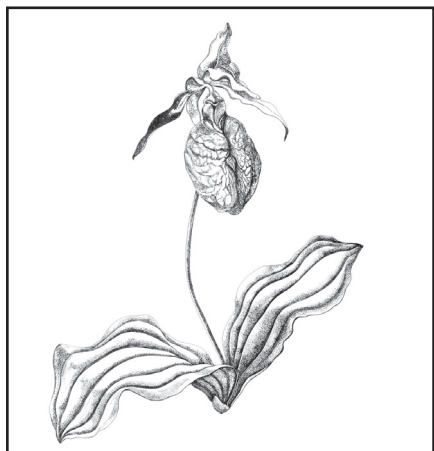


Inside the Monocle



A toast to Poolesville's first watering hole.

See *Mystery History* page 14.



The beauty of the Monocacy area is depicted in a book by local artist.

See *Center Stage* page 7.



Ivan the Terrible pays a visit.

See page 4.



You think this coach is happy?

Youth Sports page 16.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

October 8, 2004

Volume 1, Number 13

Two Teens Dead, Two Injured on West Willard Road

By Rande Davis

Teenagers from outside of the area were killed when a nineteen-year-old driver lost control of his speeding 1991 Plymouth Lazer on West Willard Road in Poolesville during the early morning hours of Saturday, September 25.

The first sign of tragedy came to the town at 1:15 a.m. when an emergency helicopter landed on the field next to the parking lot at the high school. When a second helicopter landed within minutes, it was obvious that an even greater tragedy was unfolding.

Earlier in the evening, a small group of teens had gathered at the end of West Willard Road, apparently for the purpose of drag racing or hill topping (driving on slightly hilly roads at high speeds that can cause the car to go airborne momentarily).

This location had been of major concern to the police. Just two weeks prior to this accident, the MCPD made a major bust of a large group of teens that had been using River Road and West Willard Road as drag strips. At that time, between forty-five and fifty drivers had gathered to watch or participate in drag races on one of the most dangerous roads in the county. The police issued just under fifty tickets for various violations.

The dark, winding, bumpy, and very narrow roads in upper Montgomery County are veritable death traps for drivers unwilling to respect their danger. Since this group was composed entirely of teenagers and young adults from outside the area, it is obvious they failed to understand what they were up against. By taking action that night, the Montgomery County police helped avert what could have resulted in catastrophe. The police had hoped that their enforcement of violations would result in the teens realizing their mistake.

When the police first got a call on September 25 that a group of three or four cars were speeding on West Willard Road, they sent patrol cars up River Road and down West Willard to prevent a repeat of the suspected drag racing. As Officer John Howard approached the area from Poolesville, one of the vehicles turned its headlights off and made a high speed run from the area to avoid a ticket. As the car approached a sharp, bumpy curve, the driver lost control, left the roadway, and plowed through a thicket of trees.

As a result, the driver, Edward Monterroza, 19, of Damascus and the front seat passenger, Elmer Martinez, 18, of Wheaton died immediately.



The unfortunate result of speeding on one of our back roads.

Alvin Monterroza, 16, sitting in the rear, was thrown from the car while the other passenger, Rico Scott, 17, remained trapped inside. Both were students at Watkins Mill High School. The former was flown to Washington County Hospital where it is reported that he has been released. Scott was flown to Prince George Hospital Center and remains in very severe condition.

A careful review of what remains of the Plymouth Lazer is a useful reminder of how quickly and easily things can go wrong behind the wheel. While the doors were cut off using the Jaws of Life rescue equipment, the roof was sheared completely off from the impact of the crash.

Golfer Shoots \$10,000 Hole in One at Charity Golf Outing

The Monocacy Lions Annual Charity Golf Tournament was the site of one of the area's most exciting sports occurrences of the year. Steve Freitag of Woodbine, Maryland pocketed \$10,000.00 for scoring a hole in one on the eighth hole at the Poolesville Golf Course.

Using an eight iron, Freitag sent his ball over the water hazard and it hit the green just five feet directly in front of the hole, bounced another three or four feet into the air, came down and smoothly rolled right into the cup for a hole in one. The shot traveled 176 yards from tee to cup.

As is customary in such contests,



Steve Freitag (right) is congratulated by Tournament Director Mike Sutherland and Chip Dunn on his \$10,000 hole in one.

tournament director Mike Sutherland had purchased an insurance policy

against the hole in one possibility. Lions Club members Bob Wojciehowski and Sandy Holdahl were monitoring the hole and witnessed the winning shot. Winning the \$10,000 was a first time experience for Mr. Freitag, but shooting a hole in one was not. This was the second one shot wonder of his golfing career.

This popular annual event is the major fundraising program for the club, which supports the community in many areas of need. If you are curious about the odds for winning a hole in one contest at a similar event, the insurance company tells us it is one in 12,000.

Editorial

Thinking About the Bridge

By John Clayton

To be perfectly honest, I hadn't thought about a second crossing over the Potomac in some time. I occasionally see yellow "No Techway" bumper stickers, which brings the issue to mind, and usually my first thought is, "That's right! But don't you mean 'Truckway?'" Then, while preparing excerpts of Mary Ann Kephart's White's Ferry history articles for publication, it occurred to me (in an opinion I share with many) the Potomac River from Chain Bridge to Point of Rocks is better off without a bridge, and we are all better off without a major roadway through upper Montgomery County. That remains my opinion, but if our governor or some Virginian isn't trying to cut a deal for a study about crossings into our area, or if the issue isn't in the local newspapers for some other reason, then I hardly think about it at all.

Then a couple of weeks ago I went to a political event at a down-county home for an area politician. I

was there to get my pocket picked (make a contribution), and I was there as a local business person, not as the publisher of an upcounty biweekly (usually) newspaper.

After enjoying the most expensive omelet I've ever eaten and a few cups of equally "free" coffee, the politician arrived, made a statement, and stood for some slow-pitch questions from a room full of supporters. Someone asked about the Inter County Connector and how that was going, and the politician swore unyielding fealty to the ICC and other solutions to our worsening traffic situation. This seemed to present an excellent opportunity to ask about The Bridge. While I was pondering how one would phrase such a question in front of thirty attorneys, a gentleman asked what the politician thought about a second crossing over the Potomac River in our neighborhood. The politician swore unyielding fealty to potential solutions to our worsening traffic situation, without explicitly condemning or endorsing said Bridge, the Q&A ended and the questioner proceeded to lobby the politician in favor of the Techway.

In a subsequent discussion the gentleman told me he was a builder in

Virginia and a Montgomery County resident. I advised him that the crossing was the specter of Satan himself (or words to that effect) for many upcounty residents, and he assured me that the road that would connect the bridge through Montgomery County could be a limited access highway that would not lead to development or compromise the Agricultural Reserve. The bridge and road would solve commuting problems between Northern Virginia and Montgomery County, would not contribute to sprawl, and would simply be wonderful for everyone. Neither of us changed the other's mind.

