

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COLLECTION

WHITEWATER HOME COMPANION

Southeastern Rivers
Volume II

by William Nealy



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CHATTANOOCHEE

ATLANTA

Chattahoochee, cont'd.

Chattahoochee Nature Center - Willetto Road - (See Rd. map) Featuring wildlife & nature exhibits, nature trails, and an aviary, the center is built in a marshland that can be explored via a boardwalk nature trail or by canoe (boat launch available).

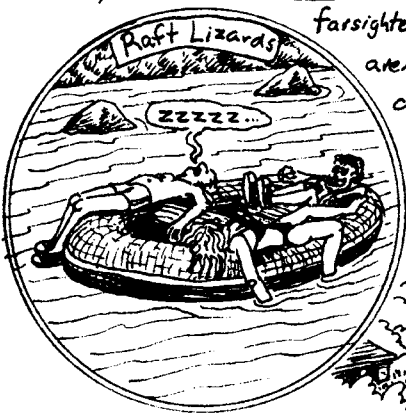
Chattahoochee River Park - off Azalea Dr. (one mile upstream of the nature center - see rd. map). A lovely park with boat launch for canoeing & fishing, playground and trails for hiking and nature walks.

Bull Sluice Lake

General Information - The Chattahoochee begins as a small mountain stream in N. Georgia near Helen. It flows south over 350 miles into Florida where it becomes the Apalachicola River and flows into the Gulf of Mexico.

The approximately 45 miles of river from Buford Dam on Lake Lanier to Paces Mill provides Atlanta with a priceless recreational and natural treasure. From Morgan Falls to Powers Island the river flows wide past huge granite bluffs created by the Brevard Fault. Below Powers Island the river steepens and runs through the Palisades National Recreation Area with shoals & ledges creating Class I-II whitewater (and Class "A" scenery!). Rarely can such unspoiled and interesting natural features be found near a major metropolitan area, much less inside one! Those responsible for such

farsightedness in preserving this area for generations to come deserve a couple Nobel prizes at least. Enjoy! Please leave the area undisturbed and carry out all trash, including cigarette butts, pop-tops, orange peels, etc.



Sope Creek - Crossed by the Union Army in mid 1864. The Cochran Shoals segment of the Natl. Recreation Area begins 1/2 mile down stream.



Morgan Falls Dam - Built in 1902, the dam creates Bull Sluice Lake and provides hydroelectric power to the Atlanta power grid. Below the dam is a good put in for a longer float trip to the Paces Mill Take out.

Johnson's Ferry National Recreation Area - Named for an 18th century ferry crossing, this is a good put in for a shorter float trip.

Chattahoochee, cont'd.



Flora & Fauna - In

& along the banks of the
Chattahoochee wildlife abounds.

Beaver & muskrat can often be spotted

early morning or late afternoon. Raccoon, mink,
fox, opossum & squirrels share the shores & shallows.

with hawks, herons, Kingfishers, egrets, many

varieties of ducks, songbirds, and sandpipers.

In the river trout, bass, turtles, frogs, salamanders,

crayfish, clams, and snakes (mostly harmless) can be

found. With the exception of gamefish, leave all wildlife unmolested!

The river supports a huge variety of plantlife. Many types of

wildflowers bloom in the Spring and Summer. Trees are mainly

deciduous and include poplar, black walnut, sycamore,

pawpaw, river birch (in the floodplain) and oak, maple

dogwood, beech, pine, sassafras, hickory, etc.

(on hills, ridges, etc.)

