



MASON-DIXON TRAIL

NEWS

Vol. II, No. 1

SPRING 1982

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This may not be much of a "Newsletter"; we hope its publication is justified as a "Preliminary Trail Guide". Years of effort by clubs and individuals were needed to make possible even this. Space prohibits naming individuals, but the Maintaining Clubs working on the trail are:

Wilmington Trail Club
York Hiking Club
University of Delaware
Outing Club
Chester County Trail Club
Boy Scout Troop 94, Shiloh, Pa.

Supporting Clubs include Keystone Trails Association and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club; both of them have been of major help financially. Also, they have been generous in supplying the know-how that steered us through the intricacies of getting incorporated and successfully filing an "Application for Recognition of Exemption" with the Internal Revenue Service.

Starting in 1974, Bob Yost had the idea of one trail following and connecting the Brandywine and Susquehanna Rivers, first as Trails Chairman, then as President of WTC. He received much support from Walt Pepperman, who continues as our Legal Chairman. Then, when WTC seemed too small for the job, Dick Tobias spurred the project on with the intervention of the KTA. Due to the demands of one landowning utility, it was imperative that a separate non-profit corporation be organized. Thus Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. was formed in 1979.

Since then we have been fortunate in being able to build the EAST PART of the trail with little trouble in getting landowner permissions. The use of the northern half of the WTC's BRANDYWINE TRAIL was a big help.

We encountered more difficulty in this respect on the WEST PART of the trail along the west shore of the Susquehanna River. In recent months, thanks largely to the effective

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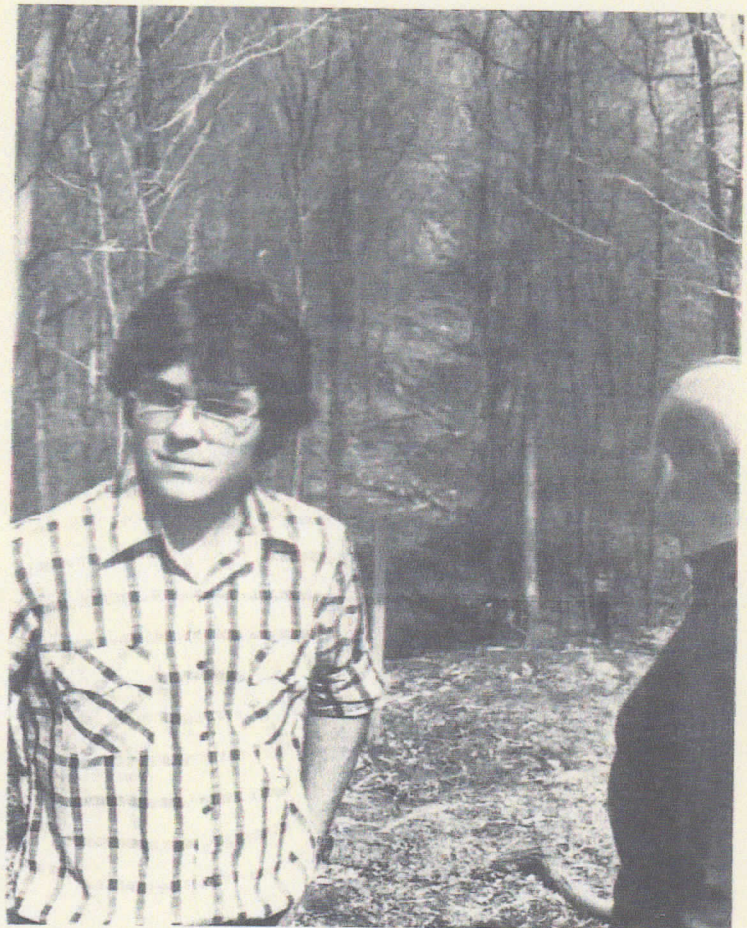


Photo credit: John Polink,
Herald-Standard, Uniontown, Pa.

