

A PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Editor's Note: Prior to transacting business at the Annual Meeting, President Mersfelder made the following remarks. We believe members who were unable to attend will want to read his message.

Good Evening and Welcome.

I am pleased to report that WODC is in excellent financial shape, its membership strong and growing, and it is actively and creatively pursuing its mission to care for the trails under its aegis.

Only a few years ago, it was becoming obvious that human and financial resources in the Club were being stretched to the limit.

To carry on its work properly there was a need to both increase dues paying membership and to encourage a more diverse participation in the work and operation of the Club.

There were two things that gave new momentum to WODC.

One was the bold decision to dip deep into our pockets and commission the production of a five color, contour map of the Sandwich Range Wilderness. When we engaged Club member Mike Bromberg as cartographer, we just wanted to have an up-to-date, accurate, useful, map of which we could be proud. We hoped that we might create a modest surplus after costs.

The other was the emergence of the PC and the alacrity with which George and Sally Zink began using desktop publishing to create a newsletter of professional quality.

I don't think anyone realized the extent to which these two things were going to elevate the image of the Club, be the vehicles which attracted an unprecedented number of new members, stimulate interest in Club affairs, and lead to a new level of involvement. But they did.

Today, we can all be gratified that there is emerging a new generation of energetic and committed members to help build upon the legacy of those who created the WODC Trail System and the Sandwich

Range Wilderness, and those who have been maintaining and protecting them.

Members of the Trails Committee, in particular, have assumed a level of responsibility that requires the respect and support of us all. Most importantly, they have been creatively using limited resources to enlist the aid of other organizations, individuals, and groups to help in projects.

"There is emerging a new generation of energetic and committed members to help build upon the legacy of those who created the WODC Trail System and the Sandwich Range Wilderness, and those who have been maintaining and protecting them."

These efforts have also served to broaden communications with other trails maintenance groups, the Forest Service, Club members, and the hiking public.

Beyond these organizational feats, members of the Trails Committee have become a highly competent trail crew. From the laborious work of cleaning water bars to higher level stone work, they've been doing it all, spending countless hours on trails. And, while working, they have been highly visible ambassadors for the Club.

Along with the emergence of this new vitality in the Club, comes a need for both a balanced representation in the administration of Club affairs and the assurance of a sustainable leadership, something that should not be, but has been, a concern over the past few years. Later in the meeting a proposal toward remedying this latter concern will be forthcoming.

Let us say at this point that it is important that the Club members who reside in Wonalcet continue and even increase their participation in both the leadership and trail activities of the Club. Their interests are vested as they are the ones most immediately affected by land use changes, hiker impact or Forest Service policies.

Then there are those members who live beyond the boundaries of Wonalcet, who by their work in the Club or even just by their dues paying support, have demonstrated their interest in the well being of the mountains and trails. Their thinking must be well represented in Club decisions.

The present is prologue to the future. We must continue to seek ways to work cooperatively and creatively with landowners. We must maintain good communications with the Forest Service and continue to play the role of watchdog. We have been a formidable force in forest and trail issues in the past, and with a larger and interested membership we can continue to be so in the future. We must continue to affiliate and cooperate with other trail organizations. Perhaps declining fortunes in the future will dictate that we again rely solely on trail adopters and an annual Trails Day to get our work done, but it would be a regression with consequences. We must continue and increase efforts to inform the hiking public of their responsibilities, as well as opportunities, on our trails and in Wilderness. Certainly, to maintain Club spirit, we must continue to offer events and activities to the membership.

It is with confidence in the Club's current and future well being that we now move on to the business portion of the 95th Annual Meeting of WODC.

John Mersfelder

1994 ANNUAL MEETING

Editor's Note: Following are excerpts from the Secretary's Minutes of the Annual Meeting. Since several articles found elsewhere in this *Newsletter* are extensions of issues raised at the meeting, the minutes are heavily abridged.

The meeting began at 7:15 P.M. in the Wonalcet Chapel. Thirty-five people were in attendance, following a potluck supper at the Mersfelders' home.

