

THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF MARYLAND: 90 YEARS ON THE TRAIL... AND MORE

Our 90th Anniversary Celebration

January 2025



Compiled by Bill Saunders

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INTRODUCTION

The Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) was formed in the final months of 1934. It is common knowledge among our members that Orville Crowder and a few other Baltimore residents who were members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) organized a hike in October, starting at what is now Gathland State Park and hiking south on the Appalachian Trail. At that hike, the participants discussed forming a Baltimore-based hiking club. On December 4, a group met at the Enoch Pratt Library and agreed to form the Mountain Club.

In 2023, during the final year of my term as president of the Mountain Club, members of the MCM leadership team discussed our upcoming 90th Anniversary and possible ways to celebrate the anniversary and also draw public attention to our club. We decided to hold a series of activities over a period of months to draw the attention of our history to the club members and the public.

- Our year of celebration began with the adoption of two special 90th Anniversary logos and the sale of anniversary T-shirts.



- Then, for the first time MCM participated in the Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race in May 2024.
- Throughout the year, we held anniversary hikes that retraced the steps of some of the club's early hikes.
- With the aid of old MCM photos and documents that were digitized by the Maryland State Archives, we produced a series of new articles about our history that were shared through our membership list and our web site.
- Through our MCM First Person activity, we invited members to tell us their reminiscences of hiking with MCM.
- On September 29, 2024, the club held a well-attended and enjoyable gathering at the Howard County Conservancy to celebrate our 90th anniversary.

The products of all of these anniversary activities are consolidated here to preserve them in our records and share them with our members. We hope readers will find them interesting and enjoyable.

I am very grateful to Norm Engelberg for editing this book and correcting a large number of typographical and grammatical mistakes.

Bill Saunders

OUR 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS



MCM AND THE BALTIMORE KINETIC SCULPTURE RACE: MAY 4, 2024

In the fall of 2023, when the Mountain Club's leadership team began considering ways to make our upcoming 90th Anniversary celebration special, our Publicity Director (Jon Hyman) suggested we consider entering a float in the Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race (KSR), which is held annually in downtown Baltimore on the first Saturday in May. Although MCM had no experience in planning or building a float, there was some interest among the club's leadership in using this opportunity to publicize our club and our anniversary. Initially, we thought that our participation in the race would happen in 2025, if at all, for two reasons: (1) it was highly unlikely that MCM volunteers could design and build a float from scratch by May 2024, and (2) the 2024 Hike Across Maryland (HAM), which traditionally takes place every two years on the first Saturday in May, would conflict with the date of the 2024 Kinetic Sculpture Race.

In a stroke of serendipity, two things happened that changed the situation. First, MCM was unable to reserve the overnight accommodations for the HAM hikers at the Catoctin Mountain Park for the first weekend in May, and we found it necessary to reschedule the HAM for the second Saturday in May. Second, a group of persons in Takoma Park, Maryland, who had participated in the KSR for many years, offered to give their bicycle-powered device to MCM. After discussions, MCM's team of volunteers decided to accept the offer and register an entry in the KSR to publicize our 90th Anniversary.

Finding a way to transport the kinetic device from Takoma Park to Baltimore, designing and building our entry, arranging a space to store and work on it, and planning how to get the entry to the Baltimore race site, all presented major challenges for the team of volunteers. But with a lot of trial and error, and considerable ingenuity and hard work by the participants, the Mountain Club team worked to build a flashy and attention-catching float for the race. On the day of the race, many MCM members participated on the float team, and many others attended the race as viewers. The sight of our biker-powered float speeding down Baltimore streets, with life-sized photos of our hikers spinning, was a thrilling spectacle. The next pages contain a few race photos and the Hiker High Points newsletter article written after the event. A much larger collection of photos of our float and the race event can be viewed at [2024 Kinetic Sculpture Race Photos](#).

After the race, our float received the Judges Fill-in-the-Blank Award in recognition of our "shameless plugging of the Mountain Club by successfully racing a mobile billboard." Involvement in the KSR turned out to be a unique and memorable part of MCM's 90th Anniversary celebration.





Club's Entry a Hit in Baltimore Sculpture Race

Jon Hyman

To kick off the celebration of the Mountain Club's 90th Anniversary, the Club did something it's never considered before. We entered the 2024 Kinetic Sculpture Race (KSR) put on by the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore.

The KSR takes place every year on the first Saturday in May. Many consider it the Baltimore area's most fun event of the entire year, with tens of thousands of people in attendance. Our entry was one of 24 mostly bicycle-powered sculptures, many featuring outlandish designs.

The Race (really more of a parade – there's no prize for coming in first) began at the American Visionary Art Museum on Key Highway below Federal Hill. When the start was announced, the pilots – the people who power the sculptures – ran down Federal Hill to their sculptures and started pedaling or



along with the sculpture and pitched in at times. They were Larry Schoen, Bridget Bentz Sizer, Patrick McMahon, Marc Schabb, Chris Simon, and Erin Walton.

The sculptures weaved around Federal Hill and through local neighborhoods to the cheer of the crowds.

Our sculpture, pedaled by six pilots, consisted of four six-foot high panels that spun around with



the wind. Each panel featured large photos of Mountain Club hikers. As we wound through the Federal Hill neighborhood, the rain soaked crowds cheered us on with shouts of "Mountain Club! Mountain Club!"



We then moved down Key Highway and around the Inner Harbor.

Unfortunately, the wind spun our photo panels much faster than expected and the first panel spun



loose from its wood foundation. We made a brief stop to remove the panel and moved on, the three remaining panels spinning away.

The KSR traveled through Harbor East, Fells Point and into Canton where the sculptures entered the

Waterfront Park's boat ramp and proceeded into the waters of the harbor, since all the sculptures must also float. The Club's entry had large pontoons connected to its steel frame and a large plastic foam core to provide buoyancy.

The Club's sculpture flew down the ramp into

Continued on page 5

Kinetic Sculpture, continued from Page 4



the water with a big splash. Then the pilots, using paddles, guided it around the pier and back to the shore. From Waterfront Park, we

pedaled up to Patterson Park, cruised through a sand pit and then into a very deep, very wet mud pit where we were slowed, but not stopped.

From Patterson Park we returned to the Inner Harbor then traveled through Locust Point, down Fort Avenue and back to the Visionary Art Museum for a closing celebration.

For its efforts, the Club won the Judges Discretionary Award, for, as the judge put it, "Unapologetic Pandering." I believe we were the only sculpture with our name, "90 Years of Hiking" and other

slogans all over it. Our objective was to get noticed, and we did.

A big thank-you for this project goes to:

- The pilots, pit crew and chief sculpture designer Marc Schabb.
- The Takoma Park neighborhood that provided the sculpture's base.
- Our sculpture transport team – Roberto Llanso, Bill Saunders, Steve Kempler and Jon Hyman.
- Ron Furman, who provided our building site, engineering help, a huge workshop and hardware supply, a trailer that transported the sculpture to the KSR and hands-on help.
- The KSR committee: Debbie Feldman Jones, Bill Saunders, Jody Blatt, Marilyn Fisher, Marc Schabb, and Jon Hyman.
- Those who rode along and pitched in – Jody Blatt, Clare Hash, David Hash, Amy Huntoon, Anne Rosenberg, Bill Saunders and Carla Simon.
- The maker of lunches, Marilyn Fisher.

Will we enter next year's race? Let us know what you think!



JULY 2024



HIKER HIGH POINTS • 5

MCM 90TH ANNIVERSARY GATHERING: SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

Below is the agenda for the 90th Anniversary Gathering held at Howard County Conservancy to celebrate with our members. The event was well attended and the participants afterward gave enthusiastic reports of their enjoyment of the event. Below are a few photos of the event, the event agenda, and the Hiker High Points article about the gathering.



Welcome

Mountain Club of Maryland 90th Anniversary Celebration



2:00 pm Doors open, registration begins.
Sign up for breakout sessions.

2:45 pm to 3:25 pm
Welcome: John Barrett, MCM president.
Past presidents share MCM history.

3:30 pm to 4:10 pm

- 1) Dulcimer music in the main room.
- 2) Kinetic Sculpture Race slides in Nature Center.
- 3) Garden walk of native plants in Honors Garden.

3:45 pm to 4:30 pm
Bird walk on trails. Mike Kerwin, HC Bird Club.

4:20 pm to 5:00 pm

- 1) Grandpa Walking slides in Nature Center.
- 2) Beekeeping explained on Terrace.

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Live music in Honors Garden amphitheater.

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Dinner buffet in the main room.
Dessert on terrace outside the main room.
Beverages on terrace.

7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Celebration concludes. Clean-up begins. Lend a hand!

90 th Anniversary Celebration Had Many Activities

By Janine Grossman

The overcast and misty weather didn't dampen the spirit of members who attended the Sept. 29 celebration of the Club's 90th anniversary. Preparations for the event began ten months ago when a committee of volunteers was formed, including Bill Saunders, Steve Kempler, Leslie



The event featured a check-in table where Rose Eicker, Joan Montanari, Trudy Poijman and Jackie Killip volunteered. Bill Saunders had prepared ten posters with historic photos, which he hung around the main room. When most everyone had arrived, President John Barrett welcomed the



group and spoke about MCM's history. Following John's remarks four former Club presidents shared their experiences: John Eckard (1976-1978), Steve Williams (1992 to 1994), Patty Williams (1996 to 1998) and Bridget McCusker (1998 to 2000). It was interesting to hear how the club evolved.

Breakout sessions were next.

Treasurer Ray Kirchner demonstrated his musical skills with the dulci-



mer in the Nature Center. Two members of the Howard County Bird Club offered a walk and brought along multiple pairs of binoculars to make it even more interesting. I led a walk in the native plant garden near the main building, and in the Nature Center, Jon Hyman showed slides from the Kinetic Sculpture Race in Baltimore, where MCM entered a float last spring. Sarah Wheelan, a bee-



Continued on Page 3



Marcuse, Betsy Stevenson, Janine Grossman, Cliff Garrett, Anastasia Lolas, Roberto Llanso and Jon Hyman.

Many other Club members assisted along the way. Sharon Sniffen provided guidance with the Eventbrite system. Terri Eckard, Club president from 1982 to 1984, took photographs. At least 15 people set up tables and chairs for our 142 guests, and an equal amount stayed until the rooms were cleared and cleaned.

The celebration was held at the Howard County Conservancy, a non-profit nature preserve near Woodstock. Eight generations of the Thomas Browne family farmed the land since 1703. The facility now has 232 acres and five miles of trails. Bridget McCusker led a hike the morning of the event that covered woodlands and meadow areas.



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ANNIVERSARY, continued from Page 2

keeper, brought some of her equipment and an informative display. During the buffet dinner, a four-member band played multiple instruments. They'd hoped to play in the amphitheater, but given the weather, they played from the balcony in the main room.

Betsy Stephenson supported many aspects of the event, including colorful table decora-

tions, posters and signage, as well as the logo on the dessert cupcakes! She and I, along with Sharon Sniffen, Diane Rogers, Kathy Souders, Adrienne Shriner and Ellen Schenning monitored the serving line throughout dinner. *In all, many hours of planning and coordinating, along with supportive volunteers, created a successful 90th anniversary celebration.*

90 YEARS OF HIKING HISTORY: GLIMPSES INTO MCM'S PAST



INTRODUCTION TO MCM HISTORY ARTICLES

In 2023, MCM established a partnership arrangement with the Maryland State Archives (MSA) to scan many of its old documents. These documents are part of a large set of records deposited by MCM at the Archives more than 25 years ago. While the effort is still ongoing, so far MSA has digitized 13 photo scrapbooks of photos taken between 1934 and 1949, many issues of MCM newsletters for the years 1934 – 1977, and minutes of club Council meetings between 1937 and 1996. These documents are available for viewing by MCM members:

- The photo scrapbooks can be viewed at the Maryland State Archives at this link: <https://speccol.msa.maryland.gov/pages/speccol/series.aspx?speccol=5171&series=18>.
- Our entire collection of MCM newsletters and Council meeting minutes can be viewed on our web site by clicking on NEWS and then choosing HIKER HIGH POINTS for newsletters, or COUNCIL MATTERS for Council minutes.

The digitization of old MCM records will continue into 2025, but already the on-line availability of early records has provided us with a treasure trove of information about our past. As part of our 90th Anniversary celebration, we have tried to deepen our members' knowledge of our past by researching various topics about the history of the Mountain Club. The results have been shared with our members in a series of 13 articles that were published on our web site and shared with club members through our email listserv. All of the articles are included in this 90th Anniversary book to preserve the knowledge we gathered during this year of celebration.



1: - WHO WERE OUR FOUNDERS?

As part of our 90th Anniversary, MCM will be sharing information about various topics in our club history. As the first set of History Facts, at this time I would like to highlight three of the Mountain Club's founders: Orville Crowder, Osborne (Os) Heard, and Alex Kennedy. All of them were members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club before MCM existed.

Kennedy later wrote that in the late twenties, when he arrived in Baltimore from California, he was disappointed to find no organization like the Sierra Club here. Someone referred him to PATC, with which he hiked sporadically. He said that "To be sure of meeting (for a PATC hike) at the Treasury steps by 7 a.m. sharp, it was necessary to leave Baltimore soon after 5 a.m." On some of these hikes he met "some similarly deprived Baltimoreans—Orville Crowder and Os Heard come to mind... We would talk occasionally of a Baltimore Club." Eventually, seven or eight people, including Crowder and Heard, met at Kennedy's house in Ruxton and it was decided to go ahead with organizing a Baltimore-based club.

Crowder organized a hike on Sunday, October 21, 1934, from Crampton Gap (now Gathland State Park) to Weverton Cliffs. He promoted it by writing:

"Looking to the later organization of a Baltimore Trail or Mountain Club, this hike is planned to provide an opportunity for local mountain-minded folk to become acquainted. Won't you pass this information on to your hiker friends and suggest they come along?"

Hikers were encouraged to bring lunch and a canteen. Round trip transportation (by chartered bus) was 65 cents.

A young man named Jack Mowll, only recently turned 18 years of age and a newcomer to Baltimore, saw a postcard notice of the hike on a bulletin board at the Enoch Pratt Library. All one had to do was show up at 7 a.m. at the Irvington carbarn. Mowll got up before dawn that day, walked to a streetcar stop on Harford Road, and managed to reach the Irvington stop in time. He found himself riding in a car with two other persons to Frederick, where the entire group assembled for breakfast and then continued to Crampton Gap. Mowll later wrote that Crowder "was a natural leader and organized the trip with meticulous care."

Twenty-seven hikers joined the event that day. Crowder suggested the formation of a hiking club when the group stopped for lunch at Weverton. He led two hikes in November: one from Smithsburg to Pen-Mar and one from Ilchester to Orange Grove. A meeting to discuss the formation of a club was held on Dec 4, 1934, at the Enoch Pratt Library. Crowder, Alex Kennedy and Osborne Heard wrote the MCM Club bylaws soon after the December meeting and a Trip Schedule was created. The first official MCM hike took place in January 1935.

Kennedy wrote a few years later, *"The fundamental thing, of course, is that, but for Orville there would have been no Mountain Club... I was a member of the Washington Club before Orville... I talked with P.A.T.C officers about a Baltimore club... Had it been left to me we would probably still be corresponding! When Orville realized the need, with characteristic energy, he suggested starting immediately. The initial meeting was held in my house in Ruxton. I believe about eight were present. I nominated him for President... Orville brought to the task not only intelligence, a willingness to work,*

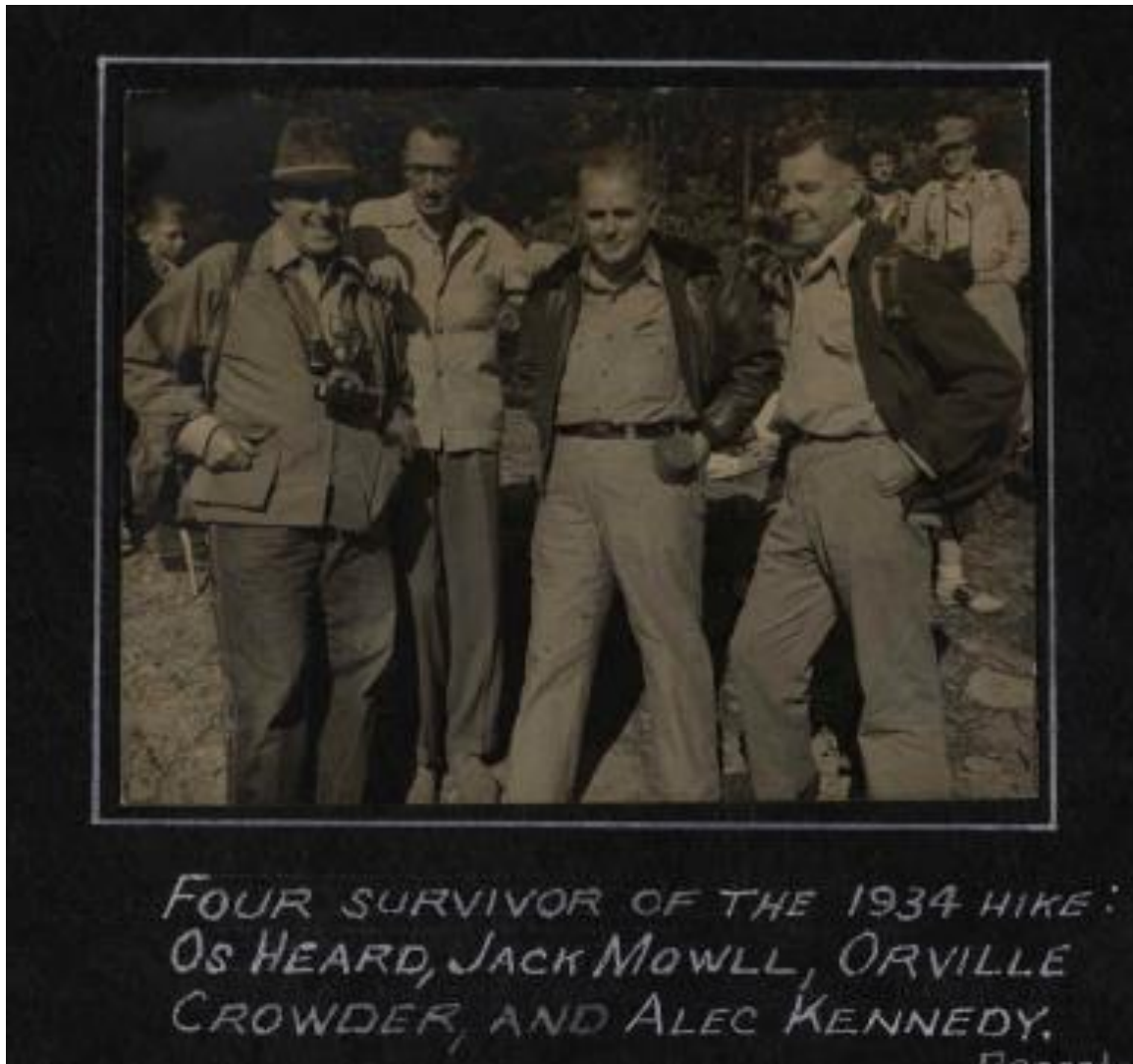
a passion for detail, but above all that most necessary of attributes – faith in the work at hand... Since then the club has never looked back.”

In addition to leading the formation of the Mountain Club, **Orville Crowder** was an avid outdoorsman. During his lifetime he climbed to the highest point in every state except Alaska and Hawaii. In 1937 he became the third person to hike the entire length of the trail from Maine to Georgia. He was an enthusiast in birds, wildflowers, astronomy, and natural history. In the early 1960's he founded Crowder Nature Tours, one of the first overseas nature travel groups, and either led, met with, or joined approximately 128 tours. He traveled around the world eight times and visited all but six countries. Here is a photo of Crowder in the striped hiking pants that were a favorite:



Os Heard worked in the embryology department at Johns Hopkins Medical School. Except for than a term as the fourth MCM president in 1943-1944, he served as our Supervisor of Trails from 1934 until 1952, A fellow club member later wrote, “By the time the Mountain Club ... was formed, Os knew the area well and had explore the choice wild areas of the surrounding states. Here was a young man who knew things of nature, where to find them, and how to hike and camp outdoors. He was an ideal person to be part of the founding group of the Mountain Club of Maryland.”

According to other club members, **Alex Kennedy** had a dry wit and a Scotch-English brogue. Alex became the club's third president (1941-1942) and served for many years as an MCM Councilor. These three founders were captured in this photo on a hike a few years later.



Without the efforts of these three, especially Crowder, the Mountain Club would not exist today in its current form.

#2 - WOMEN IN THE EARLY MOUNTAIN CLUB

If you told someone today that the Mountain Club of Maryland was formed in 1934 by Baltimore folks who were members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, they might assume that hiking at that time was predominantly a male activity. However, all the evidence contradicts that assumption. Our newly gained access to early club photo scrapbooks (which can be viewed at the Maryland State Archives at <https://speccol.msa.maryland.gov/pages/speccol/series.aspx?speccol=5171&series=18>) and our early newsletters (which can be read on the MCM web site by clicking NEWS and then HIKER HIGH POINTS) have given us more information about the club's early history. In addition, some of those early members later provided valuable insights in the Mountain Club's 50th Anniversary publication that was produced in 1984. All of these sources show that from the very beginning, women were full participants in MCM's outdoor programs.

In fact, one insight about the very first Gathland-to-Weverton hike in October 1934 was provided by Jack Mowll, who joined the Gathland-Weverton hike at age 18 after seeing an announcement on a library bulletin board. Jack later commented that women hikers played a significant role in organizing that first event, when he wrote that the first hike was organized with meticulous care: *"He [Orville Crowder], Os Heard, Harriet Caspari, and Florence Burner seemed to be the central cadre. They had apparently been active members of PATC."*

I don't have a list of all the original founding members who helped found the club in December 1934, but we do have a copy of the MCM Members Directory for 1937. At that time the club was evenly split by gender: 40 men and 39 women. And the majority of those women members do not appear to have been wives of another member—only four, or possibly five, women share a last name and home address with a male club member in the directory. That suggests that the vast majority did not join MCM simply to accompany their husbands.

One obvious reaction to the photos from the early club scrapbooks is how different the hiking outfits were then—not surprisingly.

SMITHBURG TO PEN-MAR
ANOTHER OF THE "PRE-ORGANIZATION" TRIPS

NOV. 13, 1934



O.H.

THE CAMERA
GETS THEM
AT
LUNCHTIME



O.H.

But the photos also suggest that MCM's women hikers—or at least some of them—were fully engaged in the club activities, which included more than hiking at that time. Early club trips included skiing, rock climbing, and boating (as well as social activities such as monthly square dances), and as some of the photos included below show, MCM's women members were fully engaged.



ALICE TAKES ANOTHER LOOK AT THE MOUNTAIN -

MCM



RUTH

C.O.H.

We don't know how many marriages occurred among club members, but there appear to have been quite a few. For example, according to the 50th Anniversary book, Grace (Wagner) Kennedy and her sister Vivian both joined MCM in 1938 and found husbands among the members. Grace was an artist who exhibited frequently. In the 50th Anniversary book she wrote fondly of her first Club hike in the Catoctins in a snowstorm. "The Club opened up new trails and a new world for many people."

From the beginning, MCM's woman members were part of the club leadership—although in early years they served in a specific set of roles. The club's Secretary and Assistant Secretary positions were filled by an even split of men and women. In most years the three Councilor positions included at least one woman. On the other hand, the President and Vice-President roles were filled by men for the first two decades, until Mary Kamphaus became the club's Vice-President in 1953 and then President in 1954.

Estelle Wetzler joined MCM in the later 1930s. She served in the Navy and the Army, worked for government in Paris and later worked with the United Nations in Geneva. She later wrote, "Besides day hikes, we put on musicals, sprawled about living floors listening to classical music, biked from the west end to Greenspring Valley just for a jumbo ice cream, canoed nearby rivers, skied from farms in Western Maryland, and [biked on] the Eastern Shore." Estelle also described her first 1939 spelunking trip sponsored by PATC to Schoolhouse Cave in West Virginia, which was largely unexplored at the time. Already a rock climber, she described clinging with fingertips to crumbly walls, wriggling down narrow chimneys, crawling on stomachs through tunnels, and reaching for handholds that turned out to be bats. Clearly, these early members were not fainthearted.

Dorothea Watson worked for the Social Security program and joined MCM in 1941. She wrote that on her first trip to Calvert Cliffs, she slept on the ground on a borrowed blanket, and woke up covered with chigger bites. She used the same bedroll on the next hike and once again woke up with chigger bites. She also said that at one time she held the club record for taking more hikes (37) in a period of time than anyone else.

On the other hand, Vera Pennington offered another perspective on club activities: "...in the forties, we took a night hike to see the sunrise from Mary's Rock. Allen Burk hid until midnight. Why? Because the girls threatened to square dance with him." Vera also wrote, "I remember...the fun the boys had at Mooselake, New Hampshire, in 1955 teaching the girls to play Skoal. You had to be clever to win a kiss in those days."

To learn a lot more about the experiences of MCM's early women members, you might enjoy reading what they wrote in the 50th Anniversary booklet, which you can view here: [MCM-First-Person-50th-Anniversary.pdf \(mcomd.org\)](https://mcomd.org/50th-Anniversary.pdf).

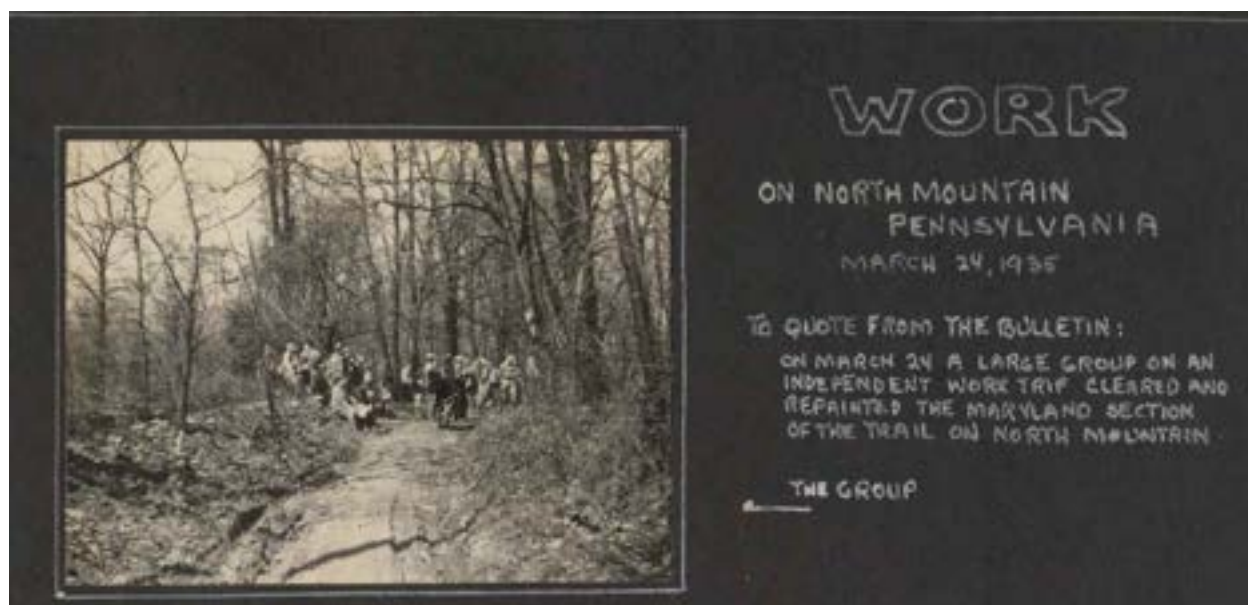
#3 - THE HISTORY OF MCM TRAIL SECTIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA

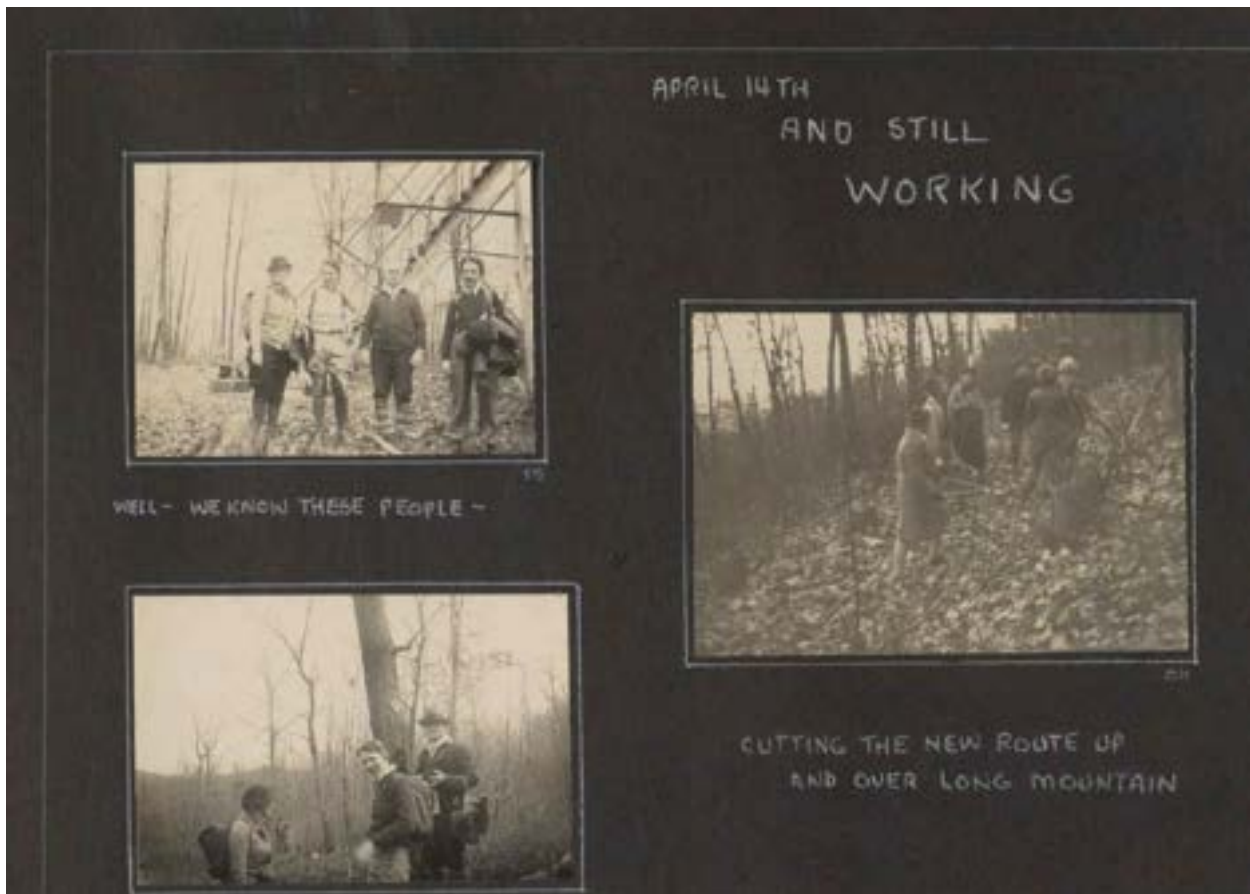
For many decades, the Mountain Club has maintained a fixed section of the A.T. in Pennsylvania (PA) from Pine Grove Furnace State Park north to Center Point Knob, a few miles south of Boiling Springs, PA (a distance of 12.5 miles). Then our assigned trail section picks up again on the north side of the Cumberland Valley--beginning at the intersection of the A.T. and the Tuscarora Trail (at the top of Blue Mountain) -- and runs north to the Susquehanna River (16.5 miles). Many of our newer club members may assume that this was always our assigned territory, but in fact our assigned Trail section evolved over a period of nearly 60 years.

Even before the club was officially established 1934, our founders--who were members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC)--made arrangements to take over PATC's northernmost section of the Trail. The Mountain Club Bulletin for January-February 1935, the first newsletter published after the official establishment of the club, stated that "the club has been officially assigned the 29 miles from Long Mountain fire tower to the Susquehanna River." The Long Mountain fire tower was located north of Whiskey Springs Road (a few miles south of Boiling Springs, PA).

That assigned section of the A.T. included the Cumberland Valley between Center Point Knob and Blue Mountain—in those early years, the Trail followed roads through the Cumberland Valley so there was limited maintenance work to be done in the Valley section. (Decades later, the newly formed Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club took over responsibility for the Cumberland Valley section.)

Afterward, MCM moved quickly to begin taking care of its new section. The MCM Bulletin, for March-April 1935, stated that "after work trips to the site, plans were underway for a Center Point Knob marker and a dedication gathering in the Fall." (At that time, Center Point Knob was the halfway point of the A.T. Today, the current center point of the Trail is further south, near Toms Run in Michaux State Forest.) Several work trips took place in the spring of 1935. Here are several photos from the first club scrapbooks showing the Long Mountain fire tower--the southern end of our Trail section at that time--in the background.





Later that year, MCM moved to implement its plan for a monument at Center Point Knob to mark the center point of the Trail. Photos in the MCM scrapbook show our volunteers dragging a boulder in place where the Trail passes Center Point Knob. They attached a bronze plaque to the boulder to commemorate the significance of the location.



FC

AND THEN CAME THE MEMORABLE DAY OF THE
DEDICATION OF THIS MONUMENT WITH ITS
CROWDS FROM FAR AND WIDE - AND WITH
THE RAINS THAT PREVENTED BETTER PICTURES -

Here is a close-up picture of the plaque. (Note: the story of how that plaque vanished and then was found again decades later, is the subject of another story in this book.)



You can see more photos of those first work trips in our scrapbook at the Maryland State Archives site: [mdsa_sc5171_18_1_2.pdf \(maryland.gov\)](https://msa.sc5171.18.1.2.pdf).

At later points in time, PATC transferred responsibility to MCM for 15 additional miles of the Trail, going south from the Long Mountain Fire Tower to Pine Grove Furnace State Park entrance at Route PA-233. This expansion seems to have occurred in two increments, with the first one apparently taking place around 1936—that’s when our documents started to state that Route PA-94 was the southern end of our assigned territory. (The A.T. crossing of PA-94 was about three miles south of the Long Mountain fire tower site.)

Two years later, in the October-December 1938 Bulletin, the MCM Trail Supervisor (Os Heard) expressed hope that PATC might agree to additional territory *“since we are up in that territory quite frequently.”*

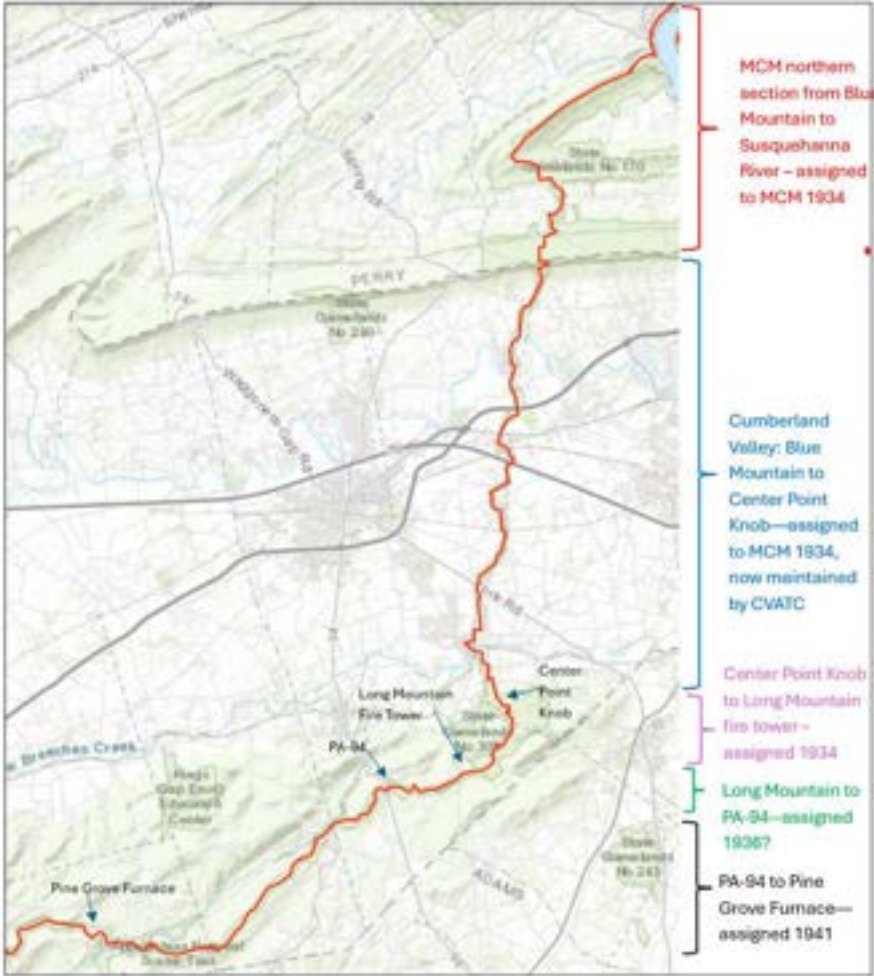
The October 1940 Council minutes reported that *“It was agreed to go along with the PATC’s proposal that we take over the maintenance of that part of the AT from Route 34 over Piney Mountain toward Caledonia, estimated to be 3 or 4 miles. Mr. Heard will notify the PATC. No action was taken on the suggestion of taking over more of the AT in central PA.”*

However, the December 1940 Council minutes presented a pessimistic view, when Heard informed the Council that the Piney Mt. Section of AT would continue to be maintained by PATC. But something changed shortly after that report, or there had been a misunderstanding, because the July-September 1941 Bulletin included a report of a work trip to Piney Mountain, PA, on June 8th. The report starts with the following sentences: *“Seven members turned out to do more work on Piney Mountain. What a gift from PATC!”* This is the first indication in MCM’s newsletters of this reassignment, but it meant that MCM had gained responsibility for maintaining the Trail from the Susquehanna River all the way south to Pine Grove Furnace State Park, which is still the southern end of our assigned Trail section in PA.

Today, most of the lands through which the A.T. passes are publicly owned. Our assigned section of the Trail in PA now passes through property owned by Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Michaux State Forest, PA Gamelands, and the National Park Service (NPS). But in the past, much of the Trail crossed privately owned land. As a result, sometimes Trail relocations were needed as ownership changed. For example, the owner of a large tract of land north of Whiskey Spring Road gave land to the York YMCA, and, as a result, that section of the Trail (which included MCM’s first hiking shelter at Dark Hollow) had to be moved. In later years, land purchases by NPS and the PA Game Commission eventually stabilized the Trail’s route in that area.

In particular, in the 1980s NPS and its Trail partners purchased land through the Cumberland Valley to permit the Trail to be taken off roads. After long, sometimes contentious debates about optional routes, NPS settled on a route through woodlots and farm fields approximately halfway between Carlisle and Mechanicsburg. As the reroute was being designed and laid out, it was decided that it would be best for a local organization to maintain this 17-mile section. In 1991, the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club took over responsibility from MCM for the Cumberland Valley section of the A.T.—leaving MCM with our current Trail assignment: from the Susquehanna River south to the top of Blue Mountain (Tuscarora Trail intersection), and from Center Point Knob south to Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

The map below shows the various Trail sections assigned to MCM and the years of these assignments.