The above photo shows Eagle Scout Chuck Shaffer and Bald Eagle Scout, President Bob Yost at the start of the trail that was Chuck's superlative Eagle Service Project. Chuck supervised the routing and clearing of a connecting link between Pa. Rte. 857 and a pipeline right of way which together make up a 24 mi. stretch of trail between the Warrior Trail at Greensboro, Pa. and the C. & O. Canal Trail at Cumberland, Md.

The word "clearing" needs definition. Chuck's trail is 10 ft. wide and is "cleared" of everything up to 20 in. diameter trees, after precisely re-finding the historic MASON-DIXON LINE.

Continued on page 2, column 2

EDITOR'S NOTE: (Cont'd)

work of Ron Gray and the York Hiking Club, it has been as though a log jam was removed explosively, and trail building has accelerated at a fantastic pace.

Then there was Chuck Shaffer and his Eagle Service Project, with which we were caught all unaware. For details of this, see column 2, pages 1 and 2.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST!

This (and later newsletters) is made possible by a generous grant from the KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We of M-DTS thank KTA for their financial aid and for including a section of the M-D Trail on pps. 30-32 of their 1981 edition of "Pennsylvania Hiking Trails". CAUTION! Even these 10 miles have changed. Better check with Ron Gray as suggested below. Things are really dynamic on the west bank of the Susquehanna!

CHUCK SHAFFER'S TRAIL (Cont'd)

He informed Bob Yost that the project as shown is incomplete. A local excavating contractor was delayed by weather from using a bulldozer to remove stumps and backblade 3500 ft. to make the firm smooth final surface.

The broad implications of what Chuck has done is to make feasible a trail connecting the Ohio with the Potomac Rivers.

We are proud that Chuck wants his work recognized by the M-DTS. This depends on whether a local group can be established that will take responsibility for maintaining the existing trail section and building the additional trail sections needed to complete the route. Dennis J. Nurkiewicz, of the Fayette Campus of Pennsylvania State University, has promised help in making this possible.

The presidents of both Keystone Trails Association and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club received prior notice of this possible expansion of the Mason-Dixon Trail System.

WEST PARK OF MASON-DIXON TRAIL:

The west part of the M-D Trail is planned to follow the west bank of the Susquehanna River past U.S. Rte. 30 at Wrightsville to York Haven, Pa. There it will turn west to join the Appalachian Trail at Whiskey Springs.

For information on the current status of the west part contact: R. Ronald Gray, [REDACTED]

The MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc. - and MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

The M-DTS is a federally tax exempt, non-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1979. It is an all volunteer service-oriented association of trail clubs and individual hikers that has as its purpose the conservation and use of the back-country through the development of hiking and backpacking trails within the Middle Atlantic States. Its most important objective is to open the Susquehanna River Valley to those who enjoy walking along blue water enclosed by steep green slopes. This major river valley, roughly halfway between Richmond, Va. and New York City, is unique in the East Coast megalopolis for its unspoiled scenic beauty.

What is not unique is our need for financial support. A dues/contribution schedule is attached along with a membership card and application. Please fill out the Application card and return it with your dues or contribution (plus a \$3.00 Application Fee if this is your initial payment) to the Membership Secretary at the address shown. Contributions may be as large as you wish. Everything that you pay is deductible from Federal Income Tax, and all dues and contributions accumulate to make up the \$250.00 Life Member dues. There are no membership requirements other than payment of dues.

Please help if you can.

PRELIMINARY TRAIL GUIDE

MASON-DIXON TRAIL

NOTE: The Mason-Dixon Trail is divided into two parts. The part from Ludwigs Corner, Pa. to Perryville, Md. is called the "EAST" part; the part from Havre de Grace, Md. to the Appalachian Trail at Whiskey Springs, Pa. is called the "WEST" part. Only the EAST part is described below because trail building is progressing so rapidly on the WEST part that information written now would be obsolete by the time it was received. Neither part is complete at this time, therefore no overall mileage is given. Section mileages are given for where the trail has been routed and blazed.

EAST PART OF MASON-DIXON TRAIL:

SECTION: LUDWIGS CORNER, Pa to CHADDS FORD, Pa.

