

SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

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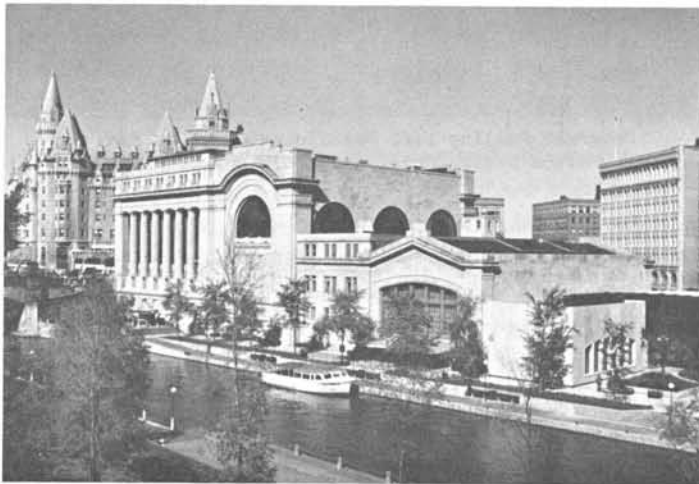
RIDEAU AMERICAN CANAL SOCIETY SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY TOUR

The Society's first two-day trip--on the 22nd and 23rd September last was, it surely cannot be held immodest to observe, a thumping success. True, the weather, from Saturday morning's departure nearly until arrival back in Ottawa Sunday evening, was, plainly, crummy: chill and rainy off and on except for an hour or so of clear sky first thing Sunday morning. Otherwise, though, all was smashing. As has become traditional on these ventures, there was a nicely balanced combination of site visitation and other forms of less intense pleasure. Another aspect of the occasion that has become a convention was the joining with another group having interests in one way or another compatible with those of the SIA. This seems, indeed, to be one of the nicest characteristics of these occasions.

The American Canal Society is a vital group, as an entity nearly exactly of an age with the SIA. Their congenial support as a whole in publicizing the Rideau trip and that of its many members who actually joined the tour was a vital constituent of the general good spirit that pervaded the weekend. Many of the sixty or so faithful on the trip, in fact, were members of both organizations, and there was visible no distinction whatever between the enthusiasm of ACSs and SIAs when viewing sites not directly canal related.

THE TOUR

Dianne Newell Macdougall



The Rideau Canal, near its Ottawa end, passes in the shadow of the Chateau Laurier and the Union Station, built together in 1912-13 in a major improvement scheme by the Grand Trunk Railway (now Canadian National). The station was to serve as the terminal for the Grand Trunk and for through trains of the Canadian Pacific. The Chateau is adjacent to the Parliament buildings, with which it is architecturally compatible. Designed by Montreal architects Ross & Macfarlane, the station measures 281 feet x 140 feet. The main portion is six stories high with basement. The principal architectural feature is a series of colonades on the west and south elevations.

Sixty representatives of the SIA and the ACS, from the north eastern states, Ontario, and Quebec, took a look at industrial and engineering sites along the 100-mile Rideau Waterway between Ottawa and Kingston. The tour's theme, the Rideau, provided a common feature from which to view a great deal of IA during the two-day bus and water tour. Included were the communities of Ottawa, Hull, Manotick, Smith Falls, Perth, Jones Falls and Kingston.

There was a full turnout for the first event, a Friday evening reception and tour of the Conference Centre, Ottawa's revitalized and converted old Union Station, sponsored by the National Capitol Commission. Saturday morning the venture began in earnest. The weather remained cold and damp for the entire weekend, and camera supplies did not dwindle as they might ordinarily have considering the extraordinary variety of sites and structures encountered. The tour began by bus at the Ottawa end of the Canal where it enters the Ottawa River via a flight of eight locks right in the heart of the city, then a quick look at Ottawa and Hull, particularly the pulp and paper industry which was responsible for the early development of both cities.