#4 - GIMME SHELTER: A HISTORY OF MCM APPALACHIAN TRAIL SHELTERS

As MCM's supervisor of shelters for the past 11 years, as I research our club history, I have had a particular interest in learning more about MCM's work to build and maintain hiking shelters as an Appalachian Trail (A.T.) maintaining club. The information in our documents and other information sources demonstrate that—as might be expected—our A.T. shelters have changed and evolved over the years. The early shelters often were damaged by weather and insects and vandalism; multiple times our individual shelters had to be repaired, rebuilt, and/or moved to safer locations. The photos included in this article show that the early shelters were usually rustic structures built of logs. Without the benefit of pressure-treated lumber and modern roofing materials, it is only natural that those structures would deteriorate quickly and require regular repairs. Similarly, the outhouses at those shelters were pit privies that faced the same difficulties, plus the need to move or replace them when the pits filled. In addition, sometimes the A.T. itself was moved because of land ownership situations, vandalism related to nearby road access, or other factors that led to relocation of a Trail section. These changes sometimes led to the movement of a shelter to keep it close to the Trail.

Our historical documents indicate that MCM has held responsibility for the following shelters over its 90 years as a Trail club:

- Dark Hollow Shelter (1938-1960s)
- Campbell Springs cabin (1980s)
- Tagg Run Shelter (built 1930s; relocated 1975/1976; replaced by the James Fry Shelter 1998)
- Bishop Darlington Shelter (built 1956, relocated / replaced 1976s, replaced 2004)
- Thelma Marks Shelter (built 1960, replaced by the Cove Mountain shelter 2002))
- Alec Kennedy Shelter (built 1991)

The map at the end of this article shows the approximate location of all of these sites. The focus of this article is on the older shelters, with only brief mentions of the more modern ones that exist today. The Dark Hollow Shelter and Campbell Springs cabin no longer exist, and their exact locations can only be estimated. The Tagg Run Shelters (two buildings) were both relocated to a new site and later replaced by a new building. The Bishop Darlington Shelter was replaced by a new structure at a different location, and then later rebuilt again. The Cove Mountain Shelter was built at the site of the earlier Thelma Marks Shelter. The Alec Kennedy Shelter might be viewed as a replacement for the Dark Hollow Shelter since their locations are in the same general area—but there was a gap of at least 20 years between the closure of the Dark Hollow site and the building of Alec Kennedy. One clear fact shown by our records is that there has always been a lot of work required to keep our hiking shelters--and their privies--functional over time to serve A.T. hikers.

As explained in my earlier 90th Anniversary article the history of MCM's Trail section in PA, in the fall of 1934 the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) transferred responsibility to MCM for a 29-mile section from Long Mountain fire tower to the Susquehanna River." A Michaux State Forest map provided by our long-time member John Eckard shows that this fire tower—the southern end of our original Trail section--was north of Whiskey Springs Road (and a few miles south of Boiling Springs, PA).

Dark Hollow Shelter

This shelter, located south of Boiling Springs, PA, was the first one built by MCM. Soon after MCM was assigned responsibility for a section of the A.T., discussions began about adding hiking shelters—often called “lean-tos” in those early years. The July-September 1935 MCM Bulletin newsletter contained a Shelters Report article that stated, “Interest centers on Dark Hollow, Pennsylvania, and arrangements have been made for the Shelter Committee to call on the owner of the land in this section to discuss permission to erect either an open-front or a closed shelter near the trail there.” The next two years were spent raising funds and picking out a specific site.

The January-March 1938 issue of the Bulletin contains an article about a planned Outdoor Life Show in downtown Baltimore in February 1938. MCM decided to set up a campsite with an actual hiking shelter at the show as part of a camping exhibit. That display shelter became the basis for the actual Dark Hollow shelter. At the close of the show, the logs of the shelter were loaded on a truck and hauled to a location near the proposed Dark Hollow site. The 1939 Michaux State Forest map, provided by John Eckard, shows that the Dark Hollow Shelter location was adjacent to Little Dogwood Run (approximately a mile south of Center Point Knob), but downstream from the points at which the Trail crosses the stream.

In October 1938, a group of 22 volunteers camped at the proposed site, leveled the foundation, and set up the first three rows of logs. A couple of trees were felled and sawed into lengths for a bridge across Dogwood Run, and stone steps were placed near a spring. On the second day, the shelter was completed except for the shingles and the wire bunks. The 1938 MCM photo scrapbook contains several pages of pictures of the work trip to build the Dark Hollow Shelter. The last photo on the final page shows the completed log structure.



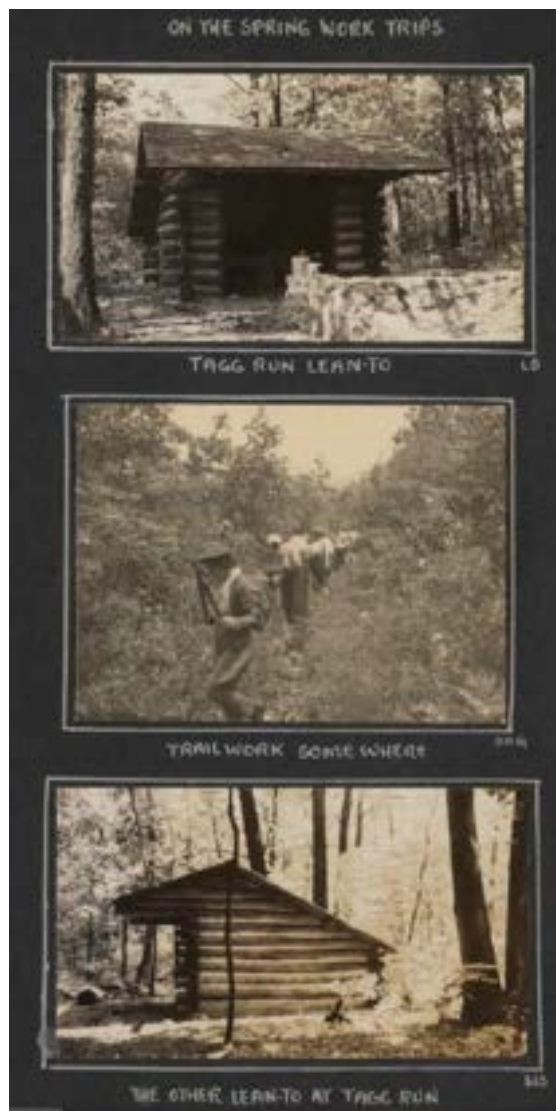
Decades later, the land on which the shelter rested was given by the owner to the York YMCA for a camp. As a result, the A.T. was moved farther to the east away from the YMCA site—and away from the shelter. Sometime in the 1960s, MCM stopped its maintenance work there. The September 1971

edition of the MCM News (which replaced the Bulletin as our newsletter) contained a single sentence stating that the Dark Hollow Shelter still exists but is not maintained. The newsletter mentioned that the shelter would eventually be torn down when the YMCA's new Family Camping Area was completed.

But as it turned out, the York YMCA found it too inconvenient and costly to maintain the camp because of the distance from York. Years later the National Park Service and PA Gamelands purchased portions of that land, providing future stability for the Trail location in that area. (The remaining land and the buildings of the YMCA camp are now the site of the Diakon Wilderness Center.)

Tagg Run Shelter

In my earlier article about the history of MCM's Appalachian Trail section, I noted that the section of the Trail from Route PA-94 south to Pine Grove Furnace State Park was apparently transferred to MCM in early 1941. At that time, there were already two shelter buildings on that section at the Tagg Run stream crossing; these buildings had been built by PATC in the 1930s. The MCM photo scrapbook for the first half of 1941 mentioned a work trip (probably in May 1941) to work at our new shelter. This scrapbook page shows photos of the two structures.



Over the years, our club newsletters include several mentions of problems with vandalism because of the proximity of the Tagg Run crossing to roads. As a result, starting in October 1975 the two shelter buildings were moved to our current location about .25 miles from the Tagg Run stream crossing. Years later, an article in one of our newsletters explained that friction between the hiking community and nearby campground owners over the use of campground sanitary facilities by hikers, and the use of the shelters by campers--along with the need for improved sanitary facilities for the shelters away from the stream--resulted in the decision to move the shelters up the hill away from the stream and the campground, as well as the decision to build a new type of privy. For the first time, MCM decided to build a version of the Clivus Multrum privy--which was developed in Sweden and was now only beginning to be used on the A.T.—at the new site instead of a pit privy. (The Clivus Multrum approach would be widely adopted in future years—we tend to refer to them as compost privies.)

The two shelters were dismantled by a team of volunteers from MCM, PA trail clubs, and Boy Scouts, and moved piece by piece to the new location. Over the remainder of 1976, several work trips took place to reassemble the shelters and build the new privy.

The photo below from the July/August 1976 MCM News provides an indication of how these early shelters were built.



MCM Workers Showing
Progress Made on
Shelter During
June Work Trip

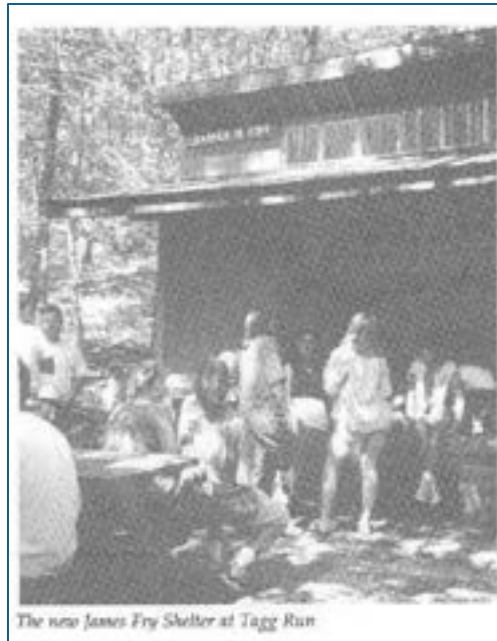
In the late 1990s, MCM decided to replace the two aging shelter buildings with one larger, more modern structure. Money donated to MCM in memory of James Fry, a long-time club member, was used to fund the new shelter which was named the “James Fry Shelter at Tagg Run”.

The October 1997 News includes this photo of a work crew dismantling one of the buildings.



It took only about one hour to disassemble the shelter. It took something longer than that to remove all the debris. Photograph by Paul Ives.

One year later, the October 1998 HHP had an article describing the dedication of the new James Fry shelter, including this photo.



The December 2001 HHP reported that MCM had completed construction of a new double bin composting privy to accompany the James Fry Shelter. The shelter and privy buildings are still in use.

Campbell Springs Cabin

In the 1980s, when the National Park Service acquired land along the Trail between Whiskey Springs Road and Boiling Springs surrounding MCM's Trail section, MCM "inherited" existing buildings known as the Campbell Springs Shelter and Gribble Cabin. MCM decided the shelter use would be limited to thru hikers; "the cabin is locked and may be used under certain conditions, with the permission of... its overseer." There was probably a single building that was called by two names. The location was near Kuhn Road and the current White Rocks Trail. The February 1988 newsletter mentioned that because it had easy access to the road and since it was a cabin with four walls, (not a lean-to), it was an attractive place for homeless persons to find shelter. It may never have served as a regular hiker trail shelter. The 1988 article also pointed out that someday, when the Cumberland Valley A.T. relocation work was complete, the Campbell Spring Cabin would not be on the Trail. The November 1990 HHP reported that an Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) volunteer work crew had demolished the Campbell Springs Shelter in October. So far, I have not found any photo of this cabin.

Alec Kennedy Shelter

In July 1989, the HHP reported for the first time on a new planned shelter in this same general area. In a letter from MCM President Ted Sanderson to the widow of Alec Kennedy, one of the club's founding members, that MCM planned to build a new shelter in the Little Dogwood Run area at the eastern end of the Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania. This shelter, which was completed in 1991 and named the Alec Kennedy Shelter, is located near the modern A.T. route, south of the old Campbell Springs cabin site, and east of the Dark Hollow shelter site. Below is a photo of the Kennedy shelter.



In 2017, the original single-bin composting privy was replaced by a double-bin moldering privy.

Bishop Darlington Shelter

This shelter was built by Earl Shaffer, the first known person to thru hike the entire Appalachian Trail, which he did in 1948. Earl repeated the feat numerous times. Shaffer lived in PA and was an active member of the York Hiking Club, the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC) after that club was created, and also an MCM member at times. Earl seems to have taken the initiative to build two shelters on the northern part of MCM's Trail section—the Thelma Marks Shelter and the original Bishop Darlington Shelter. My information sources about these two shelters include an article written by Jeff Buehler of the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC) about several early A.T. shelters in PA—including these two MCM shelters—and I've used several photos from his article, which is available on-line at [old at shelters in south central pa for the web site 12-2-23.pdf \(satc-hike.org\)](#).

According to Buehler, the original Darlington shelter was built of stone in 1956 with the assistance of SATC members. At that time (in the late 1950s) the A.T. left the Cumberland Valley on its north side and climbed Blue Mountain at a different location than the current Trail. The current route ascends Blue Mountain about halfway between Deans Gap and Miller Gap, but in the 1950s the Trail followed Deans Gap Road up and over the mountain—roughly a mile west of the current route.

The original Darlington shelter was a short distance from Deans Gap Road on the north side of the mountain near a spring. The shelter was so named because the nearby Darlington Trail ran along the top of Blue Mountain. (That trail was named in honor of Bishop James Henry Darlington of Harrisburg, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Alpine Club, an early hiking club in PA.)

[I am including a side note here about Earl Shaffer and his role in the early A.T. in PA, because it is very relevant to the history of MCM's shelters. In addition to building two shelters on MCM's section of the Trail, Shaffer built at least two more shelters on the A.T. on the eastern side of the Susquehanna

River. But before that, he was a major impetus for a significant rerouting of the Trail in this section of PA.

Before the 1950s, the section of the A.T. on which Shaffer built the Darlington and Thelma Marks shelters did not exist. Originally, the A.T. did not cross the Susquehanna River at Duncannon as it does now. The original route on the eastern side of the river took it to the Susquehanna River north of Harrisburg (and south of Duncannon), where an early MCM Appalachian Trail map shows the Trail crossing the river to the town of Marysville on the western side of the river. You can see the scenario on this MCM map prepared in the late 1930s. The thick dotted line shows the Trail approach the river and “cross” it, then follow the crest of Blue Mountain on the western side.



But there was actually no river crossing there; you had to hike south six miles along roads, cross the river on a bridge that allowed pedestrians, then hike six miles north on the other side to return to the Trail at Marysville—or cross the river illegally on a railroad bridge. At Marysville, the A.T. turned west onto Blue Mountain and followed the Darlington Trail about 5 miles to Lamps Gap, where it turned south and became a long walk on roads through the Cumberland Valley.

Under the leadership of Shaffer and others, in the early 1950s the A.T. on the eastern side of the river was moved further north onto a different set of ridges, including Peters Mountain, and then it crossed the Susquehanna on a highway bridge at Duncannon (several miles north of Marysville). From Duncannon, the Trail then proceeded west along Cove Mountain, then descended and headed southward to cross Valley Road (PA-850). From there, the Trail climbed up to the top of Blue Mountain, and then continued down the southern side into the Cumberland Valley, using Deans Gap Road. That major shift in the A.T. led to the creation of the Trail section (which became part of MCM’s maintenance responsibility) on which Shaffer built the Bishop Darlington and Thelma Marks shelters a few years later.

More information about this reroute and Shaffer's role can be found in Thomas R. Johnson's book, From Dream to Reality: History of the Appalachian Trail, 2021.]

Returning to the discussion of the Darlington shelter: the Buehler article includes a photo of the remains of the original Darlington shelter, taken years later.



While Schaffer built the shelter, the site was part of MCM's section and it was maintained by our volunteers. Because of its proximity to Deans Gap Road, our newsletters reported ongoing problems with vandalism and littering over the years. By the 1970s there was interest in finding another location.

The June 1976 issue of the MCM News reported that a purchase by the PA Game Commission of formerly private lands in that area of Blue Mountain might make it possible to take the A.T. off roads and route it through the woods, possibly along the Tuscarora / Darlington Trail at the top of Blue Mountain. MCM saw this as a possible opportunity to relocate the Darlington Shelter, which the club reported was *"in a hopelessly exposed location and repeatedly vandalized."* For this relocation, Dennis Rudd of Monroe, New York offered MCM... a 'portable shelter' of 28 pieces... which could be assembled in one day once the foundations had been poured and set.

The April 1977 News reported that Dennis Rudd had completed the portable lean-to to be built for Darlington. *"This new design provides a shelter that can be carried in by 15 to 20 people, set up, and bolted together in two days. No one piece weighs more than 85 pounds. We expect to use this as a replacement for the vandal-ridden stone shelter at Darlington, locating it further into the woods. MCM work crews must pour cement footings for the shelter at the new site..."*

The May 1977 edition reported on two relocation efforts: moving the A.T. away from Deans Gap Road and into the woods, and replacing and relocating the Darlington Shelter. *"The A.T. was rerouted to follow the Tuscarora Trail eastward from Deans Gap along the mountain crest for about half a mile, then goes down through the woods along a seasonal stream and an old woods road... This makes a little over a mile of relocation."* In the next paragraph, the article continues, "Dennis will transport it

by truck for installation and assembly on the weekend of May 21-22... The footings for this shelter will be placed during the April 23-23 weekend. A crew of only four is required for assembly of the shelter, but a larger crew will be needed to carry in the pieces – about ½ mile... Invitations are being sent to various clubs to send representatives to witness this historic event – the first fully portable, deep woods, five-man shelter to be erected on the A.T.” The Buehler article includes this photo of the new 1977 shelter.



Twenty-five years later, the condition of that shelter had deteriorated to the point that replacement was warranted. There are no mentions of specific problems in Council meeting minutes during these years, other than references to a couple of meetings with officials of the PA Gamelands and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy requesting permission to build a new shelter. But a caption in the June 2004 Hiker High Points (HHP) mentioned that the Darlington shelter will be replaced within the next two years, so planning was well underway then. The very next year, the February 2005 edition stated that in 2004 the old Darlington shelter was razed, footings were built for the new shelter (with great difficulty in breaking through rocks). The construction of the new Darlington shelter was finished in 2005, and a new double-bin compost privy was constructed and put into service in 2006. Here is an early photo of the current Darlington shelter, which is now approaching 20 years of age.



Relocation of the Original Stone Shelter. The Buehler article notes that the remains of the first Darlington shelter were later moved to the A.T. Museum at Pine Grove Furnace State Park:

The original stone Darlington Shelter remained along Deans Gap Rd but was no longer a part of the AT. Over the years the structure was engulfed by vegetation and at one point a large tree fell onto the roof and rotted away there. Trash and old chairs occupied the dirt floor inside the stone walls. In August 2012, volunteers from SATC and others, with permission from the PA Game Commission, disassembled the stone walls and helped transport the stones to Pine Grove State Park where they were stored for future reassembly and display outside of the AT Museum there... The old stone shelter was finally re-built in August of 2023 beside the AT Museum by a contracted mason and an official dedication was held on Aug 12 on the grounds with many in attendance. Future plans may include a roof and exhibits inside the shelter with a protected front panel.

Here is a photo from the Museum web site.



Dedication of the Darlington-Deans Gap Shelter

For information about this exhibit at the Museum, see [News - Appalachian Trail Museum \(atmuseum.org\)](http://atmuseum.org).

Thelma Marks and Cove Mountain Shelters

The Thelma Marks Shelter was the second shelter built by Earl Shaffer on MCM's Trail section. It was named for Thelma Marks, a charter member of SATC. Its design was similar to many of the Adirondack style three-sided lean-to shelters that were common along the A.T. at the time. It was made of small chestnut logs that Shaffer found standing near the site. MCM volunteers helped cut and bring in the logs in April 1960. Trimming, chinking and finish work continued until the next year with the assistance of MCM volunteers. Mike O'Connor of MCM provided this photo of the old shelter.



The November 1972 newsletter edition mentioned that MCM purchased two metal outhouses at a cost of \$20 each and transported them to sites at Darlington Shelter and Thelma Marks Shelter. Five years later, the June 1977 newsletter announced a shelter work trip on June 18/19 to replace and relocate the privy at the Thelma Marks Shelter—a common maintenance requirement at the early shelters.

The November 1990 issue of HHP contained a report on the now infamous tragedy at the Thelma Marks Shelter, where a young couple staying at the shelter were brutally murdered. As a result of the terrible event, as well as the age of the shelter, there was interest among the public, and especially the family of the slain hikers, in demolishing the old shelter. However, the planning, fund raising, and approval processes for new shelters took considerable time. The December 1998 HHP included a mention that MCM hoped to replace the Thelma Marks shelter within the next two years. The March 1999 edition reported that MCM received a \$3,000 grant from the Appalachian Trail Conference to support the replacement of the shelter.

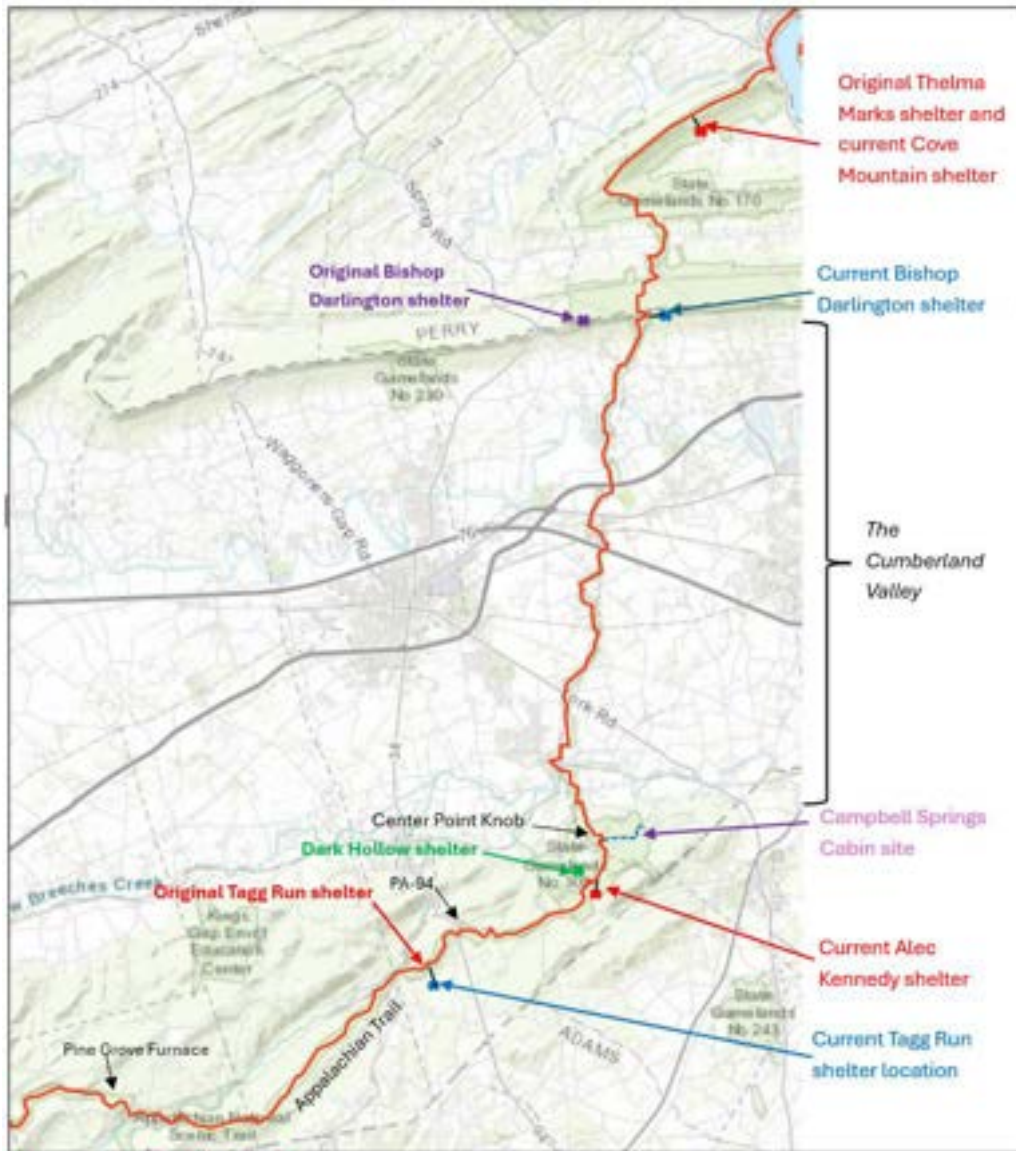
Ted Sanderson (MCM Shelters Supervisor at that time) developed plans to replace Thelma Marks with a timber-framed structure using timbers from an old barn. MCM worked with the Timbers Framing Guild of North America, which assisted in the planning and also provided training of our club volunteers. The construction of the new shelter was finished in 2000 and there was a dedication ceremony in 2001. Here is a photo of the new Cove Mountain structure, with the old shelter still standing in the background.



Afterward, volunteers dismantled the old Thelma Marks shelter, sawed up and burned the old logs, and scattered the stone foundation in the woods. In 2010, the existing pit outhouse was replaced with a new double-bin composting privy.

Map of Shelter Locations

The location of all the original shelters and the current sites are shown on the map below.



Observations

MCM's historical records show that its work managing shelters and privies along its assigned Trail sections is a history of change—of building, rebuilding, demolition, and relocation. Over this 90-year period, the nature of this work has changed as the Trail evolves:

- The construction techniques and materials of early shelters and privies were often rudimentary compared to current facilities, and needed more frequent repair. Most of our current shelters are now several decades old, and thanks to sturdier building materials and framing, they should last much longer than those built in earlier years.
- The advent of double-bin composting and moldering privies means that privies no longer need to be moved or rebuilt regularly when pits fill up.

- New National Park Service processes--such as project approvals and budget planning--require that clubs must plan, and request approval for, new changes years in advance of their installation. New policies such as accessibility necessitate that structures must be designed and built differently.
- As a result of lighter tents and sleeping bags, more hikers are tenting rather than using shelters—at least sometimes. Consequently, clubs can expect more need for tent pads and camping sites at shelters. Some A.T. and club officials and volunteers speculate that the A.T. needs fewer shelters in the future.
- MCM and all Trail clubs can expect more changes to their shelter situations and requirements in the future as new trends emerge. We will adapt to such changes as they are identified.
- Over a period of less than 15 years between 1990 and 2004, MCM built four new shelters—Alec Kennedy, James Fry, Cove Mountain, and Darlington. Considering the amount of work involved in planning, hauling materials, and doing the construction at each site, that is an impressive accomplishment by the Mountain Club and its volunteers. These well-built structures have already given us decades of service, and all of them should continue to serve A.T. hikers for many years into the future.

#5 - WORLD WAR II AND THE MOUNTAIN CLUB: TRAINS, TROLLEYS AND TRUCKS

The Mountain Club was only seven years old when the U.S. entered World War II. The wartime restrictions that went into effect the following year raised concerns among the leaders of our small club about whether its outdoors program could survive. Looking back to 80 years ago, it can be hard for us to appreciate how challenging the time must have been for a hiking and Trail club.

Starting in early 1942, gasoline was deemed a precious commodity that was needed to fuel military vehicles for the war effort. But Americans still needed fuel for their cars in order to get to work, so the government implemented a system to regulate the purchase of gasoline. Car owners were issued a Gasoline Ration Card that had One Unit tabs on the bottom that were punched when used. Along with the card, a windshield sticker with a specific letter was issued. The most popular was an “A” card/sticker that allowed the car owner to purchase about 4 gallons of gas each week. If you were employed in a factory that supported the war effort, you were issued a “B” card, while doctors, nurses, farm and construction workers, and mail employees were issued a “C” card, each of which allowed them to buy up to 8 gallons of gas per week. There were other specific cards, too, such as an “X” card for members of Congress, “E” for emergency vehicles, “R” for non-highway farm vehicles, and “T” for truckers. The limited ability to purchase gasoline meant that Mountain Club members could no longer drive long distances to trails.

The MCM Council meeting minutes during that time don’t really discuss the gasoline rationing situation directly—probably because everyone knew about it. But, as explained below, there are comments in various club documents that show the impact of gas rationing on MCM’s ability to continue our hiking program (especially since we were a mountain club) and to reach our Appalachian Trail (A.T.) section in Pennsylvania (PA) to do maintenance work.

In our 50th Anniversary book, MCM First Person: 1934-1984, which you can view at [MCM-First-Person-50th-Anniversary.pdf \(mcomd.org\)](#), the discussion of MCM’s history at the beginning of the book summarized the situation in this way: “Gasoline rationing during WWII led to a revamping of club hiking activities because it was necessary to rely heavily on public transportation. In general, work trips were suspended, but not completely.” I’ve reviewed our newly available newsletters and Council meeting minutes to get a better sense of what took place.

Impact on Hiking

In the July-September 1942 MCM Bulletin newsletter, the new club president, Os Heard, described the club’s dilemma: *“What immediately lies ahead of us as a mountaineering group is of such a nature that the purpose for which the club was founded may be jeopardized... Practically all of our activities have been predicated on the use of automotive transportation and for the present we must find alternatives that dovetail into the expressed purposes of the*

club... I suggest we bend every effort to keep the club intact (1) by continuing hikes within a reasonable distance...and by conducting a series of symposia on mountains and mountaineering.” Clearly, the word Mountain in our name was very important to the club leadership at that time; if they could not hike in the mountains, they at least would try to schedule presentations about the mountains and mountaineering.

The following year, in his annual report printed in the July-September 1943 Bulletin, President Heard quoted a remark made by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) president: “*As long as the war lasts, we... must of course bow gracefully to the necessary restrictions on our activities, but it is essential that we maintain a strong organization in order to make the most of the opportunities that may be offered.*” Heard suggested that MCM shared this goal.

Forty years later, MCM member Winslow Hartford’s personal reminiscence in the MCM 50th anniversary book looked back at this period:

By June [1942], gas rationing had become a fait accompli, and the Club was faced with a decision—to cancel its trip schedule or to operate as best it could using public conveyances... The decision handed down by president elect Heard at the annual meeting was a wise and momentous one: “I suggest we keep the club intact by continuing hikes within a reasonable distance.”

Hartford served as the MCM Excursion Chairman during the wartime period, and he described our hike situation as follows:

It was a fascinating challenge. For three and a half years, our mountains become those accessible by the Ma and Pa, the Western Maryland, the Pennsy, the B&O, the Hanover bus, and the BTC [Baltimore Transit Co. trolley system]. Twenty members of MCM entered the services; one, Carl Anderson, failed to return. Appalachian Trail maintenance suffered for a while, but in 1943, the ODT [Office of Defense Transportation] ruled this a job for which a truck could be rented; so our work trips, with a promise of real mountains, became among our most popular activities.”

As Hartford explained, there were significant changes to the MCM hike schedule during the gas rationing period, with a complete focus on hikes that could be reached using public transportation (trains, buses, and trolleys). The old MCM documents that recently have been scanned by the Maryland State Archives (photo scrapbooks, newsletters, and Council meeting minutes) give us an opportunity to better understand the changes that took place. Comparing trip schedules before and during the war gives us an insight about how hiking was affected. Here are the upcoming trips listed in the October-December 1940 MCM Bulletin—a year before the Pearl Harbor attack.

DATE	DESTINATION	TRANSPORTATION
Sunday, 10/6/1940	Peters Mountain, PA	Hikers would receive meeting place and transportation information from the hike leader when they called to sign up
Saturday, 10/12/40	Little Gunpowder Falls	
Sunday, 10/20/40	Upper Harford County – Falling Branch and Deer Creek	
Saturday-Sunday, 10/26-27/40	Overnight and Halloween Party, Catoctin Recreational Area	
Saturday, 11/2/40	Timonium to Padonia	
Saturday-Sunday, 11/9-10/40	Shenandoah National Park	
Sunday, 11/24/40	Caledonia, PA	
Saturday, 12/7/40	Loch Raven	
Sunday, 12/15/40	Ellicott City	
Sunday, 12/22/40	Bird census in Loch Raven	

While this “prewar” schedule had plenty of hikes in the greater Baltimore area, there were also hikes to the Shenandoah Mountains, Peters Mountain (north of Harrisburg), the Catoctin area, and Caledonia State Park. Hikers were told the meeting place and travel plans when they contacted the hike leader (and some of them would be recruited as car pool drivers).

By contract, here is a list of upcoming hikes one year after our entry into the war, in the October – December 1942 Bulletin. Almost all hikes were in the greater Baltimore area, and some were in the city itself. There are a few hikes to southern PA and Thurmont, but every hike on the schedule relied on travel by train or trolley.

DATE	DESTINATION	TRANSPORTATION
Saturday, 10/3/42	Old Court Road / Mt Washington	No. 25 carline
Saturday-Sunday, 10/10-11/42	Overnight to farm on Western Run	Penn Station to Cockeysville Station, then 2-mile walk
Sunday, 10/18/42	Glen Echo - C&O Canal	Train to Washington + car ride
Monday, 10/26/42	Moonlight Hike – Bare Hills	Meet at Mt. Washington, No. 25 carline
Saturday-Sunday, 10/31 – 11/1/42	Gunpowder Falls	Leave from Penn Station
Sunday, 11/8/42	Thurmont	Western Maryland Railroad from Penn Station

Saturday, 11/14/42	Lorraine / Woodlawn Section	No. 25 carline to Lorraine
Sunday, 11/22/42	Padonia to Cockeysville	Leave from Penn Station to Cockeysville
Sunday, 11/29/42	Glen Rock, PA	Leave from Penn Station
Saturday, 12/5/42	Herring Run	Meet at Walther Ave and Harford Road
Sunday, 12/13/42	Carrolton (Patapsco River}	Leave Penn Station on Western Maryland Railroad
Sunday, 1/10/43	Ellicott City to Randallstown	Meet at B&O Station in Ellicott City
Saturday, 1/16/43	Lake Roland Area	Meet at end of No. 24 carline
Sunday, 1/24/43	Perryville	Leave from Penn Station

The photo scrapbooks from those years add a better sense of the hikers' experiences. Below are some photos showing hikers assembling at various train stations as they head out to, or return from, MCM hikes.





NEW FREEDOM TO PARKTON - FEB. 28, 1943



SHOW IN THE PARK

WELL, WE'LL NAME THEM: WYNON WATFORD, RAY COSTA, ALICE WAGNER, FRANK FELLMAN, MARLENE FLEMING, ALICE DOWN, MURRAY COSTA, GUY LERBOND, WALTER REICHELMEYER, JO HEARD, MARY WATKINS, MRS FLEMING, SARAH'S MOTHER, MURRAY BOSS, LEON LERAC, PHILE HEART



4TH OF JULY
PACK TRIP

JULY 3-4-5, 1943

ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL FROM PENMAR TO THE PIKE KNOB LEAN TO, THEN TO SMITHSBURG BY WAY OF THE BASTOWN ROAD, ETC. ETC.

SORRY; IT WASN'T PEN-MAR; BY TRAIN TO EDGE MONT, THEN UP THE MOUNTAIN TO THE TRAIL.

THE THURMONT TROLLEY
BOBS HILL - IN-THE-CATCTING-TRIP
JUNE 13, 1943



Here are photos of MCM hikers waiting at the Thurmont station on October 24, 1943, and May 31, 1944.



TIME TO SPARE AT THURMONT

WMB

SANITARIUM STATION TO THURMONT
MAY 21, 1944



AT THURMONT STATION - BEFORE THE TRAIN

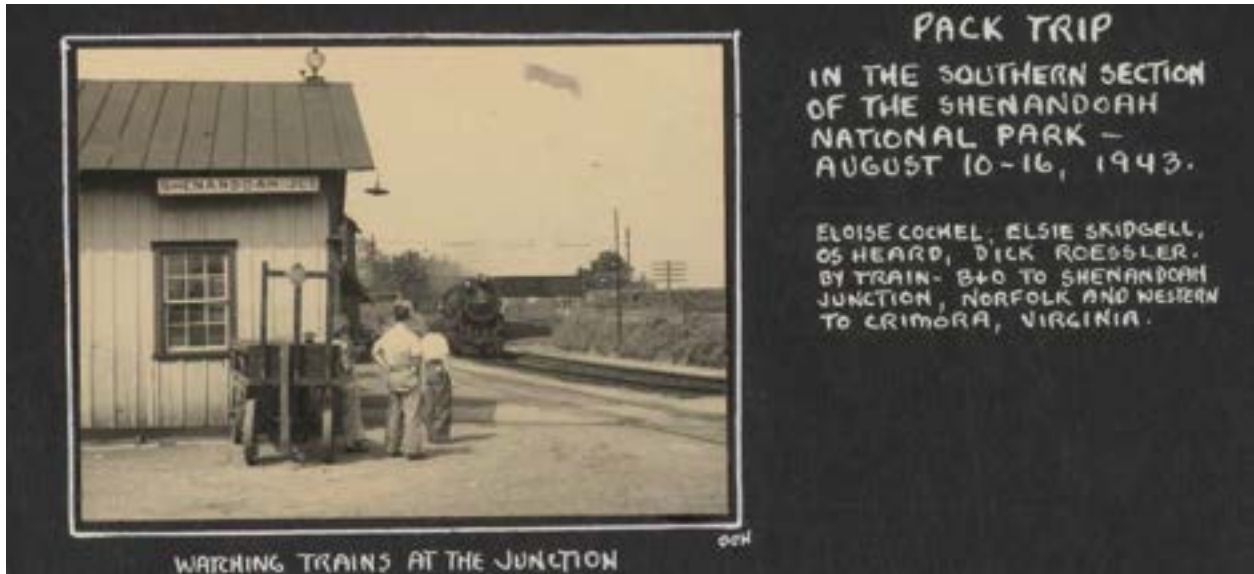
Overall, this use of mass transit was successful in keeping the club's hiking program going, although the number of participants declined. In the Oct-Dec 1943 newsletter, the report of the Excursions Committee stated,

For the first time since the Club's organization, private cars and chartered busses have been unavailable and it has been necessary to use the facilities afforded by the railroads operating out of Baltimore... The schedule has been maintained at an activity comparable with past year. 30 trips were held during the season, including 3 overnights, 1 all-night, and 8 Saturday trips. 379 hikers... attended the trips, as compared with 832 hikers last year. The demands of war activities, as well as the increased cost and more limited scope of the trips all contribute to this decrease. However, several trips, particularly those reaching mountain areas, compare favorably in attendance with similar trips run by private car in previous years.

