Steam Trains Converge

While steam trains yielded to more efficient diesel locomotives in the early 1950’s, the mighty "iron horses" have been enjoying a resurgence of attention in the Upper Delaware River Valley through recent activities and historical accounts.

X This past autumn brought the return of the "Iron Horse Rambles" to Port Jervis (see above), showcasing the tourism catalyst potential of the city’s restored electric turntable.

X 1998 marked the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Delaware Division of the Erie Railroad (now Conrail and soon to be Norfolk Southern). National Park Service Historian Mary Curtis recounts the tale of the "Old Weary Erie" - with all its controversies, characters, innovations, and disasters - in the Fall ’98 issue of Kaatskill Life magazine.

X Did D & H Canal Co. officials conspire to cover up the alleged explosion on July 26, 1829 of the first steam train tested in the U.S., preceding Honesdale’s famous "Stourbridge Lion"? So suggest John Demos and Robert Thayer in "The Case of the Vanishing Locomotive," claiming to discover the mysterious fate of "The America" (American Heritage, October 1998).
Representative Profile: John S. McKay

With a strong family stake in the Upper Delaware River corridor dating back to the 1840's, Upper Delaware Council (UDC) 1999 Vice-Chair John S. McKay feels compelled to get involved.

He has served on the Lackawaxen Township Board of Supervisors since 1988 and sat for 10 years prior to that on the Township’s Planning Commission.

McKay joined the UDC in late 1988 as an alternate, took over as Lackawaxen’s representative in 1994, and filled the role of Council vice-chair in 1995.

“I believe in service to your community. I also have a vested interest to keep abreast of issues,” he says.

The vested interest McKay acknowledges stems from his multiple, ambitious business endeavors.

His Own Boss

A nationally certified tree farmer, McKay maintains 1,150 acres of wooded property, including two miles of Delaware River frontage - around the village of Mast Hope. He and his wife, Jane, are the proprietors of the Sylvania Tree Farm Guest Cottages. Under the banner of McKay Enterprises (also his www.com address), John has designed and built several log cabins and Adirondack-style homes and cottages for purchase or rent. Logging, timber harvesting, and bluestone quarrying are also in his self-employed repertoire.

McKay, 45, grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland. His family vacationed at Mast Hope and, while he was in college, McKay found summer work at nearby Camp Colang. He recalls his time at the camp as an apprenticeship for his later building endeavors.

Since McKay’s great-great-grandfather, James Salden, had a large hand in creating the community of Mast Hope, it was natural that McKay would settle there to carry on the legacy of stewardship.

Call of the Wild

That came after his 1976 graduation from Georgetown University, where he concentrated on Liberal Arts and French Language. He considered a career in law or architecture, but the natural beauty and recreation potential of Mast Hope beckoned.

After a brief stint working at the Library of Congress in Washington, McKay moved with his wife Jane to the family property at Mast Hope in 1978. His first job as a full-time resident was with the Pike County Historical Survey project. A 13-volume, illustrated collection was ultimately published under the supervision of Pike County Historian George Flihr.

McKay focused on the development of Sylvania Tree Farm (poetically, “Sylvan” is a spirit of the forest) and his wood products business through the mid-80’s.

In rehabilitating some dilapidated structures on the family estate, McKay then became interested in custom home construction. His design ideas often come from local architecture in the Delaware Valley, with rustic touches such as wide plank wood, floors and bluestone fireplaces. McKay prides himself on building structures that fit their surroundings both architecturally and in their relation to the landscape.

John, Jane, and their three children - Nicholas, 12; David, 10; and Elizabeth, 7 - live in a converted, former one-room schoolhouse situated near their five year-round guest cottages.

UDC Balances Interests

Along with his responsibilities to his family, businesses, and township, McKay sees a definite benefit to Lackawaxen’s participation in the Upper Delaware Council.

“The board we have right now is certainly of a mind that this coalition is our best opportunity to balance the interest of the federal government with home rule. It’s a good arrangement and it’s worked out well,” he says.

