetlands, on the employment of our scientific capacities to stop erosion and the establishment of community ponds and farm ponds.

11. There must be re-enacted the philosophy that the individual citizen has a direct say in the decision-making process of our government agencies — that the individual citizen has the full and ultimate responsibility for the future of our natural resources.

### HUME FOR GOVERNOR



12. We must recognize that industry is attracted by such material considerations as clean water and by such political considerations as clean government.

Any plan for the future must have at its core the establishment in our State of those areas with common needs — transportation, material, power, labor, water, timber, markets — and on this basis, to plan a blueprint for the future. Only then can we make certain that we will be able to protect our waterfront areas, our future parklands and the concept of the kind of State in which we hope our children can live with pride and dignity.

(Paid political advertisement)

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**ADEQUATE PROGRAMS IN:**

- County-wide Urban Renewal
- Parks and Recreational Facilities.
- Appreciation and NOT Depreciation of Our Historical & Natural Assets.

For your progress, consider these programs, understand them, and realize what they will mean toward stimulating our sluggish economy.

Let us understand that urban renewal is a program confined not only to housing, but also concerns the problems in traffic control, recreational programs and community welfare programs. It is our responsibility as citizens to gain our fair share of Federal tax dollars to help us promote Washington County's outstanding assets.

The truth regarding youth physical fitness presents a sad picture—adults also. Automation has prevented children and adults from developing their physical and mental capacities. Proper recreational programs throughout the county and state will be one of our greatest methods of preventing the many problems which result from idleness.

Millions of people in our neighboring cities are seeking places to spend their leisure time and would be glad to know of the historical riches found in Washington County in Maryland. The more people we can get to appreciate our community, the more money will be brought into circulation thru their travels, the more industries that will appreciate the benefits of our

**PRETTY WILLIAMSPORT  
GIRL CONTEST WINNER**

Miss Margaret Weston, a stately brunette from Williamsport, walked off with a bouquet of red roses, a host of prizes and the "Miss Sharpsburg AYP" crown in a beauty contest finals held at the Sharpsburg Elementary School.

Runner-up for the title and princess to Miss Weston was Miss Joan Marie Myers of Chestnut Grove.

The new beauty queen was crowned by Mrs. Janice Cline, the last queen. She is a freshman at Hagerstown Junior College and the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Weston, 30 W. Potomac St., Williamsport. She was sponsored by Valley Evergreen Nursery which received a trophy.

Parading before the judges with other contestants, Miss Weston was regal in a full-length gown of aqua chiffon festooned with roses. Her pretty dark hair was swept high on her head and sparkled with jeweled combs.

In the final whirl before the judges Miss Weston answered the question, "If you were given an all-expense paid trip to anywhere in the world, where would you go?" as follows: "I've always wanted to go to Switzerland. It's beautiful there. I met a Swiss boy at junior college, just a friend, who told me all about it."

In answer to her second question, one on the popularity of the twist, Miss Weston stated: "I don't know how long the Charleston lasted but I think the twist will eventually die out; maybe it'll come back in 10 or 20 years!"

Both the new Miss Sharpsburg and her princess were contestants in the

community — these will lead to greater prosperity for all of Washington County.

We must realize that the success of any program is dependent upon the cooperation of all the people in understanding and approval of their respective programs.

Let us consider these programs. If you favor these programs, remember the name — **HARNISH** — for **HOUSE OF DELEGATES**. My efforts will be directed towards enacting programs for progress for all the people. Dial REgent 3-7944.

Submitted by  
Richard G. Harnish, D. C.  
18 Broadway  
Hagerstown, Md.

same contest two years ago, when Miss Janice Churchey was crowned.

"I hope I had a little more poise this time," mused the 19-year-old queen.

Miss Weston who is a 1961 graduate of Williamsport High School, enjoys sports, especially swimming; spends spare hours painting, drawing and reading.

As "Miss Sharpsburg AYP" she will now enter the "Miss Shenandoah Apple Blossom" contest in Winchester and ride the Sharpsburg Associated Young People's float in many forthcoming parades.

The queen's future "side-kick", Miss Myers, sponsored by the Boonsboro American Legion Auxiliary will attend Miss Weston as princess in events to come and also receives a host of prizes. The petite lovely is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mervin W. Myers and is an 18-year-old graduate of Boonsboro High School. She is a receptionist for the Mason Dixon Boy Scouts of America.

