

**John H. Noble Collection**  
**Accession Number: 2002.128**

Series of photographs of the canal begins in Allentown at the Seventh St. Bridge where it leaves the river and travels across the country to Bethlehem and Easton. Then it continues down to where the canal enters the Delaware River at Bristol. The pictures from Easton to Bristol were made in early October, 1954, as we paddled the route. Those from Allentown to Easton were made soon after that as I walked from place to place along that section to photograph it.

I grew up in Wilson Boro in Easton and Graduated from Wilson High in 1945. A fellow classmate, Fred Tresize, and I decided to make the trip. So for several months before that I made a survey of the canal with its locks and distances, etc. Actually the trip would take a while longer than we had estimated because of Hurricane Hazel. The storm caused many trees and larger limbs to fall across the canal.

As far as I know, after checking around, this would be the first trip down the entire length of the Delaware Canal since the viaduct at Point Pleasant broke many years ago in 1932. At that time the water flowed out of both ends of the canal and it was a dry ditch for many years. Then Pennsylvania turned it into a state park and fixed the locks, and they replaced the big viaduct at Point Pleasant.

We borrowed our canoe from Mr. Stackhouse, president of The Easton Express. It was a Sponson Canoe, and considered unsinkable. It had kapok around the top, and was very heavy as we soon found out. The locks were repaired, but not opened. So we had ropes at each end of the canoe and pulled it out of the canal at each lock and carried it around and into the next section.

At this time I was working as a cameraman for WGLV (West Greater Lehigh Valley), Channel 57. I have forgotten how I found out that Mr. Stackhouse had several canoes. But I went to see him at the Express on Fourth Street and told him of the trip we wanted to make down the canal. He was very happy to be part of our plan by supplying one. Fred, my partner, had a rack on top of his car, and we went to the Stackhouse home on College Hill and brought it back to my house in Wilson to get it ready.

Our trip had been advertised in spot announcements on Radio Station WEST everyday, as well as on Channel 57. And the TV Station came with their cameras to video us as we left Easton to begin our journey.

For the first leg of our trip, from Easton to Rieglesville, we had another passenger in the canoe with us. It was Fred Knott, president of the Polly Perry, a curtain shop on Northampton Street, and he was wearing a large rabbit's head. This was an advertisement for the play, "Harvey." It was to be presented on November 5 and 6 at Easton High School as a benefit for Cerebral Palsy, and sponsored by the American

Business Club. “Harvey” was met at Rieglesville at Ewald’s Diner by Fred Knott’s wife, Eileen and Jack Chapman, owner of the Hurribac Restaurant at Fourth and Northampton Streets in the Lafayette Hotel Building. At the diner we were given a “bon voyage” by “Harvey”, Jack and Eileen, and then went on our way.

Toward evening, just before arriving at Point Pleasant, we came to a small generating water wheel and beached our canoe there. We enjoyed supper at a small restaurant called the “The Cat and the Fiddle.” We didn’t take a tent because after Hurricane Hazel it was rather damp near the canal, so we walked over to Rt. 611—about 3/4 mile, and stayed at the Bonnie View Motel.

The rest of the trip was quite calm. Today it was impossible to travel by canal to the end. In New Hope the bridge was destroyed and the canal goes through a tunnel. And also today, at the Port Discount Shopping Center, the canal has been covered over and the water is tunneled through. In Bristol, it runs under the Warren Snyder-John Girotti Elementary School.

**Inventory:**

1. 2002.128.001-Rt. 22 7<sup>th</sup> Street Pike, Allentown
2. 2002.128.002-Canal
3. 2002.128.003-View of Canal
4. 2002.128.004-Canal
5. 2002.128.005-Bridge
6. 2002.128.006-Canal
7. 2002.128.007-Canal
8. 2002.128.008-Trees, Bridge
9. 2002.128.009-Canal
10. 2002.128.010-Railroad tracks
11. 2002.128.011-Bridge and water
12. 2002.128.012-Fences
13. 2002.128.013-Trees, water
14. 2002.128.014-Canal
15. 2002.128.015-Grassy knoll by canal
16. 2002.128.016-Canal
17. 2002.128.017-Canal
18. 2002.128.018-Leaves on trees by canal
19. 2002.128.019-Lehigh River near Chain Dam
20. 2002.128.020-An old donkey bridge for crossing the river. The donkeys pulled the barges over (near Chain Dam)
21. 2002.128.021-View of Canal
22. 2002.128.022-Winding river on canal
23. 2002.128.023-Canal
24. 2002.128.024-Coming in to Glendon
25. 2002.128.025-Bridge on canal

**National Canal Museum Archives**  
**Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor**  
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**610-923-3548 x237 – [archives@delawareandlehigh.org](mailto:archives@delawareandlehigh.org)**

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26. 2002.128.026-Canal near Glendon
27. 2002.128.027-Canal near Glendon
28. 2002.128.028-Part of Glendon Bridge over the Canal
29. 2002.128.029-Coming into Easton
30. 2002.128.030-Canal
31. 2002.128.031-Old barge on canal near Lehigh Foundry
32. 2002.128.032-Coming in to Easton
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40. 2002.128.040-Easton entrance to Canal, L.R., "Harvey," Jack Chapman, Fred Tresize
41. 2002.128.041-Easton entrance to Canal John Knoble and "Harvey"
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51. 2002.128.051-Canal
52. 2002.128.052-John Knoble "Harvey" and Fred Tresize
53. 2002.128.053-Coming into Raubsville Jack Chapman & Eileen Knott
54. 2002.128.054-"Harvey" on canoe
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62. 2002.128.062-Uhlertown
63. 2002.128.063-Uhlertown Bridge across the canal
64. 2002.128.064-Waterway

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96. 2002.128.096-Morrisville
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103. 2002.128.103-Canal between Easton and New Hope