This section consists of the northern half of the BRANDYWINE TRAIL of the Wilmington Trail Club. It is marked with WHITE blazes.

| <u>MILES</u> | <u>TRAIL ROUTE</u> |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0.0 | Trail starts at the intersection of two paved roads, Horseshoe Trail and Birch Run Road/Bartlett Lane. <i>The point is the northern end of Birch Run Rd. and the southern end of Bartlett La. The yellow blazes of the HORSE SHOE TRAIL come in from the east and turn north along Bartlett La. Road signs at the northwest corner read, "Horse Shoe Trail" and "Bartlett La."; there is no sign for Birch Run Rd. The easiest way to find this point is to take Birch Run Rd. from Ludwigs Corner. A "Birch Run Rd." sign will be found on the east side of Rte. 100 about 150 ft. north of its intersection with Rte. 401. Follow Birch Run Rd. east and north to the starting point at HORSE-SHOE TRAIL.</i> Follow WHITE blazes south from HORSE SHOE TRAIL to Rte. 100, cross 100, walk behind Getty gas station and around it, then cross Rte. 401 onto St. Andrews La. A parking lot at St. Andrews Church is convenient. Follow St. Andrews La. and the WHITE blazes along a series of roads through woods to the bridge over the Pennsylvania Turnpike. |
| 4.4 | Cross Penna. Turnpike and turn RIGHT. Follow road toward Marsh Creek State Park, cross bridge over a section of lake, turn LEFT across a field. Turn LEFT on a hardtop road. After 200 ft. climb bank on the RIGHT, follow hedgerow to woods and turn LEFT into Marsh Creek State Park. |
| 7.6 | Marsh Creek State Park. Go through parking area with boat ramps and toilets on the left and head for a white stone house. Follow road down face of dam and turn RIGHT onto a paved road. At bottom of hill, turn LEFT onto a hiking-biking trail built on an old railroad bed. Follow this to Kerr Park, a town park in Downingtown. |
| 12.1 | Kerr Park, Downingtown. <i>Parking, picnic tables and, in season, comfort stations, are available.</i> Take road from parking area to Rte. 282, turn RIGHT. Follow to Main St. turn RIGHT. At the far end of bridge before Town Hall, turn LEFT onto the bank of the Brandywine River. Pass under the first railroad tracks and turn LEFT onto the upper railroad tracks. After 100 yds. turn RIGHT and climb steeply uphill. Follow blazes along ridge, then downhill to Rte. 322. Turn RIGHT, follow 322 until a covered bridge is visible on the left. Turn LEFT across 322 and the covered bridge, then RIGHT onto a road and follow it along the river to the highway bridge where 322 crosses the Brandywine. Cross bridge and turn LEFT onto Waltz Rd. Follow Waltz Rd. to Rte. 162, cross it and enter Deborah Rocks Farm by passing through stone gateposts. |

SECTION: LUDWIGS CORNER, Pa. to CHADDS FORD, PA.

| <u>MILES</u> | <u>TRAIL ROUTE</u> |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18.2 | Deborah Rocks Farm Entrance. Follow river bank under rock overhang then through pasture to log gate at far end. (DO NOT CLIMB FENCE OR ALUMINUM GATE!) Turn LEFT, cross river on a private bridge to a paved road (combined Rtes. 100 and 52). Turn RIGHT and follow road to Lenape Park, a commercial amusement park. |
| 22.4 | Lenape Park. If permitted, cross parking area diagonally to the RIGHT and climb road embankment to stone bridge crossing the Brandywine. The alternate route is to continue on the paved road and make a RIGHT turn to follow Rte. 52. <i>Caution! If alternate route is chosen, observe all pedestrian safety rules. This is a narrow bridge that is very heavily traveled from late spring to early fall.</i> After crossing the bridge, turn LEFT onto railroad tracks and follow them to U.S. Rte. 1 at Chadds Ford. |
| 26.2 | CHADDS FORD, Pa. - END OF SECTION. |

SECTION: CHADDS FORD, Pa. to LANDENBERG, Pa.

This section begins where the previous section ends, at the junction of U.S. Rte. 1 and the railroad tracks which follow the west bank of the Brandywine River. Except for the first one tenth of a mile, it is marked with BLUE blazes. Unfortunately the BLUE blazes were not continued northward so they are visible at Rte. 1. Also, trail marking is not standard throughout; in some areas BLUE plastic surveyors tape has been used where there were no surfaces that could be painted.

