

# The Upper Delaware

The quarterly newsletter about the environment and people of the Upper Delaware River

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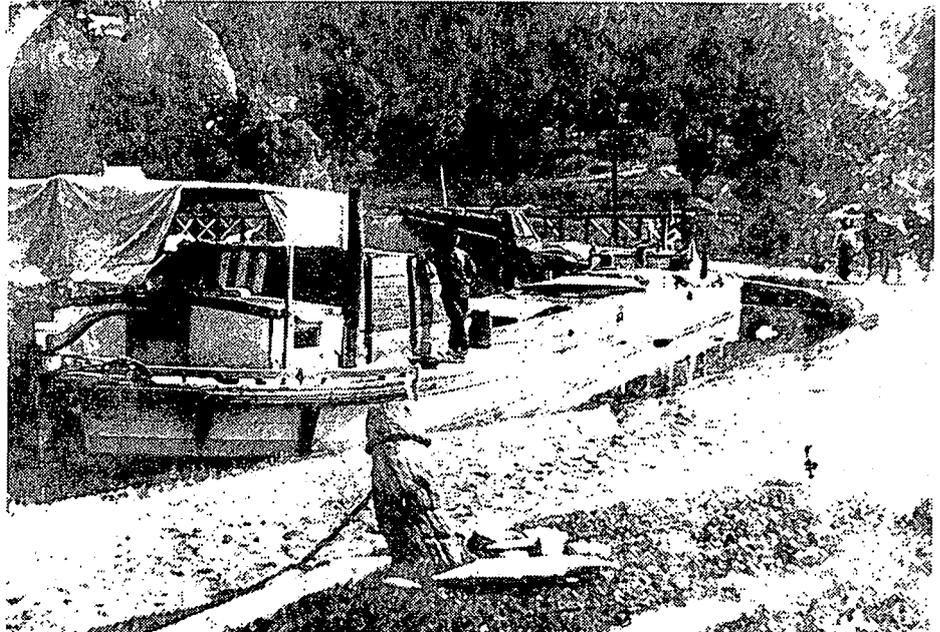
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The Upper Delaware  
welcomes submissions and  
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A canal boat negotiates Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct in Lackawaxen, Pa. in this historic photograph. Two mules are visible at far right. The Delaware & Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad System, which ran from the coal fields of northeastern PA to Hudson River markets in NY, began operations in late 1828 and ended them in 1898, replaced by railroads.

## Symposium and Gala to Mark D & H Canal 100th Anniversary

The country's first million-dollar private enterprise, the Delaware & Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad, will be celebrated with scholarly aplomb and public festivities on Saturday, November 7.

A Symposium and Gala, sponsored by the D & H Transportation Heritage Council, will take place at the Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing in Matamoras, Pa. Registration is limited to the first 160 people for the all-day symposium and 250 for the evening gala ball.

One hundred years ago, on Nov. 5, 1898 specifically, the last canal boat loaded with anthracite coal left Honesdale, PA bound for Rondout, NY, closing the historical chapter on an innovatively engineered transportation system constructed by thousands of laborers from 1825-28.

While its operation became obsolete with the advent of railroads, significant remnants exist along the 108-mile canal

route and the 16-mile gravity railway which pulled coal cars over the Moosic Mountains from Carbondale. In 1968, portions of the D & H Canal were designated as a National Historic Landmark.

"This is an important anniversary and our ultimate goal is to raise public awareness about the D & H sites. We want to protect, preserve, and interpret this resource," said Sandra Schultz, assistant superintendent of the National Park Service's Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and a founding member of the D & H Transportation Heritage Council.

"This is a long-term effort," added Peter Osborne, executive director of the Minisink Valley Historical Society, which is handling the registrations. "We see this as a kick-off for future events."

As a result of the Symposium, the  
Please see "CANAL," Page 7

**Most land along the Upper Delaware River is privately owned. Please be considerate and don't litter or trespass. Thanks!**

## Representative Profile: Harold Roeder, Jr.

As the Town of Delaware's Upper Delaware Council representative, Harold "Hal" G. Roeder, Jr., believes his primary role is to act as "a liaison between the people in the valley and the government."

It's a responsibility that Roeder has taken up seriously since 1997, when he was appointed to the UDC by the Delaware Town Board.