A recent letter from District 15 State Senator Rob Garagiola to Governor Robert Ehrlich, and signed by "half of Montgomery County's

senators and a third of its delegates," expressed the opposite opinion—that "such a crossing would severely damage our Agricultural Reserve and residential neighborhoods," and "the data does not support the need for such a bridge." The Montgomery County Council recently reiterated their unanimous opposition to such a project. Upcounty Councilmember Mike Knapp said, "Our Agricultural Reserve is a crown jewel of this County ... now we have to preserve it against any 'Techway.' There will be pressure for a 'Techway' and development."

There is pressure indeed. My presence at the fundraiser was a wake-up call—I may occasionally go to sleep on this issue, but the proponents of the Truckway are on it 24-7.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Things To Do

October 6 through October 16

King Barn Dairy exhibition at Water's House.

Wednesday (2 p.m. to 7 p.m.)

and Saturday (10 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

October 7 through October 9

Fall Rummage Sale

St. Peter's Parish Poolesville

Thursday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

October 8 through October 10

Sugarloaf Craft Festival

Montgomery County Fair Grounds

For more information: 800-210-9900

October 9

Community Dance

St. Mary's Pavilion Barnesville

6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

\$10 per person, BYOB

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's

Chamber Players

Black Rock Center

8 p.m. - \$25

October 10

Gaithersburg Oktoberfest

Kentlands Village

Music, Dance, Food and Beverages

Comcast Family Toon Day

Strathmore Cultural Center

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rockville

Details? See Strathmore.org

October 11

JPMS Parents Open House

All Day

Flu Shots

Poolesville Public Library

2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\$26 - Call 301-897-2217

October 13

JPMS Carrabba's Family Fun Night

Two seatings: 6 p.m. or 7 p.m.

October 14

Storytime - Cuddlesups

Stories, finger play, and music

Poolesville Public Library 10:30 a.m.

October 15

PHS Homecoming Pre-Game Event

and Football Game

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. - Pre-Game Event

6:30 p.m. - Game

October 15 through 17

Countryside Artisans Autumn

Studio Tour

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

www.countrysideartisans.com

October 16

PHS Homecoming Dance

Gym - 8:00 p.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Tribute to Frank Sinatra

West Diamond Grill

Gaithersburg, 301-963-4847

October 19

PTSA - PHS Media Center

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Lions Club Fall Blood Drive

St. Peter's Parish

3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Call: 301-972-4317

October 21

Storytime-Twosomes

Poolesville Public Library

Stories, Finger play and music

10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

October 22

JPMS After School Dance

October 23

Barnesville Basement Indoor Yard Sale

Barnesville School 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Family Album

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Scouts from troop 496 relax during a recent Camporee at the Izaak Walton League.



Dave McKenzie gets his face painted by his daughter and her friend at the Lord's Acre festival.



Friends join for lunch at the UMC's Lord's Acre festival.



Greg and Debra Boyd of Jefferson visited with Scott Runkles of Maryland Life magazine at the Great Frederick Fair.

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Arena

Water, water everywhere but nary a drop to ... Allocate

By Rande Davis

The controversy over Poolesville's plan to allocate water and sewer rights seems to keep growing even though there still isn't one drop of water to allocate. The commissioners didn't add to public clarity on the issue when they realized that they hadn't "closed the loop" on the program in September of 2002. At that time the commissioners failed to pass a formal resolution that established a starting and expiration date for the plan

Commissions Tom Dillingham, Jerry Klobukowski, and Andy Johnson voted in favor of a resolution that sets the starting date as of September 2002. Acting President Eddie Kuhlman and Commissioner Roy Johnson dissented. Mr. Kuhlman voiced his opinion that the five-year clock on expiration for allocation cannot start until the water really is available to allocate. (A report that the clock is to start as of September 2004 was erroneously reported in another local newspaper.)

The 2002 plan has a lifespan of five years, but the debate really is about its starting date. The debate centers on three possible dates. Does the "five year clock" start with the date of its original approval (September 2002), at the passing of the final resolution (September 2004) or when there is water to allocate (sometime in the future when the town has sufficient water to produce approximately one million gallons daily.)

If it is the latter, Frank Jamison, whose company's development plan is on the list, let the commissioners know that they may be gambling away the benefits already on the table. Mr. Jamison told *The Monocle* that he estimates the assorted benefits (profits) made to the town to be valued at about \$1.75 million.

The question arises whether this vote was taken simply to confirm the previous plan and to fulfill a legal requirement or is this really an attempt to reopen the list process so that it could be discarded in favor of new terms and/or applicants? With an election on the horizon, those questions will need to be answered.

Poolesville Town Commissioners Face Election

Link Hoewing has announced that he will be a candidate for the position of Poolesville Town Commissioner. Mr. Hoewing stated, "I have been involved in Town affairs in different ways for a long time. I believe the highest calling of government is accountability to its citizens and effective performance. On both counts, I think we need to do better and that is why I am running." Mr. Hoewing stepped down as the Montgomery County Public School Cluster representative after many years of service. He is on the town's Planning Commission and was recently named its chairman following the resignation of Don Cochran.

Incumbent commissioners Jerry Klobukowski, Andy Johnson, and Acting President Eddie Kuhlman are all expected to seek reelection.

Ivan the Terrible Rules on Edwards Ferry Road

For the second time this year, a tornado raced through the Poolesville region, touching down long enough to cause major damage. On the evening of September 17, tornado warnings were flashing on the news stations that residual thunderstorms from Hurricane Ivan were moving into the area and threatening residents with high winds and possible tornadoes.

Shortly after 6:00 p.m., the storm approached Poolesville from the southwest and was visibly moving north and west toward Frederick. Just west of Poolesville the winds swirled, and a tornado cut a path across Edwards Ferry Road missing historic East Oaks Equestrian Farm by less than 100 yards

Susan Rodriguez, her husband, an

adult relative, and five children were home when the darkened sky got their attention. Her husband opened the door just in time to see a farm combine being hurled about forty feet into the air. The combine landed upside down just about fifty yards from their house. The family quickly took refuge in an interior room.

As the tornado continued northwest, it destroyed a wooden-frame, vinyl-sided barn on the property and took the roof off another barn. The Rodriguez home remained undamaged although an eighty-foot tree snapped and came to rest against a neighboring house just a few yards away.

Fortunately, no one was harmed. Mrs. Rodriguez lamented the loss of the farm's chickens. Of the sixty chickens on the farm only four made it through the storm.