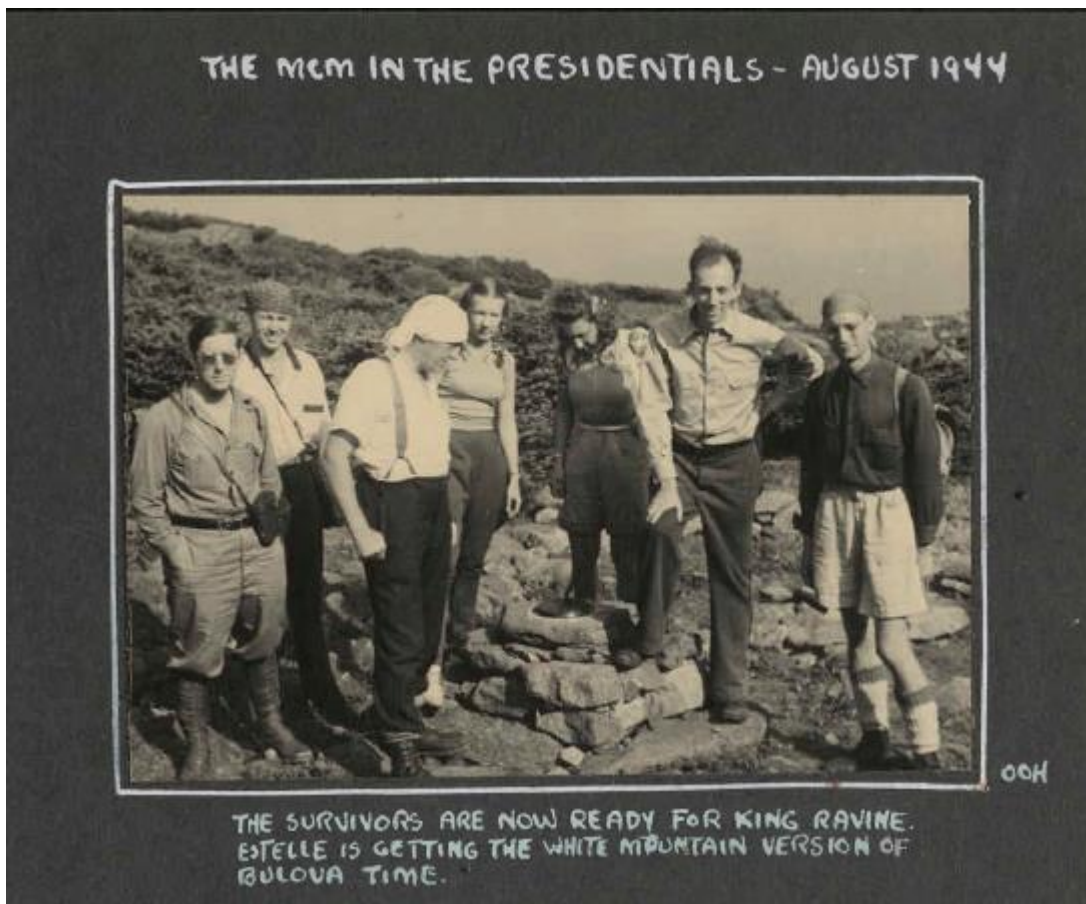
In his own personal reminiscence in the MCM 50th Anniversary book, Alex Kennedy provided a first-person description of a couple of those hikes:

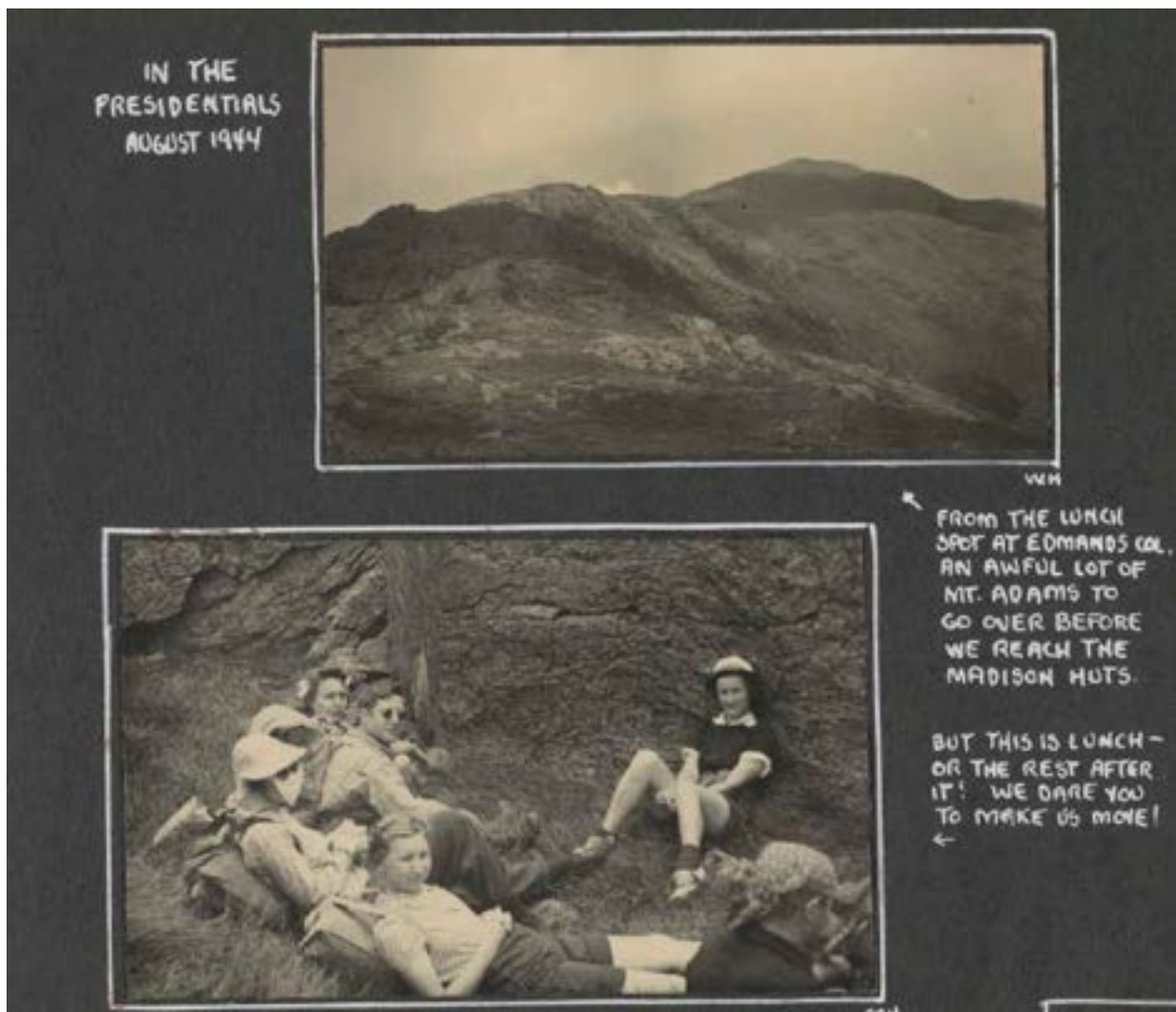
The outbreak of World War II, of course, materially affected the growth of the club and the time available for its activities. It survived primarily by using regularly scheduled public transportation. Two trips occur to me; on one, we went up to Hampstead by bus and walked over to Parkton, returning by the North Central Railroad. Since it snowed steadily and was so cold that at lunchtime the water in our canteens was frozen solid, this trip was afterwards referred to as the Retreat from Moscow... On the other, a very few of us were able to go up to the Rocks area, on a typical summer day, by the Ma and Pa railroad. A really threatening storm developed on the return trip, blowing down a large tree across the tracks. ...[W]e organized a volunteer group among the passengers and eventually succeeded in reopening the right of way.

Despite the difficulties, the club did find ways to schedule some longer mountain hiking trips, such as a week-long "pack trip" in Shenandoah National Park in August 1943. But it appears that only four members undertook the rigors of the railroad trip.



There was a larger attendance at this week-long White Mountains trip in August 1944, which must also have relied on railroad travel.



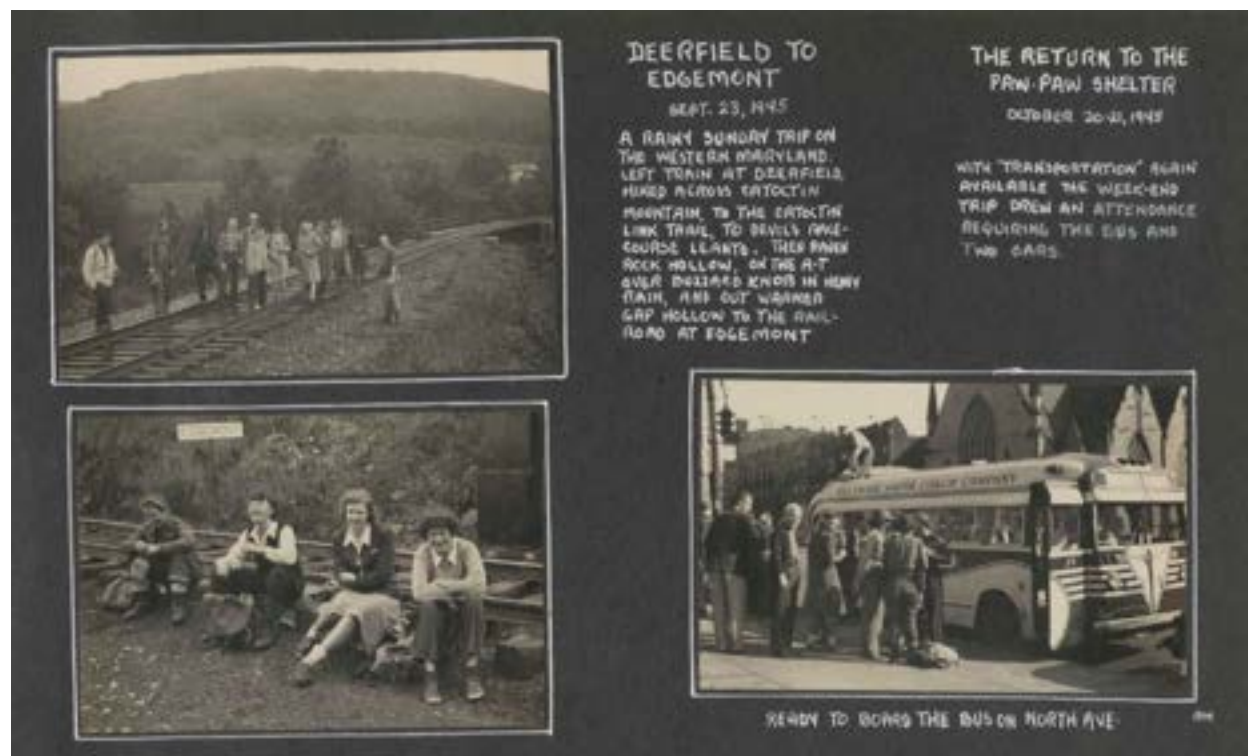


In the latter part of 1945, rationing must have ended, because the Oct-Dec 1945 Bulletin announced a transition policy:

IMPORTANT: This schedule represents a transition to MCM peace-time ways. It is not an "all-out" schedule, but rather a compromise, permitting us to once more "go to the mountains" without imposing too much strain on cars or tires. Trips for the present, are at cost; later, private car trips may be converted to bus trips at no increase in cost. FOR CAR DRIVERS: Private car trips are scheduled to go not over 100 miles from Baltimore, and hikes will be so scheduled that a speed of 35-40 mph need not be exceeded...

Because of the uncertain food situation, we are not making arrangements for supper, as a club, on Sunday trips. It will therefore be wise to take along a little extra to eat on the way home.

The trip schedule in that final 1945 Bulletin had a selection of hikes that were more remote from Baltimore, but some of the hikes were still relying on mass transit, as shown by the photos below.



But the January-March 1946 schedule has no mention of using trains to reach hikes, which suggests that using automobiles was the norm again.

MCM Members in the Armed Forces

Of course, a substantial number of MCM members served in the armed forces during the wartime period. In the July-September 1943 Bulletin, president Os Heard wrote: *“During the past year we have not only increased our membership by 10% but we have given up 7% to the armed forces.”* A year later, the July-Sep 1944 newsletter included a Secretary’s Report which includes a statement that *“The Club membership at present comprises 89 members, 3 honorary members, and 15 service members, a total of 107.”* Those numbers suggest that about 14% of members were in the service in 1944.

Council minutes mention that the club sent Christmas cards to the members who were in the armed forces. And through the war, the MCM newsletters included special pages devoted to its members in the services—they were sometimes called the Roll of Honor and sometimes the Service Page—that reported on the location of its service members and sometimes included their own reports of their activities. I’ve included some examples below:

Here is a Roll of Honor page from the April-June 1943 Bulletin.



ROLL OF HONOR

Our Roll of Honor is growing! Young women as well as men are now included in our service list. Because of frequent changes of address we have adopted the policy of listing the address only when one has just entered the Service. It will be wise to check with the secretary before writing anyone. Will you also cooperate by informing the secretary promptly of any changes that you have heard.

Don't forget to send that card!

.....

Lieut. (j.g.) Leonard M. Bahr
U.S.N.T.S. (Recognition)
Ohio State University (Baker Hall, Room 4020)
Columbus, Ohio

Pvt. Frank H. Calafiore -- still in Mississippi

Trainee Ruth Caples
Aux. Co. 7, 21st Regiment
Third WAAC Training Center
Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

Capt. Raymond Creekmore -- use home address

Pvt. Philip H. Glatfelter -- present address unknown

Lieut. George Hay Kain, Jr. -- still at New Jersey station

Lieut. (j.g.) William A. Kemper
U. S. N. Proving Ground
Dahlgren, Virginia

Lieut. Victor Monke -- stationed Salt Lake City, Utah

Pvt. J. U. Nowll -- transferred to Texas

Pvt. Arthur J. O'Neill, Jr. -- use home address

Ensign David W. Prudden -- now stationed at Pearl Harbor

Dr. Bernard Thomas, Jr. -- at sea

Estelle Wetzler, A.S.
Company B 1145
Naval Training School (W.R.)
Bronx, N. Y.

Pvt. George C. Wilcox, Jr. -- still at Aberdeen

Here is the Service Page from the October-December 1943 Bulletin.



Five minutes in a foxhole with a letter from home may give a lift to a soldier that will stay with him for days. Did your letter do that? Or did you write one? And please send Eleanor Reindollar any news or additions before the deadline!

Lieut. (j.g.) Leonard M. Bahr
U.S.M.T.S. (Recognition)
325 Roosevelt St.
Hollywood, Florida

Lieut. Ed Boettiger A.C.
1st Airborne Division Unit
A.P.O. 85
Washington

T5/Cpl. Frank N. Calafiore
U. S. Army, 33,200,282
310 Engineer Battalion, Co. C
A.P.O. 85, c/o Postmaster
Los Angeles, California

Aux. 1st Class Ruth Caples
722 WAC Post Hq. Co.
Bergstrom A. A. Field
Boston, Texas

Pvt. Phil Gladfelter
overseas

Lieut. (j.g.) William Kemper
US Naval Proving Ground
Dahlgren, Virginia

Lieut. Victor Monke
Wright Field
Dayton, Ohio

Pvt. Jack U. Mowll
still in Texas

Pvt. Arthur J. O'Neill
home address

Ensign David Prudden
Pearl Harbor, T. H.

Dr. Bernard Thomas, Jr.
still at sea

Estelle M. Wetzler
Ph. M. 3-C
Naval Hospital
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

T5 George C. Wilcox, Jr.
Headquarters, #309
OTC Atlanta Ordnance Depot
Atlanta, Georgia

Lieut. George Kain
still in New Jersey

And here is the Service Page (2 pages) from the January-March 1944 newsletter.



Instead of the usual column of names and addresses, this time snatches of letters from our service mail reveal news about widely scattered Club members. Nearly everybody has moved or been transferred this fall, so call Eleanor for new addresses.

From Lt.-Commander Bernard O. Thomas, M.D.:

".....It sure is good to read about what you all are doing and to think about the AT.

"I was on the U. S. S. Pocomoke for two years wandering from Newfoundland to the Fijis. It was somewhat of a surprise to me to find such a large number of people from all different sections of our country and from other countries who were hiking enthusiasts. I take exception to the "New-fies" who never walk anywhere without a very definite purpose. In fact they gave us very dubious glances which registered a touch of pity when they saw us 'setting out' over the hills. This scorn we couldn't understand until the day we got lost.

"I very recently had temporary duty in Florida and passed Mt. Oglethorpe. Having climbed Kahtadin some years ago it irked me that I couldn't take the day off to complete the other end of the trail. However with it all, I will put the Harpers Ferry section up against any place I have seen for scenic beauty."

From Sgt. Jack Mowll:

".....As you can see, I'm still in the Texas Campaign. With a little luck we'll win it any year now. Give my regards to everybody."

We are glad to get comments from Cpl. Frank Calafiore on prospective Bulletin cover designs and suggested changes in Council organization. Army life may have changed some of Frank's ideas but the spirit is still the same.

Pvt. Phil Gladfelter was stationed in Trinidad. While exploring a jungle cave on assignment to get a story about it for the post paper, he fell when his rope broke, and broke his back in three places. One leg was paralyzed and he developed pleurisy. He had to be left all night before he could be carried down-trail to the nearest place a jeep could come. He hopes to be shipped home soon.

Service Page cont. (2nd page)

Capt. Raymond Creekmore has apparently recovered his health, and was in town in November.

T 5 George Wilcox has been discharged from the Army and is now back home.

Ensign David Krudon writes:

".....Seems sort of funny to hear about Club trips starting on time.

"My activities are pretty much curtailed with a bad foot that makes any walking pretty difficult. Too bad, since I have a cottage up in one of the valleys in Honolulu, with good climbs a block or two away on each side. Rock climbing isn't much good here. Mostly lava in an advanced stage of decay.....or with little strength to it. The dolomites and granites you have to work with are not appreciated fully until trying some of this. Add to all that the military restriction on hiking on most of the old mountain trails and the picture here is somewhat discouraging. None, of course, of the autumn coloring in the trees and bushes. Instead, most of the bushes in my yard are now in flower -- gorgeous blooms, but I'd like to see some frested dogwood and maples. Aloha."

** **

The club also adopted a policy of making their facilities available to U.S. armed services members who were not Mountain Club members. I'm not clear what facilities MCM had to offer—they probably meant that service members could participate in the club activities as guests; there is a mention in one report that a service member attended one of the club square dances as a guest.

Appalachian Trail Maintenance

Overall, the maintenance of the entire Appalachian Trail languished during the 1940s because the nation's resources were focused on the war effort. Trail work stopped where it could not be reached by public transportation. Some sections were closed during the war because of military activities. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crews that had been doing Trail relocations ended. And many Trail clubs' members went into the services.

A few years after the war, when Earl Shaffer did the first end-to-end thru hike in 1948, many parts of the A.T. were still not passable. Shaffer had to bushwack long distances at multiple areas because of a lack of blazing, or because whole Trail sections had been destroyed—e.g., by a hurricane in one case, and by the construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway in another. In fact, the Appalachian Trailway News had recently published an article stating that such a hike was considered impossible, especially considering the poor condition of the Trail after World

War II. (See From Dream to Reality: History of the Appalachian Trail, Thomas R. Johnson, pp. 262-265 and 279-281.)

Since MCM's assigned section of the A.T. was about 100 miles from Baltimore, reaching the Trail to perform work, with the added constraint of gas rationing, was even more challenging than it had been before the war. But Mountain Club leadership showed considerable dedication in their efforts to carry out work trips to its Trail section during the war years.

The trip schedules provided in the quarterly MCM newsletter issues (the Bulletin) in the years right before the war suggest that the usual MCM practice was to schedule several work trips to the Trail in the spring. Sometimes there were additional trips in the fall, but not always. For example, the April-June 1941 schedule shows work trips on May 24 and June 15, with no planned work trips shown in the other Bulletin schedules in 1941. Similarly, the schedule for the spring of 1942 shows two planned work trips on May 24 and June 14, but none in other 1942 schedules. The May 1942 Council minutes indicate that a bus was available for the work trip, but it would mean another "deficit" for the club. The Council agreed to accept the loss in order to finish our section of the Trail. This probably happened before the gas rationing rules were implemented, so it seems likely that the club probably had rented buses for work trips in previous years to accommodate large numbers of volunteers.

But the effect of gas rationing on Trail maintenance became evident in 1943, when MCM announced that volunteers would need to travel to our Trail section by train. The April-June 1943 Bulletin listed a planned three-day work trip on May 29-31 and provided the following information to its volunteers:

The problem of Trail maintenance is definitely acute at this time. Parts that have been well cared for will easily carry over a year. Sections adjacent to regular transportation routes should be looked after at all costs. Every effort should be made to have them cleared in late May or early June... It will take a minimum of two days if we go to Harrisburg... What ever plan is followed we will probably make the work trips two day camping trips if this can be arranged.

Another section of the same newsletter gave more details:

Comes spring and again the underbrush starts to grow along the A.T. Getting to the Trail this year will not be as convenient as in the past, but it can be done... Much of the trail we have maintained in the past can be reached by train or bus via Harrisburg. In any case it will be necessary to plan on an overnight trip, packing in some miles to this overnight camp.

The weekend of May 29-31 has been set apart for work trips. ...Train service is available to Brandtsville [near Boiling Springs], leaving at 2:15 P.M. Saturday, returning Monday morning.

Despite the travel constraints and the distance to our A.T. section, MCM clearly was dedicated to its Trail responsibilities.

In the October-December 1943 Bulletin, the trail supervisor reported that the weekend of June 19 saw six MCM members working on the Trail section between PA-94 and Brandtsville. He reported that after a crowded train trip to Harrisburg on the Pennsy, the ride to Boiling Springs on the Reading was a joy. A local resident at Boiling Springs gave them a ride to Dark Hollow. There was no train returning on Sunday, and the bus they planned to return on was packed full, so they had to wait for a later bus. This June 19 trip may have occurred as a replacement to the planned 3-day May trip, because I did not find any report of results for a May work trip—or the June trip may have been a follow-up. Either way, the description shows the challenges MCM volunteers endured to keep up its Trail work. And the fact that there were only six volunteers suggests that the travel difficulties discouraged volunteers.

The next spring another work trip to PA involving travel by train was planned, but government rules changed in time for MCM to change its approach. The schedule in the April-June 1944 Bulletin announced that another multi-day work trip would take place on July 1-4, 1944, but soon after, in the June 1944 Council minutes, it was reported that MCM would be able to rent a truck for the July work trip. The club hoped to obtain 20 volunteers based on the capacity of the truck.

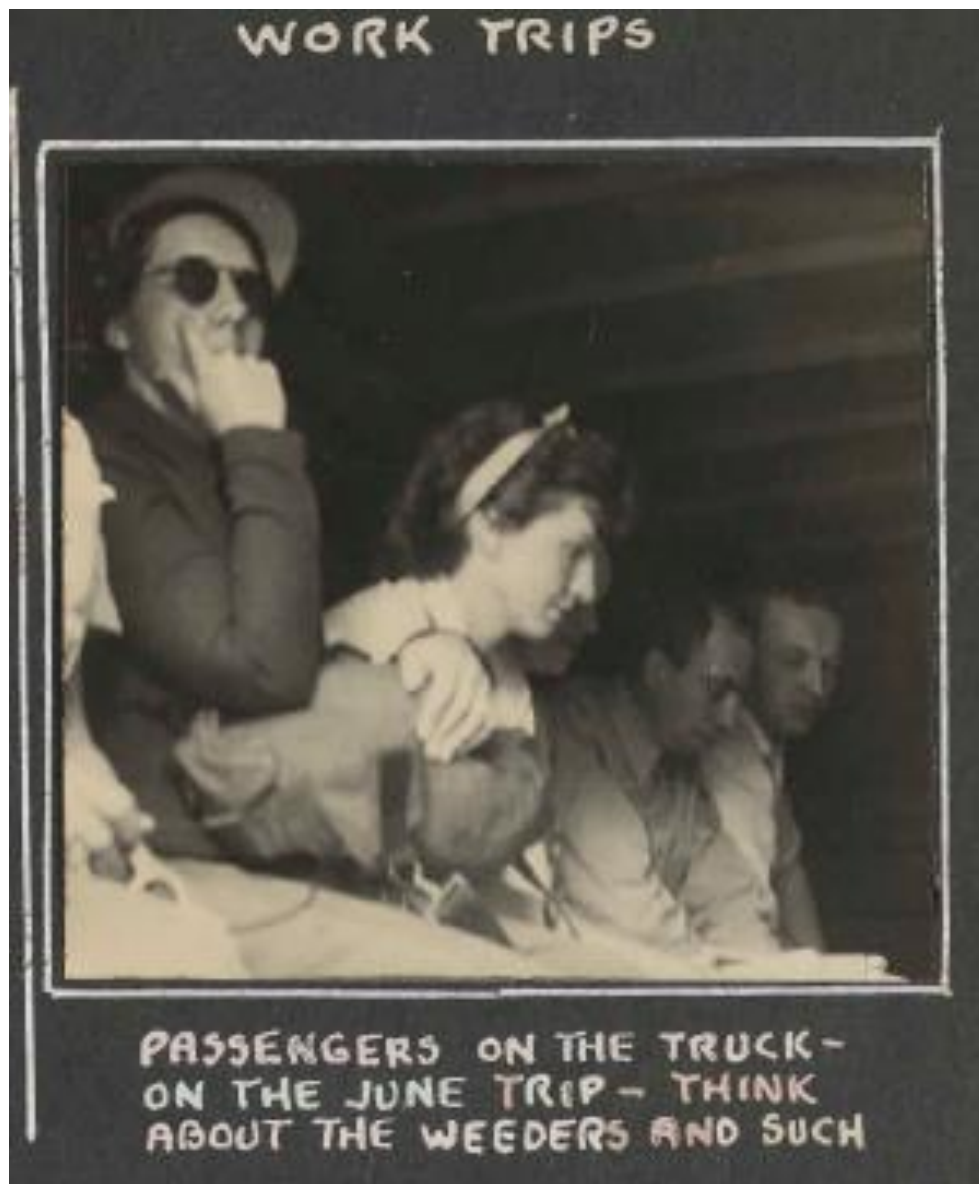
The July-September 1944 newsletter announced the reason for this change:

EXTRA. ODT regulations permit our hiring a truck to do the important job of maintaining our section of A.T. Incidentally, a chance to visit the mountains. Because of restricted capacity of the truck, registrations are limited to those who really want to clear trail.

This must have been a big improvement over the challenge of volunteers traveling to the Trail area by train and then facing the possibility of foot travel to reach the Trail.

That same July-September 1944 newsletter also reported on a completed July 2 work trip (replacing the planned 3-day trip) for which MCM used a rented four-ton truck. Twenty-four (24) volunteers rode 140 miles in the truck to work on 10 miles of the Trail. Apparently, a lot more members were willing to undertake a long truck ride than deal with train and bus rides. There was a discussion in Council minutes of a second trip in the fall, but apparently that trip did not take place.

The MCM scrapbook for 1944 includes one photo of that work trip.



Given the full turnout for that work trip and the ones that followed the next year, the idea of a truck trip to the mountains must have felt like an adventure. The following year, in his review of 1945, the trail supervisor reported that during the year MCM was able to operate three work trips since rental trucks could now be used for this purpose. The average attendance for those trips was 25 persons—a full truck load of volunteers. Even in the spring of 1946, after the end of the war, MCM continued to use a truck to transport volunteers to its work trips. But the July-September 1946 schedule indicated a bus would be used for a September trip--apparently indicating that work trips, as well as hikes, had now returned to pre-war practices.

#6 - THE HISTORY OF MCM's PAW PAW SHELTER: IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED

It will come as a surprise to most of our members to learn that MCM once had a shelter for its own use in western Maryland. It was a long time ago, and while our records document many fun activities at the shelter, there were a lot of problems and a lot of work was expended maintaining the building. MCM dropped the effort after eight years. I've seen the Paw Paw shelter mentioned in a few old newsletters, but I didn't know anything about it. So, as part of my 90th Anniversary research into aspects of our history, I've recently learned more. Here is the story.

Apparently, the "shelter" was a cabin previously used by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). It was located on Town Hill Mountain in the Green Ridge State Forest in Allegany County, in the southern part of the forest in the area near the Paw Paw Tunnel (which was named for the small town of Paw Paw, West Virginia). Our records do not describe the exact location of the cabin, but here is a map of the area:



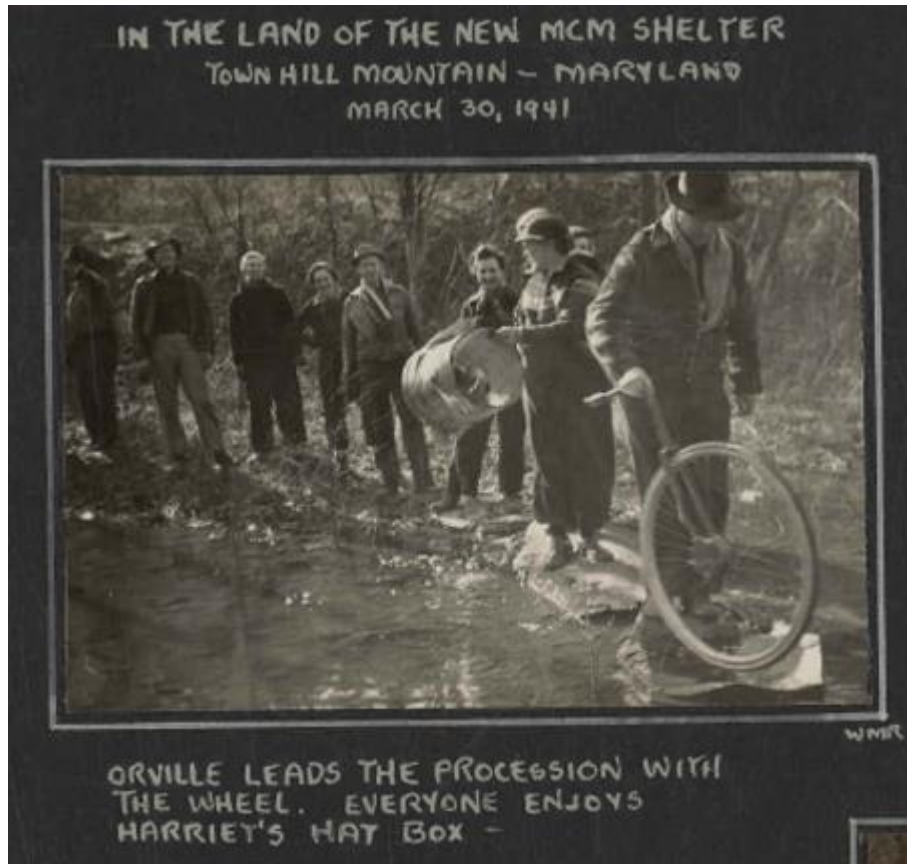
Based on information printed years later in a 1947 MCM Bulletin, the shelter was "140 miles from Baltimore via Paw Paw and 130 miles via Route 40, the first route having less dirt road and being less complicated. The shelter is located in an extensive mountain area which invites exploration, but is not provided with a marked trail system." We know it was located on top of the mountain or a steep ridge because of later descriptions of difficulties driving up to it.

When the CCC's use of the cabin ended, the Maryland (MD) Department of Forests and Parks offered to lease it to MCM. The first record I can find about this opportunity is February 1941 Council meeting minutes:

As chairman of the Shelter Committee Mr. Crowder described the shelter in the Green Ridge Forest near Paw Paw and how the State will lease it to the Club, rent for the first year to be the

cost of improvements... The Council voted to contract with the State for the use of the shelter and authorized expenditure by the Shelter Committee of up to \$100 on fixed improvements and up to \$100 on movable equipment.

Basically, MCM would be allowed to rent the cabin for free if we paid for maintenance and repairs, or any improvements we wished to make. A group of club members must have visited the area a month later to check out the situation, because the photo scrapbooks include this photo dated March 31, 1941:

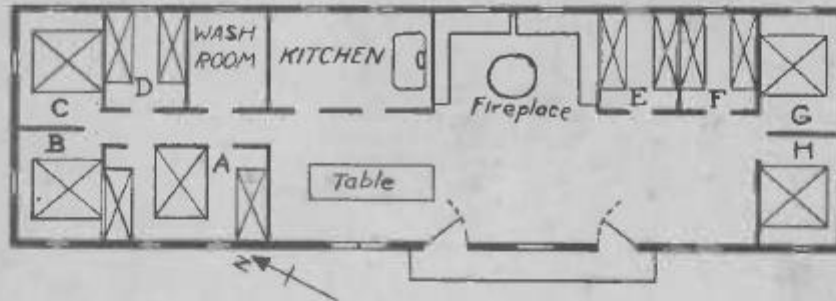


The condition of the cabin was apparently satisfactory enough to capture their interest, and we can imagine that the opportunity to have its own mountain retreat was enticing to the club. Soon afterward, at the April 1941 meeting, Crowder read a letter from the state verifying the arrangement. MCM could now submit plans for improvements to the building. Crowder named it the Paw Paw Shelter, and that is the name that MCM mostly used; but there was disagreement about the name among club leaders, and our records sometimes also referred to it as the Town Hill Shelter, and rarely as the Green Ridge Shelter.

The new agreement was announced to the club in the April – June 1941 Bulletin as part of a brief summary of recent Council decisions. In that same newsletter, the trip schedule announced an overnight hiking trip there for the dedication of the shelter on June 21-22, as well as a hike of 10 miles (to the village of Town Hill) or 15 miles (to the Paw Paw Tunnel) on Sunday.

This newsletter also contained the following full-page article by MCM shelters chairperson (and previously the club's first president) Orville Crowder, which included a floor plan. In that article Crowder named the cabin the Paw Paw Lodge, and states that the Mountain Club would install 24

bunks. (Later writings mention 26 bunks.) He said the Lodge would be available for members of MCM and other hiking clubs to reserve. It was rustic—it did not have running water (there were outside latrines and a spring nearby), and I assume there was no electricity although our records don't mention the use of lanterns.



PAW PAW LODGE, FIRST M. C. M. SHELTER

With quick shifting thru first and second gears, the club shelter program slipped into high during April, and at this writing is fairly whizzing along. The last previous word from the Shelters Committee in January told of plans to ferret out all possible shelter locations within 150 miles of Baltimore. Now three months later the committee reports that one complete shelter has been acquired, and so much of the reconditioning already done that the formal dedication date can be set. And what is more, the shelter in question rings the bell at the top of our hopes for location, hiking possibilities, building layout and leasing terms.

This 'dream shelter' has been tentatively designated as PAW PAW LODGE. It is located on the east slope of Town Hill, 1½ m. from the Potomac River, 5 m. north of Paw Paw, W. Va. and 129 m. from Baltimore via Hancock. Situated at the site of a former C.C.C. camp, it is reached by a good forest service road from U. S. Highway 40, 9 m. to the north, or from Maryland Route 51, 5 m. to the south.

This portion of Alleghany County, once part of the famous 50,000-acre Mertens apple orchard project, is now the Green Ridge State Forest, of which our good friend Herb Robertson, of Hagerstown, is acting superintendent -- and Herb is no small item in the shelter's list of assets. The forest boasts an exceptional network of fire roads and trails. Scenic attractions are of a high order. On one side of the shelter, 2050-foot Town Hill commands a magnificent view of successive mountain ranges in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia; a mile or two away on the other direction are the towering cliffs that mark the meandering course of the Potomac River. Star attraction of the area is the rarely visited tunnel where the C & O Canal, a hundred years ago, was carried thru a mountain.

The shelter itself is the former technical staff headquarters of a C.C.C. camp. It measures 22x80 feet, and before club forces began removing partitions had the appearance of a miniature hotel, with some 16 small rooms. Its projected layout is indicated above. The cook stove has been installed and much of the clean-up work done. Next on the list is the installation of some 24 bunks, construction of two latrines and provision of shutters for the Lodge's 21 windows. Thru the cooperation of the State Forester, the club has arranged for use of the building under a 3-year lease on most favorable terms.

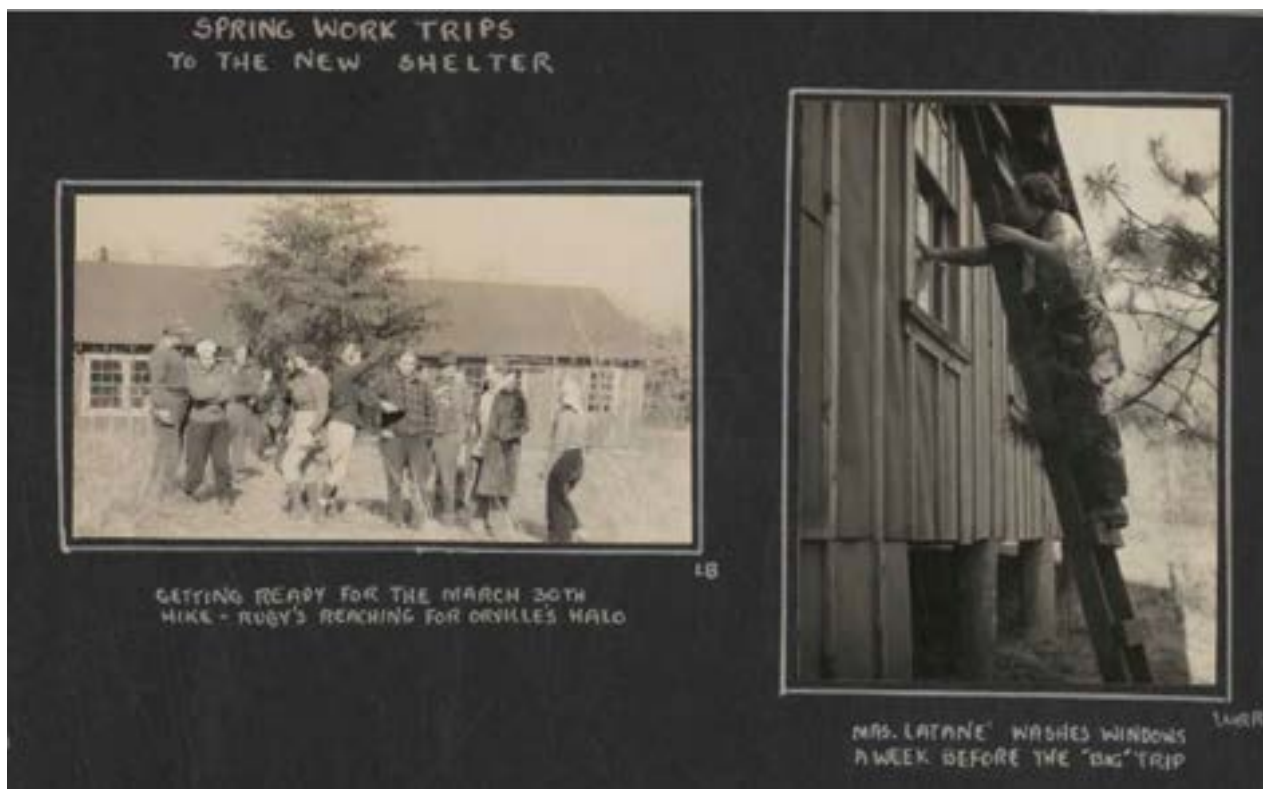
A gala occasion is planned for the week-end of June 21-22 when, with State Forestry officials and others as guests, the Lodge will be formally dedicated and hikes conducted to some of the area's chief points of interest. Thereafter the use of the Lodge will be available to club members as well as members of other hiking clubs and identified non-members, upon reservations made at the club office. Detailed regulations have yet to be adopted, but reservations are being accepted now for dates after the dedication.

The Shelters Committee sincerely begs that members do not accept Paw Paw Lodge as the standard by which future shelters are to be measured, but it offers no apologies for this one. As someone remarked on a recent work trip, "The Mountain Club must have lived right to walk into something like this!"

Orville Crowder, Shelters Chairman

At the June 1941 Council meeting, it was reported that MCM members Crowder and Hicks met with a MD state official and were given the lease for approval by the club. The Council decided that the lease would be signed at the dedication ceremony. The Council was told that 12 bunks had already been installed.

A week before the planned dedication--on June 15--a group of club members visited the shelter for a work trip to prepare for the dedication. Perhaps that is when the first 12 bunks were installed. Here are a couple of photos from the MCM photo scrapbook for 1941, with the cabin visible in the background.



The MCM photo scrapbook includes more than 20 photos taken during the June 21-22 dedication weekend, which was attended by a very large number of our members. Some of them are typical Mountain Club hiking photos, but I have included some photos below that are most relevant to the shelter. There were far more attendees than bunks, so many of them must have slept on the floor or under the stars.

