

## Newsletter of the Delaware Geographic Alliance

### BIG DELAWARE DOINGS IN BOSTON

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Peter Rees, Lewis Huffman, MaryAnna Taylor and several TCs attended the National Council for Geographic Education convention in Boston November 3 - 7. The weather cooperated with bright days, and attendees were able to enjoy sightseeing, and Boston offers wonderful sights. Most people were able to sample some of the city's famous restaurants.

As usual at this conference, the exhibit area was a big draw. Everybody was able to find several well-prepared and -presented sessions which gave attendees ideas and/or lesson plans to take back to the classroom.

A highlight for Delaware was the presentation Dawn Willis and Jacqui Wilson gave on the technical institute they developed and ran last summer. They drew a large and interested audience that seemed to comprise

mostly people who either had run a technical institute themselves or were in the process of planning one. Everyone, including Dawn and Jacqui, clearly enjoyed and profited from the exchange of experiences and ideas for re-designs.

At the banquet on Friday the 5th, Delaware was again represented disproportionately to its size when three of its TCs were awarded the organization's Distinguished Teaching Award. Joel Glazier, of ML King Elementary, and Pat Killalea, of Welch Elementary were present to accept theirs; Mary Alice Aguilar, of Redding Intermediate, was unable to attend the conference and received hers by mail.

Those who were able to stay over attended the National Geographic Society reception at which

the Society presented its Distinguished Geography Educator Award to Dr. James Binko of Towson State. It was awarded to a nongeographer for the first time. Binko has spent the last thirteen summers at the Society helping to prepare teachers from around the country to make carefully planned and artfully delivered presentations. The Society estimates that in that time approximately 18,000 teachers have been Binkoed, either directly or indirectly. (One of the easiest exercises a TC can perform is to tell whether or not a presenter has been Binkoed.)

Dr. Binko was gracious in his acceptance speech and denigrated his own hand in fostering the increasing importance of geography in American schools. Most of the attendees, almost all of whom had been Binkoed, knew better.

### Warner takes advantage of Fulbright-Hays

#### Itinerary

East Siberia

Moscow

Baikalsk

### ONE OF OUR OWN IN RUSSIA

Patsy Warner, from Middletown Middle School, was able to take advantage of a teacher to teacher exchange in Russia in the last half of October.

Funded by the United States Information Agency, the program was under the auspices of The Office of Faculty Exchange of the American Councils for International Education and covered by the Fulbright-Hays Law. The intention

was to foster contacts between teachers and schools in the United States, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

At a preliminary meeting at the University of Delaware, participants from all countries met each other briefly. It wasn't until just before the American contingent left that they knew who their partner would be. Patsy was unexpectedly partnered with a

young man of 23. She spent 8 days with him and his family near Lake Baikal. She'd previously had a couple of days in Moscow, where she was able to explore the subway system (fabulous architecture), the Kremlin, Red Square, Lenin's Mausoleum, the Alexander Garden, where Stalin and Breznev are buried, St. Basil's Cathedral and the Gum department store.

See Russia, page 8

# On the Bookshelf — Reviews

**Why in the World, Adventures in Geography** by George J. Demko with Jerome Agel and Eugene Boe, Anchor Books, 1992

This one-time director of the United States Office of the Geographer in the United States Department of State begins with a short chapter on place, which could serve well to give institute participants a clear idea of that subject.

After the usual chapter, mercifully short, about the abysmal state of geographic knowledge among Americans, he gets down to some intriguing topics with grave implications for the future.

The first is called "When Is a Nation Not a Country?" about many groups like the Kurds, Armenians, Sikhs, Basques, Singalese, Inuits, Tamils, Palestinians and Biafrans who fit the title. They have a shared history, common culture, and religion; what they lack is a space, a government, an economy and distribution system. These groups differ in their determination to wrest a space from the country or countries where they live, but they are an unhappy thorn in the sides of the same elements.