"They knew that I loved to fish, and I loved nature and the outdoors. I had a vested interest in the conservation end of it," Roeder says.

The 58-year-old Hortonville resident has been angling for trout in the Callicoon Creek for four decades, enjoys shooting sporting clays at Catskill Pheasantry in Hancock, and is a member of the Pleasant Valley Hunting Club of Callicoon.

But to simply label Roeder as a sportsman would not do justice to his many other, diverse passions:

First and foremost comes music. Roeder is a classically trained pianist who has pursued this avocation into the realms of education and business.

"I'm a serious musician. My favorite era is Romantic and my joy is Franz Liszt," Roeder says.

He has served as organist for numerous area churches of different faiths, "and I've probably played for more weddings, and unfortunately, funerals, than I care to remember."

Roeder obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Ithaca College in 1962, after graduating from Delaware Valley High School. His family had moved to the Town of Delaware from Queens in 1952, when Harold was 12 years old. Roeder's mother had cousins in the area, and his father had just retired as a Battalion Chief with the New York City Fire Department.

"They wanted to get us out of the city environment and into the country," he says.

Following his college days, Roeder's first full-time job was as a music teacher at Roscoe Central School in Sullivan County. Further education called, and he returned to Ithaca College to get a Master's Degree in Music Performance. Impressed by his skills, the Dean offered Roeder an instructor position there, which he accepted from 1965-68.

In 1960, Roeder had started a part-time local business selling, tuning and repairing pianos and organs. Joined by his father, Roeder's Pianos and Organs was the largest distributor in the Hudson Valley.

In 1968, he had to choose between academia and business. He gave up his job at Ithaca College, sold Roeder's Pianos and Organs, and, in 1988, moved into another direction when he got his real



**Harold G. Roeder, Jr., Town of Delaware, NY** estate license. Four years later, he became an appraiser, and currently operates Roeder's Appraisal Service with his youngest son, Brian.

Roeder and his wife of 38 years, the former Donna Buddenhagen, live today on his folks' property and are the proud parents of three married children and the grandparents of seven, one of whom is deceased.

Oldest son Hal, wed to Mary, owns Buddenhagen's Ford in Hortonville. Daughter Katrina, wed to Todd Rubino, lives in Stone Ridge and is a computer consultant for the Saugerties School District. Brian, an '89 West Point graduate, and his wife Sherryl, live in Hortonville.

In addition to music, Roeder is a self-taught computer whiz and serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Hortonville Fire District.

His role with the Upper Delaware Council gives Roeder an opportunity to exercise his concern for private property rights.

"It's like walking a tightrope between the rights of the individual and the rights of government," he says.

Roeder says his short UDC tenure has already opened his eyes to the many complicated issues facing the Upper Delaware River Valley.

"I've learned a lot since I've been here and I enjoy hearing what's going on up and down the river," he says.

### Fall Foliage Hotline

In the Pocono Mountains region, call (717) 421-5565 or visit the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau's web site for updates at [www.poconos.org](http://www.poconos.org)

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The Upper Delaware is a free quarterly publication of the Upper Delaware Council, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization composed of member governments from New York and Pennsylvania directly affected by the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

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Six past chairpersons of the Upper Delaware Council attended the 10th Anniversary Reunion Picnic that followed the UDC's Annual Raft Trip on July 11 at the Lackawaxen Firemen's Field. Pictured from the left are: George Frosch of Hancock (1995); Ed DeFebo of Lackawaxen (1990); Phil Fitzpatrick of Westfall (1988); Frank Hartmann of Deerpark (1989); current 1998 Chair Al Bowers of Westfall; and Lew Schmalze of Highland (1996). Eighty-nine picnic guests enjoyed a chicken barbecue and the unveiling of a UDC history scrapbook. (Soete photo)

### Citation Honoring Upper Delaware Council's 10th Anniversary

WHEREAS, the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. is the oversight body responsible for the coordinated implementation of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, a Congressionally-designated component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System since 1978; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Delaware Council was incorporated on February 18, 1968 as a not-for-profit organization to act as the primary entity through which local, State and federal agencies resolve their differences and agree upon joint actions affecting the river valley; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 189, which was signed on March 22, 1993 and remains in effect today, directs all New York State agencies to act consistently with the policies of the River Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the unique, working partnership between the eleven member towns and townships, the State of New York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the National Park Service nurtured throughout the past decade to protect and conserve the resources of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River has been nationally recognized and emulated.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **George E. Pataki**, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby cite the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. for achieving a decade of advocacy on behalf of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, aiding in the preservation of this environmental treasure for future generations.  
 June 15, 1998, State of New York Executive Chamber