IT WAS WARM AND HAZY SO THE GROUP PICTURE LOOKS THAT WAY. MOST ALL OF THE PARTY HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP FOR THIS SHOT



L8

SHELTER DEDICATION TRIP - JUNE 21-22, 1941



MR. BULLY TAKES THE LEAD AS HARRIET KEEPS HER LIGHT ON THE DOCUMENT. BILL WEAVER AND GEORGE TAMPEK HOLD UP THE BEER. OSVILLE, ALEC, OS, AND MR. BUCKINGHAM, DISTRICT FORESTER, LEAD NUMBERS TO THE DEED



THE PRESIDENT SIGNS THE OAK CLUB, WITH HARRIET STILL THROWING LIGHT ON THE PROCEEDINGS.

L8



HARRIET FORMALLY LAUNCHES THE SHELTER BY BREAKING A BOTTLE OF FRENCH CHAMPAGNE ON THE WOOD OF THE "POW FAN" SHED. ALEC IS MORE INTERESTED IN TRYING TO LAID THEM DOWN TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ADVISORY CAMPAIGN



DISTRICT FORESTER BUCKINGHAM READS THE WELCOME TO ALLEGANY COUNTY SPEECH OF THE ABSENT POLITICAL HUNGERBUNK

L8

TOWN-HILL - PAW-PAW SHELTER - JUNE 21-22, 1941



W.M.R.

VORACIOUS INSECT LIFE EVENTUALLY FORCED THE PARTY INDOORS. RITA AND FRED FURNISH THE MUSIC WHICH ENTHRALLS RUTH, LEAVES GEORGE CONNER UNCERTAIN, AND MOVES WINNIE TO TEARS. IN THE FRONT ROW MARGARET FRANK AND VIOLA BUELL THINK OF BREAKFAST, WHILE MIRIAM AND GRACE HAVE "SO MUCH" TO TELL EACH OTHER.



W.M.R.

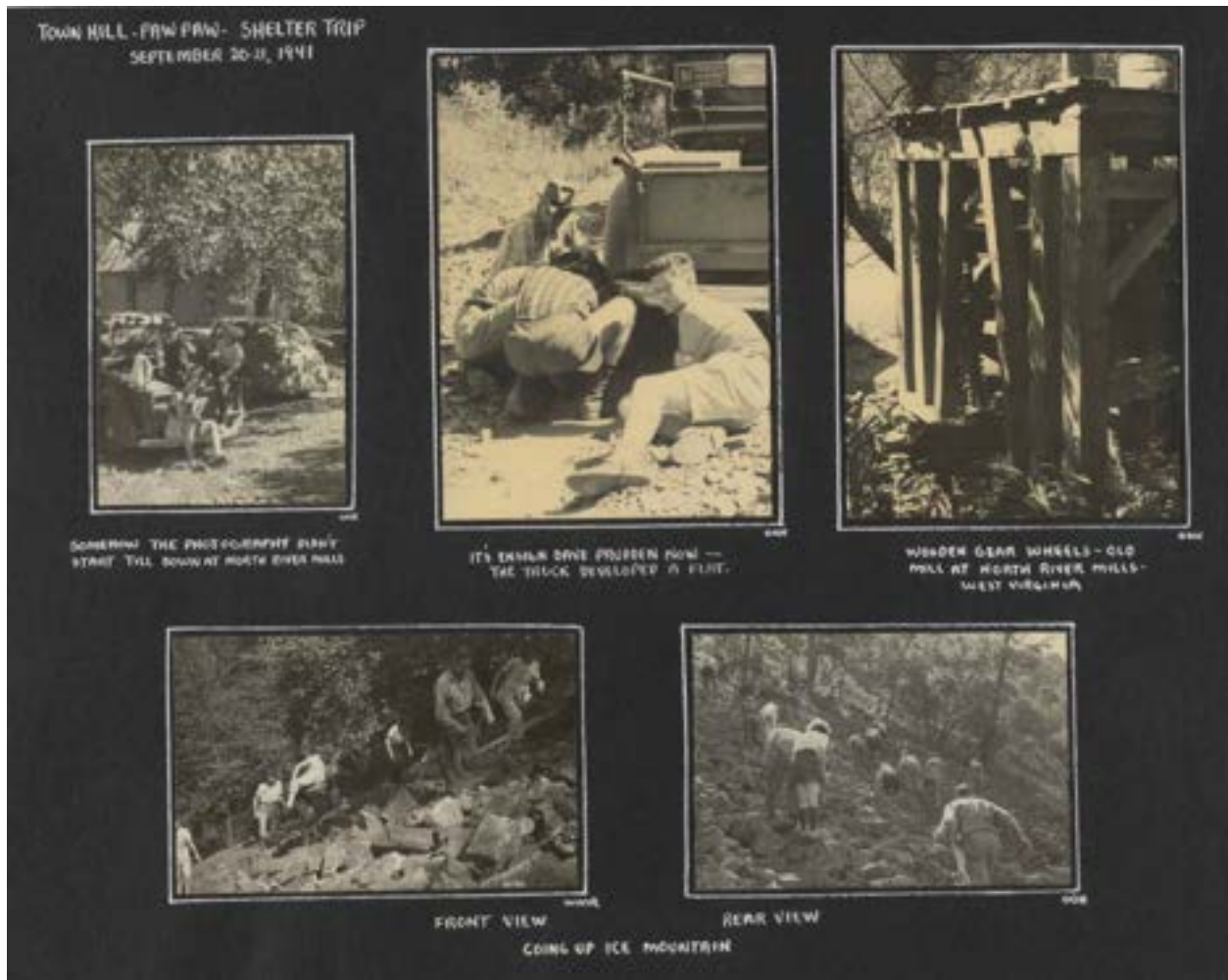
A CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF THE SHELTER -- SUNDAY MORNING - TAKING IT EASY - BEFORE HIKE



(It's worth noting that, according to an article in the Bulletin written several years later, two bottles of champagne were broken at the dedication because there was disagreement about the name of the shelter. One group christened it the Paw Paw Shelter, another group christened it the Town Hill Shelter.) After the dedication, the July - September 1941 Bulletin gave club members more information about the plans for the shelter: MCM had signed a three-year lease with the state, under which MCM would pay for the necessary repairs and improvements. MCM set aside \$200 for remodeling and equipping the building. Crowder stated that he expected the fees for use of the shelter (25 cents per person per night) would cover any excess costs. There would be 12 bunks with mattresses and 16 bunks without mattresses, so capacity would be "nearly unlimited."

Soon afterward, at the July 1941 Council meeting, the Council was told that club officials had investigated the possibility of insurance coverage for the shelter and were told that *"the MCM Shelter is practically uninsurable. The question of legal liability was left open for future investigation."*

The next mention of Paw Paw is at the September 1941 Council meeting, where it was commented that, *"The necessity of additional work to complete Paw Paw Shelter was discussed and it was suggested another work trip be held to finish up all work and make the shelter habitable before winter."* The photo scrapbook contains the following page of pictures of a September 20-21 trip.



At the next (October) Council meeting, it was announced that there would be another work trip to the shelter soon, bringing all necessary tools and equipment to make it habitable for the winter. There was agreement that a stove would be needed, and the Council approved funds to buy a stove. The photo scrapbook has the following single photo from a work trip there in November 1941, showing that MCM had installed some kind of heating stove with an overhead vent hood.



It appears that the club may not have visited again until the following June, because the next mention I found in the records is a photo of a June 1942 visit to the shelter:

"PAW-PAW" SHELTER - JUNE 1942

PAGE

ALLEN SPOTS
A ROBIN -



MAYBE IT
WAS A TURKEY
BUT OLIVER
HAD OTHER
INTERESTS



GARCON!



O O Heard

However, members must have been reserving it for their own use because at the July 1942 Council meeting, it was announced that the shelter was being widely used and that shelter fees were “literally pouring in.” (It seems surprising that the newly imposed system of gas rationing would not have limited the club’s ability to reach the shelter, but they could probably reach the general vicinity by train—or possibly the gas rationing had not fully taken effect yet. There may have been regular use by members, other than club trips that is not reflected in our Council minutes and newsletters. But it seems probable that use of the shelter would have declined after mid 1942 because of the gasoline restrictions.) It was also reported at the Council meeting that the water supply there was not good and that water should be boiled or treated with Hazeltone tablets before drinking.

At the November 1942 Council, someone reported that the Paw Paw shelter was in excellent condition except the front porch, which was in bad need of fixing. The Secretary was asked to see Mr. McCabe about fixing the porch. (The “Mr. McCabe” mentioned in these minutes was a nearby resident who helped MCM by keeping an eye on the shelter. He may have been keeping an eye on the shelter, but he probably wasn’t doing repair work, because the porch continued to deteriorate.)

Unfortunately, a year later at the October 1943 Council meeting, Orville Crowder reported that McCabe would no longer be able to look after the lodge after November. They decided to search in that area for a neighbor who would take on the role. Meanwhile, larger issues were raised at the November 1943 Council meeting:

Our biggest problem at present is what to do about the shelter at Paw Paw. There is a likelihood of losing the present site of the camp since a Prisoner of War camp is under consideration for location in Green Ridge Reserve. Mr. McCabe was unable to suggest anyone to over-see the property and Miss Lenderking reported on her visit two weeks ago there was indication that beetles were taking over. Our lease expires in June 1944. Mr. Heard will write or see Mr. Kayler about what use could be made of the property in order to keep it from theft and vandalism.

The “Mr. Kayler” (sometimes spelled Kaylor in other documents) mentioned in the report was the official at the state Department of Forests and Parks who had responsibility for leasing the cabin to MCM.

In the Oct-Dec 1943 Bulletin, the newsletter provided an update on the status of the shelter. Four club members had visited the shelter in August and found the inside clean and tidy, and the latrines were in good condition. However, the outside showed need of repairs. The porch was badly rotted and fell through in several places when stepped on. The visitors made makeshift repairs to the porch and to rusted screens doors using available materials. They also stated that Mr. McCabe had been successful in keeping trespassers away. (The last sentence in the report suggests that possibly Mr. McCabe had continued to watch over the facility, but later reports indicate that was no longer the case.)

At the December 1943 Council meeting, Os Heard reported that the state did not believe a prison labor camp in the area would jeopardize MCM’s lease. A few of the Mountain Club members planned to visit the shelter over New Years and bring home some equipment. The sporadic nature of the visits mentioned in the Council minutes seem to confirm that gas rationing had reduced the ability of members to use the site.

During the following year, there were several mentions about problems renewing the lease with state and keeping an eye on the shelter because of its remote location:

- At the January 1944 Council, there was mention that an unidentified person was considering renting Mr. McCabe's home, and would consider keeping a watch on the shelter for a fee. There was also a suggestion of a joint MCM and Glenn L. Martin spring trip to the site.
- At the July 1944 Council meeting, it was reported that a man named Joe Belford had moved into the McCabe house and that MCM would contact him about watching the shelter.
- At the September 1944 Council meeting, Orville Crowder said he was attempting to contact state officials at Annapolis about renewal of the Paw Paw Shelter lease, which technically had expired in June. The MCM treasurer, Merle Heart, reported that Joe Belford (the neighbor) was willing to keep an eye on the shelter, and the Council expressed willingness to grant him \$10 a year for the service.
- At the November 1944 meeting, Crowder indicated the shelter lease was not resolved, and there was no resolution by the January 1945 Council: *"Mr. Crowder has not received a reply to his letter to Mr. Kayler at Annapolis. Mr. Crowder requested an extension of the lease until after the war or until the resumption of traveling privileges will enable us to use the shelter."*

However, in the April - June 1945 Bulletin, Crowder informed members that the State Department of Forests and Parks had extended MCM's agreement for the use of the Paw Paw Shelter building until six months after the war. He added that the Shelters Committee would arrange an inspection and work trip during the spring.

At the August 1945 Council, Os Heard proposed a bus trip to the Paw Paw shelter on October 20-21.

At the September 1945 Council meeting, Crowder suggested a group of MCM leaders should go to Annapolis to discuss the shelter lease—suggesting that the agreement mentioned in the spring Bulletin had not been formalized. He also suggested a work trip to conduct repairs on October 19 or 20.

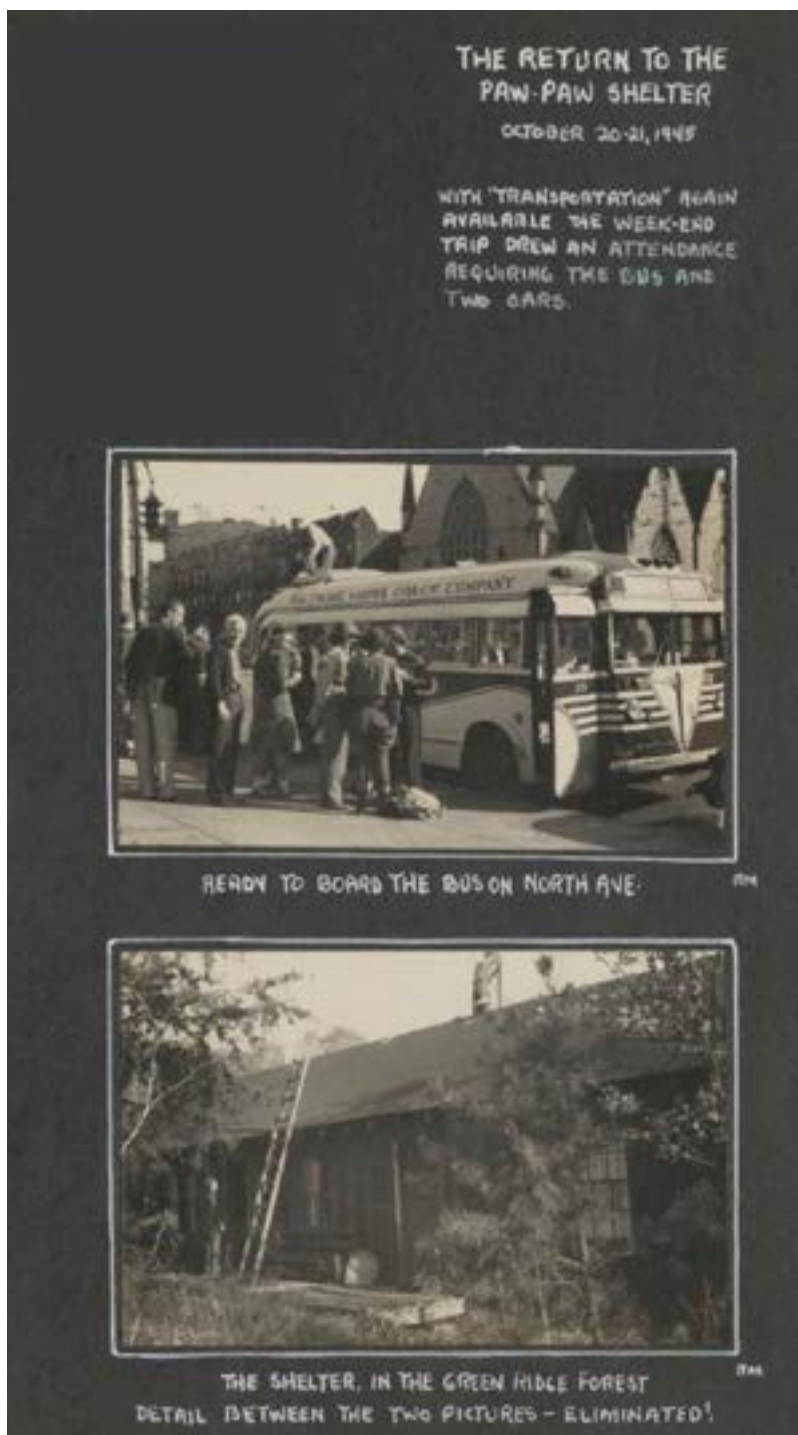
The October -December 1945 Bulletin included an announcement of a work trip on October 20-21. There was also a brief report that four members spent the week of June 24 at the shelter and found the place little changed since the previous year. *"There are a few more small leaks in the roof—though none of them are serious. The porch has rotted a little more and the cellar steps are rotted beyond use... There was no evidence of anyone attempting to molest the place."* The report also stated that the McCabe house was being torn down and after September 1 there would be no one to keep an eye on the property.

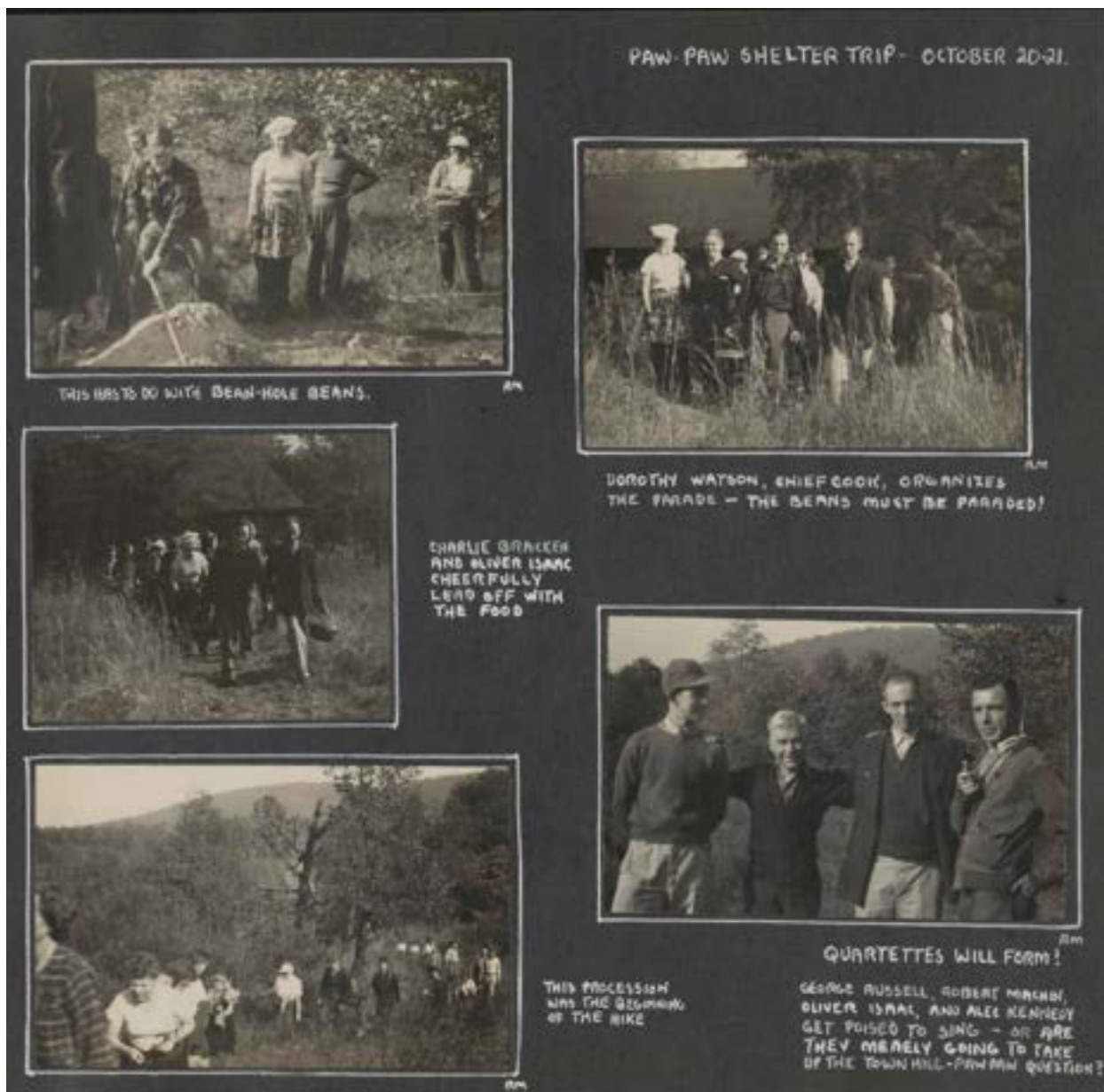
At the October 1945 Council meeting, Mr. Hartford reported that MCM was able to get a bus and 22 persons had signed up to go to Paw Paw, and some might drive up in cars. *"There was quite a bit of discussion about the bunks, would it be that those in the bus would be first to be considered for the bunks or would the gentlemen give way to the ladies...It was decided that the ladies in the bus first, ladies in cars, next, and gents in the bus and gents in the cars. A poll was taken on the approximate number of prospectives that might use the starry sky as their roof and it was felt that there would be sufficient bunks for all those who cared to sleep indoors."*

The January – March 1946 Bulletin included a report on the October trip. When they reached the dirt road leading to the shelter at dusk, the bus could not climb the steep hills. On several occasions the riders had to leave the bus and then it would back down to get a running start to reach the top of that

slope. Eventually they arrived at the shelter. After a dinner prepared by earlier arrivals (involving cooking a crock of beans in a hole), they enjoyed a perfect moonlight walk, then a square dance. Some of them slept under the stars. The next day they hiked to the Potomac River and crossed to West Virginia on a railroad bridge to the point where they met the bus to return to the shelter. Once again, the bus could not climb the last hill until the hikers were unloaded. After a meal, they climbed back on the bus for a nighttime ride back to Baltimore.

There are several photos of the October 20-21 work trip in the MCM scrapbook.





Once again, during the following year there were multiple Council discussions about the lease, and now there was an added problem caused by break-ins and thefts:

- At the April 1946 Council meeting it was reported that MCM member Ruth Lenderking had encountered MD State Forester Kayler on the street and had raised the matter of the Paw Paw lease. Kayler told her he would like the building to be used by more than just MCM. Kayler had declined an invitation to attend a Council meeting, so the Council agreed to try to set up a meeting with him in Annapolis. They also discussed the possibility of finding another shelter site elsewhere. As we will see, MCM took Kayler's comment seriously, and over the next couple of years the club worked to make the shelter available to other groups.
- At the May 1946 Council meeting, Os Heard reported that on his last visit to Paw Paw, he found that the shelter had been broken and that tools, small pans, lanterns and some curtains

had been stolen. That information was reported to club members in the July – September 1946 Bulletin, which also stated that the club was scouting another possible shelter site somewhere north of Chambersburg, PA.

- There was another discussion of Paw Paw at the October 1946 Council. Orville Crowder announced that he had arranged a meeting with Kayler on October 22, and he would be accompanied by members of the club's Public Relations Committee. There was discussion about whether MCM wanted to spend money on repairing existing shelters or erecting and maintaining a new one. They also discussed the condition of the Paw Paw building and the water supply, how to protect it from vandalism, and how to increase its use.
- At the November 1946 Council meeting, Crowder reported on his meeting with Kayler: (1) the state was willing to continue renting the shelter to MCM but would prefer a three-year lease; (2) Kayler suggested that posting signs might reduce the vandalism problems; (3) the state could not help solve the water supply problem, and (4) MCM must show use of the building or the state might move it elsewhere.
- The MCM treasurer, Merle Heart, informed the Council at the November meeting that since May 1941, the club had spent \$293.55 for equipment for the shelter and collected \$122.00 in shelter fees, representing a loss of \$171.55. He estimated another \$100 would be needed to re-equip the shelter, and there was no assurance that vandalism would not continue. Several Council members were asked to inspect the cabin again and report on what repairs were necessary.
- At the December 1946 Council meeting, an MCM member reported that he had visited the Paw Paw Shelter and found that the ceiling was water soaked, the front porch needed extensive repairs, and the front door lock must be replaced. The firewood supply and various buckets and wash basins were still there, and some dishes, but he could not tell if some dishes had been taken. There was considerable discussion about whether MCM should continue leasing the shelter, followed by a vote on whether to continue leasing the shelter. They voted to continue the lease for the time being, but directed that the club should make an effort to increase its use.
- At the January 1947 Council, Heart stated that MCM had sent a letter to Kayler asking that No Trespassing signs be posted at the shelter. At the April 1947 meeting, it was reported that someone had visited the shelter and found four bare spots [roof leaks?] and 2 broken windows. A trip was planned to make repairs.

The January – March 1947 Bulletin had a short article informing members that the Council had decided to accept the state's lease offer and retain possession of the shelter on a maintenance basis. It then discussed the need for repairs and the vandalism problems. The article also encouraged use of the facility by MCM and other groups.

At the May 1947 Council, a letter from the MD Department of Forests and Parks was read, which indicated that the state would be willing to let MCM continue using the Paw Paw Shelter for a fee of \$10 per year and maintenance. The Council advised that MCM's reply should suggest that the state inspect the site, post signs, and repair the spring. The Council also would inform the state that it had reached out to other groups such as the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Department of Education about using the shelter. There was discussion of what tools and materials should be brought to the shelter to make repairs.

The July – September 1947 Bulletin had a detailed article describing a work trip to the shelter on May 30–June 1, 1947, with 25 volunteers. All noticeable roof leaks were patched. The rotten front porch was removed and stones were taken from an old stone wall to make a stone terrace and steps. Broken

windows were replaced. Afterward there were impromptu hikes, with a square dance after dinner. On the following day (Sunday) the group enjoyed a hike of around 10 miles.

At the September 1947 Council, it was reported that the Department of Recreation wished to reserve the shelter on September 27-28. A work trip was suggested on October 4-5 to fix the roof (so apparently the June trip had not found all the leaks), and erect signs stating that the shelter is a state-owned building.

The club's efforts to find other groups to use the shelter had some success. At the October 1947 Council, there was discussion of a request by sportsmen at the Glenn L. Martin plant asking to rent the Paw Paw Shelter during the hunting season from November 15 to December 1. The Council directed that they should follow the same reservation procedure used by MCM members. Meanwhile, at the November 1947 Council meeting, the Council approved an agreement allowing the Marco Hunting and Fishing Club (a Baltimore area club) to use the shelter during the period November 15, 2047 thru January 1, 1948, with the exception of Thanksgiving weekend. The proposed usage by that group did not deter MCM from conducting two large visits that fall, both described afterward in the January – March 1948 Bulletin:

- MCM members enjoyed a Halloween party / work trip from October 31 – November 2, 1947. The article discussed the process of preparing bean-hole beans (cooked in a stone-lined hole in the ground). In regards to work tasks, they used hot tar to seal roof leaks, cut brush and small trees, and long grasses, and devised a trap door for an unspecified purpose. (The probable explanation is that they put a trap door in the ceiling to allow items to be stashed out of sight).
- A month later, at the end of November there was another visit to Paw Paw on Thanksgiving weekend by a group of 43 persons including MCM members and Boy Scouts. This time, the purpose was hiking, and the group hiked down a steep descent to Paw Paw Tunnel. The account also mentions that the fireplace with its adjustable hood did work, and that the “log book” was not titled “Town Hill Shelter.” While the hike was going on, some adults had prepared a fancy meal of roasted turkeys, sauerkraut, candied sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie, and more. The meal was followed by dancing (including a modified form of the Virginia reel), and ending with cider and doughnuts. And then, as if that were not enough, there was a frosty moonlit hike. Another hike took place the following morning, followed by a lunch of turkey soup and leftovers before the group headed home. (Those early club members did like to party! It may be worth noting that these kinds of hiking celebrations were common for the club in the early decades. They often had Halloween weekends in the Catoctins and New Years weekends at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Music and square dancing were part of their regular evening entertainment in those days.)

In 1948, there were continuing discussions of the same matters related to the shelter:

- At the January 1948 Council meeting, it was reported that the Marco Club was interested in using the shelter for a few week-end fishing trips. It was decided that they should request reservations in the usual way.
- At the April 1948 Council, it was announced that the shelter was booked solid through the first week in June. There was discussion of whether to post a sign at the entrance road to the shelter. That suggestion was approved, despite concerns about whether such a sign would attract vandals.

- At the May 1948 Council, Francis Old (the MCM equipment manager) reported that the Marco Club was not using the shelter as much as their lease allowed, which prevented other groups from using the shelter on certain weekends. It was decided to talk with the Marco Club leaders and suggest they reserve it only for special weekends during the hunting and fishing season. Old also reported that the water supply had been condemned by the Allegany County Water Bureau because it runs for a long distance above ground, increasing the possibility of pollution. Mr. Old would try to find out what corrective measures would be needed.
- At the June 1948 Council, Old stated that the new lease with the state was being reviewed by state's legal department, and that MCM would wait for its return before signing the Marco Club lease.

The Paw Paw Shelter was a prominent topic in the July – September 1948 Bulletin, which had four different articles related to the Paw Paw shelter:

- The first one described another stop at the shelter on April 3-4, 1948. The group arrived on Saturday and enjoyed a dinner of spaghetti and meatballs. The next day the group hiked near the Cacapon River and Unnecessary Mountain before returning home.
- There was another trip report about a May 29-31 trip to Swallow Falls. The group spent the first night at the Paw Paw Shelter, with dinner and a sing-along. The next day they moved on to hike at Swallow Falls and Muddy Creek Falls in very wet weather, and spent the night in that area before heading directly back to Baltimore.
- There was a third article entitled “What’s The Name of That Shelter?” The author of the article argued that the shelter is located on Town Hill Mountain, in a state forest belonging to the MD Department of Forests and Parks, and the state refers to it as the Town Hill Shelter. Consequently, the unknown author concludes, MCM should call it the Town Hill Shelter. Despite the argument, both names continued to be used by different club officials in the future.
- In this same very busy newsletter, there was also a short discussion entitled Equipment Needed for Town Hill Shelter. The article mentioned the previous thefts of equipment and furnishings and encouraged MCM members to donate their unneeded items for the shelter to be able to handle large groups—examples mentioned include dinnerware, folding cots, mattresses, canisters, cookware, and a stove.

After that, the mentions of the shelter in our records were Council discussions of the same issues:

- At the October 1948 Council meeting, Old reported that the shelter was getting more use than ever before. It had been broken into again, but he did not know what was taken. There was discussion of possible ways to prevent break-ins. It was also mentioned that the Alleghany County Bird Club had the water tested in July and it was found to be safe.
- At the December 1948 Council, Old reported that the Marco Club had offered to make shutters to improve security of the cabin, and MCM accepted the offer.
- At the March 1949 Council, Old reported on two more break-ins. There was damage to window panes and door handles, locks, and the kitchen sink was taken.
- At the April 1949 Council, Old reported that three mattresses had been taken from the shelter and he had decided to resign his position as chairman of the Shelters Committee. There was discussion of why MCM should maintain a shelter that was mostly used by groups other than MCM. The state Forests and Parks Department was unable to give the building any special protection. Formation of a committee was suggested to make recommendations.

The April – June 1949 Bulletin had a trip report of a Thanksgiving weekend trip to Paw Paw, so presumably it occurred in November 1948 and did not get reported in the winter newsletter. Ten hikers enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the traditional fixings on the first evening. The next day they hiked (slogged) through a drizzling rain that turned into heavy snow, so they returned to Baltimore earlier than planned.

At the May 1949 Council, Old reported that the Shelter Committee recommended abandoning the Paw Paw Shelter because of the multiple factors of vandalism and theft, distance to the shelter, lack of use by MCM members, and lack of a suitable water supply. The Council voted to end the agreement with the state as of June 30, 1949.

At the June 1949 Council, it was reported that MCM had sent a letter to Joseph Kayler, the Director of State Forests and Parks, terminating its tenancy of the shelter. There were discussions of how to dispose of the tools and equipment, as well as the possibility of turning the shelter over to the Maryland Ornithological Society.

The July – September 1949 Bulletin had a report that the use of the shelter by various other groups had increased, providing revenues for MCM's shelters fund. But the same article stated that MCM's own use of the shelter was negligible and vandalism was an increasing problem. Therefore, the Council appointed a special committee to make recommendations regarding this shelter and possible future shelters.

Despite the previous statement that MCM use of the shelter was negligible, the same newsletter had a trip report of a May 14-15, 1949 trip to the Town Hill Shelter. After dinner, two members played madrigals and folk tunes on their recorders. Later the conversation turned to modern art before ending at 1:30 a.m. The next day, after working on repairs, they hiked near Sideling Hill Creek, where another MCM contingent met them. The hike leader let the group off trail on a major bushwack until they were caught in a downpour and, eventually, returned to Baltimore earlier than planned.

At the July 1949 Council meeting, Old reported that any moveable equipment had been removed from the shelter. He suggested that the Ornithological Society take it over. He also reported that someone had stolen some mattresses, cots, locks and hooks, etc.

The next newsletter, the October-December 1949 Bulletin, has two mentions of the decision to stop managing the shelter: *"In view of the fact that having disposed of the Paw Paw Shelter, the Mountain Club has only the Dark Hollow lean-to to its credit, that there is a sizable shelters fund to our credit in the bank, that MCM members use shelters extensively, it seems that the line of action should be clear."* The article then invited suggestions from members about possible locations to build a lean-to.

Finally, there is another article in the same newsletter titled, *The Last Days of Town Hill – July 16-17*, that describes the final trip of a few volunteers to remove MCM's remaining property from the shelter. The author described in a wry manner how she and her husband were persuaded to attend a "delightful" weekend clearing out the odds and ends. After borrowing a trailer, they encountered setbacks including a flat tire, and later a wheel of the trailer falling off during the drive up the mountain. Eventually, they arrived safely, as did a small crew of other volunteers. The next day, various items such as mattresses, dishware, cookware, disassembled cots, cutlery and curtains were crammed into cars, on top of cars, and in the trailer. The article ends with this appropriate (and rather poetic) epitaph: *"With a last long look at our once-glorious Shelter, we chugged slowly away into a*

gathering downpour.” What happened to the structure after that we don’t know, but it appeared that other groups such as the Ornithological Society and the Marco Club planned to continue using it. (In fact, our trip schedules show that in April 1958, MCM used the Paw Paw shelter as a base for a hiking weekend, so the cabin was still in use at that time.)

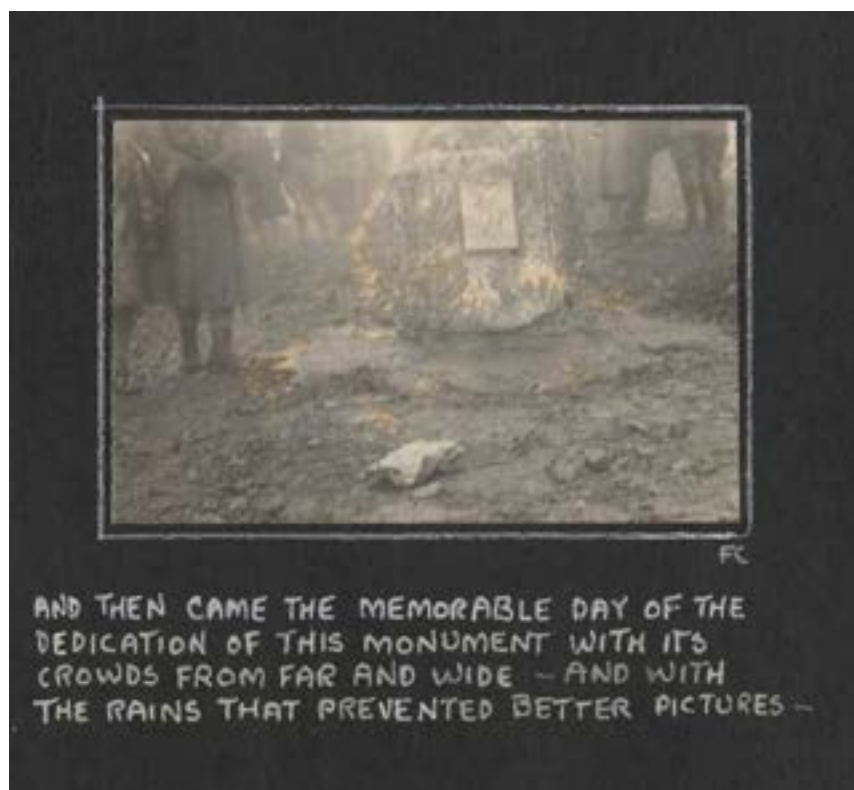
There were no further mentions of the Paw Paw Shelter in Council minutes. Despite the challenges they had encountered, there were still occasional expressions of interest in MCM building its own locked hiking shelter somewhere on public lands, and the Shelters Committee was given an assignment to explore options. The Committee apparently found no promising solutions, and after a few insubstantial updates over the following months, at the March 1950 Council meeting, *“Mr. Felton reported that the last meeting of the Shelter Committee resulted in a decision to shelve the idea until the Club displayed more interest.”* MCM never did get another hiking retreat for its own use—although the club often reserved shelters in various parks for hiking events.

#7 - THE DISAPPEARANCE AND REDISCOVERY OF THE CENTER POINT KNOB PLAQUE

In my last article--about our club history as an Appalachian Trail (A.T.) maintaining club, I noted that soon after the Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) received responsibility for maintaining the Appalachian Trail, our founders moved quickly to begin taking care of its new section. The MCM Bulletin for March-April 1935 stated plans were underway for a Center Point Knob marker and a dedication gathering in the Fall." That autumn, after several work trips on the Trail, MCM moved to implement its plan for a monument at Center Point Knob to mark the center point of the Trail. Photos in the MCM scrapbook show our volunteers selecting this boulder located nearby.



They dragged the boulder to the place on the Trail where it passes Center Point Knob, and then attached a bronze plaque to the boulder to commemorate the significance of the location. At that time, this marker was the only notice to hikers that they had reached the halfway point of the A.T.



This is a close-up of the plaque.



Sometime between 1940 and 1948, someone pried the plaque from the boulder and removed it. We know the plaque was still there in 1940 because PATC has a photo of a group of hikers around the boulder—plaque and all. We know it was gone by 1948 because a photo exists of Earl Shaffer (the first A.T. thru hiker) standing by the boulder—and the plaque is gone. And it stayed missing for 40 years. The discovery was reported to MCM members in the July – September 1948 issue of the Bulletin:

Vandals have carried away the register and the bronze plaque from Center Point Knob. This is a major and possibly irreplaceable loss. Designed by Raymond Creekmore, the plaque was dedicated on December 8, 1935. While it never did, nor ever could, mark the exact mid-point of the A-T, it had been for thirteen years the MCM's proud symbol of the Club's active participation in this 2,050 mile trail. It has probably ended up in some "trophy" collection -- but we still have our section of the Appalachian Trail, and our own rallying point, "Center Point Knob".

Then in 1994, a local PA resident named Bruce Dunlavy visited the home of another resident, Wilmer Harris, to discuss business matters. Dunlavy saw the Center Point Knob plaque on Harris' mantel. Harris said he had found it while digging fence post holes. Dunlavy later said he recognized the plaque, but he told no one about it at that time.

More than 10 years later, after the Appalachian Trail Museum was being formed, Dunlavy suggested to Harris that the plaque be returned or offered to the new Museum. When the news of the plaque's discovery became known, there were discussions between the Museum, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, other local trail clubs, and MCM about its proper disposition. As the original owner, the MCM Council voted in July 2010 to donate the plaque to the Museum—but first we had a mold made of the old plaque, which was then used to make a new bronze replica. This new plaque was installed at the original boulder site on July 8, 2012.

Here is a photo of the newly installed copy at Center Point Knob, with MCM's Rosie Suit and bronze-caster Ben Lock.



The original can be viewed at the A.T. Museum at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.



