

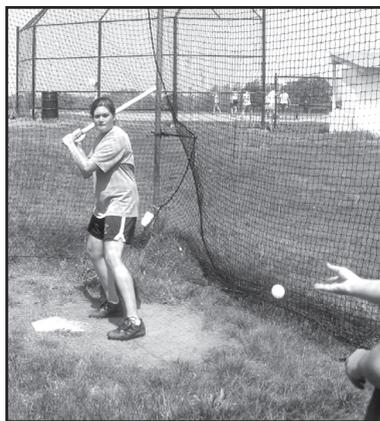
Was this little church the start of a big change?

see Mystery History page 10



Greg Rabida and Joe Butz caught with the goods.

see Pulse page 3



PHS player Madison Howard fine tunes her batting technique.

see Sports page 11



"Oh, Mr. Klosky you say the sweetest things."

see Profiles page 3

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

*Keeping An Eye On Local News*

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 13, 2004 through May 27, 2004

Volume 1, Number 5

## *This is the House that Jack Built*

Jack Davis of Dickerson is in the final stages of building his house. In Frederick County new houses are not rare and this house, to be sure, is no big thing—that's just why it is such a marvel—a miniature marvel.

Mr. Davis is in the final stages of building a complete miniature replica of the James and Macie King farmhouse that stood on the family farm site in Boyds for nearly 75 years. The farmhouse no longer exists since it was demolished in 1999 to make room for the development of the Germantown Recreational Park on Schaeffer Road.



*Original King farmhouse just prior to demolition.*

Mr. Davis is making this scale model of the family homestead to put on display at the new King Barn Dairy MOOseum, which adjoins the soccerplex. The MOOseum will be part of the county's tribute to dairy farming in the region highlighting the role of women in farming.

The farmhouse, though old, was not the farm's original farmhouse. A fire in the spring of 1926 destroyed thirteen buildings on the farm including the original barn and the first farmhouse. By the fall of that same year, the King family started to rebuild the family home and a barn. While efforts to save the replacement barn succeeded, the county chose to demolish the house.

Some have referred to Mr. Davis's project as a dollhouse. Please, we know dollhouses. This is no dollhouse. The attention to detail makes this project an amazing accomplishment, and Mr. Davis has not only painstakingly recreated each floor and each room to

perfect scale, but he has found innovative techniques to reproduce the customized aspects of the building that otherwise could not be included.

For example, the wrap-around porch has its roof held in place by unique pillars that use a customized and unusual triangular cinder block on the bottom which supports wooden staffs holding up the roof. Mr. Davis could have very easily been forgiven if he had chosen to stray from authenticity by substituting a simple, columnar shaft to support the roof. Instead, true to his vision, he hand-made miniature molds to create the perfect replicas of the corner-shaped cinderblocks that surrounded the porch's pillars. Using a cement-like material to make the cinder blocks, he even hand-scraped the outside of each block to give them their natural rough look.



*The authenticity of the model included handcrafted molds to produce a replica of the porch pillars.*

The roof and fireplace shafts are recreated using standard model roofing shingles and miniature bricks that can be purchased at hobby stores. Nevertheless, each brick had to be individually placed in formation around the shaft just as a brick mason would have done on a real house. Once in place, he filled the spaces with real mortar to finalize the authentic-looking result.

The house is constructed so that it becomes a, three-dimensional puzzle that allows for each floor to be removed so that all the levels can be viewed individually. Elaine Huey, one

of the volunteers for the MOOseum, has meticulously decorated each room with flooring, wallpapering and painting to bring back the actual look of the rooms in the farmhouse.

Even though Mr. Davis used his knowledge and skill to fulfill all the various roles of project engineer, carpenter, and mason for the house, he was a bit stymied when it came to the electrical needs for lighting up the rooms. To meet this technological challenge, he enlisted the help of a friend, Scott Watson, a Princeton graduate and architectural lighting designer. Through Mr. Watson's expertise, this little house will have its interior lit up in a big way.

Adding to his role as a jack-of-all-trades, Mr. Davis will even take on the exterior landscape design. He will finish off the project by placing the model on a fully landscaped platform so that it has a natural-looking farm environment.

Mr. Davis' love of his labor for this lost house has been Shakespearean. The good news is that the model home in all its perfect detail will be on display in June for all to admire at the King Barn Dairy MOOseum in Boyds. We look forward to bringing you a report with pictures of the grand unveiling of the house later in the summer. In the meantime, to find out even more information about the MOOseum you can call 301-528-6530 or email DairyMOOseum@aol.com.