Minutes of the 1993 Annual Meeting were read by Secretary Judith Reardon, and approved. The Treasurer's Report by Dick Daniels was distributed and approved. Dick noted that for calendar year 1993 our income from membership dues was \$2,341 and our map income was



Caring for the Sandwich Range since 1892

The *Newsletter* is published twice each year by the Wonalancet Out Door Club. The mailing address is:

WODC

Newsletter Editor

Wonalancet, NH 03897

The Editor encourages members and interested readers to submit material to use in future issues. Articles, poems, drawings, comments, criticisms, suggestions, are welcomed.

(Continued from Page 1)

also substantial, \$1,504. In 1994 to date our membership income is much higher (\$3,670), but this is partly due to 71 people paying their dues twice, a confusion caused by a change in the date of the fiscal year. Dick sent each a letter stating he would apply the second payment to 1995 dues unless requested otherwise. Some people suggested that their second payment be considered an additional donation. Dick anticipates that 1995 revenues from dues will be somewhat lower.

The Map Sales Report by Sally Zink shows that 1,505 maps have been sold, 1,394 by January 1, 1994.

The Membership Report by Clarinda Philips stated that there are 71 new members this year, counting each Family membership as two members, compared to 36 last year. Most new members picked up a *Newsletter* and an order card at the kiosks and then sent a membership check. Peter Smart stocks the kiosks, and used 300 cards and *Newsletters*. Clarinda summarized that we have as members: 128 individual, 113 family, 20 complimentary, and 7 organization, for a total of 268. Clarinda noted that some people send extra donations with compliments to the *Newsletter* or trails.

An affirmation of use, the following people have walked the traditional route of the Blueberry Ledge Trail during the past year: Susan Mutter & Greg Boquist, Fred Lavigne & Evelyn MacKinnon, the Sidleys, the Hemingways, Ann Rogers, Chris Conrod, Sharon Nothnagle, John Mersfelder, Susan & Aron Bernstein,

Judith Reardon & Peter Smart, Miranda O'Brien, and Jacquelyn Shanberge.

The proposed budget for 1995 was presented by Dick Daniels. The increased trail budget was discussed, particularly the need to deal with trail maintenance and damage promptly. It was anticipated that current revenues might continue. Otherwise, adjustments could be made to spending or fundraising if revenues fall drastically. The budget was unanimously approved as submitted. It was also noted that we are an IRS non-profit organization, so dues and contributions are tax-deductible with the exception of 10% of dues which represents the cost of the *Newsletter*. A proposed WODC patch was discussed. It would be an inexpensive gift to trail volunteers, as well as helping hikers to distinguish WODC trail workers from the AMC, USFS, or Park Service.

A proposal by John Mersfelder that a By-laws Committee be established to study the amendment of by-laws regarding committee chairs and officers passed. It was voted to authorize the Co-presidents to appoint a By-laws Committee.

As a final item of business, the retiring President, John Mersfelder, was given a vote of thanks for his years of service to the Club.

1995 Officers

Presidents	Ralph Weymouth George Zink
Vice-President	Barbara Sidley
Secretary	Judith Reardon
Treasurer	Dick Daniels
Membership	Clarinda Philips
Trails Chairman	Peter Smart
Newsletter	Sally/George Zink

MAP COMMITTEE MEETS

Prior to the Annual Meeting, Executive Committee members knew that less than 200 WODC maps remained. Therefore, at the Annual Meeting a major topic of discussion was what action members would like to take. Most favored a revision of the present map, retaining its salient features. Members believe the Club needs an amended map; its sale leads to a profit, and the present stock will be exhausted long before the next annual meeting. After a lengthy discussion, a

motion to authorize the Executive Committee to expend up to \$6,000 on a revised map passed with two opposing votes.

Following the Annual Meeting the presidents asked Mike Bromberg, cartographer of the 1991 map, whether he would be willing to produce a revision under the previous terms - essentially volunteering his work and time. Mike graciously agreed.

Within days, the presidents appointed a Map Committee consisting of members who worked on the 1991 map, and a few others who expressed an interest. Committee members are: David Bowles, Dick Daniels, Chip Kimball, Paul King, Fred Lavigne, John Mersfelder, Susan Mutter, Ted Sidley, Peter Smart, Fred Steele, Nat Steele, and Sally Zink.

On October 23, the Map Committee held its first meeting with Mike Bromberg, who functioned as Chairman. Members agreed that the map should be revised to correct errors and bring the map up-to-date so that it reflects the current situation. The revision will cover the same area and be of the same size. There may be a revised color scheme.