*The original plaque on display
at the Appalachian Trail
Museum at Pine Grove
Furnace State Park, PA*

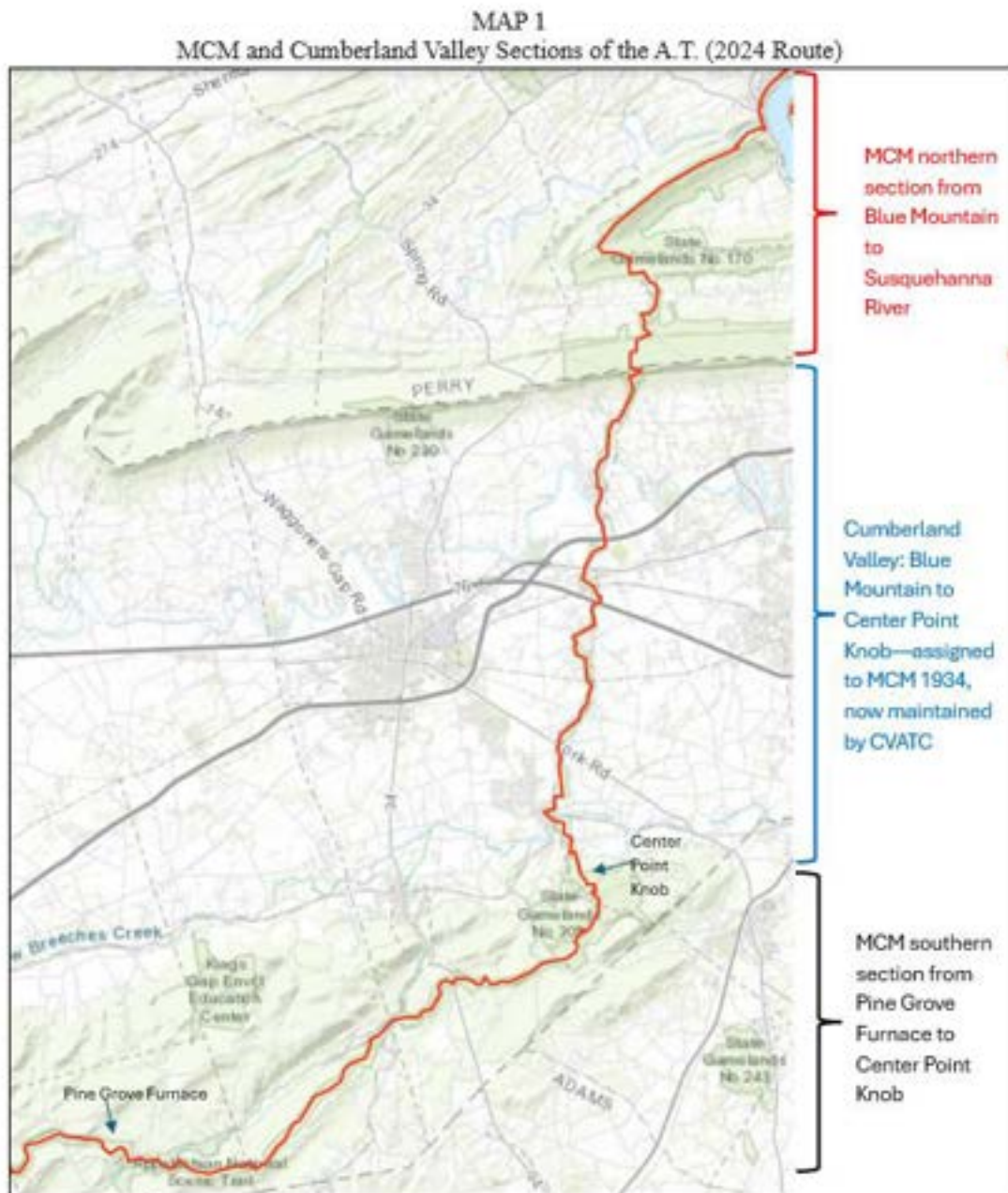
Both of these photos are taken from the October 2012 issue of Hiker High Points.

There are various articles and sources written over the years that tell aspects of this story. Perhaps the most interesting is a March 21, 2023 episode of the Green Tunnel podcasts, which are a series of podcasts about the A.T. You can listen to this podcast at [Iconic Locations: Center Point Knob | The Green Tunnel \(r2studios.org\)](https://www.r2studios.org/podcast/iconic-locations-center-point-knob-the-green-tunnel).

In addition, several editions of our Hiker High Points contain articles about the discovery and disposition of the plaque—specifically, the February 2011, June 2012, and October 2012 newsletters—you can view them all on the MCM web site.

#8 - MCM AND THE A.T. IN THE CUMBERLAND VALLEY: A TALE OF THREE TRAILS

The Cumberland Valley is a valley in Maryland (MD) and Pennsylvania (PA), extending from the Potomac River south of Hagerstown to the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg. It's relevance to the Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) is that the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) crosses 15 miles of the Valley in PA, and MCM maintains the Trail sections both north and south of it. The northern tip of MCM's southern section ends where the Trail passes Center Point Knob and descends into the Cumberland Valley near Boiling Springs. On the north side, MCM's northern Trail section begins where the A.T. reaches the top of Blue Mountain after leaving the Valley. Map 1 below shows the current route of the Trail as it passes through the Valley, with the MCM sections that border it on the north and south.



The Cumberland Valley section of the Trail has been maintained by the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club (CVATC) since the early 1990s. But before that, MCM was the club that maintained the Trail through the Valley for more than 55 years. During our tenure, the A.T. went through two major route changes after we assumed responsibility, so the Trail followed three much different routes during MCM's tenure. (CVATC took over as the Trail club shortly after the second relocation.)

Why should we be interested in a section that is no longer maintained by MCM? Well, the events during those 55 years in the Valley are part of MCM's history. In addition, they explain the question that our members occasionally ask: Why is there a "hole" (i.e., the Valley area) in MCM's trail section? Consequently, as part of our 90th Anniversary celebration, I am reviewing the historical events that led to the development of each of those three major routes. All three are shown on Map 2, and the background of how each route came into being is discussed below.

Trail 1: the Original Route

For a source of information about the planning and development of the original A.T. route in PA, I have relied on the book From Dream to Reality: History of the Appalachian Trail, Thomas R. Johnson, 1921, pages 214-223. As the A.T. was originally planned in the late 1920s and early 1930s, the proposed Trail route on the eastern side of the Susquehanna River moved across central PA on a series of low ridgelines through Lehigh Gap, Swatara Gap, and Manada Gap before reaching the east side of Susquehanna River just north of Harrisburg. On the other side of the river, the Trail was to join the existing Darlington Trail at Marysville and follow it west along Blue Mountain, which extended west from the river along the northern edge of the Cumberland Valley. But there was actually no river crossing at Marysville; you had to hike south six miles along roads toward Harrisburg, cross the river on a bridge that allowed pedestrians, then hike six miles north on the other side to return to the A.T. at Marysville—or cross the river illegally on a railroad bridge. On the western side of the river, at Marysville, the early A.T. planners intended that the Trail turn west onto Blue Mountain and follow the existing Darlington Trail for some distance. From there, the A.T. would need to leave Blue Mountain at some point and turn south toward MD and then reach Harpers Ferry (where the Trail would cross the Potomac).

As Thomas R. Johnson explains in his book, the route southwest of the river had to deal with challenges that would confound Trail clubs for years. It would be difficult to bring a trail down through the farms and private properties of Cumberland Valley, and as a result there were three different suggested routes supported by different Trail officials and clubs in the late 1920s and early 1930s. One proposal was to extend the Trail along Blue Mountain for about 30 miles from the Susquehanna River to Doubling Gap (now Colonel Denning State park), then bear south for 30 miles to Pine Grove Furnace State Park, where it would follow South Mountain into MD. Another group proposed to run along Blue Mountain for a shorter distance of about 11 miles to Sterretts Gap, then follow Tuscarora Mountain southwest to the Potomac at Hancock, MD--where it would probably have followed the C & O Canal to get back to Harpers Ferry.

MAP 2

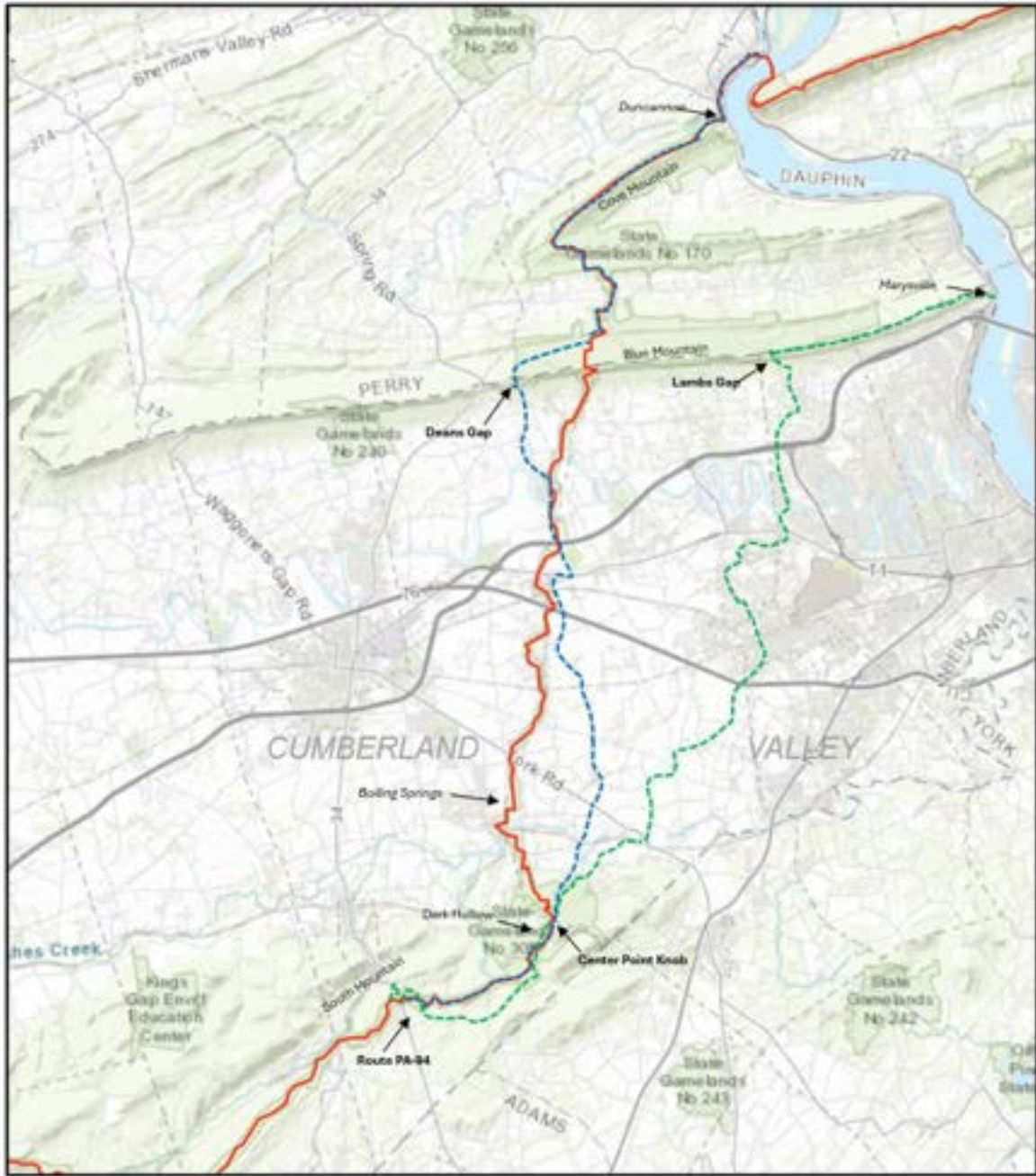
Historical Appalachian Trail Routes Through the Cumberland Valley

7/22/2024

Red - Current A.T. Route

Blue - 1954-1991

Green - 1930s-1954



A key decision maker for this issue was Myron Avery, a co-founder of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) who served as its president from 1927 to 1941, and also as chairman of the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) from 1931 until 1952. (Note that PATC was the Trail maintaining club for A.T. up to the Susquehanna at that time.) Avery preferred a third option: to descend south from Blue Mountain at the eastern side of the Cumberland Valley (i.e., closer to the Susquehanna River) to reach the northernmost end of South Mountain, and then follow South Mountain south through two PA state forests and into MD. After exploration, Avery picked Lambs Gap—only about 3 miles from Marysville on the Darlington Trail--as the point for the A.T. to leave Blue Mountain and turn south. He and another PATC official marked a Trail route south through the valley, walking entirely on roads, where the A.T. would then leave the Cumberland Valley at the northern tip of South Mountain southeast of Boiling Springs. That was the route that existed when MCM was assigned the maintenance responsibility for this section of the Trail in late 1934, and the route was used for more than 20 years (possibly with minor adjustments during that time).

To map the specific route that was followed through the Valley in those early years, I relied heavily on an Atlas of the Appalachian Trail that was prepared by MCM in the 1930s. This book was found in storage at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy regional office in Boiling Springs around 2016-2017. The book was returned to MCM, and it is now on loan to the A.T. Museum in Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

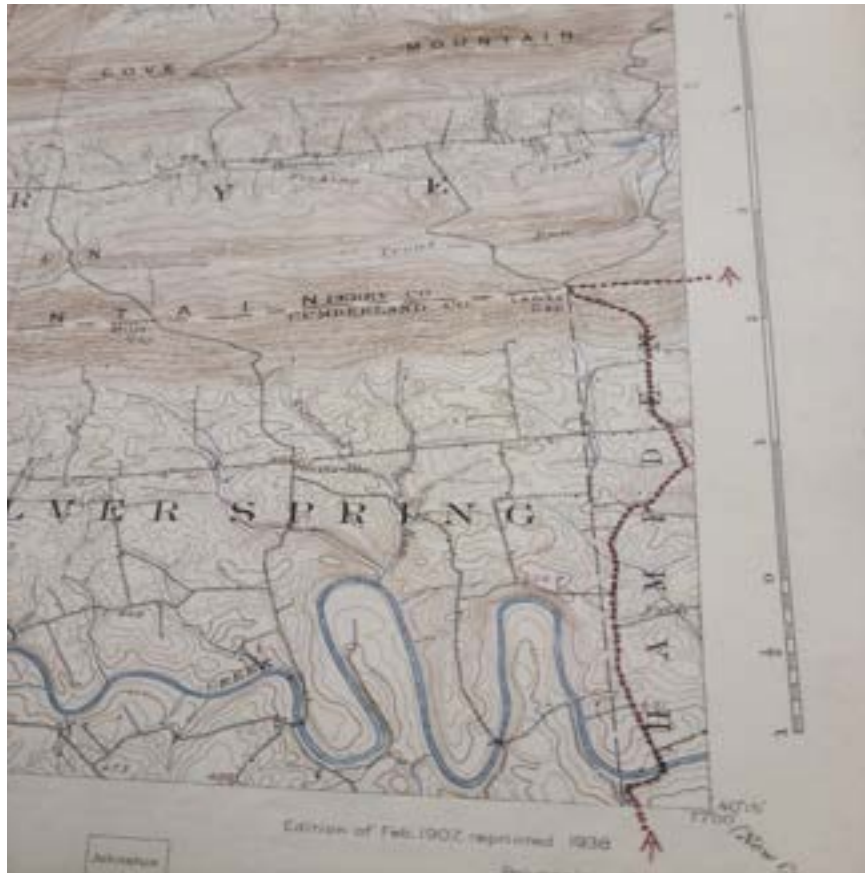




As the sample pages below illustrate, the atlas contains a series of map pages that show the original route of the Trail through the Cumberland Valley. The heavy dotted line on the first page shows the Trail “crossing” the Susquehanna and then moving west onto Blue Mountain on the existing Darlington Trail.



On the second map in the series, shown below, the heavy dotted line shows the Trail turning south at Lambs Gap and descending into the Valley.



Combining the lines shown on the individual map pages, I've drawn my estimate of the original A.T. route through the Valley as a green line on Map 2 (above). For reasons that I will explain later, I also included the Trail route for an area south of Central Point Knob (i.e. south of the Cumberland Valley), all the way to Route PA-94. For that southern section, in addition to the Atlas, I was assisted by an old map provided by long time MCM member John Eckard—his map shows the early Trail route between Center Point Knob and Route PA-94. This green line on Map 2 above is my best representation of the Trail at the time MCM took over as maintainer in 1934.

Trail 2: the 1950s Relocation

In my previous 90th Anniversary article about the history of MCM hiking shelters, I mentioned Earl Shaffer, the first known person to thru hike the entire Appalachian Trail, which he did in 1948 and then again numerous times. Shaffer lived in PA and was an active member of the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (SATC), and also an MCM member at times.

In the early 1950s, under the leadership of Shaffer and others, the A.T. on the eastern side of the river was moved further north onto a different set of ridges, including Peters Mountain, where it descended to the Susquehanna and then crossed on a highway bridge (the Clarks Ferry Bridge) into Duncannon (several miles north of Marysville). This eliminated the need to walk south to Harrisburg to cross the river. From Duncannon, the planners decided to take the Trail westward along Cove Mountain rather than follow roads back to Marysville. At the western of Cove Mountain, the Trail would descend southward to cross Valley Road (PA-850). From there, the Trail would climb up to the top of Blue

Mountain, and then continue down the southern side into the Cumberland Valley, using Deans Gap Road.

That major shift in the A.T. led to the creation of a new, approximately 15-mile, Trail section (which became part of MCM's maintenance responsibility) on which Shaffer built the Bishop Darlington and Thelma Marks shelters a few years later. More information about this reroute and Shaffer's role can be found at pages 302-304 of Thomas R. Johnson's book.

I have read through our old MCM newsletters and Council minutes to understand MCM's level of involvement in this major Trail reroute. The first mention I found of this planned change is in the MCM Council meeting minutes for March 1954, which simply mention that "*An expected Trail change, crossing the Susquehanna at Clark's Ferry was discussed.*"

At the next Council meeting, there must have been a more detailed discussion with Earl Shaffer in attendance, based on the April 1954 minutes: "*The rest of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of Trail relocation from the Susquehanna which will be crossed at Clark's Ferry. Mr. Earl Schaeffer (sic) recommended a lookout and spring near Duncannon be made use of, and he, Mr. Old, and Mr. Felton [MCM's Supervisor of Trails] anticipate exploring the region in the next few weeks.*"

There was further discussion at the May 1954 Council: "*Mr. Felton also described the investigation on May 2 of area to be turned into a new path for the Appalachian Trail, so that new Susquehanna crossing place can be linked with existing trail. The motion was also made that the Club would protest a change in assignment of this area to a Harrisburg group, unless a general reapportionment of trail section mileage was decided upon by A.T. conference...*" That last sentence suggests there must have been a concern that the new section would be assigned to another Trail club than MCM.

The following month, the minutes for the MCM's annual meeting show that the plans were discussed with the general membership: "*A description of AT relocation was presented by Supervisor of Trails Lloyd Felton, pertaining to Duncannon crossing of the Susquehanna, to join existing trail at Dark Hollow.*" Dark Hollow is a short distance south of Center Point Knob, so that sentence confirms that the Trail through the entire Cumberland Valley would be moved. (Since the new Trail route would descend from Blue Mountain about seven miles west of Lambs Gap, the whole route for crossing the Valley had to change.)

The work seems to have progressed very quickly. In the April-June 1954 MCM Bulletin, the A.T. updates section of the newsletter included a statement that "*Preliminary work is now underway for a relocation in Pennsylvania from a point east of Swatara Gap to follow Third Mountain north of Indiantown Gap Military Reservation then cross the Susquehanna at Clarks Ferry and rejoin the Trail at Lambs Gap. This will avoid over ten miles of road walking and eliminate the detour to Harrisburg now required when crossing the Susquehanna.*" (As it turned out, the statement about rejoining the Trail at Lambs Gap was incorrect.)

The July – September 1954 Bulletin reported that planning was underway regarding the MCM relocation:

The Pennsylvania relocations are still in the scouting stage. Two trips...under... our Supervisor of Trails Lloyd Felton, have been made into the area, west of the Susquehanna, in "MCM territory". Ownership of land was investigated on the June 5 trip; it is necessary to secure

permission of property owners before the Trail can be routed across their land. It is hoped that we will be in a position to get to work on the project in September...

The October -December 1954 Bulletin reported that considerable progress had been made on the new Trail section:

Three more work trips by the Club, and one by Bob Stockbridge, Scoutmaster Bill Travers, and nine Explorers of Troop 57, have accomplished much on the Cove Mountain Relocation. The Trail route has now been established from Duncannon to just north of Conodoguinet Creek. [The creek is south of Blue Mountain in the northern part of the Valley.] Earl Shaffer, Chairman of the Relocation Project, has put in an enormous amount of personal work, usually meeting our groups as well as making numerous trips alone. Lloyd Felton, our Supervisor of Trails, expects to clear up uncertainties as to landowners' permission soon; another work trip and a paint blazing job should enable us to tie in the new section before the end of the year.

The minutes of the November 1954 Council meeting reported that the work was finished: *"The Supervisor of Trails reported the establishment of the tie-in at both ends of the new and old trail, so that the relocation is usable. 8 trips were run, and the work finished on schedule."*

The 1954 MCM photo scrapbook includes a few photos of a work crew on Cove Mountain on September 26. The photo shows, and is corroborated by a description in a later Bulletin, that much of the Trail along the Mountain ran along an old dirt road, which would have reduced the amount of trail-building work.





LUNCH ON THE HILLSIDE



DOWNHILL ALL THE WAY.

While the new Trail route relied partially on existing roads, MCM opened a new trail of possibly 15 miles from Duncannon to the top of Blue Mountain at Deans Gap in less than a year. That was a significant accomplishment.

The February 1955 Council minutes mentioned that the opening of the new Trail will be held on March 20. The January - March 1955 Bulletin included a full-page announcement of the completion of the new Trail section, including a partial description of the route being used on the new MCM section:

The Trail relocation in Pennsylvania, except for our own Dark Hollow--Route 94 section, has been completed and measured. There is a considerable amount of work still to be done; some sections have not as yet been blazed, and signs must be made and placed.

East of the Susquehanna there is about 40 miles of new Trail, from Swatara Gap, in Blue Mountain, across Second Mountain to Sharp Mountain, to Stony Mountain, where there is a firetower, and then to Peters Mountain, to the Susquehanna River at Clarks Ferry. The Trail crosses the Susquehanna and Juniata River bridges to Duncannon and takes to the hills again after crossing Sherman Creek.

The crest at the north end of Cove Mountain gives us a most spectacular viewpoint, better than anything we have had in the section we are abandoning. We follow the ridge some six miles, to where it abruptly turns eastward, and drop off toward Grier Point. The Trail follows gravel and dirt roads through a gap in Little Mountain and crosses North (or Blue) Mountain at Myers Gap. Part of the route across the Cumberland Valley is on dirt roads on two low ridges, Ironstone, north of Conodoguinet Creek, and Stony, to the south. There is a covered bridge for the crossing of the creek.

The Trail uses little-traveled roads through Allen and Leidigh and reaches a landmark, the red barn that marked a turn in the former Trail, where the route left the lowlands to head for Center Point Knob. The new route will bear left and reach the present Trail at Wildwood Run; from this point we resume a mile or so on the Spectacular White Rocks Ridge to Center Point Knob. The distance from Clarks Ferry to Wildwood Run is about twenty-seven miles. We expect to have a sketch map of the MCM section available in March.

The "formal opening" of this relocation is to be on Sunday, March 20, at Clarks Ferry. The York Hiking Club, the Susquehanna Trail Club, and the Clubs from Lancaster and Reading are to meet with MCM and Conference officers for the ceremonies. There will be hikes to the viewpoints on Peters Mountain and Cove Mountain. Os Heard will be MCM leader.

MCM's April - June 1955 Bulletin reported on the formal opening of the new Trail on March 20:

The Mountain Club, after many work trips west of the river, appeared forty strong at Camp Shikellamy in Clark's Valley, to take part in the hikes and ceremonies attendant to the opening of the Pennsylvania relocation of the Appalachian Trail. The occasion was marked by the

gathering of the clan; hikers from Trail clubs far and near drove into the campsite and were soon part of a long line that eventually totaled 125 or so wending their way up a blue-blazed trail to the crest of Peters Mountain. Here was brand new trail—the white-blazed A.T., and Earl Shaffer of “first to hike it” fame led the way first to a viewpoint and then down again to the cars.

To Os Heard, our [MCM’s] day’s trip leader, resplendent with the green Italian hat, the occasion brought memories of the time, twenty years before, when the M.C.M. was formally assigned Trail to maintain. Of the M.C.M. group of that day, only he and Ruth Lenderking ... were present to see M.C.M. trail signs go up anew.

Hawk Rock, on Cove Mountain, high above Sherman Creek and Duncannon, was the top scenic attraction and a hundred or so hikers followed the Trail to the top to enjoy the view...

Later that year, a statement in the July - September 1955 Bulletin summarized the work invested in the new MCM section: “*eleven scouting and work trips, involving some 4800 or more miles of auto travel, were made to get our 26.4 miles of new Appalachian Trail, from Clarks Ferry to Wildwood Branch Notch, completed.*” (That distance included the Trail through the Valley, which continued to use roads for much of the route, as well as the new section north of Blue Mountain.)

That same issue of our newsletter also included a discussion of additional Trail relocation work planned by MCM a few miles south of the Cumberland Valley:

In addition, we still have a relocation not completed. The Trail is blazed to beyond Dark Hollow Shelter from the north, but then there is a temporary section, the old Ernst Road, marked by very temporary signs only, to rejoin the Trail on Long Mountain. The plan is to eliminate both Long Mountain and the six-tenths on Route 94. The proposed route would pass close by the Whiskey Spring and go over two ridges, Rocky and Little Rocky, providing interesting hiking, rocks, and views.

There were progress reports on the planning of this section’s specific route in the next two newsletters. Finally, the April - June 1956 Bulletin reported that three recent work trips had made it possible to complete the Trail relocation between PA-94 and Dark Hollow. “*The rocks and viewpoints on Rocky Ridge make this section almost spectacular, far more rewarding than anything on the route that has been abandoned.*”

In regard to the 1954 relocation. I have gone into considerable discussion about the work that MCM did both north and south of Cumberland Valley because it was all part of a single large relocation of the Trail at one time, and the history of events causing that relocation affected the larger change. But what about the new route within the Valley itself? The road walk had to move because the Trail now descended Blue Mountain at a much different location. To determine the route of the new road walk, I have relied on information furnished by Craig Dunn. Craig was a long-time A.T. volunteer with MCM and SATC at that time (and later with a new Trail club for many years), and he provided me with the following description of the new road walk that existed after 1954:

The A.T. route across the Cumberland Valley... was approximately 90 percent along roads. After descending from White Rocks [near Center Point Knob at the south end of the Valley], the A.T. came to and followed Kuhn Road northward, then Leidigh Rd., Old Stone House Rd.,

Appalachian Drive, U.S. Route 11, and Bernheisel Bridge Rd., until reaching the Conodoguinet Creek. The only natural setting for the trail before the relocation was the one mile section from Bernheisel Bridge along the creek to Sherwood Drive. The trail then followed Sherwood Drive until on to Deer Lane and followed until reaching the junction with PA Route 944. After crossing Route 944, the A.T. followed Deans Gap Road and ascended Blue Mountain.

Using those directions, I have incorporated that road walk into the new (after 1954) A.T. route from Duncannon through the Cumberland Valley, and then south to Route PA-94, shown as a blue line above on Map 2.

Trail 3: the 1980s Relocation

The 1950s Trail relocation eliminated the need for a long off-trail walk to Harrisburg to cross the Susquehanna River, but there was still a walk of about 12 miles on roads across the Cumberland Valley between the base of Blue Mountain and South Mountain. As the Thomas Johnson book describes on pages 475-480, by the 1970s that walk through the Cumberland Valley was on roads that had become more heavily traveled and lined with houses, stores, and farms than they had been 20 years ago. Trail clubs and A.T. officials began discussing where the Trail should be moved. The potential routes discussed were (1) the existing road route, (2) a route along an abandoned rail line, and (3) a “ridge route” along Ironstone Ridge--a rocky volcanic dike that ran through numerous farms in the valley. Since that rocky stretch was not usable for farming, the National Park Service (NPS) and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) considered it as the best route for an off-road trail. At a meeting of Trail clubs with NPS, the general preference was to explore the ridge route.

However, when MCM’s Thurston Griggs and local PA persons began talking to local landowners about a government purchase of their land, there was a big backlash and vigorous protesting about the idea of a government land takeover. Community groups formed in the late 1970s to oppose a new route. To counter this, a pro trail group eventually coalesced to check the obstructions and provide accurate information. Gradually, local discussions became calmer, but in the early 1980s there was still considerable hostility to the idea of a new Trail route. However, the new director of the NPS explored the alternative routes himself and then expressed a preference for the ridge route.

A brief update in the February-March 1979 MCM News stated that, *“The County Committee and CANT (Citizens against the New Trail) will decide in late spring whether to accept the National Park Service’s policy regarding a corridor for the Trail in the Cumberland Valley. It provides for a right-of-way of 50 feet (down to 25 feet in one short stretch) surrounded by a corridor of 100 feet on each side of the Trail, as a minimum...Some landowners north of the Valley (vicinity of Route 850) remain to be contacted. Landowners south of the Valley (between the Valley and Michaux State Forest at Tagg Run will be approached within the next month.”* These last sentences show that the NPS was exploring land purchases to protect the Trail north and south of the Cumberland Valley, as well as to enable a new route through the Valley itself.

The debate went on for some time. Five years later, an article in the May 1984 MCM News reported that members of the SATC were using petitions and meetings and publicity to show support for the route preferred by the local trail community and conservation groups (the ridge route). The newsletter article noted that MCM’s participation in this phase was limited because PA residents needed to show the strength of local support.

The July 1984 News reported that MCM had joined a Cumberland Valley A.T. Crossing-Off-Roads Coalition, and also that a final determination of the route would be made by NPS in November. Our October 1984 News reported that NPS had released an assessment of the three possible routes across the Valley and was allowing 90 days for public comment. The actual decision took longer, as such matters usually do. A year later, the July 1985 News announced that NPS had released a supplement assessment of two alternative routes that were under consideration: a sidewalk across the Valley along the present road route, and a new rustic trail in a 70-foot wide corridor--the ridge route. At the January 1986 Council, Thurston Griggs reported to Council members that the ridge route had been selected to replace the existing Cumberland Valley crossing. In the months that followed, NPS started working on land purchases to make the new route possible. At the February 1987 Council meeting, it was reported that NPS efforts to protect the Cumberland Valley land would take 2-3 years. The February 1986 News informed our members that ATC was working on the final determination of the route, and that NPS was having discussions with the PA Department of Transportation about an A.T. bridge across Route US-11, a busy highway.

By 1987, trail relocation work was beginning. The March 1987 Council discussed possible work sites along Conodoguinet Creek or at the northern end of the Valley. The July Council minutes reported that 12 MCM members joined the work crews on June 6 along the creek and near Sherwood Drive, including six volunteers who stayed overnight and worked for a second day.

The January 1987 MCM News reported that a management planning group be formed to consider policies such as insecticide use, grazing, camping, non-hiker use, etc. MCM would be included as part of the planning group. It also reported that an A.T. footbridge over highway US-11 would be completed in a few years.

Meanwhile The October 1987 Council mentioned new scheduled trips in October and November. At the November 1987 Council, it was reported that 18 of the 25 workers on the last work trip were MCM members, and that they worked on the new Trail section from the Darlington shelter descending Blue Mountain to the Valley. While the trail work was underway, NPS land purchases activities were ongoing to protect the new Trail.

After a winter break, MCM's work in the Valley went on through 1988. The February 1988 Council mentioned three upcoming work trips in March and April. Land purchase efforts to support the Trail relocation were also continuing. In addition, NPS purchased a land parcel and building in Boiling Springs; that building would serve as the ATC regional office for many years. At the November 1988 Council, once again there was a mention that work trips would resume in the spring, and a projection that the Trail should be finished in 1990.

MCM work trips continued throughout 1989 at a rapid pace, and our records for that year included more details of what was being done:

- The July 1989 Hiker High Points (HHP) reported that an April work trip built four stiles across fences and planted posts with A.T. blazes in fields.
- There was more work in May to finish a side hill trail, widen the Trail, and paint blazes.
- The September 1989 Council reported on a need for volunteers to help with a bridge construction on the Valley route.
- The September 1989 HHP noted that the new Trail would pass through 10 miles of farm fields, which would require a new load of maintenance work cutting heavy plant and weed growth.

- The November 1989 HHP mentioned August and September work trips that cleared 2-3 miles of the Trail through woods and fields north of Boiling Springs.

At the November 1989 Council meeting, it was announced that the work trips to the Cumberland Valley for Trail construction would resume again in late February 1990. In addition, there would be work days on Saturdays to plant trees where the new route passed through open areas. The grand opening of the new Trail was scheduled for June 23, 1990. Thurston Griggs reported that NPS had protected 11 miles of Trail for the Valley relocation and that 4 ½ miles (22 tracts) were still to be negotiated.

The January 1990 HHP included a mention of a November work trip near Center Point Knob, indicating that the new Trail was close to reaching its connection to the old Trail at the southern end of the Valley. In the early spring, work began again at an intense rate with the goal of being ready for the June 23 grand opening. On two work trips in March 1990, MCM volunteers cleaned up an old farm dump and implanted 22 posts in fields for A.T. blazes. Tree planting days were scheduled on each Saturday in April.

It is worth noting that at the same time that the new Trail was being built in the Valley, MCM was also occupied with construction of its new Alec Kennedy shelter a short distance south of Center Point Knob. On March 31 and April 1, Mountain Club volunteers built the roof and walls. We can imagine that working on both these major projects, located in PA, at the same time, must have been a significant challenge on our volunteers' time. But they kept showing up, demonstrating real commitment on the part of our members.

At the April 1990 Council, Thurston Griggs reported that the new Cumberland Valley A.T. Management Committee was handling issues that would otherwise need MCM's attention, such as horses on the Trail, parking, what trees should be planted, moving signs, and the safety of buildings on purchased land. Meanwhile, in April 1990, an MCM work trip planted 23 posts, installed 14 bog bridges, and removed shrubbery. In May, work continued on bog bridges, hardening trail, painting blazes, and clearing brush in a last-ditch effort to ready the Trail for opening. By June 10, the Trail was open from Center Point Knob to Appalachian Drive near US-11. Our HHP article stated, that after 4 years of once-a-month work trips, a sign was nailed to a tree at Center Point Knob rerouting the Trail. Within five minutes, several north-bound hikers turned off onto the new path. (Meanwhile, work went on to paint blazes, add more posts, etc.)

The planned June 23 grand opening of the new Trail had to be postponed until September 22 because the US-11 footbridge was not finished. Instead, 27 workers and friends hiked a section of the new Trail to view the results of years of work and also toured the new Kennedy shelter, before enjoying a cookout at Pine Grove Furnace.

Then MCM went back to work. In July, volunteers continued to clear brush north of route PA-944 on the south side of Blue Mountain. In August, work focused on trail construction between Bernheisel Bridge Road and US-11, as well as placing more posts and building another stile.

In the July 1990 HHP, there was an announcement that the new Trail route from Center Point Knob to the PA Turnpike in the Valley was now connected. About half of the remaining four miles had also been completed but were not fully interconnected, in part because of delays in finishing the new

footbridge across US-11. That article also stated that so far, a total of 105 MCM volunteers had donated more than 1500 hours of work to the building of the new Trail.

The same article also reported that although hikers would be able to cross the Valley off roads in September, there were still several remaining properties to be purchased before an optimum route could be finished. Several bog bridges and two major stream bridges would still need to be built in the future. An endangered plant species and some archeological remains had been found which would have to be bypassed. Work would continue to mend fences, remove trash, and demolish buildings. The current A.T. route through the Valley, which is basically the Trail built in that 1987-1990 relocation--with probably a few minor changes over the years--is shown by the red line in Map 1 and Map 2.

And work had also been continuing at the Alec Kennedy shelter. The September 1990 HHP announced that the Alec Kennedy shelter was completed (although a privy had not been built yet). As mentioned earlier, it must have been a very intense volunteer effort for MCM to have worked simultaneously for years on the new Trail and also on the new shelter.

At the November 1990 Council meeting, it was reported that a new Trail club was being formed that would take over maintenance responsibility for the Cumberland Valley section of the A.T. The January 1991 Council meeting announced a January meeting in Boiling Springs to set up the new Trail club for the Valley, which became the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club (CVATC).

New AT Trail Club in the Cumberland Valley

Dave Barr

On April 27, 1991 the ATC Board of Managers designated the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Management Association (CVATMA) to be the 32rd AT management and maintaining organization. The new club is responsible for 18 miles of the AT through the Cumberland Valley between Center Point Knob on the south to Darlington Trail atop Blue Mountain on the North.

This section of the AT was relinquished to CVATMA by MCM after the trail was relocated from county roads in the valley to the newly acquired NPS land through farm fields, pastures, and wood lots. MCM still retains responsibility for the AT south of the new section to Pine Grove Furnace and north of Blue Mountain to the Susquehanna River.

In 1984 the US Department of the Interior authorized the NPS to acquire a continuous strip of land through the Cumberland Valley to provide a protected corridor in which the AT would be located. In 1987 a coalition of trail people and environmentalists organized into the Cumberland Valley AT Management Committee (CVATMC) to assist in addressing the concerns of valley residents about the effects the relocated trail would have on the community and the appropriateness of NPS land purchases. CVATMC members came from the following ATC clubs: MCM; Susquehanna AT Club (SATC); Kabob Hiking Club; Keystone Trails association (KTA); Sierra Club, Harrisburg Chapter; Audubon Society; and Central Pennsylvania Conservancy.

In 1986 the so-called "Ridge Route" through the valley was selected for the AT corridor and land acquisition began. As property was purchased by NPS, it was assigned to ATC who in turn charged CVATMC with the responsibility of management and physically locating and building the foot path. Trail construction began in May 1987 with the assistance of many interested organizations and individuals — particularly members of MCM and SATC. The 18 mile relocation was essentially completed by September 1990. There are still two tracts of land to be acquired before the relocation can be completely finished.

The new CVATMA evolved out of the CVATMC so as to provide a permanent organization for the purpose of maintaining the AT and managing its corridor. Present membership consists of MCM, SATC, Kabob Hiking Club members and local residents, all of whom have been involved in the relocation. Additional members are being sought from interested members of these and other trail

clubs (dual membership is okay), members of the local community, and trail neighbors. By strange coincidence, a membership application appears in this issue of the newsletter (see page 7).

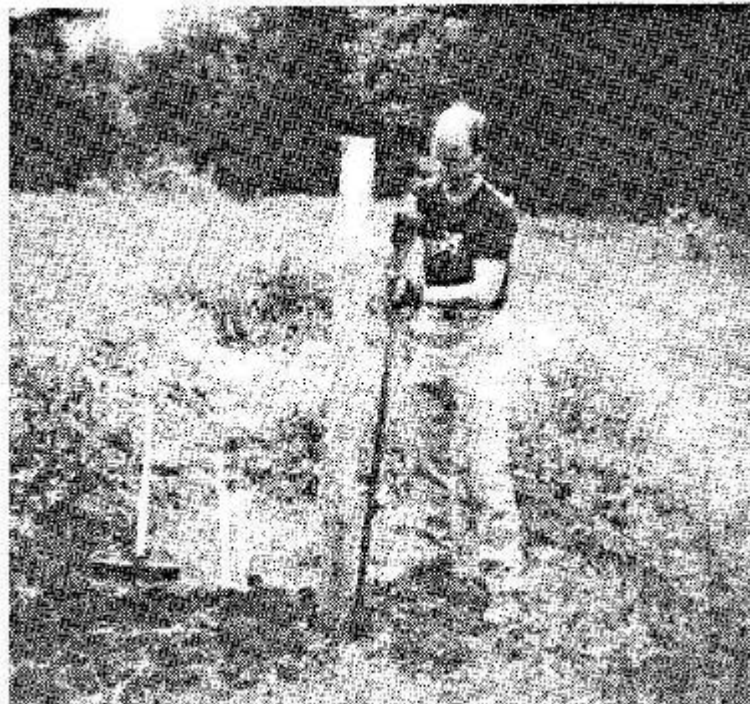
Grateful acknowledgement and appreciation is expressed for all of the support and assistance provided by so many individuals and organizations; particularly members of MCM and SATC, without whom this project would never have gotten off the ground.