Coy Price, president of the host AYP, opened the program and presented the Queen's trophy. Mrs. Catherine Myers of Leiter Brothers, was mistress of ceremonies of the affair.

Contestants posed in an array of pretty ball gowns on the spring-like stage decorated with forsythia.

Judges were "Miss Shenandoah Apple Blossom of 1961," Miss Judy Sue Williams, Harry C. Geiman and Willis H. Ligon of Winchester.

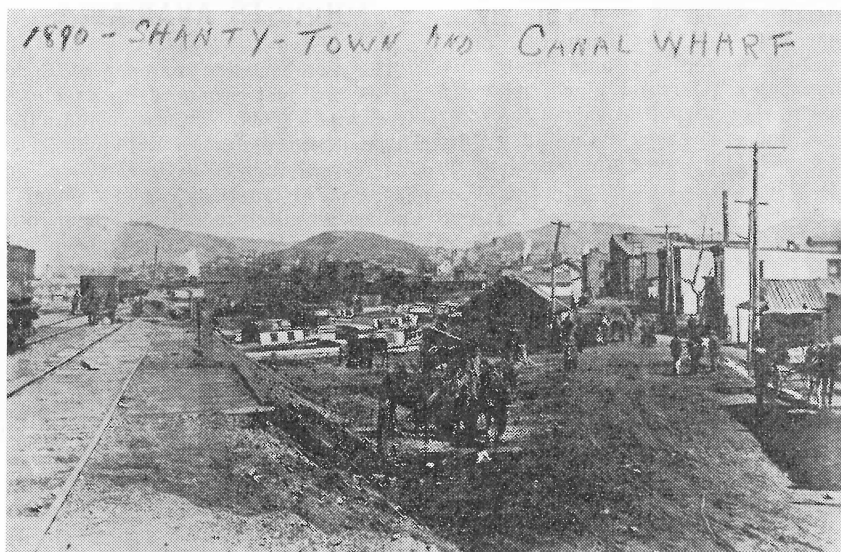
Entertainment was interspersed between the girls' appearances and was highlighted by a comical ballet performed by five AYP men in pink frilly costumes. They were Lehman Toms, Harry Toms, Larry Art, Lewis Dellinger and James Mullendore.

Also aiding a gay note to the affair were Ronald Butts, organist; Eddie Hoffman of Waynesboro, Pa., ventriloquist; Mary Christy Dawson, who gave a medley of old-fashioned vocal numbers, and Miss Patricia Athey, batonist.

Mrs. Harry Toms, Jr., was chairman of the pageant. Members of the contest committee included Mr. Toms, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Artz, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Cavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dellinger, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. James Mullendore, Mr. and Mrs. Coy A. Price and Mr. and Mrs. Lehman Toms.

**BE WISE! — SUBSCRIBE!!**

## SHANTY TOWN AND THE C. &amp; O. CANAL



By Hooper Wolfe

In the early days of the C & O Canal there were as many as 800 boats plying the Canal. The average boat carried about 120 tons of coal and need a crew of four. Also needed were four mules and much equipment such as lines, poles, harness and food



for the crew and mules. That was big business in those days — each boat averaged about 25 round trips between Cumberland, Md., and Washington, D. C., each season and some of men on the crews had to have a place

to "blow off steam" at the terminals.

Cumberland's Shantytown was the ideal spot for such diversion and even when the number of boats working the Canal dwindled to less than 100, Shantytown remained the popular hangout.

Shantytown was the "Casbah" of Cumberland in those days. Approximately twenty-five buildings comprised this area that started at the B & O underpass at the lower end of Wineow Street and ended near the old Footers Dye Works. Just about all of the houses were made of wood and looked not unlike those of the early Western type in that they were almost all two stories high with flat roofs and some even had the famous false fronts. The only brick house was at the lower end and near the underpass. This was

Murphys' Grocery Store. Most of the other houses were saloons, pool halls, lunch rooms, gaming rooms, brothels, and houses of ill fame where anything could happen and usually did.

All of the buildings were on one side of the narrow street facing the Canal loading wharf and the boat-building yard which was only a few hundred feet away. The B & O railroad went right through the back yards of these houses.

Segregation was no problem here. Whites, colored and foreigners all lived, ate, drank and slept together in Shantytown, and very often the one who wakened first "rolled" the others. On one of my frequent visits there, I had my pants stolen right from my body while I slept.