There was considerable discussion on the likely cost of printing. The cost will not be as high as the original, since some overlays can be reused. Although not certain, two estimates lead to the belief that 2,500 copies of a revision will cost less than the amount authorized at the Annual Meeting.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to a discussion of necessary major changes. Several committee members offered to investigate specific issues, e.g., whether the bootleg trail to Black Mt. Pond has been closed officially by the Forest Service.

The revision should be available by the Spring of 1995.

At its November 21 meeting, the Executive Committee unanimously approved a revision of the 1991 map.

Map Committee membership is open to any member who would like to serve. Should you be interested, write to a president at the Club address given in the masthead.

TRAILS REPORT

It's been another exciting year for WODC trails. We've enjoyed fifteen memorable trail events, completed a new tool trailer, and benefitted from the unstinting work of our adopters. Overnight work trips have enabled us to work on remote trails including Kate Sleeper and Walden, while trails crews from the Sandwich Range Conservation Association and USFS have helped us address major erosion problems. We've had superb turnouts for many trips, 15 people on NH Trails Day, and been joined by many new volunteers and adopters.

To keep our trail partners informed of mid-season news and events, a Trails Bulletin was distributed in June and August. Contact the Trails Committee if you'd like a copy, or want to be on the mailing list. What follows is an equivalent review of the season's final events.

Recent Events

The WODC Annual Meeting was held on August 21st, and the day's events began with a trail-work inspection on Big Rock Cave Trail. We were joined by incoming WODC Co-president George Zink as we reviewed blazing and drainage work already completed on the trail, and discussed plans for future work. George had the good sense to turn back at the top of the ridge, thereby missing the thorough soaking enjoyed by those who continued to Whittin Brook. However, the rain did allow us to inspect a new water bar under actual operating conditions.

On August 27th we held the second annual WODC-CMC joint work trip. This year we worked with the Chocorua Mountain Club to install several water bars and drainage dips on the Whittin Brook Trail. We also placed boulders at a stream crossing to reduce bank erosion, and filled several gullies in the trail. A memorable potluck supper at the Conni Sauti house overlooking Lake Chocorua closed out this most enjoyable day.

On September 17th we were joined by the Trailwrights as we worked on the Kelley Trail. With new WODC volunteers Paul Kirsch, Larry Labrie, and Sandy Labrie, we had a total crew of 16

people. This allowed us to complete three adjacent projects in a single day. By the end of the day we had placed stepping stones in a large muddy area, built a new treadway through a wet section, and constructed rock cribbing around a steep sidehill. A festive pizza dinner was the perfect close to this fun and productive day. Our special thanks to Hal, Roger, and the entire Trailwrights crew. We hope to see you again next year.

October 8th was the last scheduled work trip of the season, and we spent the day doing brushing, blazing, and drainage work on the Bickford Trail. Our task was made considerably easier by the earlier removal of many blow-downs by David Bowles. We're very glad to welcome David as the new adopter of the Bickford Trail, and wish to express our thanks for

Major 1994 Trail Projects

Bennett St.	erosion, drainage, sidehill
Bickford	clear, brush, blaze
Big Rock Cave	water bars, blaze
Blueberry Ledge	clear, drain, harden
Cabin	drainage, brush, blaze
Dacey's Mill	clear water bars
Kelley	drainage/cribbing w/Trailwrights
Old Mast Rd.	Tin Mtn. Conservation Ctr.
Kate Sleeper	clear, brush, blaze, sign
Tilton Spring	brush, clear
Walden	clear, blaze realign
Whittin Brook	drainage w/CMC
Wiggin	blaze

his fine work. If you walk the Bickford Trail, you'll appreciate David's nice flush-cut stumps that prevent tripping. Next year we plan to correct several muddy sections of trail that exceeded our energy for that day.

The Trails Committee receives a steady stream of "Hiker Comment Forms" from the Ferncroft Kiosk. Several hikers alerted us to the presence of new blowdowns on the Blueberry Ledge Trail. On October 22nd Chris Conrod and Peter Smart spent the day clearing eleven fallen trees from the trail. They ranged in size from six to sixteen inches, and provided quite a workout. Another dozen trees were small enough to carry off the trail without cutting. We also reviewed several eroding sections of the trail that may need work next year.