Devils Racecourse -

A series of small ledges

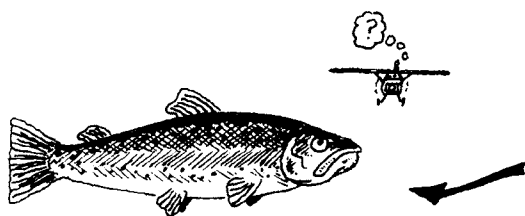
at the beginning of the Palisades

segment. Numerous routes are available

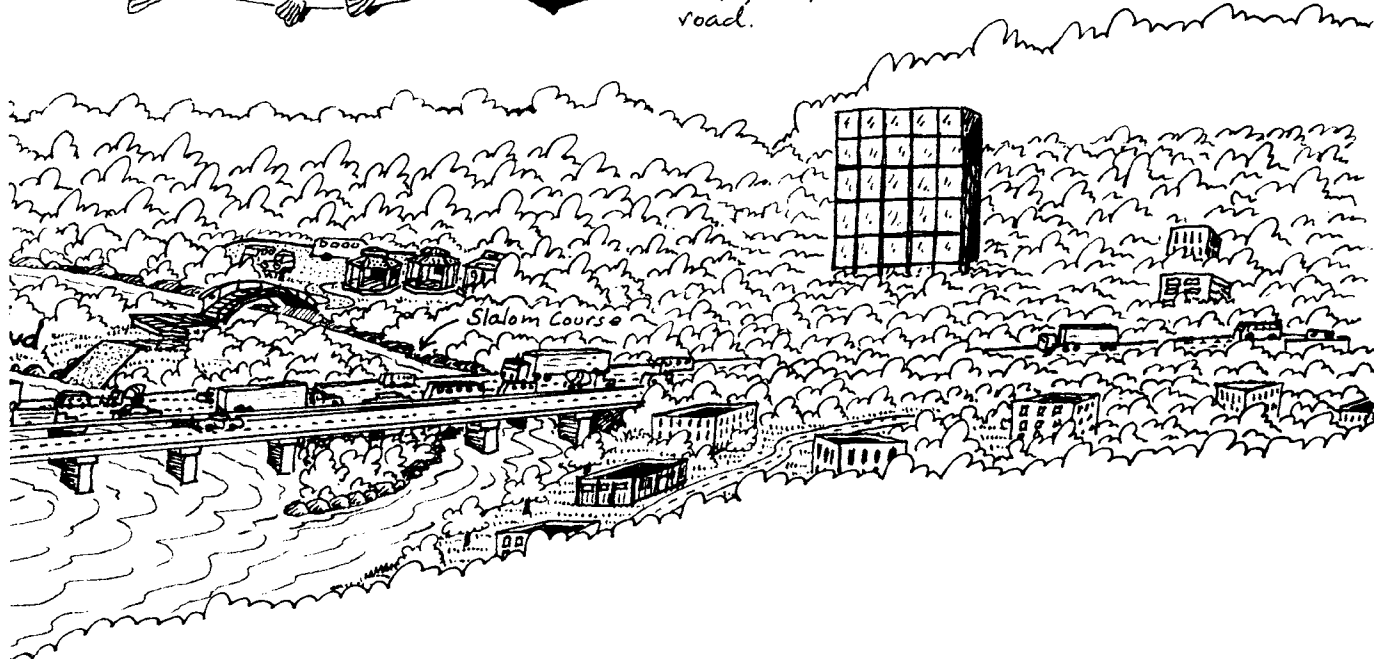
but the best water is generally on the righthand side.

Racecourse's waves, chutes, eddies, and small holes

make for good playing in canoes and kayaks.



Float fisherpersons! Believe it or not this is one of Georgia's top trout streams. The cold semi-clear water below Morgan Falls Dam is loaded with hearty rainbow trout stockers. If you don't catch ANY, no problem.... MacDonald's is just down the road.



Palisades National Recreation Area - Beginning half a mile below Powers Island, broken granite bluffs rise abruptly above the river on both sides. This is the most scenic and interesting section on the lower "Hooch". Numerous easy Class I-II rapids with good surfing waves and holes dot the river. Rhododendron and mountain laurel growing up the sides of the rugged bluffs remind one of the wild mountain rivers of North Georgia, a bizarre contrast to the suburban ambiance a mile or two upstream. Below Charlie's Island there are a number of good spots for picnicking, swimming or just hanging out. Note - do not dive off the rock bluffs without first checking the water depth below!