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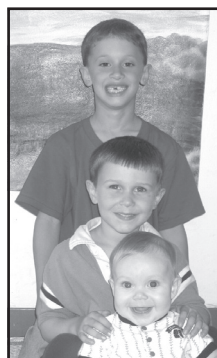
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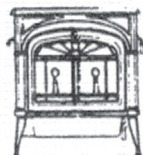
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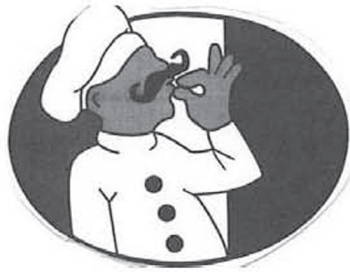
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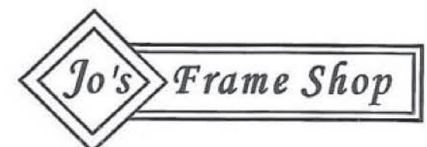
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Local History

"White's Ferry" (Continued)

By Mary Ann Kephart,
Special to the Monocacy Monocle

Our history began back in the Colonial days, with Conrod Myers operating a ferry at the present location as early as 1786. (Please note that state regulation of ferries began in 1781.) Conrod's Ferry was operated into the early 19th century, when the surrounding land was acquired by Leonard Marbury Deakins, and subsequently passed to his wife Deborah M. Deakins.

Then came the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. As it was being laid out along the Potomac River, it was evident that there would be a problem with the land at Conrad's Ferry. The canal would cut off access from the public road to the ferry landing. In May 1830, Clement Cox, attorney for the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company, wrote to its President and Directors concerning Deborah M. Deakins' land and said that the value of the ferry there would be destroyed unless a facility for crossing the canal was provided and that she was to be paid for the cost of two boats, in addition to being paid for the land.

Clement Cox also stated in his letter that "a road culvert shall be made of sufficient dimensions for passing cattle and if practicable horsemen and uncovered wagons. This convenience had been promised by General Mercer [President of C & O Canal Co.] and requires nearly the same culvert that was laid down in the plan of the canal and I am told is necessary in as much as droves of cattle which are made to swim across the river (in consequence of the difficulty of confining them to ferry boats) cannot be allowed to swim across canal." Culverts were necessary in low spots to allow water to drain down to the river and the one under the canal at White's Ferry was made larger than normal. It was made of cut Seneca red sandstone and had a semicircular arch with a ten foot span.

When the river was high, a culvert would be useless and Proceedings of the President and Directors of the Canal in November 1832 state: "Resolved, that suitable docks be provided on the Canal in the public road opposite to Conrad's Ferry and a ferry boat be purchased, and stationed there, to be used in time of high water by the proprietor of said ferry."

The President and Directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company were required to have a value given to each piece of land through which the canal was to pass. Deborah Deakins' land near the river, bounded by Joshua Chilton's land to the south and Daniel Trundle's to the north, was surveyed. On May 5, 1830, an inquisition to value the land was held, a value was set, and Deborah M. Deakins signed a receipt for \$856 paid her by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. The canal cut some landowners off from land they had used for farming or grazing and apparently the canal company was

tavernkeeper from 1831 to 1835.

In 1833, the fare for a ferry crossing was 6 ¼ cents—one way, with a horse or mule. Cattle was 3¢ a head; carriages were 6 ¼ ¢ per wheel.

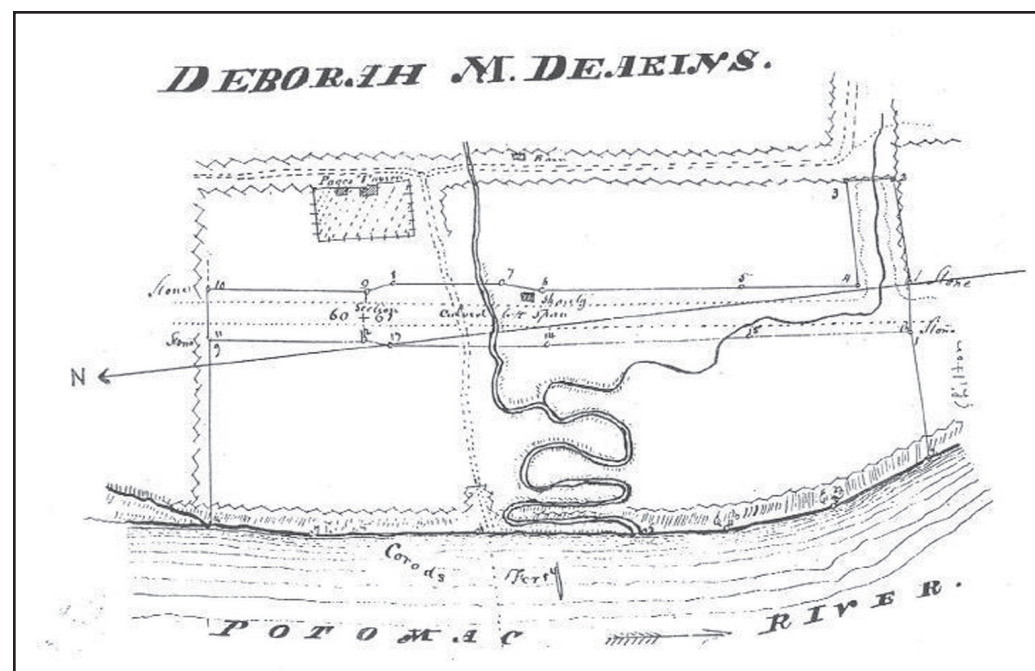
The culvert under the canal was adequate until 1864, when General Superintendent Spates of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, proposed that a bridge be constructed over the canal to replace the culvert, which was "very much filled up, so that carriages and wagons could not pass through it." A wooden bridge built about a mile upstream proved unsatisfactory; the grade was too steep and the bridge's clearance above

time went on, however, the ferry was increasingly called "Conrad's Ferry," probably because "Conrad" was a much more common name than "Conrod." When Julius T. Ducatel, State Geologist, made his map of Montgomery County in 1837, there were few towns on it, but he did put in "Conrad's Ferry" and later records consistently spelled it that way.

After the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was completed, Conrad's Ferry was increasingly used as goods transported by way of the canal were ferried to Virginia and Virginia goods could be brought to the canal. The value of the land at the ferry no doubt increased in value and in June of 1840 Deborah M. Deakins sold it to Dr. Stephen N.C. White for \$1185. The deed conveyed parts of tracts Concord, Accord, Discord, and Resurvey on Discord, running to the "margin of the bank of Potomac River" and containing, "clear of land taken for the canal, a bit more than 220 acres.

In 1854, Stephen N.C. White gave the land he purchased from Deborah Deakins, and other land, to his children, Daniel T. White, Margaret A. Smoot and Benjamin R. White, who promptly filed an equity case to divide it. The plat in the case shows three lots. Benjamin R. White received the middle lot, Lot 2, and Daniel T. White the southernmost, Lot 3. On the land between the canal and the river is the notation: "All this portion of whole tract west of canal belongs to 3rd lot," that is, Daniel T. White was to receive the land along the river. Daniel T. White and his wife Virginia, had been listed earlier, in the 1850 census of the Medley District, with James R. Walker, "ferryman" in their household, possibly indicating that Daniel was managing Conrad's Ferry at the time.

Editor's Note: The entire article from which we have drawn excerpts was originally published by the Montgomery County Historical Society, and will be serialized in The Monocle by permission of the author.



Early 19th century map of what is now White's Ferry.

required to pay for loss of use for the land between the canal and the river.