Work on Other Trails

Between work on WODC trails, several Club members also volunteer their time to work on other trails. The Bearcamp Valley Trail is one such project, and Fred Lavigne has organized several trips to improve stream crossings along the trail. One project involved the placement of large stepping stones and rock paving at Beede's Falls. Besides making the crossings easier at high water, the work restored several eroding banks and should prevent further damage. Other volunteers included Evelyn MacKinnon, Amelia, Margaret, Susan and Chip Kimball, Judith Reardon and Peter Smart.

These projects made good use of Fred and Peter's new "Grip Hoist." By stringing the hoist's 100 foot cable horizontally across the stream we could easily lift rocks weighing several hundred pounds, slide them across on a pulley, and lower them to the desired location. This proved to be much easier, safer, and faster than the traditional techniques of dragging the rocks or rolling them with crow bars. Since anyone can help crank the hoist, it lets everyone participate. Because of these advantages we expect to see the grip hoist in wider use on WODC trails next year. Our thanks to Wes Crane of the SRCA for introducing us to these new techniques.

But It's Not Over

Although it's getting late in the season, we still hope to benefit from several days of trail work by the Shock Incarceration Unit. We've planned SIU projects for Big Rock Cave Trail, Cabin Trail, Kelley Trail, and Old Mast Road.

We also hope to review the work done by the US Forest Service on the Kate Sleeper and Walden Trails this year. We appreciate the attention given by the USFS to the serious erosion problems on these trails. Perhaps we'll have a chance to inspect this work with Eric Swett, who has assumed responsibility for backcountry management at the Saco District. We'll also be inspecting other projects that we've targeted for work next year.

The Year In Review

1994 has been a year of many accomplishments on WODC trails. Our hard working adopters have kept the trails clear and passable, while volunteer work trips have addressed specific trail problems such as major blowdowns, drainage, erosion, and trail restoration. We're encouraged by the significant number of new volunteers, and valuable partnerships with other groups such as the Chocorua Mountain Club, Tin Mountain Conservation Center, and Trailwrights. Our volunteer efforts have been complemented by the SRCA and USFS trail crews working on more remote and time-consuming projects.

The Trails Committee has continued the process of reblazing and resigning all trails. When this is complete, they will be marked throughout in a consistent, effective, and unobtrusive manner compatible with the Wilderness guidelines that apply to most of our trails.

Looking Ahead

Although 1994 has been a very productive year, there is no shortage of projects for 1995. Like much of the Forest, we have a backlog of trails in need of restoration and protection from further erosion. Through the coordinated efforts of volunteers and trail crews we'll strive to continue the WODC's long

tradition of stewardship for the Sandwich Range and its trails.

Although our program is based primarily on unpaid volunteers, it is critically dependent on the financial support that comes from WODC membership dues and contributions. These funds provide the

participation in all events. Those interested in adopting a trail, serving on the *Trails Committee*, or just helping out are also welcome. See you on the Trail!

For the Trails Committee
Peter Smart

1994 Vital Statistics

Trails Worked on:	23+
Number of work trips reported:	32+
Number of volunteers:	62+
Hours of volunteer trail work:	1,400+
Hours of SRCA trail work:	387+
Hours planning, meetings, etc.:	350+
Total WODC trail hours:	2,137+
WODC trail expenses:	\$2,300
Net expense per hour:	\$1.08/hour

Note: These numbers do not include work by the Forest Service or the Shock Incarceration Unit.

tools and equipment needed by volunteers, and enable us to use the SRCA crew for larger projects.

In 1994 the WODC spent approximately \$2,300 in support of over 2,100 hours of trail maintenance and planning, or about \$1.08 per hour. The 1995 Trails budget of \$3,385 was approved at the Annual Meeting, and will help to insure that we can continue to improve the maintenance and protection of trails.