When I was between 15 and 16 years old I spent many weeks among those people for no other reason than adventure. I had friends in the saloon business there and I was always welcome because of my willingness to assist at the lunch counter connected with the bar. The very lax law officers thought I was a member of the family. My parents never knew where I was when I left on those jaunts, and they certainly did not approve of my being away from home at my age and missing school.

Not all of the Canal boatmen visited these places but those who did usually came away "rolled" and broke, and yet they invariably came back for more.

One of my very good Canal friends who knew the reputation as well as

the personnel of this area, decided, on his way back to Ohio after a visit home in the 1920's, to pay a visit to some of his old friends in Shantytown. I advised him not to venture such a visit as I knew he carried a large sum of money, and I knew what could happen to him. He assured me that he had not been drinking for over a year and that he intended only to stop off for a few hours. I did at least succeed in getting him to schedule his stop-over in the day-light and to leave the area before dark.

After a few days during which I was anxiously awaiting for a card from Ohio telling me of his safe arrival, I got the surprise of my life! A total stranger came to me with a note from my friend asking me to come to Marlowe, two miles away, and pick him up. When I arrived there, I took one look at him and knew immediately what had happened; he had been a victim of his Shantytown "friends". Just a few days before, he had left Williamsport with a suitcase full of clothing and a big roll of cash. Now all he had were his overalls, blouse, a boot on one foot and a shoe on the other, a lump on his head, and no money whatsoever. He had taken a freight train to Martinsburg and then walked to Marlowe where I picked him up.

There is little remaining of Shantytown now — not even Murphy's brick store is there. Flood Control Engineers and slum clearance projects have just about obliterated what was probably the roughest, toughest spot along the Canal and now only memories remain.

Even now I get a feeling of nostalgia and visit the location many times each year. I point out the one-time location of such places as Clark's Saloon, Jim's "Blazing Rag," Louise's Den of Iniquity and many others. In their stead are salvage yards, taxi stands, filling stations and other legitimate businesses. There is a super market in one part of the old Dye Works, and the Canal loading wharf is covered with a 20-foot high flood control dike with the B & O - Western Maryland interchange tracks on its top. Just another example of the great changes progress makes.

One nice thing about a sap is that he can be tapped by some ambitious woman just as often as an old maple, comespringtime.

Even today a delivered telegram on a yellow sheet is mildly sensational.



## WAR ON THE POTOMAC EARLY IN JUNE, 1861

By Mary Vernon Mish

Because I live in the home of one of her ancestors, Miss Nellie Lemen some years ago gave me a yellowed newspaper clipping which described the military crisis which was impending early in June of 1861. A Hagerstown reporter visited Williamsport around June 10-12 (the exact date is missing) and had this to say:

"I am confidently assured that, as an offset to the Maryland backsliders the Union feeling in Berkeley (sic) county, Virginia, opposite Washington county, is in the majority, and that the First Regiment of our troops that fords the Potomac will find its ranks doubled in two hours. The farmers there are opposed to taking up arms against the established government, heart and soul, and only await the first opportunity to come forward man fully to put down rebellion . . .

"This afternoon I rode across to Williamsport, and viewed through a glass the enemy's pickets, established upon the farm of a Mr. (Robert) Lemen, a thorough Union-lover. A ferry boat, which he owned, was cut to pieces a few nights since, so that no communication can now be had with the other side. The pickets are posted along a ravine and have occupied Mr. Lemen's barn and house without having gone through with the usual formality of saying "by your leave." Col. Burnside's Rhode Islanders are located only nine miles from Williamsport so that, supposing no retrograde movement to have occurred across the border, from four to six hours may at any time suffice to bring about a collision. Between three and four hundred cavalry and infantry are quartered in the vicinity of the Lemen property, and a regiment of volunteers that formerly drilled on a prominent hill is thought to have retired a short distance from the shore. Detachments probably extend along down as far as the ferry itself. The canal, this side, is doing no business at all. It is hard to realize the fact that an enemy lurks so near us, and that any moment may precipitate a fearful collision.