McKay believes that the framers of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, those members of the Conference of Upper Delaware Townships (COUP), lay the solid foundation from which all successes of the UDC have sprung.

“The people involved in COUP are the ones that really did the work. They were the real watchdogs. They’re the ones who deserve the credit,” McKay says.

John S. McKay, Lackawaxen Township resident was with the Pike County Historical Survey project. A 13-volume, illustrated collection was ultimately published under the supervision of Pike County Historian George Flihr.

McKay focused on the development of Sylvania Tree Farm (poetically, “Sylvan” is...
D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad: A Coal Mine or a Gold Mine?

By Lori Danuff McKean
D & H Trek Coordinator

Though the D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad hasn't been used for its original purpose of hauling coal from Carbondale, Pa., to the Hudson River at Kingston, N.Y., in 100 years, it is actually alive and well, according to an adventurous group of supporters who recently traveled the entire length by bicycle.

Participants in the "Coalfields to Tidewater" Centennial Trek, held October 9-12, 1998 and organized by the D & H Transportation Heritage Council, were treated to the 'sites' and sounds of this remarkable engineering wonder as they recaptured the spirit of the D & H Canal and Gravity Railroad's heyday.

In completing this journey, they accomplished two things.

First, they delivered a piece of coal - the first to travel the route in 100 years - from Carbondale to Kingston, a symbolic gesture that commemorated the important role the canal had, not just in shaping the communities along the way, but the nation's industrial era.

Second - and perhaps more importantly - the trek refocused attention from the demise of the D & H to the future of the canal and gravity railroad as a viable cultural and historic resource.

Indeed, photographs, maps and extensive field notes were taken throughout the trek. Gene Woock, a natural resources specialist with the National Park Service in Philadelphia, accompanied the trekkers to do a visual inventory and assessment of the archaeological, cultural, historical, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities of the entire D & H Canal and Gravity Railroad corridor.

This inventory will lead to a series of corridor plans that will identify all outstanding features with a focus on preservation, interpretation, and signage.

"What struck me while we were on the trek was the enormous amount of people spending their time and money preserving and interpreting their small sections of the corridor," said Woock. "What we need to be able to do is tell the whole story no matter where somebody comes into the corridor. We want the story to flow through the canal just as the water did."

"There's a lot of disconnection now," he added. "If somebody wanted to drive, hike or bike through there now, they would not be able to get the whole picture."

In the Upper Delaware River corridor, this could spell economic opportunity and ecotourism possibilities in communities that are struggling to survive. Public access to towpath and canal remnants already exists in such communities as Lackawaxen, Minisink Ford, and Pond Eddy. Just beyond the river corridor boundaries, canal communities like Hawley and Honesdale could benefit greatly from a D&H Canal tourism promotion. And the National Park Service has already made tremendous strides toward preserving the famous Roebling Aqueduct and with interpretation of the Old Mongaup Village remnants.

Can "Adaptive Re-use" Work Here?

There is no question: The D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad is an educational, historical, cultural, and natural resource in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

All along the trek route, communities, organizations, and individuals welcomed us with open arms. From marching bands to homemade chocolate chip cookies, contributions along the way demonstrated the depth of commitment and desire to hold onto a piece of our history, indeed, to use this history as the cornerstone for our future.

Dedicated and enthusiastic people live and work in communities from the coalfields to the tidewater. Historical societies recognize the importance of the canal and work tirelessly to share their knowledge with residents and visitors. Individuals who purchased locktender cottages and property with sections of the towpath have painstakingly restored their private homes and maintained their yards to preserve their little piece of history. Great-granddaughters of canal boat owners and great-grandsons of canal boat builders enthusiastically shared a fading photograph or some other memorabilia that had been tucked away for years among family treasures.

What we learned - and want to share - is that sometimes we don't have to build or create something new to improve our world. We don't always need a gimmick or...
Nominations Sought for UDC Awards Banquet

Do you know of an individual, group, municipality, or government agency which made a notable contribution to conservation of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River or the general quality of life in the river valley during 1998?