Land records concerning the canal contain the plat reproduced on this page. It shows the canal crossing Deborah's land between the public road and the river, and a stream meandering down to the river. Some of the printing is difficult to read, but there is a barn on one side of the road and on the other, in a fenced area, are two buildings marked "Pages Tavern." Along the route of the canal is a "shanty," quite possibly the house of the ferryman. A culvert is marked where the road down to the ferry goes under the canal. A ferry is clearly marked, with its route across the river, although unfortunately the draftsman left the "n" out of "Conrod's Ferry." "Pages Tavern" was operated by Peyton R. Page, mentioned as a tenant in the deed from Deborah M. Deakins to the canal company in June 1830, and listed in license records as a

the canal less than 12 feet, the desirable height to allow canal boats to pass under it. These problems were corrected, but others developed and a metal bridge was built in 1876, its frame is still there at what is now White's Ferry.

Recognizing the need for officers and workers to send and receive mail while the canal was being built, the U.S. Post Office Department agreed to establish eight post offices about four miles apart along the route of the canal between Georgetown and Point of Rocks. The one at Conrad's Ferry was opened in the winter of 1828-1829 with Jared Darrow as postmaster and mail was delivered twice a week by horseback.

Although Conrod Myer's ferry was "commonly called Conrad's Ferry," a few records in the early years referred to it as "Conrad's Ferry" — the 1791 General Assembly law concerning roads, for instance. As

Center Stage

Sugarloaf Forever

By Dominique Agnew
Contributing Writer

Tina Thieme Brown's house is totally Sugarloaf. Walk out her back door and behold – Sugarloaf Mountain. In her house one can see Sugarloaf Mountain from all the rooms. Her art studio has views of the mountain, as well. What an amazing house? No, what an amazing artist. The main focus of Tina's work is usually Sugarloaf Mountain – different views and especially its plant life – and her artwork is on display throughout her house. So, if you can't see the actual mountain, the real thing, you can enjoy renditions of Sugarloaf Mountain on her walls as oil paintings, watercolors, or ink drawings.

Tina's childhood was far removed from Sugarloaf Mountain, however. She grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, the second child in a family of eight. She remembers being outside all the time, immersed in nature. By day, she

played outside. By night, she remembers sleeping in the sunroom with all of the windows open, listening to the nighttime sounds of the outdoors. Her father loved to camp and this contributed to her love of nature. "For Jackie and Armand Thieme: They sent me out to play, and I fell in love with the flowers and the trees." This is the dedication she put in the second book on Sugarloaf Mountain she has illustrated, *An Illustrated Guide to Eastern Woodlands Flowers and Trees*, written by Melanie Choukas-Bradley.

Interestingly, Tina didn't begin her career with plans to become a botanical artist although she has been an artist for twenty-five years. After receiving her Master's degree in Fine Arts, she decided to pursue a second

Master's degree in Liberal Arts. Her initial focus had been landscape settings, and she knew she wanted to



Barnesville artist Tina Thieme Brown.

use art to promote environmental awareness. With this in mind, she felt that the interdisciplinary studies of

science, literature, and history of the Liberal Arts Master's would help her to convey her message. It was while she was on a field trip for her degree in the late '80s in Costa Rica that the seed was sown, so to speak. Her professor happened to say that while it was important to learn about the environment in Costa Rica, it couldn't be as helpful "until people understand what's in their own backyards."

This idea took root in Tina's mind. At this time, she and her husband and two sons were living in Washington, D.C. She spent the next ten years commuting every day to Sugarloaf until she finally convinced her husband to move to Barnesville five years ago (now he gets the commute).

— Continued on page 9.

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In the Garden

October – The Last Fling

By Maureen O'Connell
Contributing Writer

Gardens live in a state of constant evolution. We are now into October and the anticipated first frost and shortening days bring with them a shift of mood in the garden's world. The rush of excitement of early spring clean-up and planting is long gone. The bevy of chores to be done in June, July and August has eased up.

Autumn brings a more relaxed and soothing aura to the garden. I am not so quick to bend over to pull out an errant weed. If the roses need a little dead-heading, I'm slower to get my old Felco #2 clippers out of the shed. There is no point in fighting the decay or disorder as the plants let go to face another season. The leaves will fall from the maple trees, decay and be pulled into the soil by earthworms to replenish the goodness spent during the needy days of summer.

In the spring if you chose plants that bloom from spring into late fall, you will be rewarded with brilliant splashes of chrysanthemums' gold, red, purple and pink colors. My pesky "spread anywhere I want" physostegia and tradescantia will be deliriously out and about. The sedum "Autumn Joy" will be turning from light pink to salmon to finally glow rosy-russet in mid-autumn. If I am lucky, some of my roses will still be in bloom. My rule of thumb for a good rose year is if I have roses on my daughter's birthday October 26. My summer of rose TLC pays off now, so I usually do. Roses delight again with their hips. My Rugosa Roses are dressed now with brilliant red hips. They are so good that they are stripped by the birds as soon as they

are ripe. Some of the other roses, such as "Frederic Mistral," will hold on to their hips a little longer; they will wither with the weather or will be gobbled by the birds.

Autumn provides us with a window of opportunity that allows us to take stock. The soil is still warm and our fall planting can begin. I find this to be the best time to plant deciduous plants. They have a chance to get a hold in their new home before the onset of winter, so that by spring they can shoot up and hit the ground running. Although it might not look as if much is happening above ground, below their little roots will be running everywhere to establish themselves.

Knowing your plants' likes and dislikes give them a leg-up to surviving and flourishing. There is an English saying that a penny spent on the plant and a pound on the hole is an important tip to remember to give your young plants a good start in life. The plant is no better than the soil it lives in. Now is a good time to enrich your garden beds with compost. It has the winter to work its way into the soil. After the leaves fall from the trees, I run the garden tractor mower over then and shred them into a fine leaf mulch. After the first frost when I have cut back some of the perennials, I spread the leaf mulch over the soil. It is a wonderful source of nutrients.

Now is the time to plant spring bulbs. In our area you can plant bulbs through to Thanksgiving. I love tulips. Wayside Gardens calls them the "lipsticks of the garden." Unfortunately the deer and squirrels in the adjacent woods love them too. About fifteen years ago I did not have a deer problem, but as the deer population increased and their food supply decreased, my backyard garden became more appetizing. Year by year

there were fewer tulips. Last year I decided to try again. I planted 350 tulips in November. In early March, Max, Sam and I visited the garden every morning and evening to monitor our tulips' growth. They were one inch, two inches, three inches, and then disaster struck. We went out one morning and they were all nibbled to the ground, save for about 50. But I have not yet given up hope; I'm planting more in November. If I get fifty out of 350 again, c'est la vie! The deer have to eat too. If you have a deer problem also and would like to grow spring bulbs, try daffodils and hyacinths. The deer don't seem to bother them.

As proof that autumn is a good planting time, garden catalogues fill your mailbox in fall as much as in spring. I perused several of them and made a list of some new offerings that look interesting and I believe will grow well in our area.