Thanks & a tip of the 'yak to Jerry & Carrie Keller, Mark Bloomfield, and the Chattahoochee Outdoor Center for their help in making this map.



Chattahoochee, cont'd.

Float Times- estimated time for a raft at average water levels-

Morgan Falls Dam to Johnsons Ferry- 2 miles - 1 hour

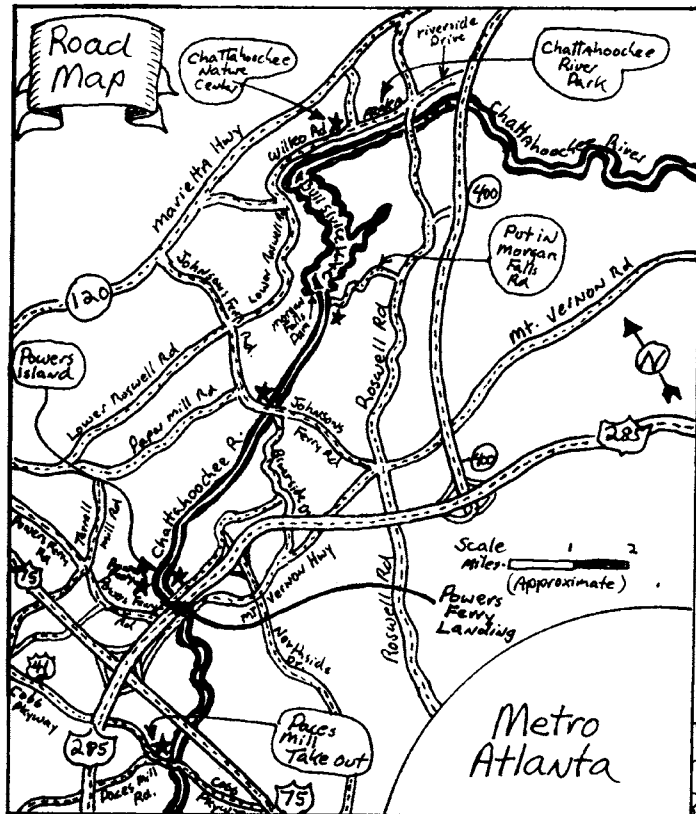
Johnsons Ferry to Powers Island- 4 miles - 2 1/2 hours