A record-breaking 133 people, including 21 kids under age 12, participated in the UDC's Raft Trip, completing an exciting 10-miles from Ten Mile River Access to Lander's Minisink Base in record time as well, due to high water levels, wind, and a swift current. (Ramie photo)

### Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the Governor Harrisburg

TO: The Upper Delaware Council

It gives me great pleasure to extend my deepest congratulations as you celebrate your 10th anniversary.

Conservation and appreciation of our river environments represent concepts of enduring consequence.

Our Pennsylvania Constitution states, "The people have a right to clean air, pure water and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment."

Through protective and innovative actions such as the Upper Delaware Council, Pennsylvanians join with one another to promote the conservation and revitalization of these precious water resources.

As Pennsylvanians, we experience the majestic beauty and the overwhelming benevolence of our Commonwealth's natural resources every day. These precious natural treasures are so sacred that our Commonwealth's Constitution has entrusted us with the timeless responsibility of ensuring their protection.

Your selfless efforts to fulfill this promise is indicative of your personal commitment to preserving the magnificence of Pennsylvania.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I commend you and extend my sincerest thanks for your tremendous efforts to promote environmental awareness, protection and responsibility throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

*Tom Ridge*, July 1998

*The Upper Delaware*

# National Park Service Rangers Aim to Educate and Protect

In the unique realm of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, National Park Service protection rangers strap on their Stetsons and sidearms each day with 50-50 odds of being appreciated or cursed by the public they serve.

The wrongdoers sneer. The rescued cheer. Sometimes, one leads to the other.

Detractors grumble about "Big Brother" surreptitiously watching them through binoculars, ready to pounce. Those who benefit from the rangers' assistance - from answering questions to saving lives - are grateful that they're here.

In traditional national parks, the authority of protection rangers acting as agents of the U.S. Department of the Interior is clearly delineated in the Code of Federal Regulations. In the Upper Delaware unit of the National Park System, where more than 85 percent of the property remains privately owned, the 1978 Congressional enabling legislation and River Management Plan limit the federal presence and local jurisdiction (*see accompanying box on Page 5*).

Try explaining all of that to a visitor approached by a uniformed and gun-toting, albeit friendly, ranger on patrol.

"A common misperception is that because they have defensive gear on, their main job is to crush crime," says Cal Hite, superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. "That's really a pretty small part of what they do. There are far more verbal contacts and written warnings issued than citations."

"Their primary role is to help educate people and help them to have a safe visit. When the contact is initially made, under normal circumstances, the frame of mind should be one of sharing information and finding out what they can about the visitor to make his or her experience more enjoyable. The attitude of that ranger is what makes or breaks us in terms of the image we're trying to project to the public," Hite adds.

Starting with the mandatory 11-week academy for NPS protection rangers at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Ga., to the required annual recertifications, physical fitness tests and health screenings, off-site refresher courses, and frequent local Park unit drills and exercises, training "heavily emphasizes both law enforcement and people skills," according to Hite.



Ranger Ralph Huebner Radloes Dispatch

In order to be an effective Ranger, the Superintendent cites three 'musts'.

"You have to have a good knowledge of the regulations, the resource, and your visitor patterns and profiles, which you gain with experience," he says.

#### Ride-along Reveals Diverse Duties

Two of those experienced, front-line rangers on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River staff agreed to be accompanied on their patrols during a typical summer weekend and share their thoughts on their occupation.

Ranger Ralph Huebner, who logged 20 years as a New York State Trooper before joining NPS as a seasonal employee in 1985, and Ranger Cliff Daniels, former Town of Highland Chief Constable who also began work seasonally in 1981, have received numerous commendations for job performance and lifesaving efforts. They also share specialized teaching duties as firearms instructors who designed their own confidence course and certified NYS DEC Hunter Safety instructors.