As always, the *Trails Committee* invites your questions, comments, and

WINTER ACTIVITIES

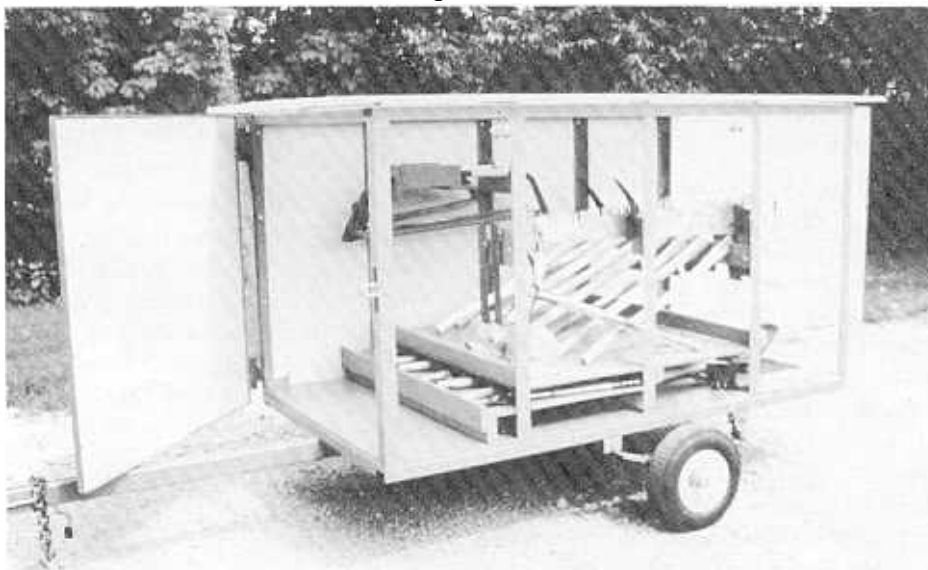
Two cross-country ski trips for Club members will be offered during February, usually the best month for snow conditions. Both are all day trips, one less demanding of skiing skills and physical conditioning than the other; neither is recommended for the beginning skier.

A Bennett Street to Sandwich Notch trip will begin at the Bennett Street kiosk in North Sandwich at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, February 25. From there the route leads up the Flat Mountain Pond Trail to its intersection with the Guinea Pond

Trail, then generally southward on the Guinea Pond Trail to its junction with the Sandwich Notch Road, then eastward to the parking space where the plowed roadway begins. The total distance is about 10 miles. Except for the short section on the Flat Mt. Pond Trail, the way is quite gentle, and usually well packed by snowmobiles. Portions of this trip are on the abandoned Beebe River railroad bed.

This trip is being organized by Barbara and Ted Sidley. For further information on the Sandwich Notch trip phone Barbara Sidley at 617-862-7645 or 323-8694, or Sally Zink at 323-8693. The "rain-date" for this all-day trip is Sunday, February 26. Reservations are necessary. Car pooling will be required, since the start and terminus are in widely different Sandwich locations.

Another challenging trip will be held on Saturday, February 11, organized by Judith Reardon and Peter Smart. We will revisit Lost Pass, as a round trip from Wonalancet by Flat Mountain Pond Trail. Meet at Whiteface Intervale at 8:30 A.M. for a full-day trip of 16 to 20 miles. The terrain is of moderate difficulty. There are some steep grades. Expect varying snow conditions; there may be stretches on unbroken snow. Skins may be very useful.



WODC tool trailer (exterior panels removed), July 1994

There are good skiing and wonderful sights in this remote area.

Reservations for this trip are required. For further information, and to make reservations, phone Judy Reardon at 323-8666 in advance, so we can plan group size and notify you if the trip is postponed (to February 18) due to weather or bad snow conditions.

WHO IS ARTHUR WALDEN?

Most people familiar with Wonalancet history will agree that Arthur Walden was the most colorful person ever to reside in the area. He was adventurous and imaginative, an entrepreneur, a captivating storyteller, a man who loved public adulation.

Born in Indiana in 1871, he spent much of his youth in Minnesota. There is an abundance of stories regarding his youthful adventures and escapades. In this young man there was little resemblance to his sedate father, the Reverend Jacob Treadwell Walden, who in 1890 became a minister at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston.

Arthur was little attracted to city life, and soon after arriving in Boston left to take up residence at his father's vacation house, "Brookwalden," in a section of Tamworth, New Hampshire. The section was known to residents as Birch Intervale. During the decade before Arthur's arrival, the chief occupations were logging and the operation of saw mills. Arthur enjoyed country life, farming, and especially the animals. There may have been another attraction as well, for a distant relative had recently purchased 160 acres of farmland in Birch Intervale including an old farmhouse that she planned to open as a country inn. This cousin, Kate Sleeper, with Arthur's help opened the Wonalancet Farm in June 1891 after extensive renovation of the main house. "Brookwalden" was a mere stone's throw from Kate's inn. "Brookwalden" was near the rose bushes, to the west of the driveway marking the beginning of the Gordon Path.