Powers Island to Paces Mill Takeout- 3.0 miles - 2 1/2-3 hours

Water Levels-The

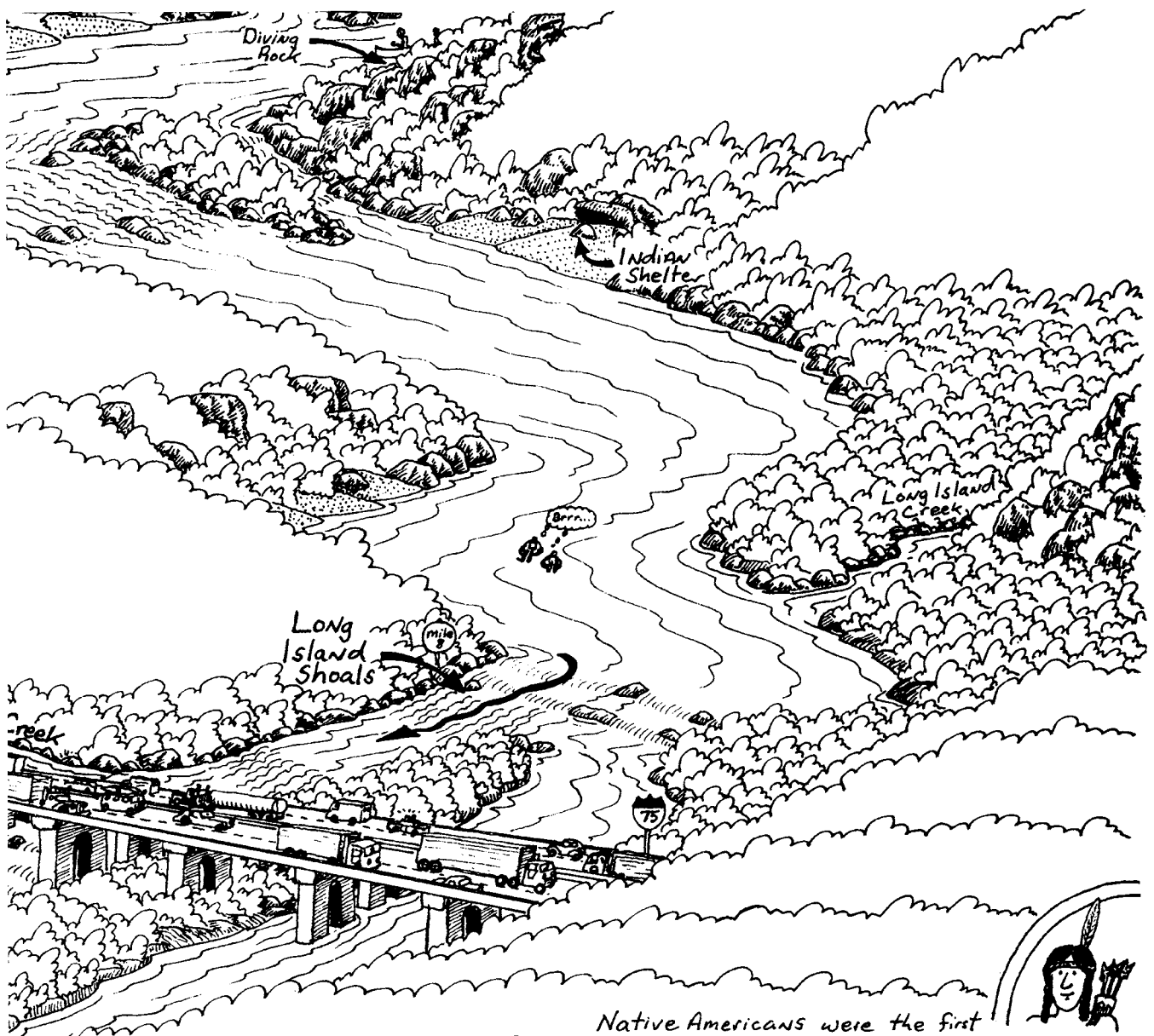
Chattahoochee's level is determined by rainfall and Buford Dam releases.

Since there is currently no standardized gauge, when in doubt, ask a park ranger or outfitter.



Ruins of an old grist mill- "Aker's Mill" can be reached by a hiking trail on the south side of Rottenwood Creek