Last year I planted a couple dozen irises in a new bed. They bloomed right on time in June. In early fall they bloomed again. When I ordered them I didn't notice that they were reblooming Bearded Iris. Do order some now and get two-for-one blooms next spring.

Last fall Wayside Gardens enthusiastically offered for sale a new type of coneflower "Razzmatazz" (Echinacea purpurea). Their Director of Horticulture called it "The Holy Grail of the plant world." Now that is quite a recommendation! They advised to order early, there was limited stock. I had to have that plant; I would not want to miss capturing the Holy Grail. Sure

enough it sold out, so I would have to wait until this October to receive it. Its claim to fame, besides being bone hardy, is that Razzmatazz is the first ever double Echinacea. Now that not might sound very earth-shaking to you (or me), but the plant is crammed with bright pink petals set atop cut-flower quality stems that last for two weeks in a vase. I'll tell you next summer if it lives up to its billing.

If you have a shady spot that has no zip to it, try planting some ferns. Wayside Gardens came out this year with a new one that I think will do very well with our climate. "Brilliance" (Dryopteris erythrosora) sports long, shiny, elegant one and one-half to two foot fronds. They unfurl bright copper in spring, then go green for Summer, and burnish russet-orange again in Fall. They are tolerant of heat, humidity and cold, and very adaptable to dry shade. That is a pretty impressive list of pluses.

Go out and enjoy the last glorious days of the garden's season. The light of autumn is soft and forgiving. Gone is the harsh overhead glare of summer. Listen to the flutter of activity of the birds as they gather food for the colder months to come. Your garden rooms are now tinged with the gathering of shadows. The garden is preparing for bedtime.



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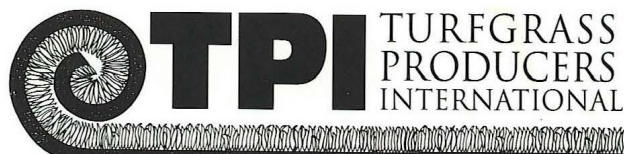
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Focus on Business

Beallsville's McCartins in the Spotlight

By Rande Davis

In focusing on Tom and Joy McCartin, this energetic couple gave us some problems. Don't misunderstand - they were friendly, open, cooperative and interesting enough, but the problem really had to do with one simple concern—which business?

Should we focus on his law firm or her mortgage processing company? Should it be about her restaurant or their catering business?

While they have diverse interests, backgrounds, and experience, both share an entrepreneurial spirit that brings them together in business ventures that they undertake with great enthusiasm. Tom and Joy jump into entrepreneurial projects with both feet. For them, half measures and half steps only count in music and dancing. Both of which, by the way, have significance to this story.

We first introduced our readers to this couple because of their Christmas display on the front lawn of their home on Beallsville Road. This enthralling exhibit features artistic

renditions of angels and the Prince of Peace. Their heartfelt display is their way of giving everyone in the area a Christmas card and most of you have seen their display at one time or another. Their personal devotion to its joyful message causes them to maintain the display from the Christmas season right through Eastertime.

Tom's father was mayor of Rockville (Mathew McCartin). He and



Tom and Joy McCartin at
West Diamond Grill.

Joy are Marylanders through and through. Tom studied American Government at Georgetown University and then went to Maryland Law School in Baltimore. He went on to further study finance and tax law at

the University of Maryland.

While Joy initially bemoaned her lack of secretarial skills in her early years, she soon found that she possessed administrative acumen that helped her climb the business ladder to ultimately becoming vice president in a mortgage and banking firm in the area. She still enjoys running into satisfied past clients who knew her as Joyce Earp.

As a young girl, Joy's family was very close to the Jim and Joanne Hanse family. Area pizza lovers know Jim as the originator of the locally famous Gentleman Jim's Pizza. This is an entirely unique special treat for pizza lovers and was well known to be Frank Sinatra's favorite pizza. It is reported that he would have his pilot fly into the area just to resupply his need for this pizza. Joy's father was a close friend of Gentleman Jim Hanse and was a locally renowned musician in a band called the Mellowteers.

Obviously influenced by Mr. Hanse, last year, she and her brother, Dan Santucci, opened the West Diamond Grill, which is just fifteen to twenty minutes from Poolesville. The restaurant is located off Clopper Road about a block from Quince Orchard Road. Since taking over, they expanded the restaurant's good-time motif that includes an array of customer-involved entertainment events such as karaoke, hand-dancing (jitterbugging at a bit slower beat), and special treats during game time that rewards their customers whenever the Redskins score. A few times every week they offer soft, light jazz which is a favorite for those looking for a bit more of a romantic setting.

West Diamond Grill serves the original Gentleman Jim's special gourmet pizza, a taste you simply do not want to miss! A bit sweet with a light assortment of cheeses, this square pizza is served on a light and crispy crust. It really is different, and it really is terrific! If you try it at lunchtime they often offer half-price specials.

Just when you thought that all this — law firm, loan processing business, mortgage company, and restaurant — would be enough, think again. The couple have now combined their personal passion for history, antiques, and historical living by creating a new catering business that features their Old Oaks property on Beallsville Road as a site for weddings and other catering events.

If you decide to go down and visit Tom and Joy at the restaurant, we

Center Stage continued from page 7 —

While her botanical prints are incredibly detailed and precise, her oil paintings and watercolors are, for her, "a garden rêverie — a getting lost in the beauty of the plants."

Tina met Melanie Choukas-Bradley at a Natural Audubon Society wildflower identification class. They have since collaborated on many projects focusing on Sugarloaf, two of which are books: *Sugarloaf: The Mountain's History, Geology, and Natural Lore* and the aforementioned *Illustrated Guide*. The first book is just what the title conveys, an overview of the history of the mountain. The beautiful cover shows a view of the mountain as painted by Tina from the Comus area. The *Illustrated Guide* "tells the story of the mountain through the plants," and appeals to people of all ages from children learning how to properly identify plants and trees to scientists. It includes countless drawings of plants and the details that define them.

To meet Tina Thieme Brown and view her extraordinary artwork, visit her during the Autumn Studio Tour, October 15, 16, and 17. On display will be oil paintings, watercolors, pencil drawings, and prints of local flora and fauna. Some of her artwork, as well as the two books, will be available for purchase. She will also be leading a hike on Sugarloaf Mountain November 13. On these hikes, she encourages attendees to bring along sketchbooks to make "plant portraits to capture the posture of the plant." The interactive component of sitting for a spell and drawing nature helps one "develop a whole new relationship — it opens doors to the plant community," Tina explains. If a person even "keeps a journal for himself, it can give a new vocabulary." For the truly enthused, Tina will be teaching botanical drawing at the U.S. Botanic Garden this winter.

It comes as no surprise that Tina Brown is active on behalf of the Ag Reserve to preserve Sugarloaf and its outlying areas. She speaks eloquently about the beauty of the Monocacy area through her words, and especially, through her art.

suggest you go on karaoke night. There's something about the idea of watching the professional and dignified Tom McCartin singing his rendition of the Monster Mash that sounds too good to miss.