"Williamsport is well guarded, and a surprise is impossible. Last night forty men were posted along the Maryland bank, as intimation had been given that the village was to be burned to avenge the death of a young man who was himself killed (DeWitt Clinton Rench, of Clear Spring, Md.)

while attempting to shoot a Union man last week at Williamsport, an account of which affair has already appeared in print. (Rench was killed on June 5, 1861). Shots were exchanged, a few days since, with the rebels when they first seized the ferry boat, and it is thought that they were damaged. No injury was sustained on our side."

The reporter further stated that military headquarters were soon to be transferred from Chambersburg, Pa., to Hagerstown, Md., where "no difficulty in procuring storage for the materiel of the army" would be encountered inasmuch as "the town warehouses are nearly empty just now." In regard to the "reported evacuation of Harper's Ferry, altho it appears not at all improbable" he could not trace the rumor to a reliable source.

This reporter's worst fears were realized. Harper's Ferry was evacuated on June 14, and Captain Abner Doubleday, under Patterson's command, crossed from Williamsport into Virginia, over Mr. Lemen's ford and ferry, on June 16.

## Deer Hunting

By Bob Tenney

Hooper's in the woods hunting his deer, Naturally at the lawful time of year. Enjoying nice weather calm and clear Praying for luck to return for a cheer. But nothing shows up neither far or near, So he calls it a day and sheds a big tear.

He gets back home and shouts, "Minnie I'm here." She opens the door, and THERE is his Dear!

My conclusion is that a person who talks your arm off is a worse bore than a person who says nothing, but it's a close decision and not easy to make.

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## NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR TOURISTS AVAILABLE

The Cumberland Chamber of Commerce has just produced an excellent illustrated folder, "Cumberland, the Heart of the Potomac Highlands," . . . "Maryland At a Glance," one of the Tourist Division's most popular publications and which has been out of print for some time, has been updated and reprinted in large quantity. Designed to provide historic, cultural, economic and general information on the State, in concise form, this folder (in State colors) is available to motels, hotels, restaurants and other tourist outlets, including chambers of commerce. Write — Mail Room Supervisor, Tourist Division, Maryland Department of Economic Development, State Office Bldg., Annapolis. The Department of Forests and Parks has published three new brochures, — "Elk Neck State Park," "Potomac State Park," and "Gathland State Park." Zoo's Who: Baltimore's Famous Zoo has a good "Safari" folder available. Contact: Baltimore Zoo Director, Baltimore — TU 9-4466.

Washington County Economic Development Commission reported that its 16 mm film, "Valley of History", featuring historic and scenic attractions of the area, has been viewed by over 10,000 people in 17 States and the District of Columbia.

## PLAN STREET LIGHTS FOR RIVER PARK

The town of Williamsport will erect mercury - vapor lamps at the Waterfront Park, with a line of equally-spaced lamps starting at the park entrance and continuing around the park and the river's edge to the Aqueduct.

The park will look inviting to visitors who approach from the West Virginia shore. It also will be a convenience for all who use the park at night. It will enable boaters and fishermen to stay as long as they like after dark.

The recent high water washed the loose top soil away, leaving a solid base for the Waterfront Park.

Many people are driving boat-trailers down to the park site, unloading their boats, taking an excursion on the river and leaving with their boats. This is better than risking vandalism and high water by mooring the boat by the river edge.

## OUR COUNTY HERITAGE

By E. Russell Hicks

Arnold Bennett, English novelist, dramatist and journalist, recorded in his notebook during his trip around the world that the three things which impressed him most, were: The Taj Mahal in India, the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, and the symmetrical stone arches in the bridges of the Antietam and Conococheague creeks in Franklin County and Washington County. In the year 1961, Miss Helen Ashe Hays published her monumental work entitled, "The Antietam and Its Bridges," a lyric in prose, containing 17 lovely photographs of the Antietam bridges.

While much has been said about the Antietam bridges, especially the world famous Burnside Bridge at Sharpsburg, very little has been said about the bridges on the Conococheague built about the same time and with the same exquisite delicacy of touch in stone all possess. There are four stone bridges on the Conococheague in Washington County, at Williamsport, at Wilson's Store (today Rowe's Park), at Broadfording, and the Price's bridge west of Cearfoss.

To see their structural grandeur, it is necessary to get the prospect a hundred yards above or below each one, which shows its whole configuration. The bridge at Broadfording shows its beauty best on a bright, moonlighted, autumnal night, when the trees on the hills that flank the stream are ablaze with their richest colors, when the clear, cool atmosphere is flooded with a quiet, peaceful, golden brilliance and the moon's reflection in the stream's bosom is an exact duplication of the real one high above in the bosom of the heavens.