The parking area of the BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM, located on the east side of the river and Rte. 1, is convenient.

| <u>MILES</u> | <u>TRAIL ROUTE</u> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0.0 | U.S. Rte. 1 and railroad tracks along the west bank of the Brandywine River. Follow WHITE blazes along track to branch railroad track heading west (to the RIGHT). |
| 0.1 | BLUE blazes begin on branch railroad track, to the RIGHT when facing downstream. Follow railroad track to Fairville Rd. |
| 0.8 | Turn LEFT onto Fairville Rd. and continue following it when it makes a right turn. |
| 3.8 | Turn RIGHT off Fairville Rd. into a private driveway. Continue from driveway through backyard and fence into heavily overgrown area, then woods along a ridge to a large oak tree. |
| 4.4 | Turn LEFT downhill through a side yard to Fairville Rd. again. Turn RIGHT, follow the road until it makes a "T" intersection with Spring Mill Rd. |
| 4.5 | Bear LEFT across fields to Burnt Mill Rd. which roughly parallels Fairville Rd. |
| 4.8 | Turn RIGHT on Burnt Mill Rd. and follow it to Old Kennett Rd. |
| 5.7 | Turn RIGHT onto Old Kennett Rd. to Nine Gates Rd. |
| 5.8 | Turn LEFT onto Nine Gates Rd. and follow it to the Delaware boundary line. At this point the pipeline right of way of Colonial Pipeline can be seen. |

SECTION: CHADDS FORD, Pa. to LANDENBERG, Pa.

MILES TRAIL ROUTE

- 3.3 Turn RIGHT onto the pipeline right of way and follow it to near the bottom of a long steep hill, then turn LEFT into woods. (Caution! this turn is easily missed.) Go through woods to Rte. 82.
- 7.2 Turn LEFT onto Rte. 82 and follow it across Pa./Del. boundary.
- 7.3 Turn RIGHT across a millrace and walk through a meadow, downstream along Red Clay Creek.
- 7.7 Turn LEFT onto farm road.
- 7.8 Go RIGHT across bridge over Red Clay Creek, then RIGHT again on Auburn Rd. and follow it to Meetinghouse Rd.
- 8.6 Turn LEFT on Meetinghouse Rd. and follow it to Old Wilmington Rd.
- 9.4 Turn RIGHT on Old Wilmington Rd. and follow it to Valley Rd.
- 9.6 Turn LEFT on Valley Rd., cross Rte. 41 at 9.9 mi. and continue onto Southwood Rd.
- 10.2 Turn RIGHT onto Southwood Rd., cross Limestone Rd. (Rte. 7) at 11.4 mi. Across Rte. 7 the road surface becomes gravel. Follow this to a pipeline right of way.
- 2.0 Turn RIGHT along pipeline, go downhill, cross a dam at Shangri-La housing project and continue to Buttonwood Rd.
- 12.3 Turn LEFT onto Buttonwood Rd. and follow it for 1½ mi. until it ends at Broad Run Rd., which comes in from the left.
- 13.8 Continue west on Broad Run Rd. Turn LEFT to cross White Clay Creek. Bear LEFT at the "Y" intersection and follow a tree line on the right.
- 14.0 Turn RIGHT uphill into woods, then LEFT through young woods, an open field and mowed path. Pass the William Penn Stone (a marker) at 14.3 mi. Follow woods road and an open field with a tree line on the right. Then enter woods, go downhill past a spring to (dirt) North Creek Rd., 100 ft. south of Good Hope Rd.
- 15.5 NORTH CREEK ROAD, LANDENBERG - END OF SECTION.

SECTION: LANDENBERG, Pa. to NEWARK (IRON HILL PARK), Del.

This section begins where the previous section ends, on (dirt) North Creek Rd. 100 ft. south of Good Hope Rd. Those following the trail from Chadds Ford should turn LEFT onto North Creek Rd. and continue along the trail route shown below. The Trail is marked with BLUE blazes.