With the completion of the relocation, monthly "worktrips" will not be called for (at least not for work in the Cumberland Valley). However, due to the heavier maintenance requirements of a newly established trail, it is expected that invitations to assist will be extended at least twice a year for the next few years.

Our newsletters for those years included only a few photos of the work that MCM performed on all the work trips in the Valley, which I have included below.



L/R: Thurston Griggs, Paul Ives, Kevin McGraw inspecting steps they built onto a footbridge along Conodoguinet Creek, Cumberland Valley PA, Appalachian Trail construction, 11/24/90. Photo by Ted Sanderson.



Don Lears installing blazes in the Cumberland Valley



*TRAIL SIGN by Bill Schoenemann is affixed by
Cindy Dunn and Mark Mullen June 10, directing
hikers to the new Cumberland Valley AT Trail.*

An article in the January 1991 HHP described the final work trip of the 1990 season (in November) working on several footbridges. (Note that two of the volunteers at that trip were John Eckard and Steve Williams. Patty Williams was not at that November trip, but she was part of many of the other work trips that built the new Trail. And those three are still very active in making MCM a great club more than 30 years later!)

The last worktrip of the season!! Twelve MCM members finished it off with a bang or shall we say a splash. The day started calmly enough under the direction of Craig Dunn. Most of the group moved a ton of rock collected from Joe Baker's driveway to the year-old footbridge across Conodoguinet Creek. The rock was added to the cribbing supporting the bridge as ballast in the event of spring floods.

The remainder of the crew built steps at both ends of a recently constructed footbridge nearer to Bernheisel Bridge Road in the same area. After lunch it was all hands on deck to help position logs for yet another footbridge. A tree was removed, logs notched for cribbing, the crossing measured, and the angle sighted. By 3:30 PM it was time to abandon ship and move over to the remains of the Campbell Spring Shelter taken down by the ATC Crew. Debris was loaded for disposal. The grand finale was filling a privy house and an abandoned well some 20 feet deep. The well provided unusual entertainment as the workers dropped rocks into the opening resulting in mini-geysers shooting water onto their companions. Well-fillers and rock-haulers included John Schenck, Steve Williams, Ellie Ives, Walt Pocock, Diane Summerhill, John Eckard, Don Miles, and Dave Barr. Stepbuilders were Thurston Griggs, Paul Ives, Kevin McGraw, and Ted Sanderson.

With the 1990 work season closed, let it be known that 52 different members and guests donated their services to help make the Appalachian Trail a super place to hike. See you in '91.

The March 1991 HHP discussed various collateral efforts related to the new Trail section that were still underway, such as a walkway along the Bernheisel Bridge and safety signs at a road crossing. Enhancements to the new section would go on for some time.

The September 1991 HHP included an article informing our members that ATC had designated the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Management Association to be the newest Trail club, with responsibility for 18 miles of the A.T. between Center Point Knob on the south and the top of Blue Mountain on the north. The article provides an informative summary, so I have copied the whole article here.

New AT Trail Club in the Cumberland Valley

Dave Barr

On April 27, 1991 the ATC Board of Managers designated the Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Management Association (CVATMA) to be the 32rd AT management and maintaining organization. The new club is responsible for 18 miles of the AT through the Cumberland Valley between Center Point Knob on the south to Darlington Trail atop Blue Mountain on the North.

This section of the AT was relinquished to CVATMA by MCM after the trail was relocated from county roads in the valley to the newly acquired NPS land through farm fields, pastures, and wood lots. MCM still retains responsibility for the AT south of the new section to Pine Grove Furnace and north of Blue Mountain to the Susquehanna River.

In 1984 the US Department of the Interior authorized the NPS to acquire a continuous strip of land through the Cumberland Valley to provide a protected corridor in which the AT would be located. In 1987 a coalition of trail people and environmentalists organized into the Cumberland Valley AT Management Committee (CVATMC) to assist in addressing the concerns of valley residents about the effects the relocated trail would have on the community and the appropriateness of NPS land purchases. CVATMC members came from the following ATC clubs: MCM; Susquehanna AT Club (SATC); Kabob Hiking Club; Keystone Trails association (KTA); Sierra Club, Harrisburg Chapter; Audubon Society; and Central Pennsylvania Conservancy.

In 1986 the so-called "Ridge Route" through the valley was selected for the AT corridor and land acquisition began. As property was purchased by NPS, it was assigned to ATC who in turn charged CVATMC with the responsibility of management and physically locating and building the foot path. Trail construction began in May 1987 with the assistance of many interested organizations and individuals — particularly members of MCM and SATC. The 18 mile relocation was essentially completed by September 1990. There are still two tracts of land to be acquired before the relocation can be completely finished.

The new CVATMA evolved out of the CVATMC so as to provide a permanent organization for the purpose of maintaining the AT and managing its corridor. Present membership consists of MCM, SATC, Kabob Hiking Club members and local residents, all of whom have been involved in the relocation. Additional members are being sought from interested members of these and other trail

clubs (dual membership is okay), members of the local community, and trail neighbors. By strange coincidence, a membership application appears in this issue of the newsletter (see page 7).

Grateful acknowledgement and appreciation is expressed for all of the support and assistance provided by so many individuals and organizations; particularly members of MCM and SATC, without whom this project would never have gotten off the ground.

With the completion of the relocation, monthly "worktrips" will not be called for (at least not for work in the Cumberland Valley). However, due to the heavier maintenance requirements of a newly established trail, it is expected that invitations to assist will be extended at least twice a year for the next few years.

Concluding Observations

During its 56-year period of responsibility for the A.T. in the Cumberland Valley, MCM experienced two major relocations of the Trail in and surrounding the Valley. The first one, in the 1950s, involved a much larger trail distance since it extended all the way from Duncannon to Route PA-94. In that case, the changes within the Valley mostly involved rerouting on different roads, and the new Trail on Cove Mountain used existing old roads for part of the route, but completing the entire job in about a year must have taken a lot of commitment and hard work.

The second reroute in the late 1980s was focused on a shorter distance inside the Valley (from the top of Blue Mountain to Center Point Knob), but the overall effort seems to have been more complex, involving issues of initial community opposition and many land purchases by NPS. While those headaches were mostly dealt with by local partner organizations rather than MCM, the job that required the work of MCM volunteers was still extensive—helping to build entirely new Trail through a variety of terrains, including fields and farmland, road and highway crossings, multiple stream crossings and the new route up Blue Mountain. Over a four-year period, MCM brought a very large number of work trips and volunteers to the Valley to help build the new Trail section. There certainly would have also been many local PA volunteers working on this effort, but we only have information about MCM's involvement in our records.

It's not clear when MCM knew that it would no longer be maintaining the Trail in the Valley, but that knowledge seems to have made no difference in MCM's commitment to completing that new large relocation. Or possibly the Mountain Club leaders were relieved that another club was taking responsibility for a large new body of Trail work. There is nothing in our old documents to provide an answer.

#9 - THE HISTORY OF MCM'S ROLE MAINTAINING THE MARYLAND APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Most members know that in addition to our 90 years of service maintaining the A.T. in Pennsylvania (PA), MCM maintains 10 miles of the Trail in Maryland (MD) on behalf of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC). But most of us don't really know how our role in MD came about.

At the time the Mountain Club was formed, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) already existed and had responsibility for maintaining the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) in Maryland and southern Pennsylvania (all the way to the Susquehanna River). MCM was formed by a group of Baltimore-based PATC members in 1934, and PATC immediately handed over to MCM the responsibility for the northernmost portion of its Trail section in Pennsylvania (PA)—from the Susquehanna River south to the Long Mountain fire tower south of Boiling Springs. Later, in 1936 and 1941 PATC transferred to MCM two additional sections of the A.T., extending our Trail section south to Pine Grove Furnace State Park (as described in last week's history broadcast). But for 40 years we had no role on the MD section of the A.T., other than volunteering to help on occasional work crews to build shelters in MD. However, our November 1974 Council Meeting minutes noted the possibility of a change in that situation. At that meeting the new MCM Trail Supervisor, Thurston Griggs, reported that he had discussed with the PATC Supervisor of Trails his desire for MCM to maintain some of the A.T. in Maryland. Afterward, the PATC council decided that if a section of the Trail in MD became available, MCM could take charge of it. In exchange, PATC would be allowed to take over a part of the MCM trail section in PA. This possibility was announced to MCM members in the December 1974 edition of the MCM New.

A few months later--at the February 1975 Council meeting, Thurston announced that MCM had now assumed responsibility for about 3.6 miles of the A.T. in Maryland from Gathland to Lambs Knoll. The following month, at the March 1975 Council meeting, Thurston announced that MCM had reciprocated by giving PATC the maintenance for a 3.5-mile section of MCM's Trail in PA--from Pine Grove Furnace to Pole Steeple. Soon after, the May 1975 MCM newsletter announced that, for the first time, several MCM volunteers did maintenance work on a MD section of the A.T.

However, that new situation changed again the following year. The April 1976 Council minutes reported that the PATC had offered to give MCM maintenance responsibility for the A.T. from PenMar to Wolfsville Road (reported as 8.5 miles in length at that time) in exchange for MCM returning the Gathland – Lambs Knoll section. PATC would also give us back the area near Pine Grove Furnace in PA. The MCM Council voted to accept PATC's proposal. There are no insights provided in these documents about what led PATC to make this offer. A month later, the May 1976 Council meeting minutes stated that this northern section of the MD Trail was now assigned to MCM. The June 1976 MCM News announced this change to club members.

According to brief comments in our Council notes, PATC also offered the Hagerstown-based Maryland Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) the maintenance responsibility for a six-mile section south of the new MCM Trail section (probably from Wolfsville Road south to I-70). There are very few references to the MATC role in our later MCM Council minutes and newsletters in the following years, other than occasional mention of Trail-related meetings that included MCM, PATC, and MATC--but MATC did serve as a third Trail-maintaining club in MD—possibly for a couple of decades.

The following year, an article in the May 1977 News announced the first MCM relocation on its A.T. section in MD, with the Trail being removed from High Rock Road just south of PenMar. The relocation involved about 2 ½ miles of Trail and added about ¾ mile to the length of that section. In later years, other relocations—at first because of issues with private land owners, and later as the state of MD and the National Park Service made land purchases to take the Trail off privately owned land--would bring our section of the MD A.T. up to its current length of 10 miles.

Of course, our maintenance of the MD Trail section was being performed on behalf of PATC, which still had lead responsibility for the entire A.T. in MD. At one point in the 1980s, MCM apparently tried to have this northern section officially transferred to the Mountain Club, but PATC did not agree to do this—there are references to this topic in the January and July 1983 Council minutes.

A decade later, the May 1991 Council minutes mentioned a hope that MCM might take over MATC's Trail section (Wolfsville Road to I-70) in the future. It is not clear whether this comment suggests that MATC was actually entertaining ending its A.T. role in 1991. I can find no mention in our records to document when MATC stopped maintaining the Trail. But we know that at some undetermined date, the Hagerstown-based club did cease to exist and the maintenance responsibility for that Trail section reverted to PATC.

Devils Racecourse Shelter

Another topic that appeared regularly in our records over several years was discussions between MCM and PATC about responsibility for the Devils Racecourse shelter, a hiking shelter that was located on the Trail section that had been assigned to MCM. This old, traditional log shelter with a dirt floor (see photo) was located near the Devils Racecourse rock formation, about .5 mile from the A.T. and very close to Ritchie Road. This location made it susceptible to partying, littering and vandalism. After I joined MCM in 2011, I recall hiking past the shelter on numerous occasions and thinking that it was an uninviting place for hikers to stop, especially since it was well off the Trail.



The October 1983 newsletter announced that PATC had turned over to MCM responsibility for the Devils Racecourse Shelter. However, a few months later, the February-March 1984 issue of the News reported there had been a misunderstanding—PATC only intended MCM to serve as maintainer for the Devils Racecourse Shelter, while PATC would continue to have prime responsibility. The article stated that MCM declined to serve in this role, but over the next few years there were multiple discussions about responsibility for this shelter.

In April 1984, PATC and MCM signed an agreement formalizing MCM's role as a Trail-maintainer group in Maryland. The agreement delegated to MCM the responsibility for the A.T. and related side trails and shelters between the MD/PA state line and Wolfsville Road. The following month, the MCM newsletter included an announcement of this new formal agreement and stated that the Devils Racecourse Shelter is "now ours to move and rename."

However, the January 1985 Council meeting minutes indicate that PATC afterward clarified that MCM would be the maintainers of the Devils Racecourse shelter under PATC's auspices, not the "owners." The implication is that MCM may have proposed to move the shelter and was told that PATC approval would be needed for any relocation. The MCM Council minutes expressed skepticism that MCM would be interested in taking responsibility for the shelter under those conditions. But we did apparently perform some basic maintenance at the shelter over the next few years, and the April 1985 Council minutes included a comment that the Devils Racecourse shelter would be abandoned in a year and a new shelter built at another location. In actuality, the change would take much longer.

The July 1985 newsletter reported that MCM's Thurston Griggs and Jack Mowl had made an assessment of the Devils Racecourse Shelter and the prospect of changing its location. The brief article repeated previous concerns that the shelter was in disrepair and subject to misuse by non-hiking locals. This article suggested that construction of a new shelter on the ridge, closer to the Trail, was preferable to moving the shelter. *"Now, if MCM assumes responsibility for the shelter, it is a question of either repairing the roof and extending the lifetime of the shelter in its present location or of building a new shelter."*

Over the next few years, comments in various 1991 and 1992 Council minutes indicated that a few MCM volunteers were keeping an eye on the shelter and making minor repairs, and that any decision about which club might make major repairs would be addressed when such repairs became necessary. As late as 2002, there were still comments appearing in HHP that the Devils Racecourse Shelter will be replaced by a new shelter at the ridge top. PATC's construction of the excellent new Raven Rock shelter was finally completed in 2010, and the old shelter was dismantled and removed about five years later. The map below shows the location of both the old and new shelters.



#10 - THE HISTORY OF THE HIKE ACROSS MARYLAND

Everyone in the Mountain Club of Maryland (MCM) knows about the Hike Across Maryland (HAM), of course. Hiking the entire 41-mile length of the Maryland (MD) Appalachian Trail (A.T.), with all its hills and rocks, is a great endurance test. Hikers and trail runners from other states often travel long distances to participate. And a very large number of MCM members (usually about 70) who don't do the hike join in to help run the event—registering hikers, cleaning up the overnight facility used the night before the event, managing the food and drink stations, staffing the checkpoints, serving as section sweeps behind the hikers, driving in hikers who drop out back to their cars, etc. It's a large, well-known, well-organized event that takes months of planning. In this article, as part of our 90th Anniversary review of our club's history, I'll review how the HAM started and mention some noteworthy points in its history.

In the beginning, this long-distance hike across the entire Maryland length of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) was called the Marathon. In an occasional year it was called the End-to-End hike, but usually it was the Marathon until 1997, when it was renamed the Hike Across Maryland (HAM). It has been known as the HAM ever since.

The MCM 50th Anniversary book, MCM First Person: 1934 – 1984, in the front section about MCM's first 50 years, included the following statement about the Marathon:

In 1940, someone decided that it would be "fun" to hike the entire thirty-eight miles of the Maryland AT in one day. Thus began the Marathon, unique at that time. Traditionally, this entails spending the night at the fire house in Blue Ridge Summit, so that hardy souls taking part may be fed and sped on their way before daybreak. In a different fashion, the master mind command and his helpers have as arduous a task as the hikers... Some have crossed the... bridge in early afternoon, others at 9 p.m., but it is a never-to-be-forgotten experience. It has been repeated many times by popular demand.

The first Marathon appeared in the hike schedule included in the April-June 1940 Bulletin, providing the following information:

JUNE 23. A-T ACROSS MARYLAND, PEN-MAR TO HARPERS FERRY

The guide book gives this as 38.49 miles. If this isn't enough to furnish a full day's hiking, arrangements can be made for side trips. Plans contingent upon the number who wish to participate. To be combined with a hike from Turner's Gap to Woverton Cliffs. Early morning start from Pen-Mar will necessitate leaving Baltimore Saturday afternoon. For further information consult Morgan Barr, 720 Cator Ave., Chos. 2755.

I have not found any discussions in our early Council meeting minutes to explain what led to the scheduling of this first hike across the entire Maryland A.T. I also found no discussion of the results in

the Council meeting minutes in the months after that hike. But the October-December 1940 Bulletin included a humorous hike report by Grace Wagner, one of the participants, which I have copied below. She reported that 21 hikers started the hike and 14 completed it.

TRAIL MEMORIES



THE MARATHON

I, Grace Wagner, a member in good standing of the Mountain Club of Maryland, do hereby state and affirm that the following was personally seen by me, and is true in all respects. *

WHEREAS, many months ago the aforesaid MCM determined to conduct a Marathon across the State of Maryland on the AT, a distance of 38 miles, which had never before been attempted at a single gulp and whereas said Marathon was to be held on June 23rd, same being the longest day of the year (thus allowing more daylight in which the rescue squads could locate the fallen) the following events occurred:

ON THE afternoon of June 22nd the 'marathonees' left Baltimore for Camp Ritchie, the Army Camp near Pen-Mar. The Army kindly provided quarters, cots, etc., and anticipating the 'things to come' all entrees retired early. At 2:30 Sunday morning the alarm clocks pinged and the poor misguided hikers found their 'averages' catching up with them as the ghost of the 38 mile Marathon came in the window along with the moonlight.** It scurried on to the Maryland-Penn. of the 21 victims, wear- boots to sneakers, and had left Pen-Mar. The stumbling over rocks in being nice juicy bruises, aces that seem to haunt the morning, just to trip fast was secured at Wolf-beacon and eggs seemed to At this point, the afore- cards, serving as records speed. Four of the part- hem, Kemper and Latane over four miles per hour, and were discovered lunching at the Washington Monument about nine AM, a distance of 20 miles from the starting place. At this point a way- side fruit and confectionery stand had been set up by Florence and Harriet, who dis- pensed to the weary. The aforementioned Barr, Everinghen, etc, who will hereinafter be known as the 'Four Horsemen' crossed the bridge into Harpers Ferry at 3:15 and fell upon the West Virginia soil. No one was there to put them out of their misery since no one had expected that the human frame could take such punishment and survive (a detail which will not be overlooked on future marathons). The last of the 14 who finished arrived at 7:15, after sixteen hours en route. The 7 who did not finish were buried along the route, under neat, white crosses, with suitable inscriptions.



Although the 50th Anniversary book stated that hikers could choose to spend the previous night at the Blue Ridge Summit firehouse, that tradition started later. In 1940, the hikers slept on cots at U.S. Army Camp Ritchie, which was close to the Trail, the night before. As with the modern HAM, MCM volunteers provided food and refreshments along the way. A hot breakfast of bacon and eggs was provided at the Wolfsville shelter, and lunch was served at Washington Monument. The 1940 MCM photo scrapbook includes two pages of photos from the Marathon, including these:



The hike was not offered again until 1949. Perhaps the amount of work involved to manage the hike was found to be too onerous, or perhaps the hikers were not eager to repeat the ordeal. Certainly, the wartime gas rationing would have made it nearly impossible to carry out the hike between 1942 and 1946. In any event, the next offering was announced in the April-June 1949 Bulletin as a simple listing on the hike schedule:

Sunday June 26 Appalachian Trail Marathon across Maryland
 Leader: Francis E. Old, Jr.

There was no additional information, but that issue of the Bulletin also contained no additional details about any of the other scheduled hikes —just the date and location of each hike.

As with the 1940 hike, there were no discussions of the Marathon in the Council minutes before or after the hike. But the October-December 1949 issue of the Bulletin did include a long hike report. Seventeen hikers started the hike and six of them finished--extremely hot weather may have reduced the number of participants. Once again, the participants stayed at Camp Ritchie the night before the hike. After a cold breakfast before starting, the hike began around 4 a.m. An “official breakfast” was

offered at the Wolfsville Road shelter, lunch at Washington Monument, and refreshments at Crampton Gap (Gathland).

* * *

APPALACHIAN TRAIL "MARATHON" -- JUNE 26

The weekend of June 25-26 was one of the hottest we had all summer and none but the most foolhardy would have attempted the "Marathon" across Maryland. Those who later heard of the expedition thought that anyone who even tried it was considerably out of his head. Nevertheless, there were seventeen starters, and six finished, or were finished, as the case may be.

After a fabulous dinner on Saturday night, it was much too hot to go to bed, and there were all kinds of trips around Camp Ritchie to explore tanks and the like. Later, sleeping was well nigh impossible due to the heat and the humidity. Anyway, every one knew that Harry Cox was going to rout us out at 2 A. M. or so.

After a cold breakfast, the main group started out from the State Line at 4 o'clock. However, playing follow-the-leader with the wrong man, a second contingent finally got on the right road approximately fifteen minutes later. So began the long day.

Very early it was apparent that the day was going to be most unsuitable for walking. Halfway up High Rock one was acutely aware of streams of perspiration, an awareness which persisted throughout the trek! The official arrival of day-break, at about 4:45, was indeed welcome, for there was at least a temporary letup in the oppressiveness of the atmosphere. From Pen-Mar to the Wolfe Lean-to, where we had our official breakfast, the trip was rather easy, for this was a mild one-day hike for the Mountain Club.

At the lean-to, our most efficient commissary outdid itself in providing for us. The only unusual item was the appearance of salt tablets on the bill of fare! Our need for them was not great at the time, but later in the day, that supply was continually called upon partially to replace the huge amounts of salt lost in perspiration.

By breakfast, the line of hikers was spread thin, and one might say that the real work began here. The climb up from the Wolfsville-Smithsburg Road was just about the stiffest that we had all day, and perhaps half a mile of the Trail on the ridge above is over a very annoying boulder field. The hikers, traveling in small groups, began to think more and more of water and salt. With reference to the former, the very welcome Black Rock Springs supplied the most wonderful water had on the trip. Would it not have been much better to sit by this cool spring instead of continuing?

At the Dual Highway, we were again met by the food brigade and the hikers took to oranges and the like. Anything wet was in order. However, the trip was still not impossible and we pushed on to Washington Monument, and lunch, with twenty miles of the journey past!

At this point, the traveling food house found all kinds of liquid refreshments in great demand. The quantities of water, soup, and fruits consumed were fantastic, and the solid foods went begging. As for salt, Paul Bradt was seen putting approximately six large tablets in one cup of soup!

[NOTE: The term Dual Highway referred to route U.S 40 in the Hagerstown area.]

The last half of the trip was of course where the distance began to tell: Starting out well refreshed by lunch, Sam Moore, Paul Bradt, and I found the going easier than expected, over Lambs Knoll and down into Crampton Gap. It was very hot and the pull over Lambs Knoll seemed very long, but all in all, we felt surprisingly good.

At Crampton Gap we were met by Mr. and Mrs. Moore, who supplied us with delightful lemonade in large amounts. It was like feasting the lambs before the slaughter. For it was in the next section, the 6.2 miles to Weverton, that heat fatigue caught up with us.

After a brisk start out of Crampton Gap, this MCM member of the trio was soon left far behind by Sam and Paul. Quite suddenly, walking became downright hard work. A rest and a pace that seemed like that of a snail followed. Soon the other two were encountered, finishing a rest stop. It seems that they too had been hard hit rather suddenly. From that point on into Weverton, where we got more lemonade, and then the final miles down to the Sandy Hook bridge, the pace was a very leisurely one. The end was definitely in sight and there was no sense in hurrying.

15

The actual crossing of the bridge and the realization that the trip was over was rather anticlimatic. However, to sit down and take off one's shoes was indeed a pleasant procedure!

Such was the Marathon on the Appalachian Trail across Maryland on June 26, 1949.

Lloyd Polton

Unfortunately, there are no photos of this Marathon in the 1949 MCM photo scrapbook.

The Marathon hike was not offered again for more than two decades. Perhaps hikers disliked the long hike, or perhaps no one wanted to volunteer to take on the amount of work required to organize it. This long-distance event would next appear in the March-September 1971 trip schedule, which announced the following hike:

**Saturday, May 8 — Maryland Appalachian Trail
Marathon — Pen Mar to Harper's Ferry**

Are you in good enough condition to hike the 38 miles of AT across Maryland in one day? Then come out and give it a try. Volunteers are needed to help with food, man the check points and drive the survivors back to Baltimore - sign up early. We'll sleep in Pen Mar on Friday night in order to get an early start on Saturday.

Leave: Friday P.M.

Time, place and expenses by arrangement with leader

Registrations close May 2

From that time forward, the hike has been held in early May instead of June in hopes of avoiding the summer heat--the May 1971 Council minutes specifically mentioned that the May date provided cooler temperatures. Thirty-one hikers started the event and 22 finished. There is no description of this hike in the July 1971 News. But we don't have copies of the newsletter issues for May or June, so it's likely there were details about the event in a missing newsletter. Likewise, we do not have a newsletter article about the 1973 Marathon. But we do have an article about the Marathon in 1975 and in most later years. We know that starting with 1975, hikers would spend the previous night at a firehouse in Blue Ridge Summit (just across the PA border), and MCM would bus them to the trailhead. That's probably what happened in 1971 and 1973, as well.

From 1971 on, the Mountain Club offered the Marathon / End-to-End Hike / HAM every other year (i.e., every odd-numbered year) until 2019. In 2021, because of COVID, it was postponed until the following year. The HAM was held again in 2022 and 2024, and it is likely that we will continue to offer it in even-numbered years in the future.

The table below shows a set of basic information, to the extent it is available, for all the Marathon and HAM events. There are a few years when we do not have copies of the appropriate club newsletter issue that would have published information (including the number of hikers) after the race. Paul Ives, alone or with his wife Ellie in early years, took the lead in organizing 12 Marathon events. Patty Williams managed the next eight HAMs, and now Sharon Sniffen has managed three. I've been a volunteer at six HAMs myself, and I have observed (and also heard from many HAM hikers) how well organized and managed the event is every time. MCM has been very fortunate to have a string of committed, skillful leaders who have (with the help of a large team of dedicated volunteers) led these events.

YEAR	COORDINATOR	NO OF PARTICIPANTS	NO OF FINISHERS
1940	Morgan Barr	21	14
1941	Francis Old	17	6
1971	Eloise and Bill Elmendorf?	31	22
1973	Eloise and Bill Elmendorf?	unknown	unknown
1975	Eloise and Bill Elmendorf	22	18
1977	Eloise and Bill Elmendorf	23	19
1979	Paul and Ellie Ives	26	22
1981	Paul and Ellie Ives	26	21
1983	Paul and Ellie Ives	37	27
1985	Paul and Ellie Ives	68	55
1987	Paul and Ellie Ives	46	38
1989	Paul and Ellie Ives	44	33
1991	Paul Ives	41	39
1993	Paul Ives	34	30
1995	Paul Ives	79	67
1997	Paul Ives	92	82
1999	Paul Ives	unknown	unknown
2001	Paul Ives	unknown	unknown
2003	Patty and Steve Williams	104	unknown
2005	Patty Williams	101	91
2007	Patty Williams	unknown	unknown
2009	Patty Williams	102	90
2011	Patty Williams	126	105
2013	Patty Williams	120	106
2015	Patty Williams	107	91
2017	Patty Williams	104	89
2019	Sharon Sniffen	123	89
2022	Sharon Sniffen	51	31
2024	Sharon Sniffen	73	56

It would be too voluminous to include the MCM newsletter articles for all the HAM events between 1975 and 2024 in this article. But below I have noted a few highlights of various HAMs, and changes that occurred over time, as well as HHP photos for many of the years.

Highlights of Past HAMs

The 1977 Marathon article has the first mention of the assistance of the Frederick Amateur Radio Club, which has provided invaluable support to these events ever since.

In May 1981, Kevin Lewis became the youngest hiker ever to complete the Marathon on the day before his 12th birthday.

Hikers suffered through very wet weather in 1987 and torrential downpours in 1989.

In 1991, six Boy Scouts ages 11-13 were among the finishers.

The August 1995 HHP included the following anecdote about that year's Marathon: *"This year's anxiety—there is always one—was provided by the absence of hiker number 68 at several early checkpoints. After several calls to his wife to: confirm that he had not quite and gone home, to obtain his description, to get a description of his car to determine if it was still at the firehouse, and after notifying the police, we discovered that we had two hikers numbered 89. Yes—68 had his number on upside down!"*

The 1997 event was the first time it was called the Hike Across Maryland, and it was the first time that section sweeps were used.

In 2003, Patty and Steve Williams took over as HAM coordinators, replacing Paul Ives. In later years, Patty took the lead as coordinator.

At the 2017 event, because of heavy rains, MCM volunteers strung a rope across Little Antietam Creek and helped hikers cross the stream safely.

In 2019, Sharon Sniffen took over the role of HAM coordinator, after many years of outstanding leadership by Patty Williams. Starting in 2019, hikers spend the night before the hike at Camp Round Meadow in Catoctin Mountain Park rather than the Blue Ridge Summit firehouse.

Because of COVID, the 2021 HAM was cancelled and held the following year. The HAM is still being offered every two years, but now it is held in even-numbered years.

In 2022, there were several days of heavy rains before the HAM, as well as downpours throughout the day of the hike. Both Little Antietam Creek and Warner Hollow stream crossings were submerged, and it was necessary to detour hikes around them on roads, and they also were detoured around High Rock for safety.

HAM Photos

Almost all of the photos below come from our newsletter reports of the HAMs, although there are a few taken by members.



Walt Pocock and Keith Wood enjoy the "thrill of victory" at Harpers Ferry...



as does Ted Sanderson (is that his age?)



Sue Bayley (can't you tell?) accompanied by "the radio lady" provide valuable support.

Marathon hikers
also endure the
"agony of de feet".
Here are Maria Galindo...



...and Walt Pocock.



Lester Miles and Carson Billingsley
at Crampton Gap. Nobody stole the
arch while they were there.

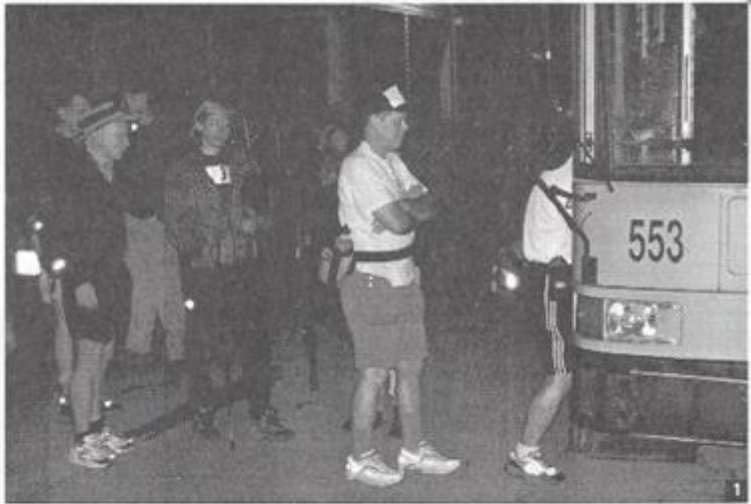
Photos by Terri Eckard



Bill Bryson

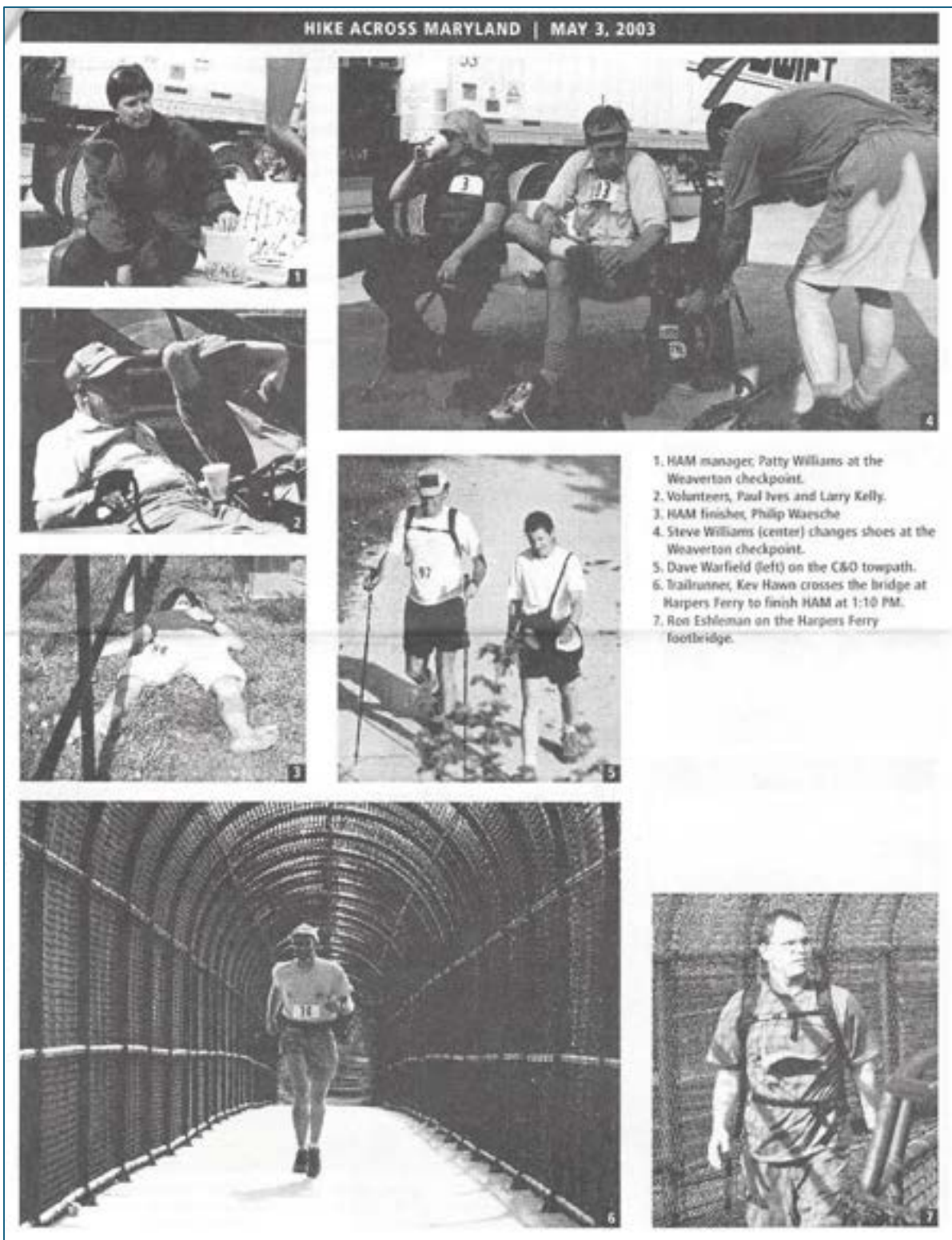


Mike Jenkins



1. Hikers boarded buses at 5 AM to take them to the start of the hike.
2. Volunteers, Amanda Greene and Sue Bayley at the Blue Ridge Summit Firehouse.
3. Bridget McCusker (left) at the Boonsboro Road checkpoint.
4. Dan McQueen (left) takes a break at the Boonsboro road checkpoint.
5. Jesse Dobbs fills up.
6. The Boonsboro Road checkpoint volunteers.





The following photos of the 2003 HAM were taken by our long-time member Rosie Suit.



HIKE ACROSS MARYLAND 2005



1. MCM members, Eva Barnhill (left) and Cherie Hunter (right) approach the Weaverton checkpoint.
2. MCM member and past MCM president, Bridget McCusker looks great at the Lambs Knoll checkpoint, 26.5 miles into the hike.
3. From left: Norman Glick, Bob Carson (seated), Norma Walker and Art Lien, were some of the wonderful Lambs Knoll checkpoint volunteers that made HAM 2005 such a success.
4. Wednesday Hikers, Dan McQueen and Ron Cully with Karen Klindedinst at the Harpers Ferry finish.



The end of the rainbow for hungry hikers.

Ron Cully, Gary Gentry, and Dan McQueen stick together like glue.



Plenty of onlookers to cheer the hikers on.

Tailgate party for hikers and friends.



Hike Across Maryland 2007 (Photos by RosieSuit)

Wayne Libscomp, Amanda Greene, and friend chill out.



Karen Klinedinst leaves 'em in the dust!





HAM hikers remove boots, shoes...air and cool the feet...at the half-way point where lunch was served at the shelter at Washington Monument State Park. A cool but sunny day, hikers found walking conditions perfect.



Jesse Dobbs shows eight fingers for his eighth HAM finish.



Jim Koury crosses I-70 during the HAM in good shape and great spirits...with almost half the day's walk done.



Bridget McCusker, MCM prexy '98-2000, on her 40 mile day.

2013



Karen Kleindinst, Bridget McCusker, Gwen Mahoney, and Kathy Ruland... four strong MCM lady hikers, compare notes and congratulate each other at the Harpers Ferry finish of the 2013 HAM.



Janet Bolard and Marge Mitchell, with clipboards and hikers' numbers, check on those leaving Washington Monument lunch stop, heading for Gathland and Harpers Ferry.



Art Hall and wife, Rain (nee: Willoughby), with their grandson Colin, wait at the I-70 bridge crossing for their son, Colin's dad, to cheer him on in his first HAM.



Cherie Hunter and Jesse Dobbs show well-prepared spirit when they arrive at the I-70 bridge... both are multiple times hikers of the HAM.

2015



MCM V.P. Jim Floyd arriving at lunch. (Photo: J. Eckard)



Volunteers at check point #7, trying to keep warm and dry

2017



Karen Ohlrich



Kim Considine



Bob Goren

2019



The HAM's top three finishers were Anthony Fisher, left; Steve Kelly, center; Megan Jefferson, right.



Eric Dahl arrives at Harpers Ferry. Photo by the author.



Andrew Petras arrives at Checkpoint 8 Gathland. Photo by Randy Wendell



Flooded Little Antietam Creek



Frederick Amateur Radio Club at Harpers Ferry



Ronald Henry and Brian Oswald were two of the earliest hikers to finish the race.



#11 - WALKING ON WEDNESDAYS: THE HISTORY OF MCM MIDWEEK HIKES

For about the first four decades of our existence, the Mountain Club hiked only on weekends. But in the 1970s, for the first time MCM started offering hikes on Wednesdays. Since then, the popularity of these hikes led MCM to add new categories of Wednesday hikes over the years (and sometimes on other weekdays). This article explores the history of our midweek hiking program.

In our 75TH Anniversary booklet, printed in 2009, the club history section included the following information about how Wednesday hikes began:

Recognizing that there were a growing number of able retirees, a walk to Lake Roland was organized on Wednesday, October 10, 1973. This was the first of a weekly schedule, consisting largely of local walks, arranged by two members. This group, known as the Midweek Leisure Hikers, has grown from an initial six to as many as fifty participants.

Since then, we've added three more categories of Wednesday Hikes—one of them as recently as 2023. In addition, we have added Meetup hikes that are typically midweek—although not on Wednesdays. This article reviews the history of MCM's midweek hiking program.