"Broadfording Bridge" is a misnomer. No one fords the creek there but crosses over it on stone arches. In frontier days, this was the safest fording between the Mason and Dixon Line and Williamsport. The bridge there, the Williamsport Bridge, and the Price's Bridge were erected on slate land. The stones in each had to be transported from quarries miles away in flat-bottom boats. This fording and bridge are walled in by two high ridges of slate hills. The one on the east side is an enormous elevation of tightly packed, wedged-together, blue-slate strata and is known as the Creek Hill.

Two springs on its summits once sent down a little rill that during the

geological ages cut through the hard, slate layers and formed a gully making possible a path, later a road, which would lessen the stiff climb of its ascent. In early times, the first settlers believed this little gorge was haunted with spooks, mostly those of Indians. Even as late as 75 years ago people believed that when Israel Reiff lost control of his two frightened horses as they dashed down the hill throwing him from the carriage, to the ground on his head, causing instant death, the horses saw a ghost.

Nevertheless the fording and this bridge for nearly two centuries have been a main link of communication between the eastern and western parts of our county. The arches still show matchless beauty in stonework. If they were destroyed, it is believed that no one living would possess artistic skill sufficient to reconstruct them.

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Dad, with duties to pursue,  
Is always on a journey  
Mother is a bridge fan who  
Won't miss a single tourney.  
Sister, never sitting still,  
Is absent night and day.  
Brother rarely shows until  
It's time to hit the hay.  
Just a normal foursome that  
Keeps running helter-skelter,  
Leaving no one but the cat,  
To use the fall-out shelter.

### PROTECTIVE PRESCRIPTION

"If there's anything wrong with me," the man told his doctor, "don't scare me by giving it a complicated scientific name. Just tell me in plain English."

"Well, to be frank," said the doctor, "You're just lazy."

"Thanks," sighed the patient. "Now give me a scientific name for it so I can go home and tell my wife."

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Hagerstown - - - Maryland

## REGISTRATION LAGS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Williamsport, May, 1962 — Due to the lack of any organized efforts on the part of the two major political parties, the pre-primary registration in Washington County is running far behind previous election years.

Election officials say a check of figures shows that totals are off as much as fifty per cent and they doubt if the gap will be closed to any extent before the primary date, May 15.

The registration books closed April 14.

During the month of March, 475 Democrats and 288 Republicans, registered. In February the figures were 52 Democrats and 20 Republicans; in January 41 Democrats and 25 Republicans, bringing the overall totals for the three months to 559 Democrats and 333 Republicans.

The total is considerably less than the 2,147 voters whose names were taken from the records January 1, for having failed to vote in the last five years. Of the 2,147 total, 1,102 were Democrats and 1,045 Republicans.

Usually, as many if not more new voters are added in pre-primary registrations than are stricken off that year officials say.

The 2,147 voters removed have only to re-register to vote again and many are among the 892 who registered during January, February and March.

As of April 1 the county had 22,272 Democrats and 16,256 Republicans on the books.

## Wonder World Hiking

By Bob Tenney

There's a pleasant outdoor walkway beside the C & O Canal, And you'll enjoy this scenic course, especially with a pal.

Find plenty of nice relaxing spots to munch your needed snack, But the path is so enticing soon your hiking urge is back. We call nature loving "Bill" Douglas its dedicated tramper,

And he enjoys his snacks so much he usually totes a hamper.

The Beautiful Potomac River will be with you all the way,

So you will keep on going 'till you reach old Chesapeake Bay.

ADS IN THIS NEWSPAPER PAY  
DIVIDENDS! TRY US!!

## PVT. HENRY KYD DOUGLAS AND THE "RENCH AFFAIR"

By Mary Vernon Mish

In his well-known account of his Civil War service, "I Rode With Stonewall", General Douglas tells in the first few pages about his enlistment immediately after Virginia had passed the Ordinance of Secession on April 17, 1861. Trained at Harper's Ferry, where as a young private he did picket duty along the Canal, he was shortly moved out when General Johnston feared that the geographical situation was indefensible.