*Jack Davis and his work of art.*

## Poetry Corner

### My Best Friend

My best friend  
Is always there  
My best friend  
Really does care.

My best friend  
Loves me a lot  
My best friend  
Never does not.

My best friend  
Waits for me  
My best friend  
Swimming in the sea.

My best friend  
Is small and hairy  
My best friend  
Is not the least bit scary.

Can you guess who my  
best friend is?  
It's easy to tell  
It's clearer than fog,  
My best friend is my dog!

I know to you this may  
sound stupid  
But between me and my  
dog, kid, just blame cupid.

— By Shelby Dahlen, 6th Grade JPMS



Shelby and her muse Nigel.

## Family Album



Paul and Betty Houck at the Monocacy Aqueduct during the C&O Canal Association's 50th Commemoration of the Justice Douglas walk. Mr. Houck was one of the original hikers in 1954.



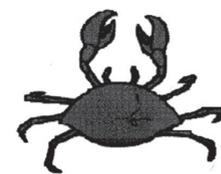
Patty Bennet (left) and her husband Paul (right) join Mary Ann and George Kephart at the recent Darby property auction in Beallsville.



Parents and fans watch PHS volleyball teams play Sheridan High School.



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## The Pulse

### Delivering the Goods

Have you ever gone to a church rummage sale and wondered what they were going to do with the remaining items and bags and bags of perfectly good clothing that didn't sell? If it happens in Montgomery County, the odds are good that the Hands of Love picked everything up for distribution to the needy.



Jim Knight, Dale Nestor, and Mark Warner help load a truck for West Virginia.

At the conclusion of the recent St. Peters rummage sale in Poolesville, Dale Nestor and Mark Warner of the Hands of Love showed up with a few

volunteers and a half-full truck to collect what was left. After a few hours, one more load took off for West Virginia. As Dale explained to *The Monocle*, that's what the Hands of Love does—it collects goods that people don't need and delivers them to people that do. While some of the goods collected stay in Montgomery County, most go to the Appalachia area, specifically Tucker County, West Virginia, where a church-affiliated senior citizens organization distributes the goods.

The Hands of Love exists solely from contributions and assistance from churches, individuals, and organizations such as the Odd Fellows and the Lions. Dale Nestor spends a good deal of his time on this activity, often with Rudy Gole, another dedicated volunteer. Dale said he got started by helping out Dr. John Todd, one of the groups founders, as a volunteer, and before he knew it, he became a member. For more information on volunteering or contributing to the work of the Hands of Love, you can call Mark Warner in Poolesville at 301-349-2199 or Dr. John Todd (chairman) at 301-916-3592.

### Monocacy Lions Club Announces Winner of Peace Poster Contest

The Monocacy Lions Club announced Robyn Lott of John Poole Middle School as the winner of the 2003-2004 "Create A Brighter Tomorrow" peace poster contest. Runners up were Daniela Sambatao and Allison Pappas. Merit award winners included Mandyce Pranewski, Brittany Webb, Jeff Tallia, Kristen Van Meter and Emily Lowman.

The Lions were pleased to have 75 entries in the contest from JPMS under the direction of art teacher Nori Thorne. Robyn's poster will go on to compete with other winners from over 65 Lions Clubs from Maryland's District 22C. This local contest is part of the Lions Club International contest involving over 44,600 clubs in 190 countries and geographical areas. Over 350,000 posters were judged in the previous contest. The international winner will receive \$2,500, a plaque, and a trip with family members to attend

an award ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations.

Next years peace poster contest is about to begin and the contest will go through October 2004. Monocacy Lions has 76 members residing in the area and serving community needs in areas that includes eye glasses, eye exams, hearing aids, pre-school vision screening, holiday gift and food baskets, and scholarships.



Peace Poster winner Robyn Lott receives her award from Incoming District Governor Gary Burdette and Monocacy Lion Woody Rupp.

## Profiles



Photo by Falcon Media

*You win K, you may now kiss the goat.*

Spring is in the air. Romance is blooming everywhere. So much so that grown men have succumbed to kissing...goats? Although this picture may look like Love at First Sight, it is actually the culmination of a week-long effort by the sophomore class officers of Poolesville High School to raise money for prom and homecoming dances.

To begin, there were seven teachers chosen to potentially lock lips with the lucky kid. During lunchtime, students and staff were encouraged to vote for their favorite (or least favorite) kisser with donations. As the days passed, the number of kissing candidates diminished until one man was left standing.