A Few Words About Trip Schedules

In addition to the Council minutes and newsletters that have been a major source of information for my recent articles about MCM history, our old Trip Schedules are a useful source of information about this particular topic. For this topic, it will be helpful to review how our earlier members received information about upcoming hikes.

From the beginning of the club in late 1934, our newsletter (the MCM Bulletin) included a one-page Club Calendar that listed the upcoming events for the quarter followed by a more detailed description of each trip – date, location of the hike, meeting place, and sometimes the distance. Below are a sample of a Club Calendar and a page of hike descriptions from an early newsletter.

CLUB CALENDARJanuary

Wed. 10 Square Dancing, Y.W.C.A., 9 P.M.
 Sat. 13 Soldiers Delight, 2 P.M.
 Sun. 21 Carrick Knob, 7 A.M.
 Wed. 24 Shelter Benefit - Iolantle - Guild Theatre
 Wed. 31 Square Dances - Y. W. C. A. - 9 P. M.

February

Sat. 3 Western Run, 2 P.M.
 Wed. 7 Lecture, Enoch Pratt Library, 8 P.M.
 Thurs. 8 Square Dancing, Y.W.C.A., 9 P.M.
 Sun. 11 A.T., Overview to U.S. #11
 Sat. 17 Belair Road to Harford Road, 2 P.M.
 Thurs. 22 Valley Forge, 7 A.M.
 Wed. 28 Fireside Meeting, Harriet Caspari's, 8 P.M.

March

Sun. 3 Parnell Knob, 7 A.M.
 Sun. 10 Carroll Island, Bird Observation, 8 A.M.
 Sun. 17 A.T., across the Cumberland Valley, 7 A.M.
 Sat. 23 Moonlight hike, Loch Raven, 7 P.M.
 Sat. 30) Range View Shelter, Shenandoah, 2 P.M.
 Sun. 31)

April

Wed. 2 Lecture, Enoch Pratt Library, 8 P.M.
 Sat. 6 Black Rock Run 2 P.M.
 Sun. 7 Bird Observation, 7 P.M.
 Sun. 14 Third Hill, 7 P.M.

Ice-skating every Tuesday til Easter at the Sport Contr.
 7:30 - 8:30 P.M. Show H.C.M. Membership Card.

TRIPS FOR THE QUARTER"ALL TRIPS START AS SCHEDULED REGARDLESS OF THE WEATHER"ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTH AVE AND ST. PAUL STREET.JANUARY 13. SOLDIERS DELIGHT

Six miles more or less over dirt and secondary roads, trails and pasture - a nice assortment. Rolling country with views of Patapsco River, pine woods and open hills, snow covered if it can be so arranged.

DIRECTIONS: Leave at 2 P.M. No fees.

Leader: A. D. Kennedy, Berwick Ave., Ruxton, Md., Towson 1413-W.

JANUARY 21. CARRICK KNOB

Our scouts have been bringing in reports of this ridge north of Eagle Mountain and west of Emmitsburg for three years now. This time Don is going up on the Knob, others may ski and toboggan if the weather affords an opportunity. Hiking distances about 10 miles.

DIRECTIONS AND COST: Bring lunch, cup, canteen, change of footwear. Leave 7 A.M. Transportation 90¢, Guest Fee 25¢, Dinner 55¢. Map U.S.G.S. Emmitsburg Quad.

LEADER: Don Reese, 5313 Windsor Mill Road, Lib. 7818.

FEBRUARY 3. WESTERN RUN

This Saturday afternoon trip takes us along Western Run in the hilly country northwest of Cockeyville, Map Baltimore U.S.G.S. Quad. or Baltimore County Map.

DIRECTIONS: Leave at 2 P.M. No fees.

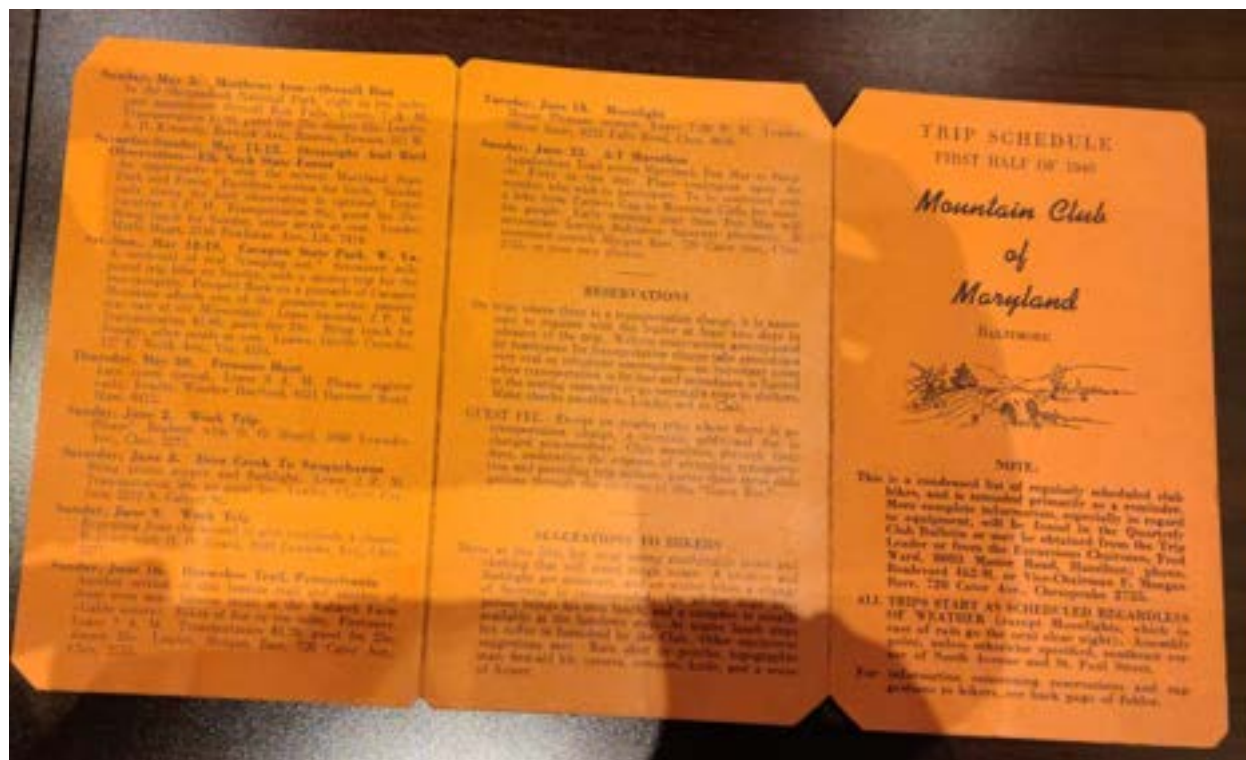
LEADER: Winslow Hartford, 4421 Harcourt Road, Hamilton 9413.

FEBRUARY 11. A-T. OVERVIEW TO U.S. 11

Continuing along the Appalachian Trail, south of the Fort Hunter Section, which we covered last October. Magnifi-

But at some point in those early years, the club also started printing a separate Trip Schedule. Our boxes of records in the Maryland State Archives include copies of some of these early schedules. Below is a copy of a trip schedule from 1940. Apparently, these were prepared to provide our members with a more portable list of the upcoming hikes than the descriptions in the newsletters. Note that this Trip Schedule says it is for hikes in the first half of 1940, while the Bulletin schedules only showed

hikes for the current quarter. This suggests that trip planning may have looked further ahead than the three months that were printed in the Bulletin. (Also note, as a matter of historical interest, that this schedule shows the first club Marathon hike across Maryland on the Appalachian Trail, held on June 23, 1940.)



But beginning with the July-September 1948 issue, the Bulletin no longer included the individual hike descriptions. From then on, the newsletter only showed the single-page Club Calendar, which had the date and name of the hikes for the coming quarter (as well as other club meetings or events), but no details. Starting in mid 1948, the separate Trip Schedule became the only source of details about planned hikes.

MCM continued to print a Club Calendar page in its newsletters for another 23 years. The last Club Calendar was printed in the January - March 1971 Bulletin--shortly before the club switched to a more abbreviated newsletter, the MCM News. A note from the club president explained that the change in format was necessary due to the amount of work involved, and insufficiency of volunteers, to continue producing the Bulletin. (The Bulletins had always contained long descriptions of recent club hikes, members' vacation hikes or adventures, etc., as well as more directly relevant MCM and Appalachian Trail news. After the change to the News, the newsletters were much shorter.) From April 1971 on, hike plans were provided only in the Trip Schedule.

The First Midweek Hikes: Leisure

As mentioned earlier, the 75th Anniversary book states that the first Wednesday hike was held in October 1973. I reviewed our club documents from that time period in hopes of learning more about what led to this change, as well as later expansions of our midweek program. In the August 1973 News, I found the clip below, which indicates that Wednesday hikes for retired members were

suggested at the 1973 Annual Meeting (which took place each year in June). I am unable to locate a copy of the minutes of that annual meeting to provide any additional information about that discussion. However, this announcement appeared shortly afterward in the August 1973 News:

"GOLDEN AGE WALKERS?"

At the annual meeting it was suggested that those who are retired may like to have mid-week hikes, at a "set your own pace" and a "select your own place". Those who are interested should contact Jim Millen (433-4668). If this proves successful, we will make this a part of our regular Trip Schedule effective February 1974.

Based on the level of interest from our members, MCM decided to implement the proposal. The October 1973 MCM News included the following schedule of Wednesday hikes to take place in October and November for "Golden Age and Leisure Hikers." The hike locations varied greatly, and the lengths were 4-5 miles.

GOLDEN AGE AND LEISURE HIKERS: (4-5 mile limit)

There has been a good response to Jim Millen's idea as stated in the August Newsletter. These hikers have gotten underway and would like your suggestions and participation. If you have any questions, call Jim on 433-4668. The following hikes have been scheduled:

All hikes will be on Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Meet</u>
10/10	Lake Roland	Mary Kendrew	Main Parking Lot at Lake Roland
10/17	Greenspring Trail	Henry Vincett	Across from Country Club east of Reisterstown Rd. on Greenspring Valley Rd.
10/24	Oregon-Ivy Hill	Jim Millen	Hunt Valley Inn Parking Lot
10/31	Patapsco State Fk. McKeldin Area	Jim Millen	Information Booth
11/7	Pretty Boy Dam	Betty Fisher	Pretty Boy Dam Parking Area
11/14	Glencoe Area	Reuben Leypoldt	Sparks Bank - York Road
11/28	Upper Loch Raven	Alex Kennedy	Northwest end of Towson Plaza Parking Lot

If transportation is needed, call the Leader or Jim Millen.

In the next month's newsletter—the November 1973 News--this group was now called the Mid-Week Leisure Walkers, and the newsletter listed one more upcoming hike in December.

MID-WEEK LEISURE WALKERS - Addition to Schedule

Wednesday, December 5, Soldiers Delight - Leader, Ranger Tracey
Meet at Deer Park Road - two miles north of Liberty Road
Call Jim Millen - 433-4668 for details

Then the December 1973 News had the following notice, listing two more December hikes with comments about the popularity of the midweek hikes:

MID-WEEK LEISURE HIKING BECOMES REGULAR M.C.M. ACTIVITY

With attendance increasing steadily and reports of considerable enjoyment of the hikes, the Mid-week Leisure Hiking program will continue indefinitely, according to Jim Millen. Although locations of the respective hikes probably can be announced only month-by-month in the Newsletter, each Wednesday there will be a hike in the local areas. Membership in the Club will be available to guests on these hikes who qualify in the usual manner. If there are any questions concerning these hikes, please contact Jim Millen or the leader.

Additional hikes scheduled:

12/12 - Little Gunpowder River - Dick Greenfield

12/19 - Mt. Pleasant Golf Course - Dorothea Owens

After that, for some reason, I found no further mention of midweek hikes in the newsletters until October 1974 (unless information was provided in a January newsletter--we do not have a News issue for January—but there are no upcoming midweek hikes listed in the February through August newsletters). The October News does contain a full schedule of these hikes for the October -December 1974 period; this seems to be the first regular printing of a whole Midweek Hikers Schedule. (It seems probable that Wednesday hikes were taking place throughout 1974, with the hike information being communicated to members in a different way.)

Starting then, there was a Midweek Hikers Schedule included in each quarterly newsletter. As the sample below shows. These Midweek Hiker Schedule pages showed a meeting place, start time, and hike location, but no details about hike length or difficulty (presumably because they were all leisure hikes and the distances were typically 4-5 miles). The Wednesday hikes were not listed in the printed club Trip Schedules at that time—only in the quarterly newsletters. Jim Millen continued to serve as the Midweek Hike coordinator until 1988.

MIDWEEK HIKERS' SCHEDULE
January through April - 1975

<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Area of Hike</u>
1-2	Jastro Levin	Hillsdale & Liberty Hgts. Aves. - 4600 Block - Broms Super Market	9:45 a.m.	Leakin Park
1-8	Dick Greenfield	Carney Shopping Plaza - Joppa and Harford Rds.	10:00 a.m.	Lower Gunpowder - Retair Road
1-15	Alex Kennedy	Towson Plaza Pkg. Lot - N. W. Corner	9:30 a.m.	Loch Raven Lake
1-22	Margaret Haile	Hunt Valley Inn - Shawan Road	10:00 a.m.	Western Run Stream
1-29	Gordon Filbey	Murphy's Mart - Liberty & Old Court Rds.	10:00 a.m.	Woodstock Area - Patapsco
2-5	Jim Poulkney	Overlook - Soldiers Delight - Deer Pk. Rd.	10:00 a.m.	Soldiers Delight
2-12	Dick Greenfield	Westview Shop. Plaza - Front of Hatzlers	9:30 a.m.	Roosevelt Island-Kennedy Center
2-19	Myra & Karl Knox	Finksburg Bank Parking Lot	10:00 a.m.	Liberty Lake
2-26	Henri Siegel	Westview Shop. Plaza - Front of Hatzlers	10:00 a.m.	Patapsco Park-Glenartney
3-5	Harry Michel	Towson Plaza-near P.O.-N.W. Corner	9:30 a.m.	Deer Creek-Norrisville, Md.
3-12	Jim Millen	Westview Shop. Center - Front of Hatzlers	9:30 a.m.	C & O Canal - Great Falls
3-19	Betty Fisher	Prettyboy Dum Parking Area	10:00 a.m.	Prettyboy
3-26	Rouben Leypoldt	Sparks St. Bank Pkg. Lot - York Road	10:00 a.m.	Glencoe or Hereford
4-2	Mary Kendrew	Westview Shop. Plaza - Front of Hatzlers	10:00 a.m.	Patapsco Park - Hollifield
4-9	Myra & Karl Knox	Amoco Sta.-Oakland Mills & Liberty Rds.	10:00 a.m.	Liberty Lake
4-16	Jastro Levin	Murphy's Mart - Liberty & Old Court Rds.	10:00 a.m.	Patapsco Park-McKeldin Area
4-23	Dorothea Owens	Carney Shopping Plaza - Joppa and Harford Rds.	9:30 a.m.	Susquehanna State Park
4-30	Dorothy & Earl Rinehart	Visitors Center - Catoctin Park	10:30 a.m.	Catoctin Mountain Park

NOTE: Anyone who has missed a previous week's hike or who is hiking for the first time, should call Jim Millen (433-4668) or Mary Kendrew (448-1341) to register, as it is possible for hikes to be cancelled due to inclement weather or switched in date due to a swap between two leaders.

ROCK CLIMBING TRIPS

1-5 Carderock
2-2 Carderock

SPECIAL TRIPS

3/24-31 Easter Vacation Ski Trip - Aspen, Colorado

5/10-11 TOSRV (Tour of Scioto River Valley) - 210 mi., 2-day bicycle trip starting and ending in Columbus, Ohio.
Registration closes mid-January

NOTE: For information regarding Rock Climbing and Special Trips, please contact Bob Carson - 426-0830

The February 1974 Council minutes included a comment that the Midweek Leisure Hikers had had six trips (for an unspecified time period) with a total of 63 participants. Other than that, there is little or no mention of the midweek program in Council discussions.

Expansion of the Wednesday Program: Moderate Hikes

The discussion of Wednesday hikes in the 75th Anniversary book included the following explanation of the next addition to the midweek hike program:

In March 1979, a second mid-week group, originally known as the "Wednesday Truckers" and renamed the "Wednesday Walkers," was formed by a member in response to a request to join a group of friends who were, in addition to walking with the Leisure Group, enjoying more strenuous hikes on their own. Walks of 6 to 10 miles, not involving a car plant, and seldom more than an hour's drive from the starting point, were placed on the regular trip schedule.

I could not find any notes in the Council minutes, or any announcements in the News, around that time that explain how the addition of the new hike came about. However, the March 1979 Council meeting, in discussing the Excursions (hiking) program, included the following sentence: "There were 12 people on each of the Wednesday trips on the regular schedule." This comment must refer to the new hike category (because Midweek Leisure hikes were not on the regular schedule), although only a few of these hikes could have taken place by that time.

As the comment indicates, this new category of moderate Wednesday hikes was included, along with weekend hikes, in the printed Trip Schedules starting with the March-June 1979 schedule. Those hikes varied from moderate hikes of six or seven miles to strenuous hikes on the A.T. and the Billy Goat Trail, among others. The schedule for the original Midweek Leisure hikes continued to appear in the News issues, while the new moderate hikes were in the Trip Schedules. The November 1979 newsletter mentions that the non-leisure Wednesday hikes coordinator was Eleanor Sewell.

In addition to these new moderate Wednesday hikes, the January 1980 Council meeting mentioned the addition of Thursday hikes to the midweek schedule:

Ron Bowers was very pleased with the turnout at the Excursion Meeting. However Ron still had to call many people to get commitments. We have a full schedule with the addition of Thursday hikes. There was some discussion about the possibility of the Thursday hikes pulling leaders and hikers away from the weekend. It was decided to keep track of what is happening on the weekend hikes with regard to turnout. Lester suggested that we require leaders to report to the treasurer any cancellations.

EXCURSIONS

Starting in March 1980, the Trip Schedules listed moderate Thursday hikes as well as the regular Wednesday hikes. The Thursday option continued for more than a year, but by the end of 1981 they no longer appeared on the schedule. Perhaps the turnout was too low to continue with this additional day of midweek hiking.

After 1987, MCM stopped printing the Midweek Leisure Hikers schedule in the quarterly News issues. The last such schedule I can find in our newsletter was in 1987, providing a list of hikes through December. There is no explanation of the change in the newsletters. From that time on, these hikes were included in the printed MCM Trip Schedule. The Leisure hikes were marked with an MW initial to identify them specifically as Midweek Leisure and distinguish them from the moderate hikes.

Expansion of the Wednesday Program: Hard Hikes

MCM continued to offer two hikes--moderate and leisure--on Wednesdays for the next 20 years. Then, the November 2006 Council minutes include the following report:

Cathy Alden reported that our new practice of having 3 hikes on Wednesdays (a Leisure group hike, a Tweeners hike, and a MCM hike, rated from gentlest to most difficult in that order), is working well for her group. Last Wednesday 29 hikers attended the Hashawa Nature Reserve hike. John Heyn reported the Tweeners hikers are also pleased with the arrangement: somewhat smaller, more consistently paced and enjoyable hikes have resulted for both groups. It was noted that new leaders would need to step forward for the Tweener hikes for this arrangement to continue.

Earlier that year, in the July 2006 Council minutes, Cathy Alden (who headed the Leisure hike committee), had reported that there were 64 hikers on the Leisure hike. According to long-time MCM member Mike O'Connor, such large numbers of hikers on Wednesdays was the primary reason for creating a third category of hikes.

Cathy Alden's comment at the November 2006 meeting seemed to suggest that the practice of three Wednesday hikes had been going on for a while, but the July-October 2006 Trip Schedule had only one Wednesday with three hikes (Wednesday, October 18). Starting with the next schedule (November 2006 – February 2007), there were three hikes each Wednesday. The previous moderate Wednesday hikes, which had typically varied between six and ten miles in distance, were now separated into Hard and Tweener hikes.

Cathy Alden's report in the November 2006 minutes is also the first use I found of the Tweener designation. The first use of the word in a Trip Schedule seems to have been in this hike description offered by Jim Koury on March 21, 2007.

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 21 - PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK/OELLA TO PICKALL AREA - C+ "TWEENER HIKE" - This 7.5 mile hike should be a new hike for most members of the club as it employs unmarked and unmaintained trails along the Patapsco River. Most of the trails are in very good shape, but a couple are on the rugged side. So, bring hiking poles if you have them. Pace will be 2 mph as we go up and down a couple of mountainsides, along the defunct Oella mill race past the ruins of the old dam, under the Rte. 40 overpass, and over a couple of small streams. MEET: 9.45 A.M. at the municipal parking lot behind the Trolley Stop Restaurant, located at 6 Oella Ave. (corner of Oella and Frederick Avenues, in Baltimore County just before the bridge leading to historic Ellicott City).

Expansion of the Program: Moderate+ Hikes

MCM continued the practice of offering three Wednesday hikes (Leisure, Tweener, and Hard) for the next 16 years. In 2023, a group of MCM hikers and hike leaders expressed interest in adding a fourth hike category that would offer longer distances and a faster pace than Tweener hikes, but at a slower hiking pace than the Hard hikes. MCM leadership concurred with the suggestion, and the new category was designated as Moderate+. The Moderate+ hikes are not offered every Wednesday but, when available, they are well attended.

Meetup Hikes

Meetup hikes are different than our usual scheduled hikes. They are led by MCM members, but hikers do not need to be paid members of the Mountain Club—they just have to be registered members of the Mountain Club of Maryland Meetup Group. But most hikers on our Meetup hikes are also MCM members. These hikes are not posted in the hike schedule on our web site; instead, the hikes are announced by emails through the Meetup app. Meetup hikes can be offered on any day of the week, but nearly all of MCM's Meetup hikes take place on weekdays, so they deserve recognition as part of our modern midweek program.

MCM established its Meetup Group in the fall of 2020 in hopes of increasing our club's recognition among persons who hike with Meetup hiking groups. At first, MCM offered one or two weekend Meetup hikes each month. Over the last couple of years, our Meetup program has grown into a regular series of moderate Thursday Meetup hikes in local parks (Patapsco Valley State Park, Liberty Reservoir, etc.), as well as a smaller number of hikes on other days and in other locations. These hikes are well attended by both regular MCM members and other Meetup hikers (who often become Mountain Club members).

Concluding Observations

The first MCM program of Wednesday hikes was created in 1973, almost 40 years after the Mountain Club was established, in recognition of an increased number of retirees among its membership. As the midweek hike program grew in popularity, the club repeatedly added new hike categories to suit members' difficulty preferences and to spread the large number of midweek hikers across more hikes. The addition of Meetup hikes has added another set of weekday choices for our club. Overall, the midweek program is an example of how MCM has expanded and adapted in response to our hikers' wishes, one of the factors that have contributed to our 90 years of success and growth as a hiking club.

**#12 - WHO WAS POGO RHEINHEIMER, AND WHY IS A CAMPSITE
NAMED AFTER HIM?**

If you have hiked very far on the Appalachian Trail (AT) in Maryland, you are likely to have passed the Pogo Campsite, a hikers' camping area less than two miles north of Annapolis Rocks, across from the intersection of the AT and the Thurston Griggs Trail.



Perhaps you have stopped to read the sign there:

POGO CAMPSITE
IN Memory of Pogo Rheinheimer
1958 – 1974
A Member of the Mt. Club of
Maryland



Most Mountain Club of Maryland members who hike in that area know little of the background information about how and why that campsite was created and named. Here is the story.

Walter “Pogo” Rheinheimer was the son of Walter and Eloise Rheinheimer, both of whom were Mountain Club of Maryland members. Pogo’s father, the senior Walter Rheinheimer, was a dedicated MCM hiker. When he died in 2015 at the age of 98, his obituary stated that he had hiked with MCM for 60 years. Our records corroborate that he was a member of the club for at least that long. Walter was listed on MCM membership rolls as late as 2005. We don’t have membership lists for the early 1940s, but as early as 1943 he is listed in the Bulletin (our newsletter) as a member of the Excursions Committee that prepared the hike schedules. He served on that committee for several years. He was also listed as part of the newsletter staff for a few years at that time, and his name appeared occasionally on the trip schedule as a hike leader in the later 1940s. Walter also was listed as responsible for Signs in the leadership list in the January 1947 Bulletin. After that, I did not find his name included in any of the club’s volunteer positions for several decades, although he may have been hiking with the club on a regular basis. I also found Eloise Rheinheimer (his wife) listed as a member of the club leadership as a Program volunteer for a short time in the 1960s.

Starting in 1982, Walter seemed to have become more active at the club leadership level again for a few years. His name was listed among the attendees at the MCM Council meetings for a few years, and he appeared in the minutes as taking part in various discussions. His name also appears in the leadership list as our Education Coordinator in 1983.

Their youngest son Pogo was an avid hiker and outdoors enthusiast, and was also an enthusiastic participant in MCM activities as a teenager. I found his name mentioned twice in the May 1974 Council meeting, when he was 16 years old. The first comment indicates that he was an active rock climber with our club:

It was felt that the rock-climbing group is moribund, since Lee Billingsley has moved to Boston and others have dropped, leaving only Pogo Rheinheimer. It was recommended that the new

officers examine the whole situation thoroughly. Meanwhile Pogo will collect the equipment, most of which is already in his possession.

In addition, at that same Council meeting, the Nominating Committee included Pogo as one of five names suggested as candidates for the three Councilor positions in the upcoming election. These two comments in the minutes show that he was already an active and respected club member despite his youth.

I found these photographs of Pogo on a website blog posted by his older brother Kurt, which can be found at this address: [Kinship Remembered: Hiking With My Brother - Blue Ridge Country.](#)



Sadly, Pogo died a month after the May 1974 Council meeting, a victim of a tragic drowning death at the age of 16 while boating in the Potomac River. More than 30 years later, in the February 2009 issue of Hiker High Points, an article written by Thurston Griggs provided more information about this accident:

Pogo had hiked more than half of the Appalachian Trail by the time he was 16. He was daring, adventurous, sturdy and inquisitive.

During the summer of 1974, he and a friend started out on bicycles from the Atlantic Coast to ride to the shore of the Pacific Ocean. Their bikes were side-swiped by a truck, and his companion...was hospitalized for several months...A neighbor pal, feeling sorry about Pogo's disappointment...offered to take him for a canoe adventure on the Potomac River, starting at Harpers Ferry.

Pogo was not a swimmer – nor was he experienced with canoes. Before his life-jacket was securely fashioned, he stepped off-center into the canoe and became suspended upside in the water beneath the...canoe. The swiftly running water carried him downstream to his death.

The August 1974 edition of the News shared the news with our members, as well as MCM interest in creating a memorial for this young outdoorsman.

August 1974

3

POGO

It is with deep regret that the MCM reports the death of one of its most active members, Walter H. "Pogo" Rheinheimer, Jr. On Monday, June 24, Pogo suffered a fatal accident while canoeing in the Great Falls area of the Potomac River. Those wishing to help create a memorial to Pogo, monies to be used as needed to purchase easements or land to protect the Appalachian Trail, or other trails as required, should send their checks to Walt Pocock, Treasurer, MCM. These checks should be designated for "Pogo Land Fund".

By November, the MCM Treasurer reported, the Pogo Land Fund had collected \$559.00 in donations. That fund would increase gradually over the years due to additional donations and interest payments.

At the January 1975 Council meeting, Thurston Griggs read a letter from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) advising MCM to hold the Pogo Land Fund money until a procedure was established for purchasing land. (The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club –PATC–was the official Trail maintaining club for all the AT in Maryland. It was not until the following year that MCM began maintaining a section of the Maryland AT on behalf of PATC.) Decisions about the disposition of the funds, which continued to grow slowly over the following years, would take a decade. Meanwhile, during the following years there were conversations at several Council meetings about possible land purchases using the Pogo Land Fund:

- At the February 1976 meeting, the Council voted to explore using the fund to “purchase a tract of land in a blue blaze trail near our shelter.” Presumably, this refers to the Devil’s Racecourse shelter, because that is the only Maryland shelter for which MCM had any responsibilities.
- More than two years later, at the September 1978 Council, there was approval of a motion to purchase the “land discussed in a previous meeting” (without specifying the location) for the Pogo Memorial Campsite. Notice of the intent to purchase the land was to be announced in the next club newsletter, along with a request for donations. The funds would be donated to the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) and then turned over to the National Park Service, which would acquire the site.
- The following month at the October 1978 meeting, it was reported that MCM received a letter from the National Park Service (NPS) stating its support for establishing the Pogo Campsite, but NPS was seeking a legal opinion before giving full support.
- At the February 1979 meeting, Thurston Griggs reported that NPS would not be involved in the campsite purchase because it was too far from the Appalachian Trail. (Again, the location of the proposed site was not identified.) According to Thurston, the PATC President had indicated that PATC might purchase a large tract of land in the area and would cooperate with MCM in development of the campsite.

There was no further mention of a land purchase in Council minutes or newsletters until the following year, when the September-October 1980 News reported that the property near Harpers Ferry, where the proposed Pogo Campsite was to be located, had changed ownership earlier in the year “after some protracted legal complications. One of the new owners had given preliminary approval of the idea of making the campsite available, before the legal complications arose. Thurston Griggs is trying to renew contracts and pursue the project.”

Once again, there was no mention of the proposed campsite for another year, then the October 1981 Council minutes included the following note:

Pogo Campsite – Two people bought land in the area; Bob Proudman has volunteered to try to locate these people and determine if they are opposed to the campsite. If there is opposition, we will have to look for another piece of land with a water source within reach of the A.T.

(Bob Proudman was an official with the Appalachian Trail Conference.) There is no additional information to indicate whether this is the same location as that discussed the previous year. Apparently, this possible site did not work out, because the following spring, the May 1982 Council minutes include a statement that:

“The State has suggested two other locations for the Pogo Campsite – one is off the trail below Annapolis Rocks and the other is near Rocky Run Shelter. Thurston will check these out.”

Thanks to the state of Maryland, a solution had been found. The next update is in the January 1983 Council minutes, where the Council is informed that the proposed Pogo Campsite location is the site of the old Black Rock Hotel—a hotel that existed in the nineteenth century. That location is about 1.7 miles north of Annapolis Rocks, so it may have been one of the possible sites mentioned the previous year.

The February 2009 Hiker High Points article written by Thurston Griggs about Pogo’s death included more information about the circumstance that led to the establishment of the campsite:

...the State, at that time, was buying up land for permanent preservation, and it discouraged private acquisitions because they might not all prove to be permanent. In that dilemma, Mrs. Ruth Blackburn, then President of PATC...suggested that the old Black Rock Hotel site (where there was a good water source on the Trail) be designated “Pogo Campsite” as a memorial to the young adventurer. And a pit privy became the sole amenity it offered to hikers.

The following month, at the February 1983 meeting, the Council was informed that NPS had accepted Black Rock Spring as the Pogo Campsite, and that PATC had joined MCM in sponsoring the campsite. However, there were still issues to be worked out. According to an article in the October 1983 News, it would be necessary to postpone the installation of a privy at the campsite until the following spring, apparently because of road access to the area that could abuse (vandalize?) the new privy. The state of Maryland was working on an arrangement to prevent vehicle access.

It seems fitting that the side trail that intersects the A.T. right at that location has since been named the Thurston Griggs Trail, given Thurston’s work over a decade on the establishment of the campsite.

Two months later, the December 1983 News announced that the privy hole had been dug at the campsite and the privy had been designed. The article also solicited volunteers and a pick-up to help install the privy in late March 1984. The February 1984 newsletter reported that the privy had been pre-fabricated and was ready for assembly at the Pogo Campsite in the spring, and that South Mountain State Park had offered to provide transportation.

At the May 1984 Council meeting, Thurston Griggs announced that the Pogo Campsite was now completed and in use. The State Park would be installing five locked metal gates in the future to prevent motor vehicles from accessing the campsite. A year later, Thurston reported at the May 1985 Council meeting that the privy had been vandalized and that the state park had gathered materials for repairs. Apparently, the gates had not yet been installed, because there is a mention that the state had prepared the foundations for installations of the gates. (The privy was vandalized again a year later, and the article in the May 1986 News stated that the park had now closed off the roads that allowed vehicle access to the site.)

Here are a couple of photos of the campsite location:





Meanwhile, at the May 1985 Council meeting, there was also a discussion of how to use the Pogo Land Fund--because the Pogo Campsite had been placed on state park land, the fund had not been used to purchase property. Here are the notes from the Council discussion.

The first item to be discussed was the disposition of the money now in the Pogo Land Fund. At the Presidents' meeting in Harpers Ferry April 27 and 28th the topic of land acquisition was brought up. After Pogo Rheinheimer's death a considerable fund was collected for a memorial to purchase land along the Trail. The negotiations for the original tract decided upon fell through. Land for a primitive campsite was subsequently made available by the Conference for the memorial. Thus the Fund, which now amounts to \$2310, is still intact. Since small tracts along the Trail in Maryland remain to be acquired, this sum could be used toward the present need. An added bonus, the Conference will match any gift.

After considerable discussion as to how best to carry this out, it was moved that the Treasurer be authorized to give a check in the amount of \$2310 to the Appalachian Trail Conference at such time as a tract of land in Maryland appropriate for the memorial becomes available, with the proviso that we want to see and approve the tract before the money is transferred to the ATC. This was seconded by McKee and passed.

Concluding Thoughts

It took ten years for the Pogo Camp Site, honoring an MCM hiker who died far too young, to be accomplished. The discussions at Council meetings indicate that several possible sites for land purchases were explored, but these options all fell through. From the information in the records, it is not completely clear how the campsite came to be located where it is in South Mountain State Park, but this entire effort involved cooperation by the Mountain Club, PATC, NPS, and ATC, and especially the state of Maryland for providing the site location.

In a blog titled “Commemorating Walter Rheinheimer” that can be found at [Commemorating Walter Rheinheimer - Blue Ridge Country](#), Pogo’s brother Kurt described a family gathering in 2015 to commemorate their father. According to the article, they camped at the site and scattered Walter’s ashes there “at the site honoring his youngest son...”

Although I have never camped there, I hike past Pogo Campsite several times every year. Now, knowing more its history, in the future I’ll be a little more thoughtful and appreciative of two dedicated MCM hikers—one who spent most of his life as an MCM member, and one who did not get the opportunity to do so--and of all the work that MCM and its partner organizations went through to honor one of our own.

#13
90 YEARS OF PROGRESS AND CHANGE:
A DECADE-BY-DECADE OVERVIEW OF MCM'S HISTORY

Below is a timeline of significant events and activities of the Mountain Club of Maryland over its 90-year history.

1930s

October 1934 - Orville Crowder led 27 hikers on a hike from Crampton Gap (now Gathland State Park) to Weverton Cliffs. At lunch the group discussed the formation of a hiking club.

December 1934 - The club was formed at a meeting at the Enoch Pratt Library. Crowder, Alex Kennedy and Osborne Heard wrote the MCM Club bylaws soon after the Dec meeting and a Trip Schedule was created.

January 1935 - The first official MCM hike was held in Patapsco Valley State Park.



First official club hike: PVSP, January 5, 1935

The club began hiking all around Maryland, PA, VA and WV. Most trips were on Saturdays, with occasional Wednesday or Sunday trips. There were groups focusing on photography, birding, wildflowers, etc.

In the early years, there was typically one trip per weekend and at least one Saturday afternoon hike, one all day Sunday hike, and one overnight trip each month. There were canoe trips, rock climbing trips and ski trips. There were moonlight hikes, picnic lunches, group dinners, square dances.

1934 / 1935 – MCM took over maintenance of the Appalachian Trail west of the Susquehanna River. Within a few years, our assigned section was extended southward to its current end point at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

In 1937 the club had 79 members—almost evenly divided between men and women.

Autumn 1935 - MCM placed the Center Point Knob monument in 1935 to denote the approximate center of the A.T. at that time.

October 1938 – MCM built its first hiking shelter (lean-to) in Dark Hollow on the A.T.

1940s

June 1940 - The MCM held the first Marathon across the Maryland A.T. with 21 hikers. Eventually, it would become known as the Hike Across Maryland (HAM).

1941 – MCM leased a cabin in Allegany County from the state of MD, naming it the Paw Paw Shelter or Town Hill Shelter. The shelter would serve as a base for hiking during most of the decade, despite ongoing issues with necessary repairs and vandalism.



Paw Paw Shelter, 1941

1942 – because of World War II gas rationing, MCM hikes were limited to locations accessible by bus, train, or trolley. A.T. maintenance work was extremely limited until 1944, when the rules allowed rental of trucks for work trips.



At the Train Station for February 1943 Hike

1942-1945 – About 15 Mountain Club members served in WWII.

1945 – Gas rationing ended and MCM was able to travel to more distant hike locations.

Many specialized hikes such as birding trips and moonlight hikes were halted during World War II and were not resumed after the war. Square dances were reduced in frequency to once each quarter. By 1949 they no longer scheduled these evening dances.

1948 – The Center Point Knob plaque was discovered to be missing.

June 1949 – MCM held the second Marathon hike.

1949 – MCM terminated its lease of the Paw Paw Shelter.

1950s

June 1950 - there were 149 MCM members.

1954 – Mary Kamphaus became the first female President of the Mountain Club.

1954 /1955 – In a major relocation of the A.T. through the Cumberland Valley in PA, MCM built approximately 15 miles of new trail on the A.T. between Duncannon and Boiling Springs.

1956 – The original Darlington stone shelter was built by Earl Shaffer and then maintained by MCM on Blue Mountain.



Catoclin Weekend – October 1954

1960s

1960 – The Thelma Marks Shelter was built by Earl Shaffer and subsequently maintained by MCM on Cove Mountain.



Thelma Marks Shelter

June 1962 – MCM had 177 members.

At the June 1965 annual meeting, it was reported that MCM had conducted 41 hikes in the past year and that there were 196 members.

1970s

1970 – MCM served as host of the Appalachian Trail Conference annual meeting held in Shippensburg, PA.

May 1971- The third MCM Marathon hike was held. From then on, the Marathon / Hike Across Maryland (HAM) was held every two years.

March 1971 - there were 237 members.

1971 – The MCM Bulletin, which had been the name of the MCM newsletter since its inception, was replaced with a new, less voluminous, newsletter named the MCM News.

1972 – there were still overnight camping / hiking trips one weekend a month.

1973 – MCM began offering Midweek Leisure Hikes on Wednesdays.

1974 – 16-year old MCM member Pogo Rheinheimer drowns while canoeing on Potomac River. MCM establishes the Pogo Land Fund to fund a land purchase near the A.T. in his name.

1976 – MCM assumed responsibility for maintaining a section of the A.T. in MD from Wolfsville Road to PenMar, on behalf of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.

1976 – The two buildings of the Tagg Run shelter are moved away from its site near the stream to its current location about one-quarter mile away from the A.T.

1977 – A new prefabricated shelter, replacing the original stone Darlington shelter, is constructed at the current shelter location about a mile from the original site.



Prefabricated Darlington Shelter

1979 – A second set of Wednesday hikes (moderate), known as the Wednesday Walkers, is added to the hike schedule.

1980s

May 1983 – MCM had 341 members in May 1983.

1984 – The Pogo Campsite was opened for use by hikers.