Demko follows that up with a chapter on the fast-expanding world population. This is one of the places where the years since publication make a difference to the reader. He is talking about 5.3 billion people, and we know that we've just surpassed 6 billion. This is of small importance if the reader has been paying a modicum of attention to passing events.

The next chapter explores the vast, and to our part of the world easily forgotten, importance of water to the world's people. He discusses the areas where its scarcity is a serious impediment to the health of the surrounding civilization.

These three chapters together, although he doesn't belabor the point, make one think about the incalculable threats of future sectional and universal conflicts.

One of my favorite sections is the chapter called "Some Geographical Musings," which comprises a few pages

of short paragraphs of random "noodlings," minutiae, which are united only in what he calls their geographical inspiration. The following sample is another place where this book would be useful to institute participants.

"All things fundamentally occur in two dimensions and over two palettes, time and space. Everything in the history of the universe and humankind has happened in terms of a time dimension and a space dimension, both of which are dynamic, not static. Some processes are visible, some are not."

The book closes with a long chapter titled "Intimations of the Future: Profiles of 173 Countries — and Counting," in which he gives each one a short treatment (one paragraph to a page or so) about the geography, economy, history, resources, and general potential for future conflict.

The style is a pleasant blend of authoritative and accessible. Many readers will find themselves recognizing facts they already had but having new connections made from them. It's a wonderful way to gain some new insights into the world's changing face.

**Things Maps Don't Tell Us, An Adventure into Map Interpretation**, by Armin K. Lobeck, University of Chicago Press, originally published in 1956, republished in 1993, with an introduction by Mark Monmonier.

This book is for lovers of physical geography. It is a compilation of explanations of how the earth's most common landforms came into being and how they relate to others of the same type in other parts of the world. It is well for the reader to read Monmonier's introduction before delving into it because in the intervening years since its publication changes have taken place in process geomorphology.

The book is organized around four general features: coast lines, islands, rivers and lakes. Within each section, Lobeck addresses several specific examples and demonstrates how

they came into existence as they now appear. The coast lines section addresses distorted coast lines, projections and protuberances, peninsulas, coastal irregularities, promontories and points, hooked points, simple regular coasts, coast lines with barrier islands, coast lines with interrupted barrier islands, embayed or estuarine coasts, fiord coasts, and straits.

Within a topic, for instance "Coast Lines with Interrupted Barrier Islands," he shows at least two maps, one a simple one of the area (in this case, Long Island, New Jersey and Delaware-Maryland-Virginia Peninsula) and the other a map or diagram giving graphic help in understanding the development of the feature under discussion. These maps and diagrams are on the facing pages of a spread, and the explanation is on the lower half of the pages of the same spread. This is important because it allows the reader to study the map or diagram while reading without turning back and forth. In this particular section he points out the similarities among the three areas: each begins at its eastern or northern end with a barrier bar which touches the mainland. This bar is followed at its westward or southward end by a barrier island sheltering a bay (Fire Island with Great South Bay, New Jersey's Island Beach and Long Beach with Barnegat Bay and Assateague Island with Chincoteague Bay. Look at an area map, and you'll see these at once.

Our area is addressed again in the rivers section under the topic "River Embayments," where the Delaware and Delaware Bay, the Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River are featured.

This book is not easy, but it will reward the reader, or more likely student, with an increased understanding of forces that act upon our physical milieu. The maps and diagrams are kept as clear and uncluttered as the subject will allow, and only concentration is required of the user. It's a useful addition to the geographically interested person's bookshelf.

# Changing the Face of Kent County - Is It Better?

According to the Delaware Department of Transportation spokesman Michael Williams, the highway projects under way in Kent County and southern New Castle County are on schedule and all should be finished within the next few years. This total project began some decades ago and has already cost in the neighborhood of \$750 million. The funding has primarily been provided by the Federal Transportation Trust Fund. It is the largest taxpayer-funded project in the history of Delaware, however, very little Delaware state tax money has been used.