Security guard, Mr. Tim Klosky, affectionately known as "K" was the amorous winner. With the cameras rolling, he good-naturedly gave the goat, Kinko, a kiss. This was met with disappointment by the crowd who called for a real kiss, not just a peck.

"On the lips!" bystanders encouraged. "I don't know if goats even have lips, do they?" asked K.

The reluctant Kinko barely tolerated a Real Kiss, but in the spirit of community good will, retained his dignity.

The sophomore class raised over three hundred dollars and would like to thank all of those who donated. Thanks also go to Alicia Agnew for volunteering Kinko.



Drs. D. Timothy Pike and Margaret A. Valega with sons Alex, Ryan, and Conner.

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## Big Board

**Sugarloaf Citizens Association** is hosting its annual meeting on Saturday, May 15, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the Linden Barn, 20900 Martinsburg Road in Dickerson. The featured speaker is District 15 State Senator Rob Garagiola. Free refreshments will be served.

**The Poolesville Library** hosts the following programs. Preregistration is not required:

**Twosomes:** "It Feels Like Spring" stories, fingerplays, and music for two year olds and their parent, guardian or caregiver. Thursday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

**Storymates:** "Spring in the Air" stories, fingerplays, and music for three to six year olds and their parent, guardian or caregiver. Thursday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

**Family Storytime:** Stories, fingerplays, and music for ages six and under and their parent, guardian or caregiver. Tuesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.

**Detecting— Business of Sleuthing.:** Sheila Cantor, local detective, will talk about her experiences with investigative and security work.

The churches of Poolesville have organized to support the construction of a second **Habitat for Humanity** home in the local community. The days assigned to the Poolesville churches are the first Sunday and first Friday of each month. The Sunday hours are 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the Friday hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. Anyone between 16 and 18 must have a parent present and have signed a waiver. Call Bernie Mihm at 301-407-2565 for more details.

**The Frederick Rescue Mission** will have their annual "Hope for the Homeless Banquet" on Monday, May 17. The reception for the auction will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 7:00 p.m.. It will be held at the Lynnfield Events Complex (10142 Hansonville Road., Frederick). Entertainment will include music by singer/songwriter Javen and the guest speaker will be actress and model Jennifer O'Neill. The cost of the dinner is by donation. All proceeds benefit the rescue mission's efforts to assist the homeless in the region. For more information and ticket availability you may call: 301-695-6633, ext. 111 or email [tskaggs@therescuemission.org](mailto:tskaggs@therescuemission.org).

The American Cancer Society is holding a **Relay for Life at Damascus High School** beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday May 22 and running into Sunday morning, May 23. The event kicks off with a "Survivors Lap," and teams will then take turns through the night walking or running around the track. The event will have a circus theme and feature a live band and a silent auction. A Luminaries Ceremony will take place at 8:30 p.m. with music and readings to remember those lost to cancer, those fighting cancer, and those who have fought cancer and won. For further information e-mail [relay@damascusrelay.org](mailto:relay@damascusrelay.org).

**The Poolesville High School Art Department's Annual Arts Festival** will be held at the school from May 17 through May 21 in the auxiliary gym. The art show will be open to the public all day, starting from 8:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m. This display is always a fabulous presentation of the students' talent covering paintings, etching, and sculpture. There will be a 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place awarding of the artwork. Much of the art will be available for sale through the school.



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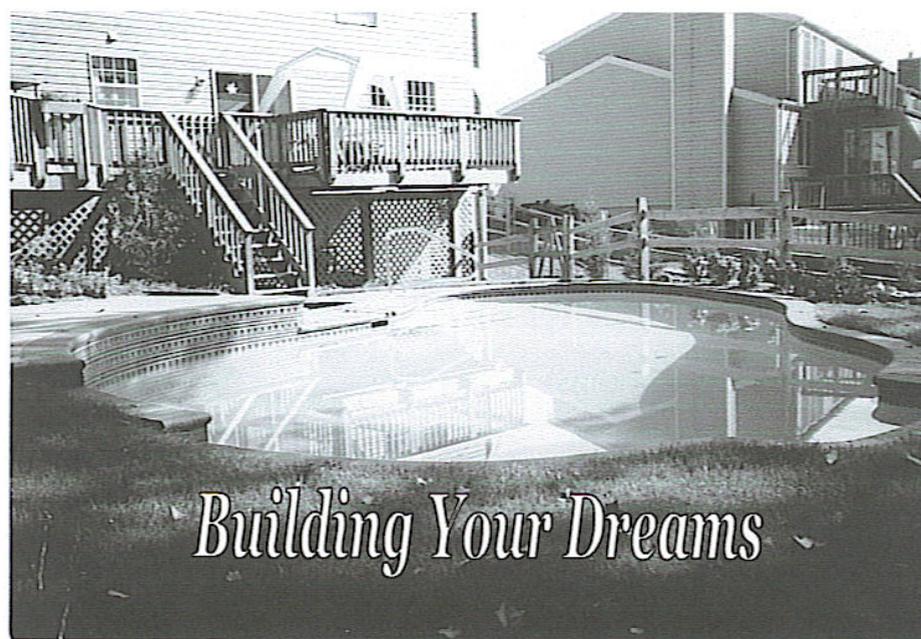
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## Update #1 on the Boatman of Beallsville