To the young man, the call of adventure and wildness was a strong one. In 1895, at the age of twenty-four, Arthur left Birch Intervale and headed for Alaska accompanied by his collie Shirley, given

to him by Kate. He had no particular destination or objective in mind; it was shortly before the Alaskan Gold Rush while miners were prospecting throughout the Yukon. He spent the winter of 1896-97 in Circle City, and while there decided to become a freighter or dog-puncher. It wasn't for the money, but for the adventure. In Arthur's words:

"The dog driver was a good deal like the old-fashioned sailor. He never expected to stay anywhere for any length of time. He was constantly thinking either of turning back or of striking off for some new region. He hood-winked himself with the delusion that he was out there for money. In reality, it was the adventurous life that appealed to him."

These dog-punching days were critical to Arthur's future. In subsequent years he wrote three books of adventure based largely on his experiences in Alaska. They were the materials of the tales he loved to tell at Wonalancet Farm - especially to a rapt audience of women guests sitting around the big fireplace after supper. In Alaska he learned readily and indelibly all aspects of dog raising, training, and sled dog racing, lessons he would in the future teach others.

In 1902 he returned to New Hampshire, and shortly after that Kate and Arthur were married. He returned to farming, but with a new vision: to raise and train sled dogs, and to introduce the sport of dog sled racing to New Hampshire and New England. It was in Wonalancet that his famous dog Chinook was born and raised. Arthur began promoting sled dog racing in 1921 with the first race in New Hampshire, a race sponsored by the Brown Paper Company of Berlin, N.H., which Arthur's team won. In 1924 the New England Sled Dog Club was founded at Wonalancet Farm; Walden was elected its first president.

Walden's many other innovations can only be mentioned in brief. Before 1907 Arthur designed and helped build the log house that became the Antlers Tea Room. Construction was based on cabins he had seen in Alaska. Denny Morton, his great grand niece and former president of WODC, currently owns the house.

About 1910 Walden brought electric power to the Intervale. He built a dam on



Arthur Walden and Chinook

Wonalancet Brook near the present one, and a power house nearby with water wheel and generator. A transmission line ran through the woods to the Tamworth Road, thence to the Farm and several houses. Another spur line led to his saw mill, the first electric powered one in Carroll County. Characteristically, Arthur used a dog sled to haul the heavy materials required for the project. Parts of the mill are visible today.

Destruction of buildings by fire was ever a concern to residents. In 1916 Arthur urged members of WODC, almost all property owners in the area, to purchase a fire pump and hose. Following several years of fund raising, the equipment was purchased.

Not all his projects were successful. Arthur dug a pond for fish farming across the river behind the Farm. He never got around to the stocking. As an old-timer recalls, "When Walden got something going he lost interest in it. I remember he planted oats once and when he got them so they would pay, he lost interest."

It is not known whether Arthur played a role in the founding of WODC, as early records are missing. From the 1908 WODC Guide we learn he was President in 1907-1908, and he may have served in that capacity other years. For seven years he was responsible for the Club's "Short Trails." During early years trails were distinguished by their length, with one

person in charge of short trails, and another of long trails. Short trails were mostly located in the Intervale at low elevations, e.g., Red Path to Mt. Katherine, and Brook Path to Wonalancet Falls. Responsibility for short trails was not insignificant; the Club maintained rustic seats along these trails, several foot bridges that needed frequent replacement due to destructive floods, and stiles or gates where trails crossed pastures.

What is the connection between Arthur and the Walden Trail? The first description of the trail, called the Walden Path, is found in the 1908 WODC Guide. The trail was cut and named between the appearance of the first and second guides. Arthur was living in Wonalancet during most of that period, and he may have cut the trail. Then there is the related question, is Arthur the Walden in whose honor the trail was named? His father was summering in Wonalancet during those years; residents and visitors alike respected Treadwell Walden, and he held regular services at the Wonalancet Chapel during the summer. Club members might have named the trail for him. Also, in 1902 Kate Sleeper and Arthur were married. Might the trail have been named for her, or for both of them, perhaps in honor of the marriage? So the question remains.