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Focus on Business

Local Entrepreneur Releases New Yard Product

A Barnesville man has come out with a new product to help tote tools around the yard on your lawn tractor. The product is called the "MowerBuddy," and you may already have seen it in local hardware stores or at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair where there was a MowerBuddy booth.

The inventor of the MowerBuddy is Murray L. Deutchman, who over many years of maintaining a small farm, found that it was hard to carry the tools he needed—from wire cutters to chain saws—safely and easily as he moved about on his lawn tractor. He searched for a solution—found none—and once again necessity begat invention and the MowerBuddy was born.

Deutchman, together with Judith K. Stone, also from Barnesville, formed Earthworm Industries to market the MowerBuddy and other products, and they have received preliminary approval of their concept

from the U.S. Patent Office. A prototype of the MowerBuddy was developed by Barnesville resident and



Bette Laug and the MowerBuddy.

seamstress Bette Laug, which assisted initial demonstrations and the patent process. Since the prototype, Earthworm Industries has enlisted manufacturers and developed three models to fit a wide variety of tractors.

The MowerBuddy is basically a sturdy fabric saddle-bag type of device that can attach to the hood of your riding mower. *The Monocle's* lawn mowing co-editor has field tested the one-piece model on a 1980s-

era John Deere garden tractor and found it to be sturdy and quite useful. There are basically two ways to attach the Mower Buddy—either "Velcro™-like hook-and-loop patches" which involves adhesive patches on the mower, or any combination of an impressive collection of "short stretch cords." I chose the latter less permanent method in case the other lawn mowing co-editor wanted to further test our MowerBuddy. In any event, it seems either method will work, and it was a convenient way to carry various tools on the mower. The drink holder was handy as well, although the heat of the engine encourages fast consumption of your chosen beverage. Surprisingly, foamy beverages did not overflow from the considerable vibrations of the motor.

Mr. Deutchman believes that the Mowerbuddy is a unique idea whose time has come, and he is confident it will find its niche in the lawn and garden marketplace. As an inventor, Mr. Deutchman says he has other ideas in the works as well.



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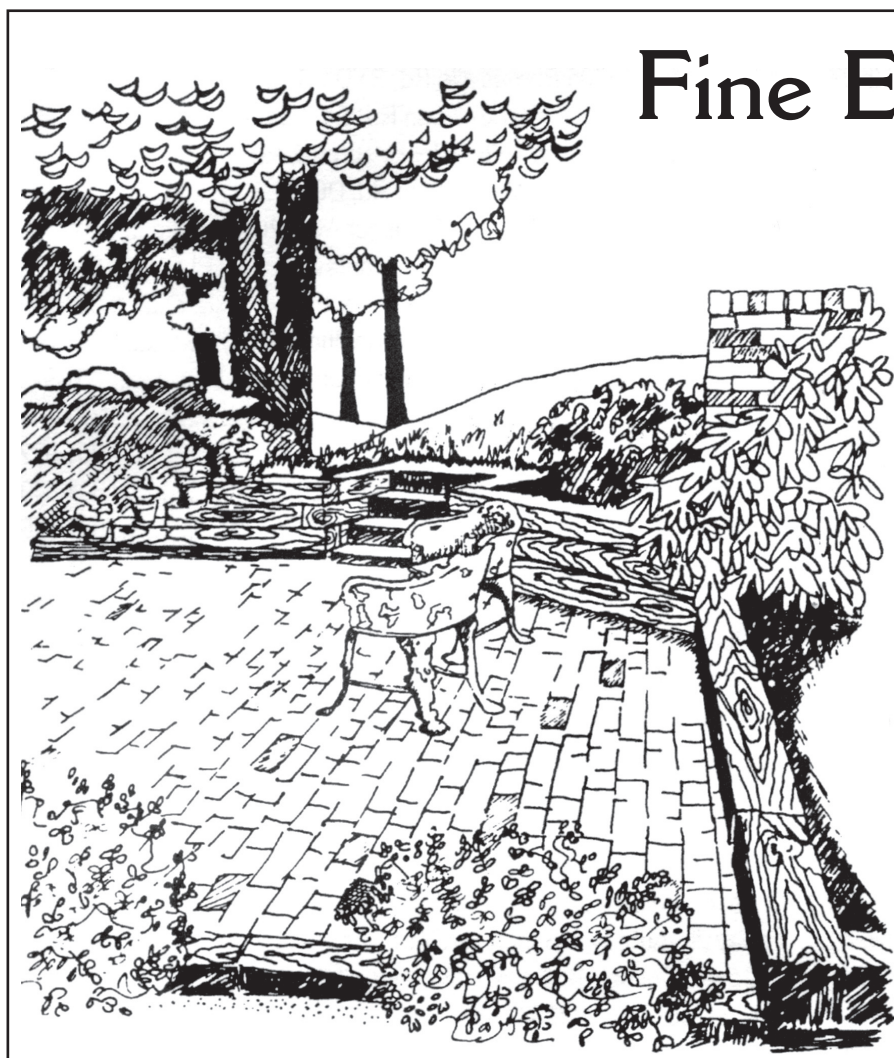
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Equestrian News

The Long Rider

By Monica Breland
Special to the Monocacy Monocle

There is a legendary equestrian among us known as the Long Rider. To be a Long Rider, you must have ridden over one thousand miles in a continuous journey. This modern rider's name is Doc Mishler, and he has journeyed over five thousand miles on his way to Washington, D.C.

Doc, his two horses, and one dog have traveled from Montana to California, down the coast and on to Texas, up to Michigan, and now through Poolesville to the nation's capital. He is here to speak about fostering neighborhood philanthropy and feeding the starving children in our country through an organization called Bread for the World (www.Bread.org).

Doc finds his own places to stay, buys his own food, and camps under the stars some nights with Faith, Chief Spirit, and Good Dog. Being a Long Rider is not about time schedules and racking up miles. Being a Long Rider is about exploring the world and

seeing places and people at a different pace than most of us. They have been met with open arms everywhere they go and people seem to appear out of nowhere to embrace them. Doc, Faith, Chief, and Good Dog have a spiritual bond that goes deep into the rich history of the Long Riders' Guild (www.thelongridersguild.com).