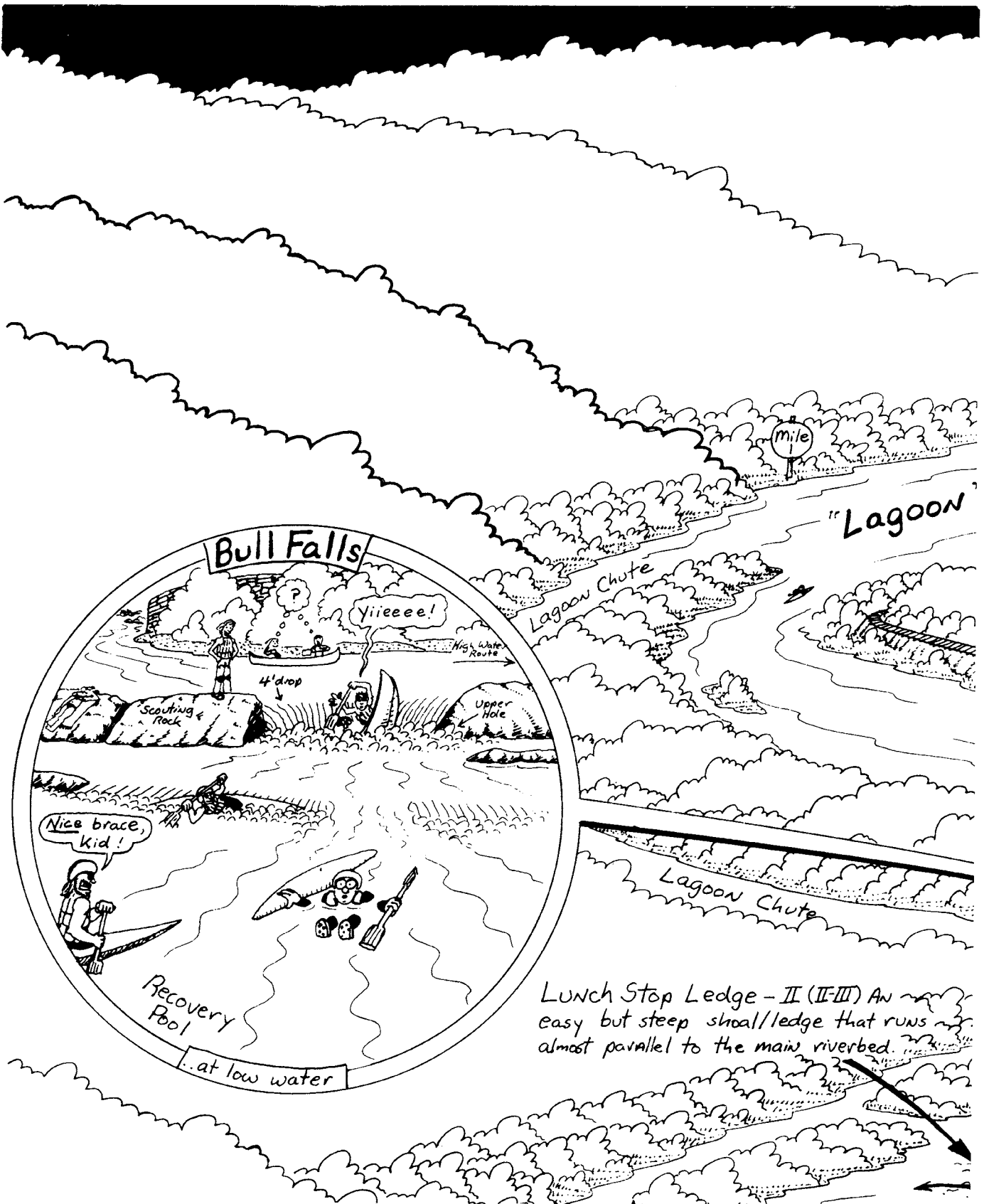


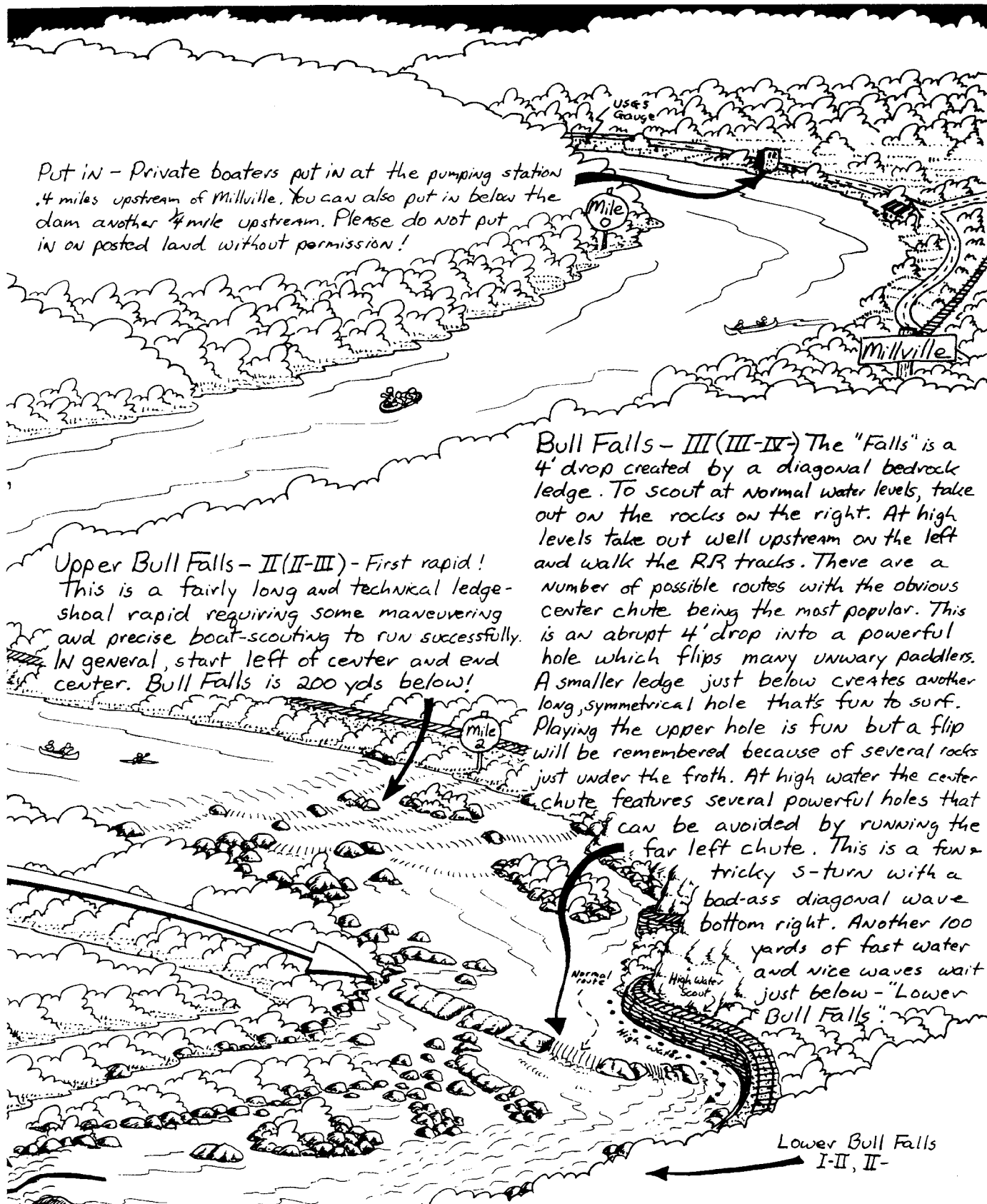
Chattahoochee National Recreation Area
Information Center - Takeout, picnic
area, concession stand, river
information, etc. Located just off
Cobb Parkway

Native Americans were the first people to discover and inhabit the river and its environs. The Chattahoochee gets its name from the Cherokee Tribe - "Chattahoochee" roughly translated means "river of painted rocks". Until the arrival of rude European types in the late 17th century, the Chattahoochee served as a natural border between the lands of the Cherokee (north-east) and the lands of the Creek (southeast). Less than a half a mile below Charlie's Island are the rock ruins of an Indian shelter dating back 7000 years to the early Archaic Period.