Even before completion of the highway, we are experiencing unparalleled growth in population in Kent County, and it's fair to say that such fast growth in population will continue and even speed up after the completion of the highway project. These newcomers, when the project is finished, will routinely live in the most southern reaches of Kent County and be able to commute to Wilmington or Philadelphia.

One can foresee many changes on the face of Kent which may bring difficult problems for the various planning agencies. Rising populations are bound to impact the school districts, police forces, sewage plants, water systems and pollution controls. The loss of farm land may impact the economic well-being of the county. What will happen to the communities that are being bypassed by Rt. 1? We know from past experience that economic activity may well follow the major traffic and cluster around the highway exits, leaving existing towns and villages with fewer viable business enterprises.

What will be the eventual configuration of Rt. 13? Will it be possible to travel north on it beyond Smyrna, or will it disappear as a practical long-distance route, as has happened to the old National Rt. 1, the first north-south highway on the east coast.

How will school districts handle the inevitable growth? If the state continues to insist that actual children be within a district before new schools are built or existing ones are expanded, what will happen to the whole concept of teaching to the standards and having schools, teachers and students accountable for the results? Will Kent County schools spend the next several years overcrowded and keep moving into new buildings that are overcrowded when they open their doors?

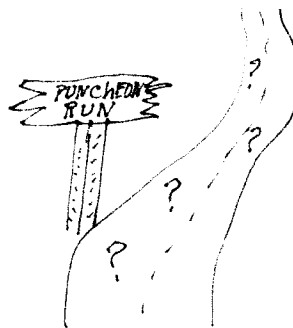
Progress and change are inevitable, and in many ways we welcome them. It behooves us to become involved in the planning for the results that will follow the improving transportation facilities so that, when the dust settles after the construction, we are left with a Kent County we recognize.

## Do Puncheons Run? Should They?

It is expected that sometime in the year 2000 the Puncheon Run Connector between Routes 13 and 1 will open to traffic. Whence comes this name, which has been alive and well in the Dover area for many, many years, but has largely been unknown elsewhere in the State? A puncheon is, or at least was when the term was in current use, a split log used as a support for a roof; for flooring, flat side up; for slab sidings for houses; and for "paving" early roads through swampy areas. How the little rill, a very minor tributary of the St Jones River, came by its name of Puncheon Run has not yielded to strenuous research involving one book and one phone call. Perhaps a puncheon-paved road once ran along beside it. Perhaps a puncheon-sided house once stood near it. Perhaps a bridge over it was floored with puncheons. However it was, the rill got the name and gave it to the connector.

It's a name with character, one that causes thought. How many travelers through our state in the future will

think it memorializes a child's recess game? How many will puzzle over it for some miles and amuse themselves with possible answers? How many of them will know, or will stop and ask to their certain frustration? In any case, we know whatever there is to know. The power is ours.



## New Map - Delaware Coastline

The Delaware Geological Survey has announced publication of a new map showing a cross section of the Delaware coastline between Cape Henlopen and Fenwick Island.

The cross section extends from the surface to a depth of 150 feet below sea level. Its main purpose was to target sand deposits that could be used for future beach repair projects.

A digital version of the map is available from the web site of the Delaware Geological Survey at [www.udel.edu/dgs/pub/misc06.pdf](http://www.udel.edu/dgs/pub/misc06.pdf). Papers copies can be ordered