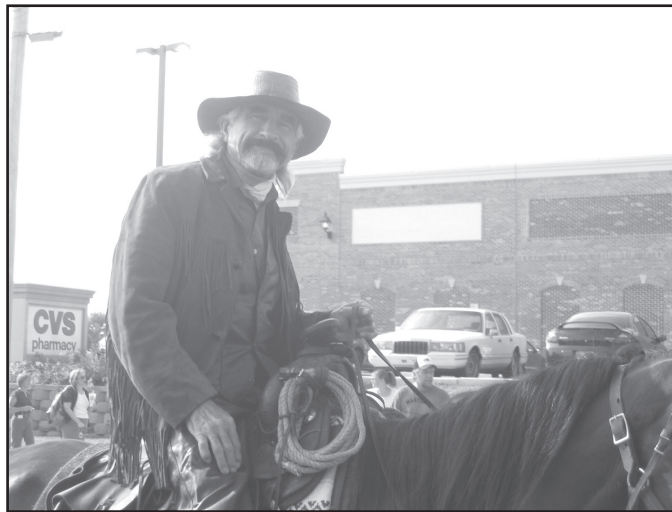
When I began to read about the Long Riders' Guild and the incredible stories of the people that have been members over the centuries, I was touched beyond compare. Which of us has not fantasized about getting on our favorite horse and heading out into the wilderness, the horizon our only goal - taking each day as a gift and making a mark on your life that few would ever dare - living as many ancient people and their animals still do in far parts of the world?

Doc and his companions stayed with us for a few days, and I was in awe as he recalled all the people and stories from the road. There was a time while he was riding the Conti-

mental Divide that he didn't see even evidence of human beings for over eight days! Another story recounted

who is less fortunate than yourself. Doc is a very spiritual man although he doesn't belong to any organized religion. He credits prayer as the reason he has survived cancer and all the other dangers he and his traveling companions have encountered along his epic journey. Doc says that every four seconds a child in this country dies from hunger and hunger-related illnesses, and this is unacceptable. When he rides on his last journey and he is asked why, he will say that he loves riding and living deliberately because he too will die. Although to see Doc, you'd know he isn't going to die anytime soon.

As of the time of this article, Doc has completed his journey into Washington, D.C. and even rode in the parade to celebrate the opening of the Native American Museum (he is half Apache). I am truly proud to know someone of this caliber. When scholars speak about the Measure of a Man, I will now think about my friend, Doc Mishler, and say, "Doc, you're a great man."



Long rider Doc Mishler.

how he stayed in someone's backyard in Los Angeles and they insisted on driving forty miles to find hay for his horses. Another was about a six-foot-six-inch tall Native American woman in Arizona who carried a fully-loaded pistol at her side at all times.

Doc doesn't take anyone's money - if you want to contribute, send a donation to Bread for the World or just do something to help someone

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Big Board

Dance the Night Away

St. Mary's is sponsoring another community dance at the Pavilion in Barnesville on October 9 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Why wait for a wedding to get some dancing in? This is a perfect time to get to know some new people in the community. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Refreshments will be available, and please note that the evening is BYOB.

Annual Indoor Yard Sale

Don't miss The Barnesville Basement to benefit the Barnesville School. Bargains Galore! Rain or shine—October 23, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and October 24, 1:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Items donated by Barnesville School parent body include gently used, brand name children's and adult clothing, toys, books, sports equipment, electronics, furniture, and much, much more! Come early for the best selection! Corner of Barnesville and Peach Tree Roads, Barnesville 301-972-0341 www.barnesville-school.com.

UMCVFD Open House

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department in Beallsville is holding their annual

open house on Saturday, October 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. See a variety of demonstrations. Give your children the opportunity to become familiar with firefighters in full turnout gear. Refreshments will be available.

Color, Crafts, Cider.

The Countryside Artisans Autumn Studio Tour takes place on October 15, 16, and 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Take an autumn drive through the Agricultural Reserve and visit eight cottage artisans as they open their studios to offer their items for sale. For details and a studio map go to www.countrysideartisans.com.

Ole Blue Eyes is Back

If you are a big fan of Frank Sinatra and miss him terribly — don't despair! Mount Airy resident Steve Flynn puts on a musical tribute sure to thrill your love for his style, lyricism, and romantic indulgence. You can catch Steve this month at the West Diamond Grill in Gaithersburg on October 16. His show starts at 9 p.m. and reservations are not a bad idea. You can call 301-963-4847.

Local History Buffs Won't Want to Miss This

Interested in learning more about

the slave plantations of the Nineteenth Century? Then be sure to attend a program by Anthony Cohen at the Poolesville Library on October 21 at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Cohen will speak about his work with the Menare Foundation, which will recreate plantation life at Seneca Creek State Park at the end of October.

King Barn Dairy MOOseum at Water's House

The MOOseum exhibition will be available October 6 through October 16 during regular Wednesday (2 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) hours. The exhibition will feature the James & Macie King Farmhouse model, a collection of dairy-themed photographs by Quince Orchard High School students, as well as artifacts and displays from the MOOseum's permanent collection. Private tours can be arranged by calling Barbara McGraw at 301-229-4385 or email dairymooseum@aol.com.

This Will Keep You in Stitches

A new knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, and cross-stitching group is getting started and plans to meet at the Poolesville Library. They had their first meeting but it's not too late to join in. Email Claudia Segal at Jazzi301@msn.com for information.



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Mystery History

by Rande Davis

In 1802, traveling to our area was considered going into the wilderness. The difficult ride on horseback or carriage would have most likely left the weary traveler tired, hungry, and thirsty. Arriving into town, a welcomed sight would have been the tavern on the north side. Since it is located behind Domino's Pizza, most readers would not even know that Riney's Tavern, named after the innkeeper, William Riney, still stands there.

Back then, there was no Fisher Avenue. The main road into town, Old Coxen Road, came into town behind the BB&T Shopping Center. Today it is named Peter's Forest and it is the residence of Paul and Betty Hauck.

Why Peter's Forest? When this part of the wilderness was finally surveyed back in 1784, its owner and surveyor, Robert Peter, called this plot of land the forest.

The intrigue about today's obscure location is solved now that we know that it is located on what was

originally the main road into town, but the mystery of its location is just a small part of the intrigue of Peter's Forest. It is the surprising stories of its owners that our Mystery History readers will find most appealing.

The man who owned the property at the end of the 1700s was a refined gentleman from Georgetown. His name was Thomas Plater. At that time, friends of Mr. Plater probably called him Colonel since Mr. Plater had achieved that rank while seeing action in the state militia during the Whiskey Insurrection of 1794. Then again, friends and foes alike may have also referred to him as the Honorable Thomas Plater. Why? Because this tavern in the woods was owned by Maryland Congressman Thomas Plater, who, as a member of the Federalist Party, served all the citizens of Maryland as member of the House of Representatives from 1801 to 1805.

Why was he a repre-

sentative for all the citizens of Maryland? Two hundred and some years ago the district was an at-large district. You may recall from a recent Mystery History that it was not until a movement was organized in Beallsville, which challenged the powers-to-be in Baltimore, that congressional districts changed from at-large districts to local voting districts. (Our area eventually became known as the Medley District.)



Ye Olde Riney's Tavern.