This is our first update for our readers on the progress by Dan Roussin (The Boatman of Beallsville) on building his 65 foot boat off Route 109 in Beallsville. By early April Dan had the full skeletal outline of the boat in place and was working on the back platform. Then disaster struck. The foundation holding up the boat shifted and the entire hull tilted causing some of the cross beams to crack. In trying to bring the boat back to its proper position, some more damage was done. In all, Dan estimates about 20% of the beams were damaged.

While upsetting, this setback has

not set Dan back from reaching his goal. He designed and built the boat so that most of the supporting beams could be removed if necessary. As a consequence of the damage, he decided to take the boat apart, reinforce specific beams, and then put it back together.

The net effect is that while he has lost some time he is not deterred from reaching his final goal. For those passing by in the coming weeks you will see that he is putting the boat back to its early April position and will be advancing once again sometime in early June.



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**Friday:** Tuna Salad Sub  
Freshly made Tuna Fish  
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**Saturday:** Roast Beef & Cheese Sub  
\$4.45

**Sunday:** \$1.00 off your choice of sub!

## Calendar

### May 14

Monocacy Elementary School  
PTA Bucket Bingo — 6:00-9:00 p.m.

### May 15

Sugarloaf Citizens Association Meeting  
Linden Farm, 22900 Martinsburg Road  
9:30 a.m.

Commissioners Fishing Tournament  
Hunter's Run Pond — 9:00 a.m.

Bull Roast Fundraising Dinner  
United Methodist Church, Poolesville  
4:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Community Dance  
St. Mary's Pavilion — Barnesville  
8:00 — 11:30 p.m. \$10 per adult.

### May 16

Historic Medley Lecture Series  
Nature Walk  
John Poole General Store Gift Shop/  
Museum Poolesville  
8:00 a.m.

Star Gazing Farm — Open House  
16760 Whites Store Road, Boyds  
1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

### May 17 through May 21

Poolesville High School Arts Dept.  
Annual Art Festival/Show  
Aux. Gym at High School  
Open All Day: 8:00 a.m. — 9:00 p.m.

### May 18

Poolesville High School PTSA  
Media Center, 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

### May 19

JPMS-MES Combined Concert  
Poolesville High School Auditorium  
6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

### May 20

Poolesville Public Library  
Storytime: 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.  
"It Feels Like Spring"

### May 21

Carroll Manor Grange — Basket Bingo  
Carroll Manor Fire Hall, Adamstown  
Doors Open: 5:30 pm; Games: 7:00 pm

UMCVFD Beallsville

Basket Bingo  
Doors Open: 4:30 pm; Games: 6:30 pm

### PHS Senior Prom!

### May 25

Poolesville Public Library  
7:00pm — Stories, fingerplay and music

### May 27

Poolesville Public Library  
Storytime: 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.  
"Spring in the Air"

Poolesville Public Library

"Business of Sleuthing"  
Sheila C, local detective on matters  
of investigation and security  
7:30 p.m.

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Published by Monocacy Press, LLC  
P.O. Box 175  
Poolesville, MD 20837  
301 349-0070 • FAX 301 349-5646

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## World Famous Boyds

Special to *The Monocle*  
By Dominique Agnew

Stifled by the heat? Need a break from your daily travails? Take the train to the countryside of Boyds! Stay in one of many clean and gentle inns! View the world-renowned Trestle Bridge!

Although a figment of the imagination today, these statements would have been very real and accurate in the late 1800's. Our gentle town of Boyds came to be when a railroad line was extended from Washington, D.C. to Point of Rocks. Like many towns in the United States, Boyds was created because it was along a route of travel.