SECTION: LANDENBERG, Pa. to NEWARK (IRON HILL PARK), Del.

MILES TRAIL ROUTE

- 0.0 Follow North Creek Rd. south to London Tract Rd. Turn RIGHT and follow London Tract Rd. to (paved) Creek Rd. and turn LEFT. Cross intersection at Primitive Baptist Church, then jog LEFT and RIGHT onto South Bank Rd. Continue on South Bank Rd. for about 500 ft. then turn LEFT on (dirt) Creek Rd. *Woods, creek and steep bank are on the left.* Continue on Creek Rd. and cross Chambers Rock Rd. after about 1½ mi. *At this point Thompsons Bridge is some 500 ft. to the left.* Continue on (dirt) Creek Rd. to Hopkins Rd.
- 3.7 Hopkins Rd. Cross and continue on (paved) Creek Rd. At the outskirts of Newark, Del. Creek Rd. crosses a culvert, starts uphill and becomes North College Ave. *High rise dormitories will be seen on the right.*
- 6.5 North College Ave. Continue along this street, Cross Cleveland Ave. to railroad tracks. Cross tracks, turn RIGHT on the left side of the tracks and follow them across Rte. 273 and Rte. 896, close together, and through Barkersdale Rd. overpass. Follow tracks over Casho Mill Rd. then cross the Christiana River on a trestle.
- 8.5 Christiana R. trestle. On the far side turn LEFT and go down to the west bank of the river. Follow this bank to a chain link fence surrounding the DuPont Co. Haskell Labs. Pass under Elkton Rd. (Rte. 2). Continue along bank, jog RIGHT into a field to avoid brambles, then immediately return to the bank. Pass under Newark By-Pass (under construction) and the ex-Penna. Railroad. ½ mi. further turn RIGHT away from river.
- 11.0 RIGHT turn away from river. Cross Persimmon Creek at Arbor Park development via a bridge closed off with a chain. Turn LEFT along the west bank of the creek. *Houses will be to the right, but property lines do not extend to the creek.* Persimmon Creek joins the Christiana River. Continue along the bank to a red foot bridge. Cross the bridge into Rittenhouse Park, a Newark City Park. Turn RIGHT uphill out of the park and pass a parking lot on the left. Avoid Arbor Park development by turning LEFT just before reaching the access road and go through woods to Chestnut Hill Rd.
- 12.6 On Chestnut Hill Rd. jog LEFT for 100 ft. then cross road into an extended driveway and head toward a house and a shed. Pass the shed and turn LEFT before reaching the house. Turn RIGHT into a field and follow a line of telephone poles across a field to Welsh Tract Rd. Turn RIGHT and cross I-95. Continue on Welsh Tract Rd. for ½ mi. then turn LEFT onto (paved) road No. 389. Follow this road to woods and enter woods, turning LEFT just before reaching Iron Hill Park, a County Park. Turn LEFT onto a park road (vehicles prohibited) with a parking lot on the right. Go uphill to an observation tower at a second parking lot.
- 13.9 OBSERVATION TOWER - IRON HILL PARK - END OF SECTION.

SECTION: NEWARK (IRON HILL PARK), Del. to ELKTON, Md.

This 10 to 15 mile section is incomplete so there are no available data.

SECTION: ELKTON, Md. to PERRYVILLE, Md. and the SUSQUEHANNA RIVER.

This section starts on the south side of U.S. Rte. 40 at its intersection with Rte. 279. Since it was laid out a year or two ago, it has been repeatedly improved to achieve the most pleasant route. This work continues. Known projected improvements are indicated below by the words, "Alternate route planned". The trail is marked with BLUE blazes.