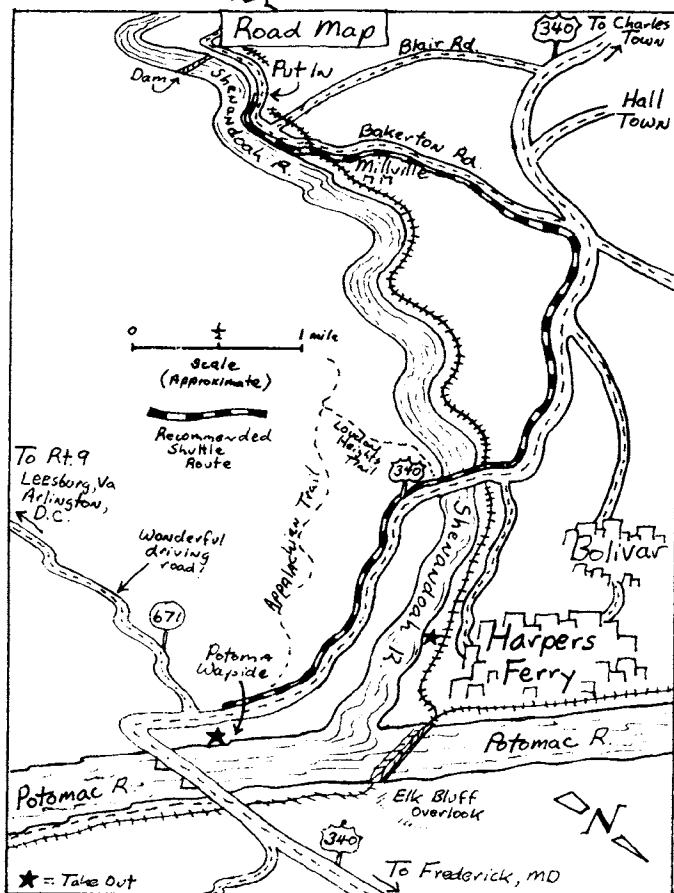
Shenandoah
Millville to Potoma
Wayside

Shenandoah, cont'd.





Shenandoah, cont'd.



Dam Ruins Rapid-II-III(III)

The wreckage of an old wood & rock diversion dam creates a fairly technical rapid ornamented by several semi-submerged iron spikes protruding from the rubble. The spikes are potential boat/raft destroyers so avoid them if possible! There are several routes to choose from - the center channel is long & technical and features the most spikes. The right-hand channel is less technical but fun. At high water sneak the ledges on the far right.

The Lower Shenandoah is a beautiful river offering the visitor intermediate whitewater and great scenery in a setting steeped in history. Between Millville and its confluence with the Potomac the river drops approximately 40 feet, making for some exciting whitewater action at medium water levels. The river is runnable year round except during long dry spells. Several local outfitters offer canoe rentals and raft trips. Inexperienced paddlers should always check water levels before putting on and scout unfamiliar rapids! For additional information read Matracia & Cecil's excellent Blue Ridge Voyages, Volume 4 (1974) available from most area outfitters. Topographical maps (Charles Town & Harpers Ferry quads) are also a useful supplement.