The Upper Delaware Council wants to hear about them!

Nominations are being accepted for the UDC's 11th Annual Awards Banquet. While the date and location of this popular event were tentative at the time of this publication, the dinner has traditionally been held on a Sunday afternoon in April. In 1999, the host facility rotates to Pennsylvania. Press releases and invitations will be issued as plans are finalized.

The UDC will present competitive awards in nine categories, as follows:

**Distinguished Service** - to an individual who has acted with distinction in support of the goals and objectives of the River Management Plan.

**Community Service** - to a person, community or group that took direct action to protect the river corridor and its resources.

**Robin Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award** - given when applicable to individuals or organizations whose heroic actions saved life or lives in the past year.

**Cultural Achievement** - to a person or organization whose work enhanced, interpreted, or promoted the Upper Delaware's cultural resources.

**Outstanding Community Achievement** - to the town, township, or county which acted to protect the river corridor.

**Recreation Achievement** - to an organization which made an outstanding effort to educate river users, or contributed to river safety and management.

**Partnership Award** - to a government agency for instituting new programs or policies in support of the River Management Plan and its efforts.

**Volunteer Award** - to individuals or organizations who donated their time and energy to enhance the corridor's quality of life or conservation.

**Award of Recognition** - to individuals who have made significant contributions to improving the river valley's communities and resources.

To submit a nomination for consideration, obtain a list of past recipients or be placed on the invitation mailing list, contact UDC Public Relations Specialist Laurie Ramie at (914) 252-3022.

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Eagle Observers Ready for Winter

The Eagle Institute is currently seeking volunteers for its winter eagle monitoring and education programs, according to Lori McKean, executive director.

Dedicated to the protection of the bald eagle and conservation of the eagle's habitat, this new, not-for-profit organization will be providing slide presentations, guided habitat field trips, children's programs in area schools, and a volunteer monitoring and interpretive winter program through mid-March.

In addition, brochures will be made available throughout the Delaware River and Mid-Hudson Valleys to teach proper eagle viewing etiquette and to help make sure eagle viewing is conducted in the least intrusive and safest manner.

In recent years more than 100 bald eagles have been known to migrate to this region in winter in search of open water, fresh fish, and undisturbed stands of trees where they can safely perch and roost. Most eagles leave the area by mid-March, heading back to their breeding territories north of here and in Canada. However, the breeding population in this region continues to grow every year, with more eagles staying and building nests.

Eagle Institute volunteers are stationed at sites such as the Delaware River at the confluence of the Lackawaxen River and at the eagle observation blind on County Road 42 in Forestburgh, NY. If possible, the organization would like to have enough volunteers to staff other viewing locations along the Upper Delaware River and at various reservoirs.

The volunteers collect data about the eagles and the visitors that can help shape future planning and policy decisions. Volunteers also can help give guided tours, provide programs, and staff the field office located in Lackawaxen, Pa., near the Roebling Bridge.

Since its incorporation in January 1998, the Eagle Institute has worked diligently toward establishing a presence in the region. An Advisory Board made up of representatives of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, National Park Service, Upper Delaware Council, and others helps to guide the decision-making and provide technical expertise and input.

"We have received tremendous support from all those who share our common philosophy and goals," said McKean. "For example, the National Park Service is providing office and meeting space for the Institute; the DEC is helping with insurance and data processing; Orange & Rockland Utilities gave us funds to purchase binoculars and spotting scopes; Sullivan County provided the means to print a brochure and a grant for start-up costs; IBM is contributing a computer; and the Upper Delaware Council is providing money for an educational pamphlet [through the Technical Assistance Grant program]."

For information on volunteering, becoming a member, or contributing to The Eagle Institute, call (914) 557-6162, write to P.O. Box 182, Barryville, NY 12719, or e-mail at eagleinstitute@yahoo.com.
Heritage Thrives
In Upper Delaware

If the remarkable coincidence of historic anniversaries collected under the banner of "Celebrate '98" revealed anything about the Upper Delaware Valley over the past year, it's that residents are eager to pay tribute to the past.

