



C&O CANAL BOAT TRIP PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Schedules, group reservation information, and teacher packets are available from either office.

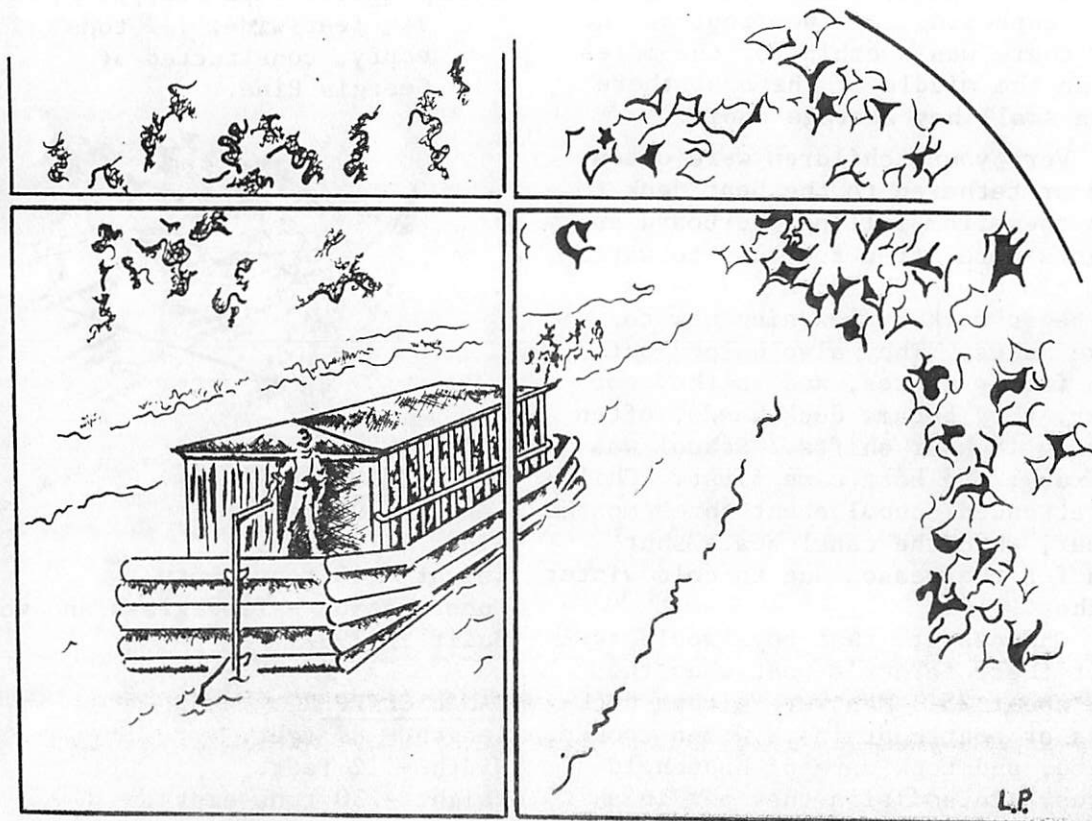
Publicity photographs for loan and press packets are available by calling (202) 472-6685.

THE GEORGETOWN

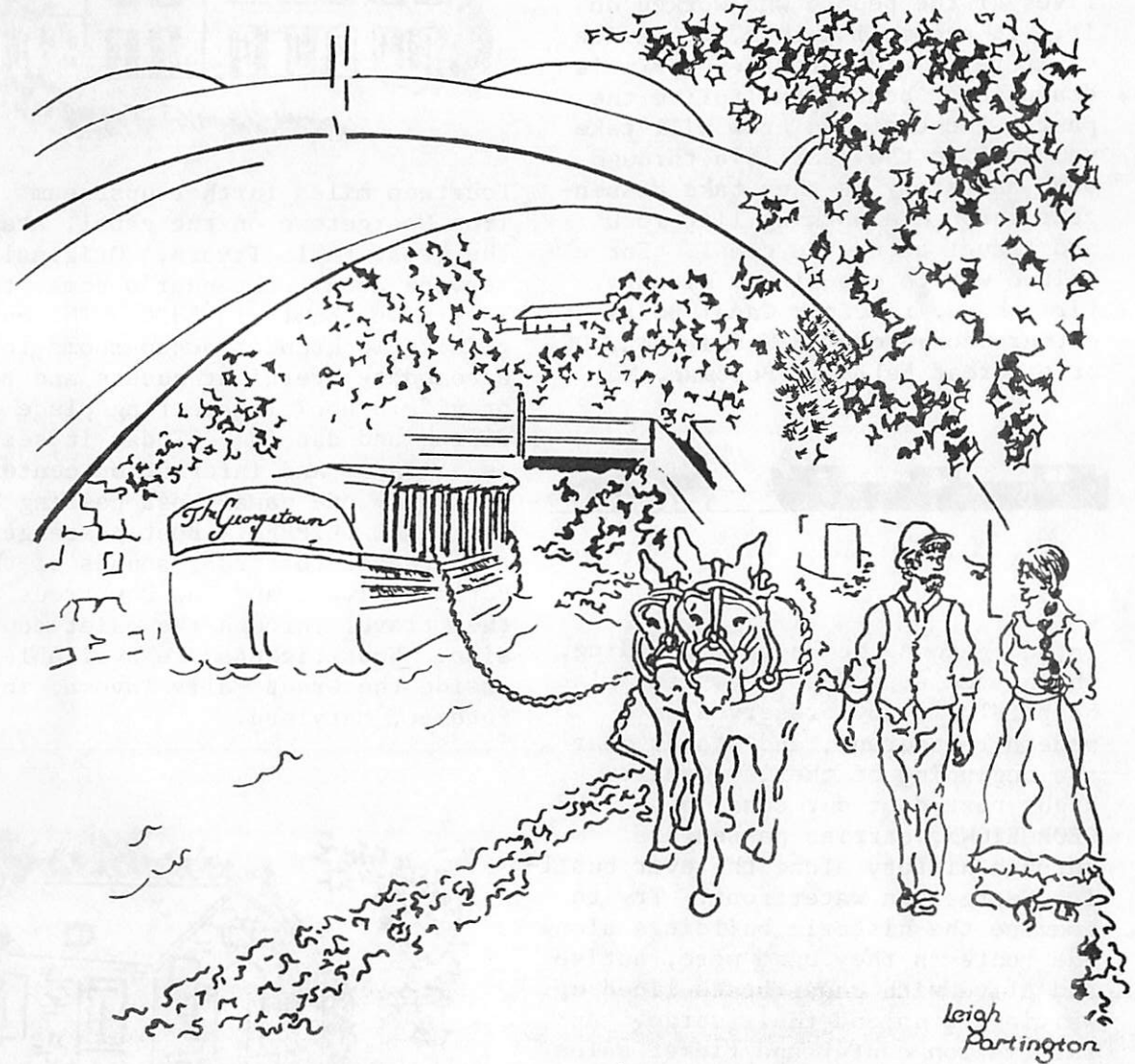
C&O Canal National Historical Park
The Foundry Mall
1055 Thomas Jefferson Street NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 472-4376