The Gordon Path is named in honor of Arthur's stepmother and relative of Kate Sleeper, Grace Gordon, the second wife of Rev. Treadwell Walden.

There is evidence that Arthur hiked in the mountains and knew the Walden Trail. At the 1915 WODC Annual Meeting he proposed the building of a trail "from Dicey's Mill up to the saddle between Passaconaway and Hedgehog." The 1916 Secretary's Minutes state the trail is open, and the 1916 edition of the AMC Guide reports:

"This new path runs from Dicey's Mill to a point on the Walden Path about midway between the summits of Mts. Passaconaway and Hedgehog. Its length is about 1½ m., and its ascent will require about 1 hr. fifteen min."

On an old WODC map the trail is named the "Walden Cut-off," but the name does not appear in Club Minutes, Trail Reports, or AMC Guides.

In 1927 when Walden heard that Commander Byrd would be leading an expedition to the South Pole, he and Chinook took the train to Boston. They met Byrd, and convinced him to make Walden the lead driver and dog trainer of the expedition. About a hundred dogs trained in the Intervale went on that first Antarctic expedition, and also four drivers who learned the skill from Walden. Byrd later paid tribute to the work of Walden and the dogs in these words:

"Had it not been for the dogs, our attempts to conquer the Antarctic by air must have ended in failure. On January 17th Walden's single team of thirteen dogs moved 3,500 pounds of supplies from ship to base, a distance of 16 miles each trip, in two journeys. Walden's team was the backbone of transport. Seeing him rush his heavy loads along the trail, outstripping the younger men, it was difficult to believe that he was an old man. He was 58 years old, but he had the determination and strength of youth..."

Upon his return to Tamworth, townspeople held a big celebration. Citizens of the State wanted to name the highway between Tamworth and Wonalancet in his honor. Arthur declined, suggesting the name "Chinook Trail" that it bears today.

The conjunction of the great depression of the 1930's and World War II resulted in financial hardships for inn keepers. The Waldens retired to "Brookwalden," leasing the Farm to others.

On a stormy day, March 26, 1947, "Brookwalden" burned. Arthur rescued Kate from the flames, but he died while fighting the fire. His death was a great loss to the community, and for Kate. Sometime later Kate remarked, "He went as he would have liked to go, in a glory of flame."

Kate and Arthur are buried side-by-side a few yards east of the Wonalancet Chapel.

George Zink



NETC CONFERENCE

Editor's Note: Each year a budget is approved that includes dues to the New England Trail Conference (NETC); WODC is a charter member. It was founded in 1917 "with the aim of furthering coordinate enterprise in building and maintaining trails." Edgar L. Heermance (Camp Heermance), served as Chairman of the organization for several years during the mid 1930's. Meetings are especially interesting to anyone who wants to know what is happening to trails throughout New England. Our thanks to Judith Reardon who attended the April 1994 NETC Annual Meeting and took notes.

Following are as many of her notes as could be entered in the available space.

This one day Conference opened with a short business meeting. The treasurer reported funds of \$870, and the Chairman urged members to volunteer as NETC Board members. Next were oral reports from member clubs, including one for WODC by Judith Reardon. As examples of reports, the Wapack Range group described a successful telethon of landowners to request conservation easements, while the NH Heritage Trails Advisory announced that the Heritage Trail is only 20% complete, and that they have had trouble regarding railroad rights of way.

Following club reports were two lectures, one on Air Quality, based on research at Mt. Washington Observatory and Camp Dodge, sponsored by the Harvard School of Public Health, WMNF, and AMC. The report was well presented; it was a full report, simply stated, and interesting. A second was on the topic of Water Quality, especially as it relates to drinking water from back country sources. All water quality at these sources is suspect. Again, it was a full and detailed account.

There were four shorter presentations, one each on: Safety Programs by the NH Fish and Game; Hiking Equipment with a speaker from the Green Mountain Club; Tools useful in maintaining trails by members of Trailwrights; and a report by the Forest Service on the Blackstone Valley project which seeks to establish historical easements along the valley from Massachusetts to Rhode Island.

I found this a worthwhile meeting, informative and interesting, and would encourage other members to attend next year.