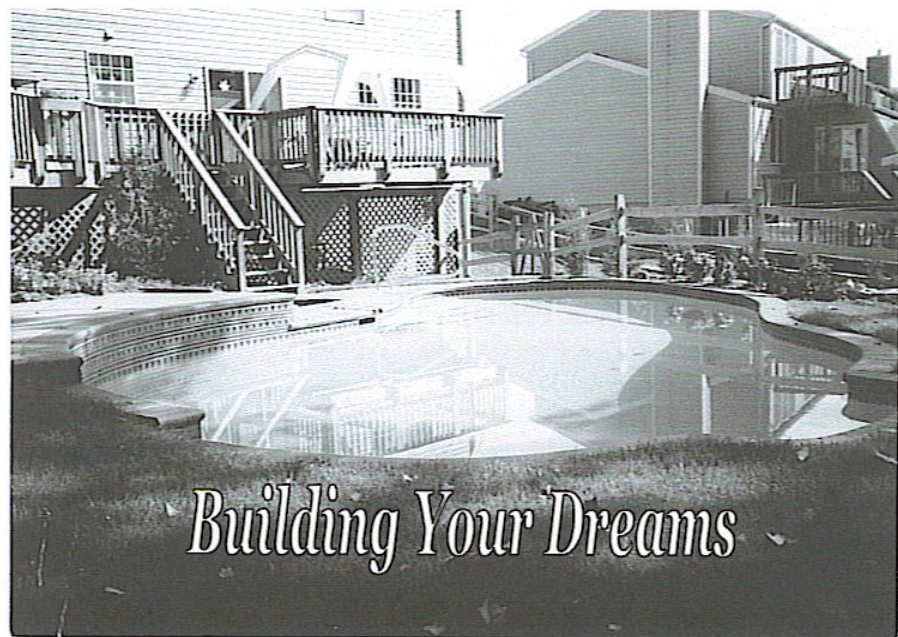
Mr. Plater, a man of significant financial means, possessed historically interesting "wealth." He owned two major pieces of land. One consisted of nine hundred acres (valued at seven dollars per acre!) and another one-hundred-fifty acre holding (valued at three dollars per acre). Records show that part of his property included "five Negro men (\$1725), four Negro boys (\$1,000,) two Negro women with children (\$450), five Negro girls (\$500), and, inexplicably, one Negro woman and her husband (\$10).

Mr. Plater left his residence in Georgetown and moved to Poolesville where he died in 1830. Only adding to the mystery surrounding him is that no one knows where this man of accomplishment and wealth was buried!

The intrigue about Thomas is only one part of the story about the Plater Family. It really began with his father. You see, the little house at the end of Beall Street was owned by the son of one of the participants in our nation's Constitutional Convention.

— Continued on page 15.

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Mystery History continued from page 14—

His father was George Plater and students of Maryland history would know of him for something else. He was the state's governor from 1791 to 1792. Was his a one-year term? No, an untimely death cut short his time as governor.

Of course, there are other tidbits of information from the family of the owners of this house. One of Thomas Plater's daughters, Jane Williams, was quite a character in her own right. Her first husband was old enough to be her father and her second husband, Mr. Pleasants, was young enough to be her son. She wasn't shy about defending her reputation. In her personal notes, she recorded that she wanted it known that her second husband was not to be confused with a Mr. Basil Pleasants. It seems that gentleman was "infamous in the area" for his painful and unsuccessful attempts to fly! She just wanted to clarify to everyone that she did not marry "that flying Pleasants." (Hmmm... sure sounds like some more Mystery History to us!)

In 1850, the house became known as the Cator Home after its owner, Samuel Cator (sometimes spelled as Cater). Mr. Cator's granddaughter, Anna Mary, reported an incident we found interesting. During the Civil War, some Union soldiers came to the home to demand dinner. While the troops were fed by the Cators, it was duly noted that they never "remunerated the Cator family" for the meal - damn Yankees!

Later, the home once again became a tavern for a time. Richard P. Spates (a blacksmith by trade) also ran the hotel/tavern that was near the triangular property where the old town hall is now located.

In 1950, Peter's Forest underwent extensive restoration. Today, for those of you who visit Whalen Commons, be sure to peek behind the park's gazebo where you will see for yourself, Poolesville's very first watering hole.

Much of the information in this article is attributed to a paper written by Susan Lehman and Gayle McDonald for Historic Preservation in the fall of 1974.

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Youth Sports

PHS Sports Programs on the March for Another Great Year

The Poolesville High School sports program appears to have another fantastic year of success and achievement headed its way this fall.

The mighty Falcons varsity football team got a bit of a scare from Kennedy at a home game when the score was tied 6-6 at half time. Whatever Coach Hurd had to say must have done the trick as the team went on to romp their opponent, winning the game 30-6. An atypical fumble by the Falcons on the three-yard-line prevented the victory from being even more widespread. As the team moves into October, their record of 4-0 is evidence of their hard work and dedication.

While Coach Mathias reports that the girls' soccer team is 3-1-1, amazingly they have only given up one point so far this year. After winning the State Title in 2002, then losing in the regional final in 2003, the Falcon soccer players are setting their goal on getting back to the state tournament.

Their leading scorers are Caitlin Evans (the only four-year varsity player on the team), Kirsten Benton, and Becky Fielding.

Coach Fitzwater's JV girls' soccer team has continued on its phenomenal track by being 5-0. This team is on a fifteen-game winning streak having finished undefeated last year. The lopsided score for the year tells the whole story: while Poolesville has scored a total of twenty-six goals, their opponents have only been able to score one.

The boys' soccer team had a very thrilling victory against Seneca Valley this year by tying the score with just two minutes left in the game and then going on to win in overtime. A series of minor injuries has frustrated the team so far, but they hope to build their strength as the season continues. As the young team develops, it plans to peak during the playoffs.

The cross-country athletes have had one dual meet and one invitational so far this year. Peter Mattes

and Rachel Unger have set school records in their races, with Rachel finishing in second place at the invitational at Brunswick.

A Polish Demonstration of Love for America Comes to Route 28

By Rande Davis

Traveling on Route 28 on the afternoon of September 2, we came upon a group of Polish and Polish American runners winding their way south toward Silver Spring. This was not just any group of runners—they ran with a very special purpose and goal. They ran in remembrance of the sixtieth Anniversary of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising and to commemorate the thousands of people who have been victims of terrorism. Their goal was to end up at Ground Zero in New York City on September 11, the third anniversary of the terrorist attacks. This was their way to show

their love and respect for America and pay special tribute to the victims of 911.

They were part of a relay team of runners who started out on August 1 in Los Angeles running toward Las Vegas, on to Denver, and through Chicago toward Washington, DC. We spotted the team of runners near the Woodstock Equestrian Center and stayed with them until they took a break just north of Lewis Orchard by the Old La Aux Chappelle farm. Their plan was to take a day off the next day to visit the Pentagon before returning to their ultimate quest in New York.

Tadeusz Domanski, 59, a veteran Polish marathon runner, organized this heartfelt demonstration of support for the U.S.A. His dream came true as the *Polish: Los Angeles to New York 911 Relay Run* became a reality. Each day one runner would cover at least 20 miles, depending on weather and other conditions. The running team included Jacek and Wojtek Domanski, Andrzej Gacek, Wojciech Musial, Sebastian Bukanski, Jacek Walasik, and Halina Czyszczonek.

In these trying times it is always nice to find friends wanting to show their solidarity with America.



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