CANAL CLIPPER

C&O Canal National Historical Park
11710 MacArthur Boulevard
Potomac, Maryland 20854
(301) 299-2026



View from the "Honeymoon Suite" - Great Falls Tavern, Md.



Under the Francis Scott Key Bridge - Georgetown

WELCOME

Our goal is to preserve a part of our heritage, specifically the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the lives of the people who worked on it. To accomplish this, we invite visitors to ride along on our mule drawn canal boats, and relive the past. The costumed crew will take you back to the year 1876 through song and story as they take passengers through a working lift lock and travel along the canal. For a unique way to experience history first hand, ride our Canal Boats at either Georgetown in Washington, DC or at Great Falls in Potomac, Md.



In Georgetown the Foundry building, which once served as a veterinarian hospital, is now preserved as a modern restaurant, and stands near the beginning of the C&O Canal. Right next door our canal boat, THE GEORGETOWN, carries passengers through history along the ever bustling Georgetown waterfront. Try to imagine the historic buildings along the route as they once were, active and alive with canal boats lined up waiting to unload their cargo. An information center and ticket sales office are located at Level 3 Plaza where THE GEORGETOWN is docked between 30th and Thomas Jefferson Streets NW, Washington, D.C.



Fourteen miles further upstream from Georgetown on the canal, stands the Great Falls Tavern. Originally serving as a locktender's home, the Tavern was built in 1830. The enterprising locktender added rooms to accommodate overnight guests and to provide a social gathering place for dining and dancing. Today it serves as a museum and information center, with only one canal boat passing by, the CANAL CLIPPER. Boat passengers are treated to birds, sounds of the Potomac River, and Paw Paw trees as they travel through the quiet countryside. Boat tickets are available inside the Great Falls Tavern, in Potomac, Maryland.



LIFE ON THE C&O

The Canal played a major role in the history of transportation and was in operation for over 90 years. The life of a canaller and his family was hard work and lasted long hours, yet it is often remembered with a special fondness, appreciation, and pride. One anonymous author wrote, "The days drifted by as a dream and as I look back it was a very tranquil dream."

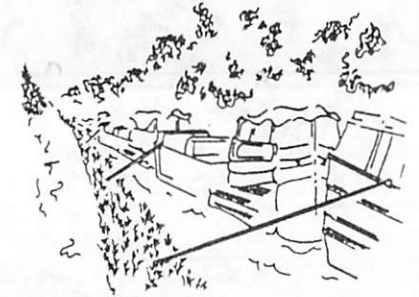
Living space aboard the boat was far from generous; the family lived in a cabin measuring about 9x12 feet. The cabin contained a coal burning stove, 2-3 bunks, a table, and a small cupboard. At the front of the boat there was a cabin for the mules and in the middle of the boat there was a small hay storage cabin.

Very young children were often tied or tethered to the boat deck to keep them from falling overboard as parents were often too busy to watch them closely. Children 6-7 years old began work by learning how to drive mules. They also helped out with family chores, and as they got older, they became deck hands, often working 18 hour shifts. School was a luxury; the boat came first. Children attended school about three months a year, when the canal boats shut down for the season due to cold winter weather.

Chances are that boys would inherit their father's boat when they were about 25. Men were either deckhands or boat captains. Women cooked, washed, and took care of household chores. In addition they put in a full days work helping to steer the boat.

CANAL FACTS:

Groundbreaking: July 4, 1828.
Begins: Tide lock in Georgetown.
Ends: Cumberland, Md.
Construction Cost: \$12 million.
Length: 184.5 miles.
Depth of Canal: 6 feet.
Width of Canal: 60-80 feet.
Features: 11 aqueducts, 7 river dams, 74 liftlocks, 150 culverts, and 1 tunnel measuring 3,118 feet.
Operation: 1830-1924.
Peak Year: 1875.
Peak Number of Boats: 554.
Boat Features: 92 feet long, 14½ feet wide, 112 tons empty, constructed of Georgia Pine.



THE GEORGETOWN

Length - 93 feet.
Width - 12 feet.
Weight - 15 tons empty.
Construction - fiberglass and wood.
Built in 1982.

CANAL CLIPPER

Length - 87 feet.
Width - 12 feet.
Weight - 30 tons empty.
Construction - ferro cement and wood.
Built in 1977.