After assisting in the burning of the Shepherdstown bridge over the Potomac, and having to witness the burning of his father's barn at "Ferry Hill Farm," adjacent to the bridge on the Maryland shore, Kyd Douglas was marched through Martinsburg "and put in camp on a wooded hill, which overlooked Williamsport beyond the Potomac. There neuralgia seized me and gave me my first experience of its tortures and I was received in the family and house of a Union man, Mr. Lemon (Robert Lemon's home, the present "Maidstone-on-the-Potomac") and had the fullest hospitality without reproach."

General Douglas added his own version of the more or less famous "Rench affair." He wrote:

"While in this camp, DeWitt Clinton Rench, a roommate at college and the most intimate friend I then had, was foully murdered in Williamsport. He had sent me word that he was coming over the river to enlist with me as a private in my company. The day before his intended departure, he was sent into that town on business for his father. When mounting his horse to return home, he was set upon by a mob, and turning upon them to resent their cowardice, he was shot and left dead upon the ground. An attempt was made to arrest the murderers. A large body of my regiment were wild for revenge — he had been among them several weeks before — and had it not been for the vigilance of officers, the gun and torch would have visited the town of Williamsport to demand the murderers of Clinton Rench or wreak a cruel vengeance."

General Douglas commented upon the second crossing of General Patterson into Virginia on July 2nd. By this time Johnston had withdrawn his troops from the Lemon farm and was

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN CALLS FOR THANKS AND PRAYER

Washington, D. C., April 10, 1862—U. S. President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation of thanks and prayer to the Union citizens of this country today.

Lincoln's proclamation is as follows:

"It has pleased Almighty God to vouchsafe signal victories to the land and naval forces engaged in suppressing an internal rebellion and at the same time to avert from our country the dangers of foreign intervention and invasion.

"It is therefore recommended to the people of the United States that at their next weekly assemblages in their accustomed places of public worship, which shall occur after the notice of this proclamation shall have been received, they especially acknowledge and render thanks to our Heavenly Father for these inestimable blessings.

"That they then and there implore spiritual consolations in behalf of all who have been brought into affliction by the casualties and calamities of sedition and civil war; and that they reverently invoke the Divine guidance for our national councils, to the end that they may speedily result in the restoration of peace, harmony and unity throughout our borders, and hasten the establishment of fraternal relations among all the countries of the earth."

Some of us expect respect from our grandchildren, but we are fortunate if we are even noticed when other kids are in the room.

Try to be prompt and forthright is always good advice to any man or woman.

encamped at Martinsburg, 13 miles to the South, where Colonel Jackson (later the famous General "Stonewall") had joined him. According to Douglas, when Patterson crossed the Potomac, "Jackson with a regiment and a company or two as skirmishers went out to meet him and get some practice. It was only a "little affair at Falling Waters," as General Johnston called it, and few were hurt. To me it was of memorable importance, for there, for the first time, I heard the whiz of a musket ball and the shriek of a cannon shot."

## BANKS AUTHORIZED TO ACQUIRE 1500 HORSES

Woodstock, Va., April 14, 1862 — Authorization has been given to Maj. Gen. N. P. Banks, commander of the newly created Department of the Shenandoah now located here, to levy upon the territory "a military contribution of not less than 1,500 horses for the use of the army."

The authorization was granted by U. S. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. Stanton was prompted to issue this authorization to Banks because of numerous requests received by the U. S. Quartermaster General for additional horses.

In his dispatch to Banks, Stanton stipulated that "care should be taken that horses fit for military service be selected and that only horses absolutely needed for agriculture be left in possession of persons believed to be disloyal."

In reply to the secretary's authorization, Banks said: "So far as possible the order of the Secretary will be put in immediate execution. The number of horses remaining in this country is far less than that suggested in the order. I doubt if there are 300 serviceable horses in the whole of this country, from Harper's Ferry to our outposts. What we can we will do."

## THE MULE DRIVER SEZ:

Boys can't compete with girls when it comes to working fathers for favors and special privileges.

\* \* \*

I often wonder if the Duchess of Windsor ever looks around the room and asks the Duke if any celebrities are present.

\* \* \*

Lawyers usually answer telephone calls in a voice like that of an undertaker.

\* \* \*

In the ads a Pullman roomette looks as spacious as my bedroom at home, but when I get in, it seems to shrink to the size of a telephone booth.

\* \* \*

If I see straight, half the women of middle-age hobble and totter as though their feet were killing them.

\* \* \*

My life isn't all I wish I could have made it, but I'm thankful for what it is.