Huebner is assigned to the South District Ranger Office, headquartered on Route 97 just south of Barryville, NY; Daniels works out of the North District Ranger Office in Milanville, Pa. Within the boundaries of the 73.4-mile river corridor, the landmark that divides the two districts is the Narrowsburg Bridge.

Rangers patrol by road and river, generally selecting their territories based on individual familiarity and expertise, when not carrying out specific assignments.

Their duties are decidedly diverse.

During his 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. shift on Saturday, August 22, Huebner spent time at the Roebling Bridge, responding to a vehicle build-up caused by a yard sale (he's the NPS traffic safety coordinator), checking the electronic traffic counter that he designed, glancing in the porta-john to assure it was serviced, and operating the radar gun to monitor speeds above the 15 mph posted limit (two warnings issued for 31 mph each in 33 minutes).

He looked at boat trailer inspection stickers in the Zane Grey Access parking lot; stopped at the Highland DEC Access; checked the security of an NPS-leased boat garage in Shohola; patrolled Ten Mile River Access; observed river activity from the South District deck and issued verbal warnings about children under 12 lacking life jackets; did a foot patrol at the undeveloped Mongaup Access site; advised two boys against fishing off the Pond Eddy Bridge ("If I let you cute little guys do it, I'd have to let some big, ugly guy do it too," he explained); set out flares and radioed NPS Dispatch to call a garage on behalf of a 1962 Buick Convertible motorist who'd run out of gas on Route 97; and monitored river activity near Masthope which included a snorkeling spearfisherman. His day ended with an hour of paperwork and reading.

Huebner, 61, says that while the authority he holds as a Park Ranger differs from his Trooper days, many similarities exist.

"Law enforcement has become a very highly skilled occupation, and one thing the Park Service believes in is training. Irregardless, a police officer's job is 98% common sense. You're always dealing with people. My philosophy is to treat people like ladies and gentlemen until they prove they don't want to be. You pick up by experience how to handle a situation. Going into a panic mode is not acceptable," Huebner says.

The Narrowsburg native welcomed federal protection interests in the Upper Delaware in the late 1970's.

"The only time we [NYSP] had for the Delaware River was if we got a complaint or if there was a drowning. As far as I was concerned, the Park Service was the best thing to happen. We were going to change from chaos to some kind of law and order on the river," he says.

Huebner is glad to now be among those promoting order while helping visitors.

"The most satisfying thing is realizing we're making an impact. We're getting less and less violations, accidents, and injuries, and it's a combination of all the Park Service - the law enforcement, interpretation, resource management, maintenance, everyone. What's difficult is that we don't get the money to do the job that needs to be done. Administration always has to juggle dollars and cents when different priorities come along," he says.

One way to cope with funding dilemmas is through creativity, which Huebner has plenty of. One might say he's the Upper Delaware's father of invention, quick to draw up plans or build what he needs himself, from moving targets for the firing range to a canoe windlass for steep hills.

If Huebner is considered a "Mr. Fix-It" among his colleagues, Ranger Cliff Daniels could be "Mr. Friendly."

The 50-year-old Daniels is regarded for his polite demeanor, extending from his colleagues to local NPS foes. "He's an extremely patient and courteous individual with the visitors and the staff," Superintendent Hite remarks.