Pogo Campsite

1984 – MCM held its 50th Anniversary celebration with a dinner at Martin’s West and publication of the *MCM First Person: 1934 – 1984* book. At that time the club’s charter members who were still living were Winslow Hartford, Alex Kennedy, Jack Mowll, Fred and Grace Ward, and Ruth Lenderking Wormelle.

August 1986 – The MCM News was replaced by the Hiker High Points as the MCM newsletter.

1987 – Work began on a new 18-mile relocation of the A.T. through the Cumberland Valley in PA. MCM volunteers perform countless work trips over 4 years.

1990s

1990 – 1991 – The Alec Kennedy Shelter was constructed.

June 1991 - There were 534 memberships.

1991 – The new 18-miles Cumberland Valley section of A.T. completed; new Cumberland Valley club assumes responsibility.



L/R: Thurston Griggs, Paul Ives, Kevin McGraw inspecting steps they built onto a footbridge along Conodoguinet Creek, Cumberland Valley PA, Appalachian Trail construction, 11/24/90. Photo by Ted Sanderson.

Working on the Cumberland Valley relocation

1998 – the old Tagg Run shelter (consisting of two lean-tos) was replaced by a new building named the James Fry Shelter at Tagg Run.

2000s

2000 - Cove Mountain shelter completed.

July 2001 - There were 866 memberships.

2002 – A bequest by long-time member Lester Miles led to creation of the Miles Fund. Since then, MCM has awarded more than \$200,000 in grants for purposes related to hiking, trail protection and conservation.

2004-2005 – Construction of new Darlington Shelter was completed.

2006 – A third category of Wednesday hikes was added, known as “Tweeners” (because the difficulty level was in between the existing leisure and moderate/hard Wednesday hikes).

October 2009 – The club celebrated its 75th anniversary at a 75th Anniversary dinner at Snyders Restaurant in Linthicum Heights. The club also repeated the original hike from Crampton Gap (Gathland State Park) to Weverton, and published the *Thank You MCM: In Celebration of Our 75th Anniversary* book.



75th Anniversary Gathering at Gathland State Park, October 2009

2010s

2010 – Center Point Knob plaque rediscovered. MCM donated the original Center Point Knob plaque to the A.T. Museum, after making a mold to allow its duplication.

2010 – A new privy was built at the new Cove Mountain shelter.

December 2011 - MCM had 722 memberships and 906 individual members.

2012 – MCM installed a duplicate plaque at Center Point Knob.



New Center Point Knob plaque

2015 - MCM co-hosted (with PATC) the ATC Biennial Conference in Winchester, VA.

2017 – A new privy was built at the Alec Kennedy Shelter.

2020s

2020 – All hikes were cancelled during the spring of 2020 because of COVID public health precautions. For months after hiking resumed, hike sizes were limited to 10 persons and there was no carpooling.

2020 – Long-time MCM member Thurston Griggs was inducted into the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame.

November 2020 – MCM led its first Meetup hike under its Mountain Club of Maryland Meetup Group program.

2021 – The Hike Across Maryland (HAM) was postponed until the following year due to COVID. The HAM is now held in even-numbered years.

2023 – MCM added new category of Wednesday (Moderate+) hikes.

2023-2024 – MCM constructed a new A.T footbridge across Tagg Run in PA.

June 2024 – MCM grew to 902 memberships and 1143 individual members.

2024 – MCM's celebration of its 90th Anniversary included a gathering at the Howard County Conservancy and entry of a float in the Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race in May.



MCM at the Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race

**MCM FIRST PERSON: STORIES AND MEMORIES ABOUT THE
MOUNTAIN CLUB OF MARYLAND**



INTRODUCTION TO MCM FIRST PERSON ARTICLES

The MCM First Person section is modeled after the club's 50th and 75th Anniversary publications, which contained personal recollections of long-term club members at that time. In the pages below, some of our club members have provided anecdotes and reminiscences of their experiences in the Mountain Club.



CAROLYN BAUER

Lost

This was a Wednesday hike to Big Schloss in the George Washington National Forest about 25 years ago. It was a sunny, pleasant May day. All went well on the climb up. We ate our lunch at the top and enjoyed the beautiful views. Too soon, it was time to head down. When we got to the bottom, we came upon a fire road and an open bushy meadow. Everyone looked around with confusion. "Is this where we started?" "I don't remember a fire road." "Where are the cars?" "Which way do we go?" No one had answers.

We started walking aimlessly along the fire road and suddenly saw a rattlesnake! My first sighting of a rattlesnake in his natural habitat. Cool and exciting, but he couldn't help our situation. Shortly after our snake encounter, two men pulled out maps. Dan McQueen (God rest his soul) and Pete Flaton studied the trails and contour lines. They both pointed in opposite directions and said, "We need to go this way." Yikes. We were lost! Cell phones, incidentally, were relatively new and no one had one.

People were getting concerned. It was quite warm. Most had little or no water and everyone was tired. What now?

Then in the distance, we saw a pick-up truck heading in our direction. A savior! Catharina (Cat) Brauer (currently 92) jumped in front of the truck wildly waving her hands. "Help, help," she said. "We're lost." The truck had to stop because Cat was not going to let him pass. Several of the men talked to the driver and explained our predicament. The trucker graciously agreed to take the car drivers in his truck bed back to their vehicles. Hurrah! Before the truck left, most of us threw some money in his passenger seat. He was stunned when he saw the money but we urged him to keep it. "You're a life savior," we said. "You deserve it."

So within a half hour or so, the car drivers returned to pick us up. The truck driver informed the men that if we had tried to walk back to our cars, it probably would have been about *11 miles*. He also told them he had gone to the landfill, and for no particular reason, decided to take the fire road back. Wow! Was this guy heaven sent or what?

So the moral of this story is: If you encounter someone in a jam, don't hesitate to offer assistance. You never know when you will need help, and the help you give to someone else will surely come back to you when you really need it.

See you on the trail.

ROBERT BUNCH

In 2008, my wife Anne Marie and I, left Scotland for Baltimore, Maryland. My wife was training as an interventional endoscopist at Johns Hopkins. I'm a mechanical engineer, so in a bid to find work, I started to make contacts with various groups. One of these groups was the St Andrews Society. At a golfing event of theirs, I met a tall chap called Dan McQueen. During our round of golf, Dan asked if I liked hiking. I told him that in Scotland I was a keen hillwalker (Scottish for hiking). It was Dan who told me about the Mountain Club of Maryland. He invited me to come along on a thirteen-mile hike that Jim Koury was leading in Catoctin. "Sure", I said, "that sounds like fun". The evening before the hike, I was "vetted" by Jim over the phone, but excluding the confusion over the term "Hill Walking", Dan had vouched for me and I was all set.

My first year of membership flew by, as I hadn't found a job yet. Life was full of weekly hiking, scouting, and monitoring the AT corridor with Dan. A couple of years later, I met Andy Buttles as he returned to Maryland. Dan had told me about Andy and thought that we would get on well together. He was correct. I still aspire to be as hardcore as Andy when it comes to backpacking, but most of the time I can just about keep up.

Over the next fifteen years, I would canoe the boundary waters of Minnesota, hike the Inca trail in Peru, mountain bike across the San Juan mountains in Colorado (twice), and backpack throughout various states. All these adventures were with great friends and club members.

In 2020, the great plague hit and hiking was curtailed. As club hikes resumed, they were limited to ten people and were, therefore, difficult to register for. The club called for hike leaders and I decided to step up to the plate. After all, I had enjoyed following hike leaders for over a decade. Jim Koury was instrumental in training me as a leader and suggesting possible hikes. I learned that to be a good hike leader preparation is key. I developed a few "Big Dog" hikes and loved leading them with my hiking family for company.

I have so many great memories of hiking with the club. The most poignant and memorable though came in November 2022. In April of that year, I had a serious motorcycle accident that left me unable to walk for a few months and wheelchair bound. My injuries were fairly catastrophic. What I wasn't prepared for was the muscle atrophy that happens when you don't use them. Instantly, I went from a hugely active person to immobile. During my recuperation, I can't express how grateful I was for the visits and company from my friends in the club. The club is truly a second family.

As I began to walk again and regain a degree of mobility, I longed to get out on the trails. That dream became a reality that November as I was able to lead a two-mile hike in Patapsco. What was more wonderful was the outpouring of support and encouragement from the club.

My wife and I have recently relocated to Pittsburgh. I'm beginning renovations on another property and looking for a hiking club. If I find another club like the Mountain Club, I will indeed be lucky.

Thanks for the memories, MCM.



DUNCAN CRAWFORD

Joining MCM was a life changing event for me, as for others. It was 1996, I'd been divorced for several years, my older daughter was working in Japan, younger sister still in college in New England. My home-work-work cycle was totally unbalanced. I dusted off the (actual, physical) telephone book, discovered the MCM number, called and left a message. Paul Ives had been answering that line for many years, soon called me back and mailed me a several page hike schedule.

While I'd been pedaling to work most days for about twenty years, I'd usually only managed some sort of short "hike" (definitely non-MCM version) a few times a year, even though I'd spent a lot of time as a kid enjoying running around in the woods. Think the 1950's era when you were told to go play outside, we'll call you for dinner. Canoeing was another favorite activity. I liked designing and building, and the schedule promised it all. Were I to join, there'd be no excuses for not getting out regularly. I went on five work trips with Ted Sanderson, Paul Ives and many others before my first actual hike. Those work trips were indeed fun— building the RT 850 AT kiosk, followed by trail and shelter maintenance, but my first hike, March 1997, was particularly memorable. It was a HAM training hike on the Snicker's Gap to Ashby Gap AT 'roller coaster,' with Walter Pocock the hike leader. The hike description plus the HAM sounded interesting, and hey, I was "in shape" from pedaling. I didn't know then that Walter's boots had never included a granny gear.

Carpooling was at the RT 32 Park and Ride, which is where I met my future wife, now Marcie Crawford. I had no idea that Walter would later vanish down (and up) the trail in a puff of dust. All that was lacking was the roadrunner "Beep! Beep!" I managed to stay somewhere in the pack until lunchtime, when I hit the proverbial wall. Martin Sussman was the sweep, and pretty much herded me on from there. After a couple of hills, I asked him to just lie to me, tell me "...the next hill is the probably the last." He frowned in disbelief but obliged and I eventually trudged in about a half hour after everyone else.

The next training hike was at Mary's Rock. Marcie, who several times the previous week had blown past me with a big friendly smile, aggravated an old knee injury and I took the opportunity to lag back and offer a helping hand. My lame excuse was I needed to slow down, still recovering from the last hike. We got to talking, eventually began hiking, biking and canoeing together, and a couple of years later our honeymoon was a self-supported week-long canoe trip on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

In the years since we've enjoyed MCM canoe adventures, dozens of work trips, numerous hikes, and we've both served as Club officers and HAM volunteers. Our local hiking tapered off when we discovered truck camping— canoe on camper roof, other stuff in truck, head out for places-to-be discovered. We've hauled our gear from Florida to Newfoundland, west to and along the Pacific coast, and north to the Arctic Ocean in both Alaska and Canada. I'm still making trail signs for MCM, and have been volunteering at Catoctin Mountain National Park making those staff retirement awards, and various items for the Visitor Center since Mike O'Connor got me involved out there some ten years ago. Thank you, MCM, for many wonderful years.

REUBEN DAGOLD

I joined MCM in 2000 when I retired from the Baltimore City Health Department as a bureau director. I traded the camaraderie of the workplace for the camaraderie of fellow hikers. I had heard of MCM from years before. Several of my teachers at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute were MCM members, one of whom took several of us students on a moonlight hike near Carlisle, PA. By the way, I haven't seen any moonlight hikes on the MCM schedule for a long time.

My only hiking and backpacking for a number of years was with my son's Boy Scout troop. Upon retirement I had told myself that I would not take on any responsibilities. That did not last long- within two years in MCM I was scouting and leading hikes. And then I began filling various club positions.

I did not participate much in MCM trail maintenance activities. However, every Tuesday morning I could be found in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park in Baltimore City doing trail maintenance and blazing and trail map creation.

I assisted with the Hike Across Maryland a number of times by being a section sweep. The first time was at the beginning—thinking I would have the rest of the day free. Climbing that hill out of Pen Mar in the dark was not fun. Another time I selected the last section because I knew it was downhill and level along the C&O canal. Did you ever try walking behind the last—and slow—HAM hiker?

When I first joined MCM I took part in and led some Wednesday hard hikes. During the year, the AT in Maryland was covered by a number of out-and-back hikes. I led some of them. One day the coordinator for those hikes asked if I would mind someone else leading them. I then realized that my pace had become too slow.

Now in my 85th year I still do some of the Wednesday Leisure Hikes.

In the earlier years, weather-related hike cancellations were rarer than today. Also, rare was the requirement to sign up for a hike—you showed up by the announced start time and that was that.

TEDE FLEMING

MCM Memories/Observations

When I sat down to write a few comments about my MCM memories, it caused me to ask myself the question: why do I still get pleasure from following MCM's "doings", when I can only follow electronically from afar. After all, I've lived in Atlanta 15+ years; I am very fortunate to live a happy and active life. I met my husband on an MCM hike. (Thank you, Mickey Taylor, for advertising the Jug Bay hike in *The Washington Post!*). We enjoy many things together - travel, with or without hiking, high on the list. I participate in two organizations with an environmental focus, and enjoy new-found friends and old hobbies (piano, German language weekly class, birding). So why do I still follow MCM?

That triggered my reading the memories members submitted for the 75th anniversary booklet, compiled by Patty Williams. I was struck with several common threads among them, things we all value: being outdoors, hiking, supporting the Appalachian Trail - both by helping maintain it with time and labor and by supporting it with "bigger picture" concerns (policy, governmental issues) through participation in Mid-Atlantic ATC and other external organizations. You could find ways to do each of those things in other organizations and with individual friends; but what makes MCM special is doing all those things with such decent, intelligent people - no competing for power or "top dog" status. Just working together, enjoying the same activities and organizational goals and values - with a can-do ability to plan, organize, and execute projects and have fun doing it.

Last, I read the retrieved archival documents Bill Saunders, our President, sent about the three original founding members (Alex Kennedy, Os Heard, and Orville Crowder). And voilà! Those individuals demonstrated the same decency, intelligence, "can-do" spirit and skillset, and enjoyment of the same activities we do today.

I'm convinced MCM has another 90 years of the same values and fun.

The kinetic sculpture this year put me over the top! Keep doing what you are doing.

JOYCE FLETCHER

I joined the MCM in the late 80's or early 90's. At the time, anyone wanting to join had to have a sponsor who would vouch for the new member. Renata Byrd sponsored me. I asked how to join while on her hike at Patapsco Park and she signed me up before we started off. I have been active, off and on, since then. There was a period when I hiked alone. This was due to so many weekend hikes being so fast paced. I like to ramble along; looking around, watching critters and trying to identify plants. This is not possible to do when moving at 3 mph. I have since discovered the Leisure Group and have been hiking with them regularly since last September. It's a great way to socialize and meet people from all walks of life while getting some exercise and fresh air. Nature nurtures too, expelling any bad mood, worry or ill feeling. It's hard to pick out one memorable adventure as there have been so many, but this one really stands out.

Once upon a time there was a brilliant leader named Ted Sanderson. He led both hikes and canoe trips. I signed up for a two-day canoe trip on the Eastern Shore and received a bulky information packet in the mail with all instructions. Ted was very thorough and methodical in planning all his trips. I and my canoe partner arrived late at the campground on Friday, unloaded and set up tents. These were the days of commissary, and meals were provided. There wasn't much else to do but turn in. It promised to be a glorious spring weekend with Saturday starting out clear and pleasant. We all loaded the cars and headed out to the put-in point of the river. I have forgotten the name but it is in the vicinity of Shad's Landing.

It was clear paddling for a while and then we hit an obstruction. Oh well, we just worked around it and soldiered on. Then there was another one, and another one, and another one! We began to portage more than we paddled. There must have been a terrific storm to cause so many blow-downs and strainers. The current was barely there and combined with all the trees, both standing and otherwise, and it was difficult to follow at times. As we continued downriver, walking as much as floating, the sun made its transit across the sky, then began its descent in the west. Still we slogged on, getting wetter, muddier and increasingly more frustrated. As the sun vanished, the moon rose in a clear but dark sky. Still we portaged on in a swamp masquerading as a river. At long last, we spotted a road bridge and one by one the canoes hauled out at a narrow take-out path. We had finally reached the halfway point and our lunch spot but this turned out to be the end.

We all gathered along the road, wet and muddy, tired and hungry and wondering what now. Unfortunately, not everyone was accounted for. One person was missing. He was kayaking alone and a diabetic. His girlfriend was in a panic that he did not have his supplies with him and he was lying unconscious or dead somewhere in the dark. While she was being reassured and comforted, someone called search and rescue and a truck arrived towing an enormous power boat that just about covered the width of this narrow country road. There was no way something this big was going to get into such a narrow, shallow creek even without the strainers. In addition, a helicopter flew over with an erratic searchlight that was more like a Hollywood gala opening than a methodical sweep of the search area. In the end, Ted and his co-leader took a flashlight and walked upstream calling for the missing kayaker while the search team quietly retreated. They found him safe and well supplied with insulin. He had paddled up a backwater in the dark; decided he was lost and found a dry spot to camp out until daylight.

Meanwhile, the drivers managed to find lifts back to the cars while the rest of us sat on upturned canoes and waited for their return. Back at camp there was a run on the showers and after getting clean

and dry, we settled down to a hot meal, conversation and a well-deserved sleep. Ted had been his usual thorough self and had checked river conditions with the local ranger who stated that everything was fine. We found out the hard way that they were anything but fine. After breakfast Sunday morning, my partner informed me he had had enough and we were leaving. I was disappointed but was compelled to go along with his decision. I found out later that the Sunday paddle was perfection. Portage free all the way. Oh well, stuff happens. Even though this one day was such a fiasco, no one was hurt and Ted remained a magnificent and dependable leader. He was an interesting character and a great guy.

JIM KOURY

My wife, Sharon, and I had our first hike with the club January 6, 2006. It was a 9 miler in Sherwood Forest led by Dick and Susan Whiteford. Sharon and I were recently retired, in our late 50s, and in pretty good shape (for non-hikers). So we were a bit concerned when we first saw the group of 30 hikers, all of whom appeared to be in their 60s and 70s. "This is going to be a slow hike," we thought to ourselves. Boy, were we mistaken! Dick kept a good pace -- as did all the other "old" hikers -- so much so, that we newbies were feeling new muscles by the end of the hike. We were very impressed with the overall fitness level of the participants, decided these were the kind of people we wanted to spend time with, and joined the club the very next day.

There are many friends in the club who've made a lasting impression on me, friends who've played a role in the club's history but whose names and contributions might be unknown to some. The occasion of the club's 90th anniversary seemed to me a good time to shine a light on these people. Due to space limitations, I will single out only four friends. The first is Mike O'Connor, who was president when I joined the club. Mike recruited me as a hike leader, was the co-leader on my first hike, and, as president, saw to it that I was reimbursed for the Wilderness First Aid course I took before I led my first hike. He was a great mentor who warmly welcomed me to the club and introduced me to the myriad benefits of hike leading.

Reuben Dagold was an unsung hero who taught me the importance of planning for the future and working behind the scenes to keep the club vibrant and strong. When he was president, Reuben was quite concerned that our hiking schedule offered very few weekend hikes, which meant there were very few hikes for people who were still part of the workforce, the very people who might become future members of the club. He understood that if the hike schedule catered to retired club members at the expense of potential new members, eventually the club would lose its vitality. I listened to him make this point repeatedly for about a year and then finally acted on his insight. I did so by extracting a pledge from a dozen or so of the club's stalwart hike leaders: they would offer at least one weekend hike per schedule for a full year. That's all that was needed. After a year, the improved weekend schedule was established and self-maintaining. Today, 16 years later, there typically are more hikes offered on any given weekend than used to be offered on the busiest of Wednesdays.

Dan McQueen impressed me as an outstanding role model, both as a human being and an athlete. He displayed tremendous leadership on both counts. He was as friendly, kind, and considerate as he was athletically gifted and physically fit. Equally important, though, is that Dan was a larger-than-life character, with an enthusiasm that was contagious and served as a bonding agent for the group. He was the kind of individual whose natural leadership could transform a random collection of people into a cohesive and adventurous unit. It would be a fool's errand to try to match Dan's qualities, but I always thought aspiring to them was an admirable goal.

One last point about Dan. Both his stamina and ability to work through pain were remarkable and well known to many in the club. In fact, that there was a standing joke about Dan, to the effect that he must be a Martian because he seemed to feel no pain. As it turns out, he was a Martian -- born as he was in Mars, Pennsylvania!

I'll end with a note about one of my favorite women in the club, Marge Guinard. She is very much the female version of Dan: an enthusiastic, warm, irrepressible woman who is as tough as nails on the trails. She's also been an amazing organizer and hike leader, as evidenced by the numerous multi-day

hikes she developed for a group of us over a number of years. She booked housing for us in Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, and then treated us to two days of spectacular hiking. Like Dan, she had a knack for turning a disparate group of individuals into a cohesive, fun-loving unit. Those of us who were on her special trips will never forget them, just as those who were on Dan's Old Rag trips will never forget them and the camaraderie they forged.

Joining the club remains one of the very best decisions Sharon and I have made in retirement.

PHIL LIESKE

Volunteers Needed

Back in the late Spring of 1993, there was a little blurb in the local daily paper asking for volunteers to do some trail clearing in the Prettyboy area of Baltimore County. Not playing as much tennis as I used to and living in the Prettyboy watershed, I called the number listed, got directions to the trailhead, and on one fine Sunday morning met Martin Larrabee. At the time Martin was about 83, and I soon learned that:

- He could still out-hike and outwork most MCM members. For those of you who were fortunate enough to have known Dan McQueen, Martin was the Dan McQueen of his era.
- On my first trail clearing day, there were more new volunteers than repeat volunteers.
- It was easily discerned that Martin's concept of time was different than most; for example, when he said "We'll just clear another hour or so," really meant "Late, but not too late to drive into Hereford and buy a 'frap'," basically an ice cream soda.
- If you survived the first Martin-led trail clearing trip, there was never a need to volunteer again, since Martin personally would call you and enlist your help and even sign up whoever answered the phone.
- If you stuck around long enough, eventually, on some very warm day, Martin would take off his shirt and you would notice the large scar on his chest from open heart surgery. I remember thinking, "I know I'll never have surgery like that because I'm never going to survive today's trail clearing."

Somehow, I did survive and during the times with Martin, I hiked and cleared most of Prettyboy's "Blue Cap" trail (which starts at Beckleysville Rd and runs about 9 miles to the dam) and many trails below the dam, joined the MCOM (in which he had been active during its formative early years), and was assigned – by Martin – to keep the last 3 miles of the "Blue Cap" trail clear. Tip of the hat to Mary and Ted for continuing to keep many sections of the "Blue Cap" open.

There are many other "old timers" I met after joining the club, but I'll leave their stories to be told by others.

BRIDGET MCCUSKER

MCM Reflections - 2024

In October of 1993, I made a decision to finally sign up for a MCM hike. I had been on the AT once about 10 years earlier and wanted to return so the MCM seemed like a good place to start. I picked a hike on the AT being led by Walter Pocock. It was a 12 mile hike from Harpers Ferry to the Blackburn Trail Center. Walter grilled me and was concerned that I did not have much experience on hiking trails. I told him that I walked a lot and had been taking step aerobics classes which didn't seem to impress him, but in the end, he allowed me to sign up. When I showed up at the meeting place and saw Walter, I was surprised to see a slender man with a white beard wearing an old wool sweater. It was a large and friendly group with people of all ages and some who like me were first timers and others who were seasoned MCM hikers. We arrived at the parking lot close to the Route 340 bridge over the Potomac and then had to wait for the car plant which completely baffled me. In the past, I have led car plant hikes and these days I avoid them.

I enjoyed that first MCM hike and met some really nice people. As Walter led the hike, once in a while he would stroll by going toward the back to check on the new people which reminds me of hiking with Jim Koury who always makes a point to check in with new hikers or catch up with people he hasn't seen in a while. From that first hike on, I was inclined to sign up for Walter's hikes because they challenged me and exposed me to hikes in places that were new to me. I got to know a group of hikers who liked the long and strenuous hikes and we often stopped for dinner on the way home which meant it was often dark by the time we got home. Some of the people who regularly hiked with Walter included Steve Burkett, he worked on the club's early website, Rick Royer, Ron Steinberg, Jesse Dobbs, Gwen?, Karin Palm, Eva Barnhill, David Axon, and others whose names I can't remember 30 years later. I submitted my membership application shortly after my first hike in October 1993 but was not officially a member until sometime in early 1994. Little did I know that your application had to be reviewed and approved by the trail council.

In 1995 I signed up for my first HAM and as of 2019 I have completed it 10 times. I started this year and was doing okay but decided to drop out at the Weverton parking lot due to some aches and pains that were getting the best of me. I was also soaked through and through as it started to pour just as I started down the climb from Weverton Cliffs. The temperature was actually refreshing and I safely made it to the bottom. Some people can't believe that I dropped out with just 3 more easy miles to go on the towpath but it was not a hard decision for me. I think I'll opt to volunteer for future HAMs.

I was encouraged to lead hikes by Walter and by the late 90s I was hiking regularly with Karen Klinedinst, Ron Eshelman, Cindy Jones, Paul Denbow and others whose names escape me. We did the HAM together and the PATC Dogwood 50k which ended in 2001. In the mid-late 90s, Walter Pocock became ill and he died in 1998. I am forever grateful to Walter for teaching me so much about hiking, especially long hikes that were typically over 12 miles and up to 18+, had challenging climbs, and were far from Baltimore. I developed stamina which has stuck with me over the years. I once wanted to drop out of a long 19-mile hike that was just a short distance from our cars and it would have been easy for someone to pick me up. Instead, Walter suggested that I sit down and switch my socks from one foot to the other. I questioned what sense that made but went ahead and did it and must say that it helped me to trudge the last 1.5 miles. The first time that I did the Dogwood 50k in 1997, I was having a tough time with blisters and at an aid station I told Walter

that I wanted to drop out. He told me that if I dropped out, he would drop out too which made me change my mind since I didn't want to feel responsible for him not finishing. I somehow managed to finish, blisters and all, and did it again a few years later with much better results.

My most dramatic trail hiking experience with MCM was in March 2001 when I led a hike in Shenandoah National Park. I can't find details of the hike but do remember that my injury occurred on the Bluff Trail. We were a small group of about 6/7 and I remember Liz Kristoferson, John Nethercut, Don Lears, and maybe 2 more people who were with us and it may have been their first hike with the club. We were hiking on the Bluff Trail going slightly downhill and came to a small pine tree that had fallen across the trail. All that was remaining on the tree trunk were small spikes of branches with no foliage. I held on to one of the spikes and lifted my right leg over the trunk and in an instant, the spike broke and my calf came down on another spike and I was flat on my back. I immediately knew that I had a serious injury and could feel something warm on my leg. Fortunately within the next 15 seconds the rest of the group showed up and got to work. John Nethercut had wilderness first aid training, Don Lears had a gauze bandage that was perfect for wrapping around my calf to stop the bleeding, Liz Kristoferson continued to say nice things, and everyone remained calm. Once my puncture wound was wrapped tightly and the bleeding was stopped, we got busy trying to make a phone call from deep in the forest.

My phone was the only one that worked and I was able to reach one of the trail offices along Skyline Drive. I had my PATC map for that area and the park ranger was able to target a location for us to get to where he could get a rescue crew in to meet us and transport me to a location where an ambulance would meet us and get me to a local hospital in Fauquier County. Things went unbelievably well getting me down to where we waited for the rescue crew. They showed up not too long after we arrived with a stretcher that attached to a large tire. The crew including our group was able to easily roll me along the slightly downhill trails without having to carry me. At one point we ran into an Americorp group that had finished up some controlled burning and they took over the stretcher allowing others to take a break. They were a group of young guys from all over the country and smelled like a campfire which was a bonus as far as I was concerned. We eventually made it to an area where an ambulance was waiting. Once we arrived at the hospital, I was given pain medication so the wound could be cleaned and I could be stitched up, both internal and external stitches were done. I recall the Physician's Assistant was a former actor who went into medicine because she got tired of being a starving artist. I don't know how folks got back to their cars, but somehow we did. The first-time hiker drove my car back from the hike to the park and ride at UMBC. I was able to drive myself home which was about 3 miles away and was greeted by my husband who had dinner waiting and it was well after midnight.

I was asked to be president of the MCM in 1998 which was quite a surprise and over the years, I have since learned that an active member will eventually get asked, especially if they have a hard time saying no. Patty Williams assured me that the board ran itself and she was right about that. A lot has changed since I became a member in 1994. The hike schedule has greatly expanded in recent years and meets the varied desires of members. Club leaders have moved the club into the 21st century and yet as hikers we are still able to continue experiencing the outdoors much as it was when the club began. I'll end by sharing my belief that joining the MCM was one the best decisions I ever made and hope to become one of the old timers that is still hiking well into my 80s.



MIKE O'CONNOR

I joined the Mountain Club of Maryland in 1997 after moving here from Delaware, where I had been a member of the Wilmington Trail Club. I was interested in finding a new hiking club in Maryland and was fortunate to learn about MCM. I soon began hiking with the club and remember how welcoming the members were, which helped ease my move to Maryland. Over the years I've had the pleasure of hiking, backpacking, paddling, biking, and working with many wonderful members.

One of the early hikes I remember going on was a moonlight hike to Annapolis Rock led by Wayne Lipscomb and Amanda Greene. I was not familiar with Annapolis Rock at the time but recognized the name Annapolis as the capital of the state. I thought the hike was going to be an evening hike in the capital area, which sounded quite pleasant. I signed up for the hike, met the carpool at the Route 32 park and ride, and we started driving west on Route 70. After a while I wondered where we were going. Well, the hike was obviously not in the capital area but turned out to be a very enjoyable evening hike to Annapolis Rock on the Appalachian Trail where everyone shared a potluck meal.

I began leading hikes around 2001. The club offered a class for new hike leaders at the time, so I decided to sign up. The class, however, was canceled because I was the only one who registered for it. Dorothy Guy, who was president of the club at the time, suggested that I go ahead and lead a hike, which I did. In the beginning, I made some mistakes like losing hikers by failing to wait for everyone to catch up at trail junctions. But I quickly learned to wait for the sweep before proceeding. I have always enjoyed leading hikes. The hikers always show their appreciation for the hike and, as hike leader, I get to set the pace and not have to worry about keeping up with faster hikers.

I got involved with the club council in 2003 when Duncan Crawford, the club president, asked me to chair a committee to find candidates for the 2004 election of officers. Several excellent candidates ran for open positions that year including Tede Fleming who became the new club president. I later served as president following Tede's term. While serving on the club council I learned a lot about our special role as an A.T. maintaining club and our partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the National Park Service, state and local agencies, and other regional A.T. maintaining clubs. This year marks 90 years that MCM has been an A.T. maintaining club.

I continue to work on the A.T. as a boundary monitor in Pennsylvania and a trail maintainer in Maryland, which I really enjoy. When working on my assigned trail section in Maryland, I especially like meeting and talking to A.T. hikers as they pass through Maryland. Many of these hikers thank us for maintaining the trail, which is always nice to hear.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming MCM 90th Anniversary Celebration in September.

GARY A. REINOEHL

I retired from Amtrak on January 6, 2009. Before I realized that I would be busier in retirement than when I was working, I began looking for things to do. As luck would have it, I picked up a Mountain Club of Maryland brochure, joined the club, and took my first hike on March 25, 2009. It was a 7-mile hike with Monica Fortner in Dickinson Park in Columbia. Quickly I realized how out of shape I was. Before too long, my wife, Justine, became a member and is still going strong.

I went on every hike that I could fit in my increasing busy schedule, became fit, and lost 10 pounds in about a month. Before the end of the year, I was leading all lengths of hikes. I soon came to realize that leading history hikes was my thing. I would research the history of an area, find their historic sites, develop a sound-bite script, and lead the hike with brief informative stops. Some of the most popular hikes were Ellicott City, Savage, Patapsco Valley, Oakland Manor, and Belmont Manor. In all I had about 45 historical hikes. Thanks to MCM I became a history enthusiast. I am still leading and hiking, mostly on Leisure hikes.

For me, the most enjoyable aspect of the club is the interaction with other hikers. Almost every hike produced a new friend and a story about a new place to travel. Justine and I have been to every state and 63 countries since joining the club, many of them locations that we found out about from fellow hikers. Some of the side benefits of the club were learning to maintain trails and to build shelters, privies, and trails. The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center is currently benefiting from the skills that Justine and I learned.

MCM is also where we met paddlers and were welcomed into the Gunk Hole Gang, a kayak club that paddles in streams and rivers all over the region. In addition to hiking across the Bay Bridge numerous times, I got to paddle across the Chesapeake Bay and back.

BILL SAUNDERS

In 2011 I was starting to plan for retirement from my federal job within the next few years. I thought hiking would be an activity that I would enjoy and that would help me stay in shape, so I joined the Mountain Club and another local hiking club and hiked with both of them occasionally. I quickly found that MCM offered a much larger selection of hikes and more comradery--MCM became my choice for hiking. The following spring, I was on a hike with Peter Johnson and he announced that he was looking for a volunteer to fill a vacant seat on the MCM Council. I told him I would be willing if no one else volunteered--and so I became a member of the Council. A few months later while serving on a work crew at the Darlington Shelter, Peter (now the new club president) was looking for someone to take over his role as Shelters Supervisor. I told him I was willing to do the job if no one else volunteered—and I've been the Shelters Supervisor ever since. In 2014 I was asked to take the lead in recruiting candidates to fill the leadership positions for the spring election. I could not find anyone willing to volunteer to serve as president, so I just decided to fill the position myself. That's how it all started for me. In 2016, during my first term as MCM president, I attended a meeting of the MARPC (the committee of Appalachian Trail clubs in the mid-Atlantic region). They were looking for someone to fill the committee secretary position—and well, you can guess what happened; I've been the committee secretary for 8 years.

In the last 13 years I've served as president twice, I have been the Shelters Supervisor for 12 years, the MARPC secretary for 8 years, I have led more than 370 hikes, and I have hiked between 1000 and 1500 miles every year. I was a Trail maintainer for a section of the A.T. in PA for about five years, and now I volunteer as a boundary monitor for a section of the A.T. I've enjoyed every day and every mile. Hiking twice a week helps keep me healthy, and I've developed strong friendships with colleagues in the Mountain Club.

When I try to think of specific moments or highlights related to my time with the Mountain Club, it is hard for me to think of specific events that rise above the rest. There are just a lot of pleasant memories, and I look forward to many more in the future.

I do remember some occasions when I first joined the club, when I signed up for some very hard hikes for the first time (Jim Koury's Appalachian Trail hikes come to mind, as well as Bob's Hill), and I struggled to keep up. By the end of each of those hikes I was exhausted and very sore. The next time those hikes were offered on the schedule, I signed up with some foreboding because I remembered how difficult it had been to finish them. But lo and behold—the hikes were easier the second time around!

One memory that is very distinct—but not a pleasant one—is a hike I led a couple of years ago in Caledonia State Park in PA. The weather called for storms arriving after 2 p.m., so I promised to finish the hike by then. Well, at noon we were having lunch at the Long Pine Reservoir when suddenly a black cloud covered the sky and there were rumbles of thunder. We packed up hurriedly and hiked toward Caledonia (more than three miles away), but within minutes there was torrential rain and lightning flashing all around us. I was very worried about the safety of our hikers, and I thought about three choices: (1) get off the trail into the woods, have everyone hunker down in the lowest spot we could find, and endure the pouring rain till the storm passed; (2) stash our hiking poles in the woods to reduce the amount of metal we were carrying (I would have had to retrieve the poles later, of course); or (3) keep hiking as fast as we could and try to get back to shelter at the park. I chose the third option. By the time we got back to the park, the storm had passed and everyone was ready to continue hiking.

But I still worry about what could have happened and reflect on whether I would choose a different option if it ever happens again.

I have more pleasant recollections about the construction of a new moldering privy at the Alec Kennedy shelter on the A.T. in Pennsylvania—which was a year-long activity, not a single event. I spent the previous winter looking at on-line plans for privies, and I looked at some existing privies on the Trail, then came up with a design that made sense based on my experience as Shelter Supervisor. But I'd never built anything this large, and I worried a lot about it. An MCM work crew went up there every month from March through September—hauling in all the materials, digging post holes through the rocks, then building the structure from the support framework up to the roof, building a wheelchair ramp, staining, etc. Plus, in many months a smaller group would go up again to continue work in between the work crews. The night before the work trips, I usually lay awake thinking about what things might go wrong and how to deal with them. Seven years later, the privy looks and works fine, and I'm proud of what we all built; but that whole year-long effort is memorable to me.

What have I enjoyed most about MCM—the exercise, scenery, the collegiality, the friendships, the satisfaction of accomplishment? It's all of them. I've watched the club membership grow from 800 individual members in 2012 to more than 1100 now, and that is satisfying evidence that we offer a good program.

The wide range of hike difficulty levels allows members to keep hiking as they age, and I look forward to taking advantage of those less difficult levels myself as I get older. In the last couple of years, we've added a popular Meetup hiking program and a very popular Moderate Plus level of hikes on Wednesdays—these types of adaptations are part of what makes MCM a successful and growing club.



Volunteering at Howard County Conservancy, March 2015: Bob Grossman, Bill Saunders, Gary Reinohill, Keith Kuhlmeier

JERRY WRIGHT

I joined MCM shortly after moving to the Baltimore area in 1999, specifically because it was doing trail maintenance on the Appalachian Trail. I had started taking 2-week long volunteer vacations working on trails in wilderness areas with the US Forest Service about 12 years earlier and this was an opportunity to do some work locally. I could leave for a day, drive to a work location, and be home in the evening. The majority of trail maintenance is rearranging local materials so the final product does not look like it has been constructed; the trail just belongs at that location.

In the early 2000s, the major relocation projects were finished and work became more focused on rehabilitating worn and eroded sections. The large rehab projects, such as Hawk Rock stairs rebuild, were beyond the available volunteer resources to do in a timely manner; the ATC mid-Atlantic crew was brought in for weeks to handle that project.

About 11 years ago I was offered the position of trail supervisor and decided to accept as I was then newly retired and would have time to adequately organize crews. There's a lot more going on behind the scenes to get a crew in the field than most people realize. The days of large crews working on long sections of trail for a day had become the thing of the past. Much routine maintenance could be done by small crews of 1 or 2 people helping a specific section maintainer. It became apparent to keep MCM trail crews active, we had to switch to more technical skilled projects such as movement and rearrangement of multi-ton boulders to clear up problems spots.

One very wet year exposed a lot of poor drainage places that became permanent mud holes. We put down puncheon at these locations which involved organizing the purchase of 7 tons of materials from 3 vendors to be delivered at 5 project locations in 2 states. Getting hikers out of the muck in wet weather allowed the ground to heal and produce vegetation. Now when you hike the trail in dry weather, you wonder why the puncheon is there. Without it, you'd be calf deep in mud. The most recent major project brought together all the skills the crew had been learning over the previous year plus added a few more to the mix. This was the relocation and replacement of the footbridge at Tagg Run in Micheaux SF in PA. The new bridge is 38 feet long, constructed from white oak timber felled and milled on location. This involved a lot of rock drilling, breaking and shaping to make the abutment foundations, grip-hoist work to move the stones into place, chainsaw milling to make deck and railing boards and relocating the trail to meet the new location.

The attached photos are before and two years after puncheon same location 300 feet north of Hunters Run trailhead parking in PA.