Emily Paulsen, president of the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance which provided invaluable assistance in promoting the wealth of "Celebrate '98" events in its five-county NY and PA region, believes that the enthusiasm doesn't have to end with the new year.

She encouraged the 80 guests present at the Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance's (UDHA) Awards Dinner held October 4 in Eldred, NY to keep the momentum going.

"What we do is contagious. The more we do, the more that happens. Our impact is a lot bigger than this room," she said.

Gathered together were representatives of historic societies, creative arts, government, business, UDHA members, and well-wishers to applaud the often overlooked efforts to enhance appreciation of the Upper Delaware's heritage.

For the second year, the UDHA also presented the Tom Hill Award for Excellence in Public Service in honor of the late Town of Lumberland Supervisor and Upper Delaware Council (UDC) representative. The award is reserved for elected officials or governments, agencies, and employees.

Fellow UDC representative, Mr. Larry Richardson of the Town of Cochecton, received the award thanks to a heartfelt nomination from his teenage daughter.

Fifteen-year-old Erin Richardson detailed her father's service to his community and church. He's a Councilman and Deputy Supervisor for Cochecton, a former Planning Board member, treasurer of the Cochecton Preservation Society, member of the Cochecton Democratic Club, and a 1993 chairperson of the UDC.

She also spoke of her father's respect and admiration for the "humorous, modest ...go-getter" that the Public Service Award memorializes.

"Although Tom Hill is a tough act to follow, the parallels are clear: I see honesty, integrity, and good will," Erin wrote.

Special recognition for "Celebrate '98" coordination efforts went to the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River's planning team, the Wayne County Historical Society, and the Bicentennial Committees in Deerpark and Lumberland.

Heritage publications were cited in their own category as well, with kudos to the creators of the "Lackawaxen Township 200th Anniversary" book (Bicentennial Commission and Stuart Communications) and "The History of Wayne County: 1798-1998," edited by Kurt Reid, Dr. Walter Barbe and Ann O'Hara.

The Merit Award for an individual went to author and heritage activist Peggy Bancroft, and to the spirited Waymart Historical Society as an organization.

Certificates of Recognition were presented to: "History Alive" re-enactor Rich Pawling; the Damascus Heritage Barn Project; the 65-year-old active Callicoon Center Band; Historic Honesdale for achieving a National Register designation; Wayne County Chamber of Commerce for its Stourbridge Line Railroad Excursions; National Park Service Maintenance staff for restoration of the Corwin Barn at the South District Ranger Office; and to the Gillinder Brothers Glass Museum in Port Jervis. UDHA 1996-98 Past President Jayne Murray received the Alliance's Service Award.

For UDHA information, call President Emily Paulsen at (717) 729-8682.
Upper Delaware River Profiled
In PA 'State of the Rivers' Report

The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River was among 10 waterways selected by the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) to highlight in its "1998 State of the Rivers Report," released on Nov. 7.

The Upper Delaware Council submitted the nomination to POWR, a five-year-old organization devoted to the protection, sound management, and enhancement of the Commonwealth's water resources.

POWR's report brings state-wide recognition to the efforts to address pressures and threats that are common to many Pennsylvania waterways.

In addition to the Upper Delaware, the nine other selected entries are the Upper Susquehanna/Lackawanna River, Youghiogheny River, Benett Branch Sinnemahoning Creek, Big and Little Elk Creeks, Loyalhanna Creek, French Creek, Tobyhanna Creek, Ridley Creek, and Turtle Creek.

The "1998 State of the Rivers Report" is being circulated to PA watershed associations, conservation organizations, legislators, agencies, and media.

The Upper Delaware River's entry describes the river segment's PA-NY border location, its federally-protected status, the "unspoiled natural area," and diverse recreational opportunities.