MILES TRAIL ROUTE

- 0.0 Start at the south side of U.S. Rte. 40 at its intersection with Rte. 279. This is west of Elkton, Md. Go south 200 ft. to Rte. 7 and turn RIGHT. Follow Rte. 7 for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. and turn LEFT onto Old Elk Neck Rd. Cross railroad tracks on overpass, then after $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. turn RIGHT onto a dirt road. After $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. turn LEFT into Elk Neck State Forest on a dirt road blocked by a vehicle barrier.
- 1.3 Enter Elk Neck State Forest. After $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. turn RIGHT at a "T" intersection. Go another $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. and turn LEFT at a "T" intersection. About .7 mi. further on cross an earthen dam. After $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. turn RIGHT at the top of a hill. $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. further turn RIGHT at a "T" intersection. Go $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. more and leave state forest on a paved road.
- 5.1 Turn RIGHT onto paved road. About $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. further turn RIGHT onto a dirt road, re-entering the state forest. After $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. there is a scenic outlook to the left. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. further pass a shooting range on the left. Go .1 mi. further and turn LEFT at a "T" intersection. After $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. pass a land fill. *Alternate route planned!* Continue .8 mi. to Rte. 7.
- 7.3 Turn LEFT onto Rte. 7. *Alternate route through the woods is planned.* Follow Rte. 7 for 1.1 mi. and turn RIGHT onto Mechanics Valley Rd. Pass a grocery store and 100 ft. beyond turn LEFT onto Rolling Mill Road. $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. further cross a stream on a bridge and turn RIGHT. After $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. pass under Rte. 40. *A pavillion is 100 yds. to the left.* About $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. further turn LEFT onto a buried telephone cable right of way. Follow this $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. to Rte. 272.
- 9.8 Turn RIGHT onto Rte. 272, then LEFT onto Nazarene Camp Rd. .7 mi. further turn LEFT at a "T" intersection. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. further turn RIGHT onto a buried cable right of way. After $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. ford a stream using rocks and $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. further cross a paved road. Continue along cable right of way past Foy's Hill Overlook at 13.5 mi. to a paved road at 14.7 mi. Turn RIGHT onto the paved road and follow it for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. at which point turn LEFT into woods. Pass through the woods to a railroad track (ex.-B. & O. R.R.).
- 15.1 Turn LEFT along railroad track, pass a picnic table alongside Rte. 40 at the left and continue, crossing a stream via a trestle to the next overpass for a road crossing. Leave the tracks at this point by climbing up the bank to the road. Turn LEFT onto the road and follow it to Rte. 40. This trail section ends at the toll plaza on Rte. 40 for the Susquehanna River Bridge. *Parking is available behind the Perryville Middle School, directly across Rte. 40.*
- 18.4 BRIDGE TOLL PLAZA, PERRYVILLE, Md. - END OF SECTION.

END OF EAST PART MASON-DIXON TRAIL

PEDESTRIAN POWER (Thanks go to Bob Epps for sending this.)

Consider the pleasures and virtues of walking. It is the wine of life, good for body and soul, as many notable souls have known.

Henry Adams described his boyhood home at Quincy, Mass., as "but two hours' walk from Beacon Hill." Young Samuel Johnson frequently walked the muddy road between Lichfield and Birmingham and back, 32 miles a day. Immanuel Kant's daily walk was so regular that the local burghers set their clocks by him. Wordsworth's perambulations through the Lake District made literary history.

Charles Dickens walked through London by day and night. His novels capture life seen at a walker's pace. Today a person's sense of the social material around him fades after a few steps from the front door, where he enters a vehicle.

Walking is the most civilized and civilizing exercise because it is the one most conducive to thinking. Only walkers can take in the country or city at appropriate speed, immersed in particularities. From a speeding car we cannot gaze "down into a little ditch beneath a gray hedge," as C.S. Lewis could do when walking, and have a "sense of the mysteries at our feet where homeliness and magic embrace one another."


Now that we routinely cross continents between breakfast and lunch, it is all the more exhilarating to cross a small valley afoot between sunrise and sunset. Lewis, scholar and author, took daily walks as well as an annual walking tour through rural reaches of Britain and Ireland. His writings about his walks are lyrical. "We struck inland again over the moor in one of those golden evening lights that pours a dream-like mildness over the world. Light seemed to be liquid that you could drink. We had done well over 20 miles and felt immortal."

That is a walker's opinion. Other exercises do not provoke or even permit interesting thought. Imagine what the world might have lost if Kant had been a jogger or Dickens had taken up tennis.

- George F. Will, *Washington Post Writers Group*

The Mason-Dixon Trail News

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



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