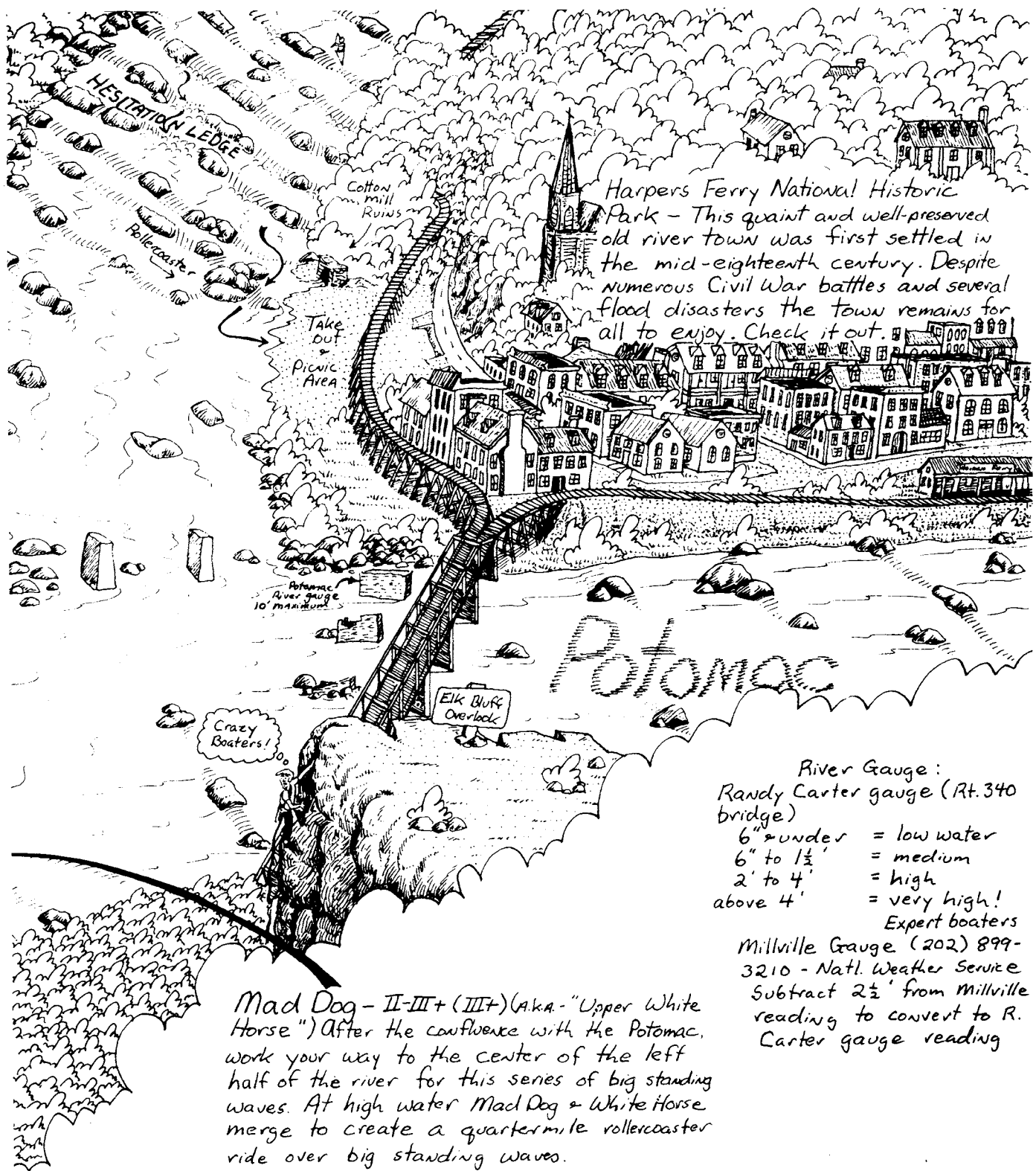
Upper Staircase - II-III(III+)

This is $\frac{3}{10}$ of a mile of small continuous ledges that get progressively more technical as you near Rt. 340 bridge. After the first 50 yds. of easy class II water ("Entrance") you enter a long, tricky ledge series ("Find Your Own Way Ledges") that is most difficult at low water. As Louis Matarica says "The route you choose is not the best." At high water a huge hole develops halfway down on the far right ("Black Hole") that should be avoided! "Bridge Rapid" runs diagonally under the bridge and features some nice ledges.

Caution!
At high water (above 6' on the Millville gauge) Staircase becomes a mile-long mega-rapid. A flip & swim here could have fatal consequences! Experts only above 4.5'.

Shenandoah, cont'd.





STILL IN LOVE WITH WILLIAM NEALY AND HIS IRREVERENT AND INSIGHTFUL CARTOON HUMOR.

Don't miss this brilliant and uproarious follow-up to *Whitewater Home Companion, Southeastern Rivers, Volume I*. *Volume II* is a special guidebook to eleven celebrated Southeastern streams in six states. Special because it provides, in map format, a wealth of information on each of the rivers described, and additionally special because it is embellished throughout with Nealy's nationally renowned art and humor.



William Nealy was a phenomenon, unilaterally deciding that whitewater paddlers should have a sense of humor. Now, largely because of him, most of them do. If you have any doubts concerning your own sense of humor, you should probably buy this book just to be on the safe side.



William "Not Bill" Nealy was a wild, gentle, brilliant artist and creator turned cult hero. The subjects of his many maps and books included paddling, mountain biking, skiing, and inline skating. His hand-drawn, poster-size river maps of the Nantahala, Ocoee, Chattooga, Gauley, Youghiogheny, and several other rivers are still sought after and in use today. Learn more about William and his art at thewilliamnealy.com



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