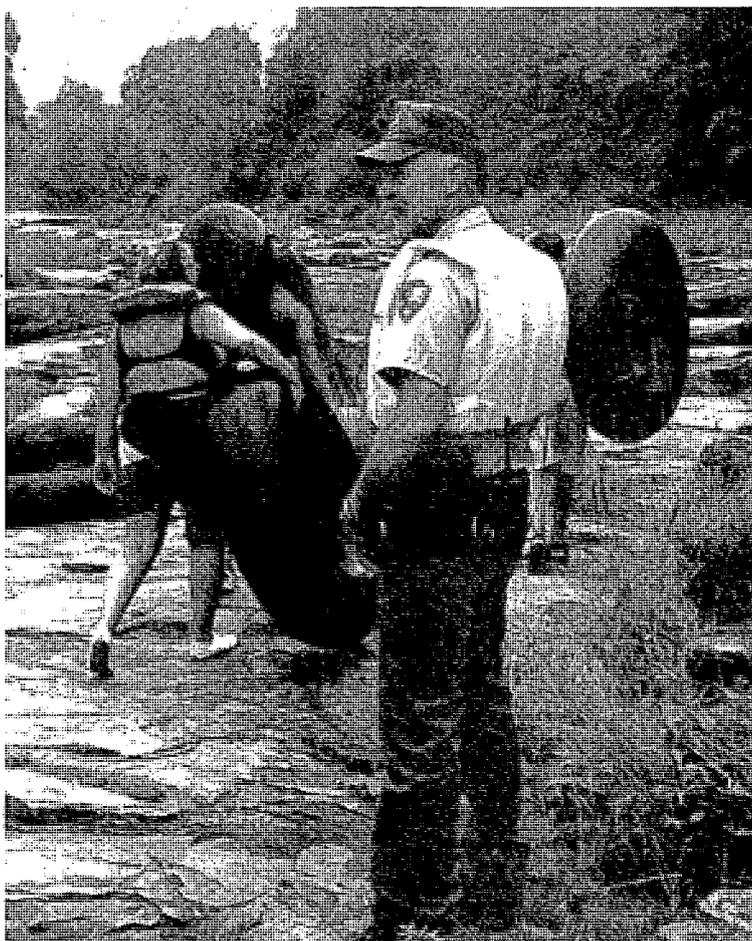
A Sunday, August 23, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. patrol with Daniels finds the fourth-generation Minisink Ford resident literally in his element.

"My great-grandfather worked on the D & H Canal and the Roebling Bridge. My grandfather and uncles worked on the Erie Railroad. I grew up here. I pride myself on being friendly to people. I have an extremely good relationship with the property owners in the area and I make every effort to help them if I can or to be fair and impartial," he says.

In addition to his firearms expertise, the U.S. Army veteran and former pilot is a certified SCUBA diver, division training officer, First Responder, boating instructor, and trauma counselor. Like Huebner, he considers himself to be a resource manager and visitor educator above all, even when the learning comes at the price of a violation.

His shift included patrols at Skinner's Falls, Narrowsburg, Darbytown, and Ten Mile River Accesses, highlighted by his quick location of a 13-year-old girl reported missing by her anxious family after she got lost while tubing at Skinner's Falls. Accurately predicting how far she could have traveled in an hour, Daniels drove along the River Road, spotted the orange color of the girl's tube hundreds of feet away, negotiated a steeply declining cliff to reach the river's edge, confirmed her identity, and transported her back to her parents.

Daniels also called in State Police mutual aid to process serious vehicle violations by a livery van and trailer he wit-



Ranger Cliff Daniels at Skinner's Falls Access, NY

nessed, provided divers with UDC and NPS brochures upon request, assisted NPS seasonal staff and volunteers at their kiosks as needed, checked for potential life jacket violations by boaters and swimmers, picked up garbage left behind at the accesses, and advised a group of Skinner's Falls revelers about the ban on open fires on the rocks they were neglecting to observe.

While he knows the local terrain and people well, Daniels insists that his job is never tedious.

"There's always something new, something different. What's most

satisfying to me is being able to interact with the river valley visitors and hopefully, knowing that they can approach me and talk to me, and I can get them an answer. The ultimate goal of any law enforcement officer is voluntary compliance," he says.

The assistance that Upper Delaware Rangers are able to personally provide is necessarily limited by their jurisdiction. While the public may see a uniformed officer as what Huebner characterizes as "a magic wand" to make their problems disappear, NPS rangers must make constant judgements about whether they have the authority to pursue a case based on where the incident occurs.

"To be a good ranger means knowing what to look for, how to protect yourself, having the ability to respond and work with other rescue organizations, and being very adaptable," states Cal Hite.

## River Management Plan Details NPS Jurisdiction

The commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution gives the federal government the authority to regulate certain interstate resources, such as water and air. The National Park Service shares jurisdiction with the states for activities in and on the river relating to recreational use. This jurisdiction does not apply to the bottom of the river or land areas in the Upper Delaware River corridor. The National Park Service also has proprietary jurisdiction over lands and structures which the agency owns and leases.