## Delaware Geography Teacher Of the Year Award

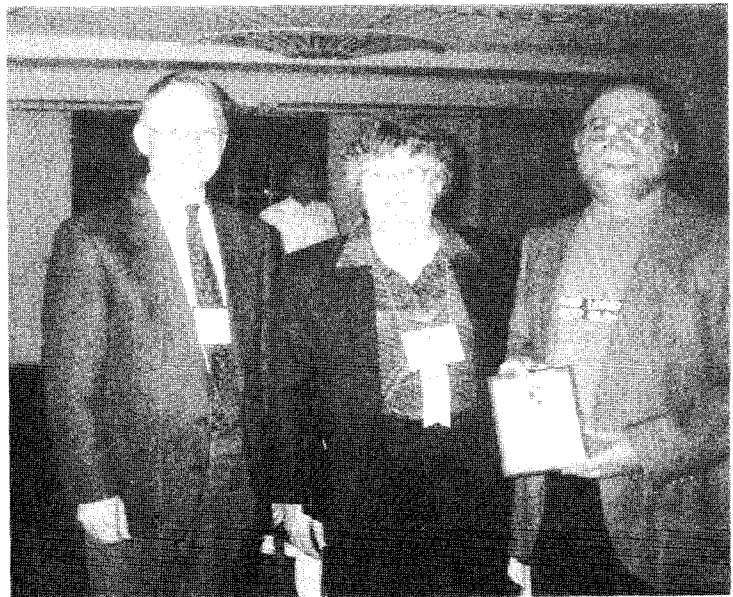
The Alliance is seeking nominations for the Delaware Geography Teacher of the Year Award. Initiated in 1996, the award is given in recognition of exemplary teaching of geography. Nominations may be submitted by the school principal or a colleague. The deadline for nominations to be submitted to the Alliance office is January 7. Submissions must be in writing. The award will be presented at the Alliance's Spring Dinner Meeting on March 23, 2000. For details, call the Alliance office at 302-831-6783.

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Joel Glazier showing his Distinguished Teaching Award plaque at the NCGE banquet on Friday, November 5.



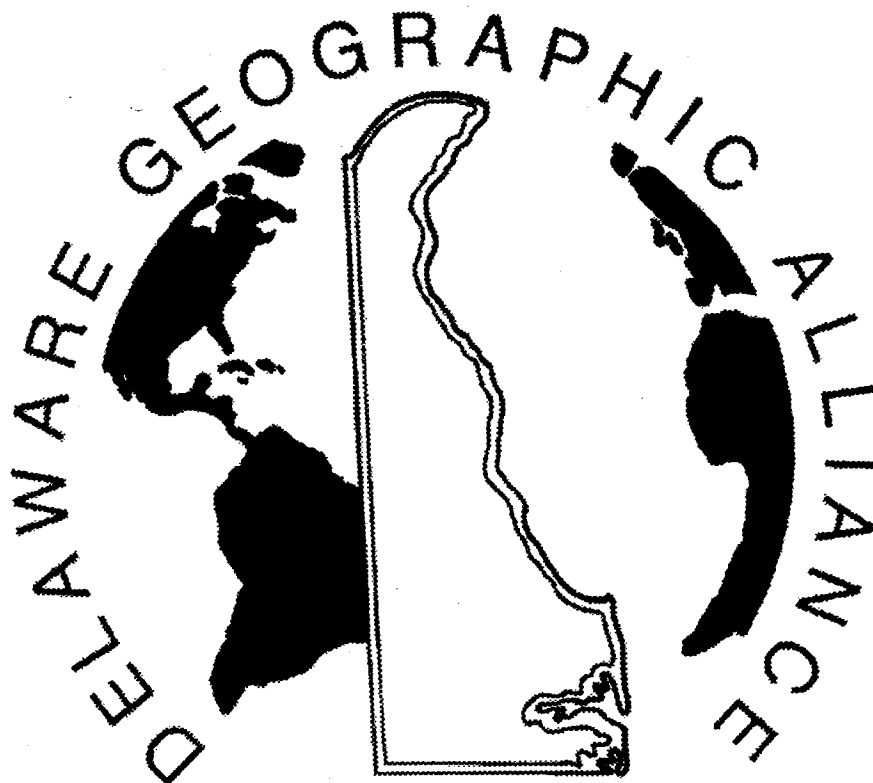
←  
Pat Killalea at the NCGE banquet on Friday, November 5, 1999

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Peter Rees and the two awardees who attended the banquet.



**DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE**  
**SUMMER GEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE**  
**FOR TEACHERS**

**JULY 9 - 21, 2000**



**THEME:**

**HANDS-ON GEOGRAPHY IN DELAWARE'S CLASSROOMS:  
A Support Program for Implementing Standards and Assessment**