"Because the region possesses such a variety of interests and the vast majority of the land is in private ownership, the management plan for the Upper Delaware is quite different from those which guide other systems that are managed by the National Park Service under the Scenic Rivers designation," the report states.

"The Upper Delaware was actually the first river in the country to be managed through a real partnership among federal, state and local governments. The challenge of this plan is to find effective applications of the partnerships that protect the resources of the corridor yet at the same time protect interests of the many stakeholders and private property owners."

Eel Advisory Lifted
State officials responsible for monitoring Pennsylvania waterways and protecting public health have lifted a fish consumption advisory for American eel caught in the Delaware River in Wayne County near the New York border.

The "Do Not Eat" advisory, originally issued in 1995, has been discontinued in 1999, according to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Samples of the fish taken over the past two years have shown that the eels in this area no longer exceed federal Food and Drug Administration guidelines for chlor dane.

Anglers should properly clean, skin, and trim any fish they catch to reduce their exposure to contaminants. When preparing fish, remove the skin before cooking. Trim the fat and broil or grill the fish to allow any fat to drip away. Juices and fats that cook out of the fish should not be eaten or reused for cooking other foods.

To the Upper Delaware Council:

After growing up near Narrowsburg, within a mile of the Delaware River and spending many hours swimming in it, this remains as a special remembrance for me. We lived next door to our Grandfather's house, on the New York State side. His mother and our Great-Grandmother, Kathryn Dexter, lived directly across the river on the Pennsylvania side, in the house which now belongs to Barbara Yeaman.

When the river was frozen solid, our Grandfather would take my sister Jean and myself for a walk across it, to visit that lady. It must have been solid, because no one seemed at all concerned about it being unsafe.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marie F. Smith
Medford, NY

Winter 1998-99

Contributed By Our Readers

ICED OVER IN NOVEMBER

A pantoum by Eileen Pagan,
Sackett Lake, Forestburgh, NY

This year the rippling pond went by halves
One day one eye closed
Next morning both lids shut
A horizontal angel off to sleep

One day one eye closed
Dreamland from turtle island north
A horizontal angel off to sleep
The southern surface swift to join

Dreamland from turtle island north
Two big sweeps, not troubled by fits and starts
The southern surface swift to join
One spirit keen for its next stage

Two big sweeps, not troubled by fits and starts
Not like other years, tossing for weeks
One spirit keen for its next stage
Indulged in winter reverie

The Upper Delaware

Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers

Not like other years, tossing for weeks
Next morning both lids shut
Indulged in winter reverie
This year the rippling pond went by halves
UDC Quiz: Test Your Acronym Acumen

Keeping up with the business of the Upper Delaware Council can be an outright challenge for the acronym-impaired. The phrase “alphabet soup” often has merit when our members are in the throes of discussing programs, agencies, regulations, organizations, and anything else that can be reduced to a few convenient letters.

Congratulations to all who ace this quiz. Success means you’re officially one of us.