Federal regulations governing activities by the National Park Service have limited applicability within the Upper Delaware River corridor. Particular regulations covering National Park Service activities are included in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. These regulations apply on the surface of the river and on lands owned or leased by the agency. They do not apply to private lands in the river corridor. (Pg. 17, Final River Management Plan, Nov. 1985)

Specific management responsibilities cited in the RMP which impact the NPS law enforcement role include providing visitor protection services for the public (as well as boating and safety programs), contracting with river towns and townships for local law enforcement assistance and the collection and disposal of solid waste, preparing an annual recreational use management plan for review by the Upper Delaware Council, and entering into written agreements with local rescue squads, ambulance services, or fire departments for river rescues and river-related emergencies that take place in or along the designated section of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

# UDC's 1998 Grant Awards Total \$22,200

The Upper Delaware Council awarded \$22,200 in 1998 Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) on Sept. 3, bringing the total amount given to its municipal members over the past decade to \$409,441.

Twelve applicants received funding for their projects which further the goals of or address needs identified in the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

1998 TAG recipients are:

- **Cochecton** - \$3,000 to update Town Subdivision Regulations
- **Deerpark** - \$3,000 to re-draft the Town Zoning Law
- **Tusten** - \$2,800 to update Town

Subdivision Regulations

- **Lumberland** - \$2,600 to establish an Historical Markers Program and publish an information pamphlet
- **Highland** - \$2,600 to re-write the Town Zoning Code
- **Delaware** - \$2,400 to conduct a town-wide sign inventory
- **Fremont** - \$2,100 to update the Zoning Law and the town's Planned Unit Development procedures
- **Highland** - \$1,400 for The Eagle Institute to produce a 12-panel eagle educational brochure
- **Shohola** - \$1,200 to revise the town-ship's Map and Guide

- **Cochecton** - \$600 to print the town's revised Zoning Law
- **Lumberland** - \$300 to organize three training sessions on administration of land use regulations
- **Lumberland** - \$200 to print the town's new Subdivision Law.

## Federal Grant for Water

After three years of attempts, the Town of Fremont was recently awarded a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant to create a water district in the hamlet of Long Eddy. In 1995, the UDC had given the town a \$3,700 TAG to determine the project's feasibility.

## In Memoriam . . .

**Edward C. Sykes, died Sept. 4, 1998, age 78**

Former Upper Delaware Council chairperson and Town of Delaware representative Edward C. Sykes died at his Callicoon, NY home September 4.



Mr. Sykes served the UDC from its inception in Feb. 1988 to Dec. 1991, then resumed his position on the board from 1993-96.

In 1992, the UDC presented Mr. Sykes with its

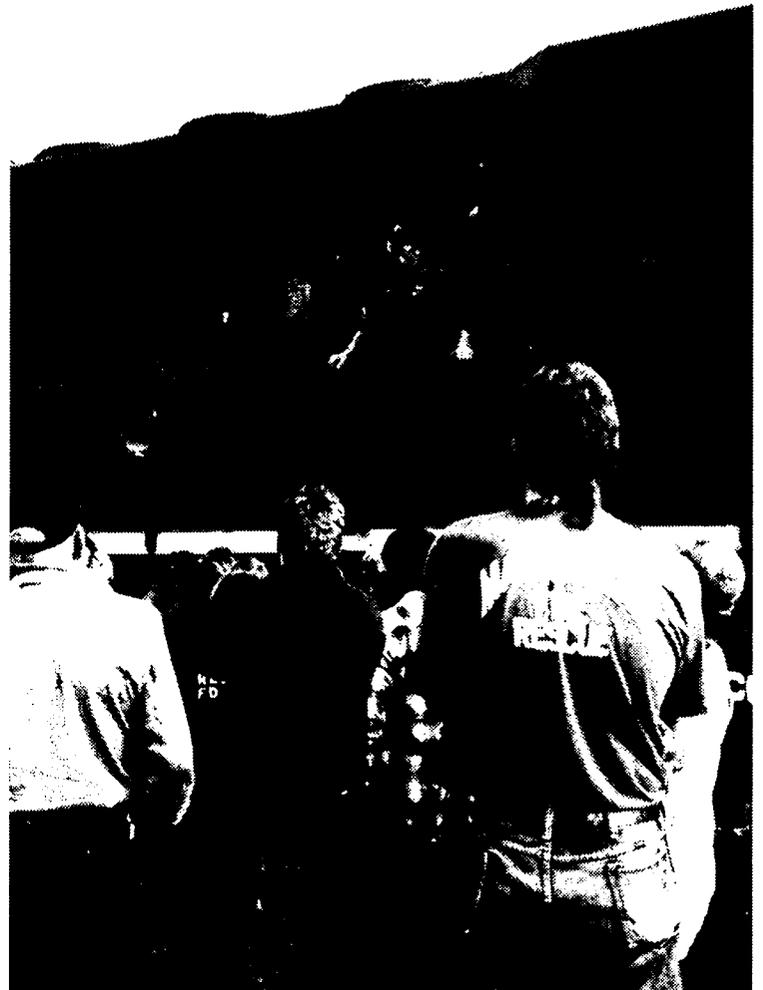
highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his active, diligent support of the goals and objectives of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Management Plan.

When Mr. Sykes was elected in 1994 as chairperson of the UDC, his oath of office was administered by the Hon. Lawrence H. Cooke, Chief Judge of the State of New York (retired). He had also chaired the Council's Water Use Committee in 1988, served as UDC Secretary-Treasurer in 1989, and chaired the Operations Committee in 1994.

A 40-year resident of the Town of Delaware, Mr. Sykes laid claim to be the first business person to rent out boats on the Upper Delaware River during his proprietorship of the Hankins House from 1959-71. His experience in planning river trips for customers came in handy when Mr. Sykes organized the popular Upper Delaware Canoe Regatta for many years to raise funds for the Callicoon division of Community General Hospital.

A former Town Councilman, Mr. Sykes was a columnist for the *Sullivan County Democrat*, founded the Allan Milk VFW Post 7276, belonged to the Callicoon Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Hankins Fire Co., and was president of the Sullivan County Liquor Dealers Association.

Mr. Sykes is survived by his wife of 56 years, Joan V. (Kestler) Sykes; five children; one sister; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.



Conrail Locomotive Engineer Earl Pardini, on board Engine 6489, advised 45 emergency responders how to most effectively cope with any incidents involving trains during a drill in Sparrowbush, NY August 19. It was the last of three exercises conducted earlier in Deposit, NY and Lackawaxen, Pa. by Pardini as a follow-up to Conrail's July 1997 publication of the "Emergency Response Guide for the Upper Delaware River Valley." Conrail's Southern Tier lines have been acquired by Norfolk Southern Corp., with expectations to increase train traffic in the Valley. (Ramie photo)

"CANAL," continued from Page 1

Heritage Council plans on developing a new D & H curriculum guide which will be given to every school district along the length of the canal.

The Nov. 7 symposium will draw national scholars together to discuss the history of the D & H and preservation efforts that are underway. In addition to access to all the programs, Symposium registration includes refreshments throughout the day, lunch, and a stuffed souvenir tote bag.

The day begins with pastries and exhibits from 7:30-9 a.m.; three speakers from 9-12; a buffet luncheon with keynote historian Donald M. Sayanga, consultant to Wire & Steel Rope Industries; choice of afternoon programs at 1:30; and a roundtable discussion on "What the D & H Did and Didn't Do For the Region" at 3:30 p.m.

The evening activities commence following the Symposium with a reception featuring musical entertainment by folk singers Rich Bala and Bob Lusk, appetizers, a cash bar, and D & H visual exhibits.

The Gala Celebration gets underway at 7 p.m. with dinner and a program leading to the "Grand Promenade" at 9 p.m. D & H formal dress or period costumes are encouraged. Dancing to the music of the Blue Rays will take place from 9 p.m. to midnight. Special room rates are available to D & H participants by calling Hunts Landing at (717) 491-2400.

On Sunday, Nov. 8, an itinerary will be in place for self-guided visits to nearby D & H sites offered by Heritage Council member organizations.

The cost for "the whole shebang" Nov. 7 is \$75 per person. The Symposium alone is \$40, with an optional \$5 charge for the afternoon reception. Tickets to the Gala Dinner-Dance are \$35. Discounts apply for Council members and their guests.

To obtain a registration brochure or find out more information, call Peter Osborne at (914) 856-2375, write to the Minisink Valley Historical Society at P.O. Box 659, Port Jervis, NY 12771, or browse the following Internet web site: <http://www.minisink.org/dhcgsm.htm>.