| ACM | ASMFC | CAC | COUP | D&H | DEC | DEP | DEWA | DCNR | DOI | DOT | DRBF&W | DRG | DVAA | EDCNP | EIS | EPA | FERC | FMTAC | FOI | FY | ILA | IWSCRCC | LEPC | NAWQA | NCSP | NEPA | NPS | NS | OGS | PEC | PEEC | PFBC | PFD | PGC | PMVB | POWR | PR | RMP | SCWQCC | SEQRA | SHPO | SPDES | TAG | TEA-21 | TPA | TU | UDC | UDHA | UDS&RR | UPDE | USGS | VIP | WRA | WU/RM | ZBA |
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| And the Full Names Are . . . |
| A - American Canoe Association; Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission |
| C - Citizens Advisory Council; Conference Of Upper Delaware Townships |
| D - Delaware & Hudson Canal; Department of Environmental Conservation (New York); Department of Environmental Protection (Pennsylvania); Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA); Department of the Interior; Department Of Transportation (PennDOT and NY); Delaware River Basin Commission; Delaware River Basin Fish & Wildlife Cooperative Fisheries Technical Committee; Delaware River Greenway; Delaware Valley Arts Alliance |
| E - Economic Development Council of Northeast Pennsylvania; Environmental Impact Statement; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| F - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Flow Management Technical Advisory Committee; Freedom Of Information; Fiscal Year |
| I - Independent Landholders Association; Interagency Wild & Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council |
| L - Local Emergency Planning Committee |
| N - National Water-Quality Assessment; National Canoe Safety Patrol; NorthEastern Pennsylvania; National Park Service; Norfolk Southern (railroad corporation) |
| O - Office of General Services |
| P - Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Pocono Environmental Education Center; Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; Personal Flotation Device; Pennsylvania Game Commission; Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau; Pennsylvania Organization of Watersheds and Rivers; UDC's Project Review Committee |
| R - River Management Plan |
| S - Sullivan County Water Quality Coordinating Committee; State Environmental Quality Review Act; State Historic Preservation Office; State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| T - Technical Assistance Grant (UDC program); Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; Tourism Promotion Agency; Trout Unlimited |
| U - Upper Delaware Council; Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance; Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River; National Park Service Upper Delaware S & RR; United States Geological Survey |
| V - Volunteers In the Parks |
| W - Water Resources Association; UDC's Water Use/Resource Management Committee |
| Z - Zoning Board of Appeals |

Can we help you to decipher any other Upper Delaware acronyms? Drop us a line!

New Subscribers and Address Changes Welcomed

If you have friends or colleagues who would be interested in receiving our free newsletter, we will be happy to add them to the mailing list. Please also advise us of any address changes to help update our records. Return this notice to the Upper Delaware Council, P.O. Box 192, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, or call (914) 252-3022.

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Check here to be removed from our mailing list.

Winter 1998-99 7 The Upper Delaware
PA Planners Honor Upper Delaware Council

The Pennsylvania Planning Association (PPA) bestowed its "1998 Outstanding Planning Award for Plan Implementation" upon the Upper Delaware Council during the state chapter's Annual Conference in Philadelphia October 6.

The award cites the UDC’s leadership role in carrying out the goals and objectives of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Management Plan.

It lauds the unique partnership of local, state, and federal interests which have worked together since 1988 to protect the resource as well as the rights of the people who live in the river corridor.

Nearly 350 conference participants and guests attended the Awards Luncheon held at Philadelphia’s Doubletree Hotel to recognize the plans, programs, projects, and people that exemplify Pennsylvania planning excellence.

Also honored in major categories were the Lancaster Township Strategic Comprehensive Plan; Montgomery County’s Open Space Program; the public-private Lititz Run Watershed Initiatives; and a University of Pittsburgh graduate student project concerning brownfields redevelopment in Pittsburgh.

For individual achievement, PPA presented Leonard W. Zioikowski, deputy director of the Economic Development Council of Northeast Pennsylvania, with the “Distinguished Service Award to a Professional Planner”; while conferring its “Distinguished Service Award to an Elected Official” to Harrisburg Mayor Stephen R. Reed.

The Upper Delaware Council’s nomination was prepared by Peter Wulfhorst, Pike County Community Planning Director, vice-chair of the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), and first alternate CAC representative to the UDC.

In his capacity as president of the Northeast Section of PPA, Wulfhorst also arranged an October 16 luncheon at the Victoria Inn in Pittston, Pa. to honor the Council and fellow regional award recipient Len Ziockowski.

PPA is a chapter of the American Planning Association.*

"CANAL TREK", continued from Page 3

To learn more about the preservation activities and membership of the D & H Transportation Heritage Council, call Peter Osborne at the Minisink Valley Historical Society, (914) 856-2375, or Sandra Schultz at the National Park Service, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, (717) 729-8251. They can direct you to a contact in your community.

CAROL CONEY, former secretary of the Upper Delaware Council, was promoted to the new position of Office Manager effective October 1998. Ms. Coney, a Narrowsburg resident, has been employed by the Council since May of 1992.*