The 4th Annual Delaware River Sojourn launched from the DEC Access in Narrowsburg on June 20 following a kick-off breakfast hosted by the Upper Delaware Council and Tusten Lions Club. John Hutzky, retired NPS Superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, was saluted as "Lord High Admiral" for Day 1 of the Sojourn, which ended 110 miles later June 27 at Yardley Access, PA. Educational programs, meals, and camping were part of the paddling package assembled by a consortium of public and private organizations in NY, PA and New Jersey. Watch for 1999 dates in the next issue. (Ramie photo)

## Come to the River

a poem by Chris Nielsen, 1998 Delaware River Sojourn

Come to the river, let us  
Watch it flow  
Let the edges of its meaning  
Formulate, to show  
The river as it is, the river as it  
Was - the river as it will  
And ever after so.

We seek along the river what  
We lost into the flow --  
We ask not of the river  
That its restlessness should show.

We try to float our passions, drift  
Our dreams, swiftly eddy  
Out our worries  
Though the waters may be low.

So come to the river with us,  
Though its obstinancy show  
That chosen courses, swiftly  
Moving over minds that raffle,  
Somehow still will know  
The river is a lover, a friend  
That will not go  
Away -- a surer thing to know.

## 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.

Old Address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Box, Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

# Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct Feted

## Rededicated on 150th Anniversary

"Born of controversy and built by compromise . . ."

*"A marvelous example of American ingenuity and architecture set in this wonderful, natural place . . ."*

"Elegant in concept and simple in design; a perfect balance of mass, volume, and seeming weightlessness . . ."

*"A masterpiece of accomplishment . . ."*

One hundred and fifty years after his construction of the Delaware Aqueduct, John Augustus Roebling would no doubt be proud to hear these accolades and happier still to discover that his original bridge design has withstood the test of time.

The praise delivered above by (in order) Pike County Historian and Upper Delaware Council Shohola Township alternate George Fluhr, U.S. Congressman Maurice Hinchey (NY), Pike County Commissioner Sally Thomson, and National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Assistant Regional Director David Hollenberg, occurred during Sept. 13 ceremonies to mark the sesquicentennial of Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct.

NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River purchased the former canal boat passageway and vehicle toll bridge in 1980, rehabilitated it as a one-lane highway bridge in 1987, and completed restoration of the original trunk walls and towpaths for pedestrians in 1994-95. A parking lot and walkway were built on the New York side at Minisink Ford in 1995, and construction was proceeding last month on restrooms, walkways, and a parking lot for the Pennsylvania side at Lackawaxen.

To honor the 1848 Aqueduct, the Park Service staged an all-day celebration attended by approximately 900 visitors. It included a symbolic meeting of NY and PA officials in the center of the bridge for a rededication of the National Historic Landmark, followed by a procession of 16 antique autos and "Neversink Kate," a canal boat replica with costumed characters from the Neversink Valley Area Museum.

An exhibit hall featuring historical displays was open to the public at the Lackawaxen Firemen's Field, where the formal ceremony took place. Speakers in addition to those mentioned above included U.S. Congressman Ben Gilman (NY), PA Representative Jerry Birmelin, NYS Assemblyman Jake



At the 150th Anniversary Celebration Sept. 13, colorguards from PA and NY led their delegations to the center of the Delaware Aqueduct for a rededication ceremony by the National Park Service that was highlighted by a large turnout of Roebling family descendants and elected officials. (Ramie photo)

Gunther, Sullivan County Legislator Upper Delaware Heritage Alliance  
Bob Lander, Lackawaxen Township President Emily Paulsen.

Supervisor John McKay, Highland Town Supervisor Allan Schadt, Sullivan County Historian John Conway, and representatives of the Roebling family, Ted Schildge and Constance Moore.

New Roebling Bridge artwork by William Jones was unveiled by local Celebrate '98 activities.

The serving of a 150th birthday cake contributed by the Friends of the Roebling Bridge and a concert of vintage songs by Rich Bala closed out the day's festivities.

The Upper Delaware Council continues its active participation in local Celebrate '98 activities.

The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Tusten Town Hall, Narrowsburg, NY. Three standing committees, Operations, Water Use/Resource Management, and Project Review, meet on the third and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the UDC office, 211 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, across from the Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public. Call (914) 252-3022 for specific meeting dates and agendas.

Upper Delaware Council  
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