There were three inns in Boyds at that time providing lodging for city-folk wanting a leisurely break from the hustle and bustle of the city. One of these, the Staley Boarding House, lies in a watery grave beneath Little Seneca Lake. Imagine what an attraction Boyds would have been if the lake had been built one hundred years earlier. The two other inns remain standing and are now private residences.

Sadly, the World-Renowned Trestle Bridge exists no longer. Indeed, if not

for the bridge, Boyds would have perhaps been a different town. The bridge was constructed as part of the single rail line traversing Seneca Creek and was designed and implemented by Colonel James A. Boyd, an immigrant from Scotland, a surveyor and engineer. Not surprisingly, the founding year of Boyds and the year of completion of the trestle bridge coincide – 1873. In its day, Boyds could proudly boast the longest wooden trestle bridge in the world!

Unfortunately, in the 1920's, the railroad line required expansion and a less exciting bridge was constructed crossing the creek in a different location bringing with it, not unfortunately, electricity. Now, all that remain of the trestle bridge are several foundation piles near the dam for Little Seneca Lake.

However, as Arthur Virts, local Boyds historian and lifelong Boyds resident, said, "The train was king," and whether crossing a single bridge or a larger one, it brought prosperity to a rural area. Farmers were more easily able to earn a living with reliable transport of goods to and from Boyds. The mail and other important packages and goods destined for surrounding

railroadless towns like Clarksburg came through the station at Boyds. And, of course, Boyds was an attraction for those seeking a leisurely sojourn and a respite from stress – something that can be said for the town and its outlying areas even today, by residents and visitors alike.

The train still runs through Boyds daily. Commuters have replaced solace seekers, but not completely. Instead of taking the train to escape the city for a week or two, passengers escape the city daily and have chosen Boyds and its environs as home. They can find peace every evening.

Now, people visit Boyds by car for an outing. There is the attraction of Black Hills Regional Park entailing Little Seneca Lake. For history buffs, there is the old one-room schoolhouse among other sites. For sports enthusiasts, the expanding Soccerplex features numerous activities, with more in store in the future. Of course, bicycle riding and hiking are enjoyed by many, as well as the fishing. What would the colonel think of his town now?

So...Take the train to the Boyds countryside! Take in the fresh country air! Look upon lovely little Seneca Lake! Rest and relaxation await.



Photo by Harold F. Hargett

This single track bridge, built in 1873 by James A. Boyd, was one of the longest bridges in the country at that time. A bridge tender was stationed at the bridge to put out brush fires that might start from the coal burning engine, puffing hot cinders into the air. The B&O double tracked the Metropolitan Branch in 1928 and replaced the bridge with a large culvert known by railroad men as Seneca Fill.

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## Soap Box Derby

### The Big Race for Kids is on June 5th

The premier youth and family oriented racing program in the United States comes to Frederick as the Soap Box Derby races into town on June 5. Over 30 youths are expected to compete in their gravity powered racers for a chance to represent Central Maryland at the 67<sup>th</sup> All-American Soap Box Derby Championship at Derby Downs in Akron, Ohio on July 31. Established in 1934, the All-American Soap Box Derby is an American tradition with the support of title sponsor Hope Depot and NASCAR.

The Frederick race is one of over 150 local racers held across the US and Overseas this year, where the participants compete in one of three divisions: Stock, Super Stock and Masters. Drivers in the Stock and Super Stock divisions range in ages from 8 to 17 years old. Stock is mainly for beginners who build simplified cars from kits, Super Stock racers build larger model cars from a different kit. Masters competitors build a more sophisticated designed car from scratch or a kit and are ages 10 to 17. In competition a Derby car can reach speeds upwards

of 30 miles per hour depending on the angle of the ramp or hill.

Boys and girls can enter a local Soap Box Derby race by building a kit purchased from the All-American Soap Box Derby and passing a pre-race safety and construction inspection. Participants are required to compete in the Soap Box Derby race geographically closest to where they reside. All the race winners in each division automatically earn the right to compete in the All-American finals.

Each kit can be assembled in as little as three hours with a parent or another adult and be purchased by calling the All-American Soap Box Derby (330-733-8723) or through its website at [www.aasbd.com](http://www.aasbd.com). The kit includes a plastic or fiberglass shell, a precut and predrilled floorboard and assorted hardware.

The All-American Soap Box Derby promotes the core values of teamwork, the spirit of competition, perseverance, and an emphasis on family. Recently the All-American Soap Box Derby was named a NASCAR youth initiative.

Frederick's local race as well as their rallies (April and September) are held on Bowman Farm Road near the MVA. Contact the Central Maryland Director, Jim Hagan at 301-831-6341 for an information package.

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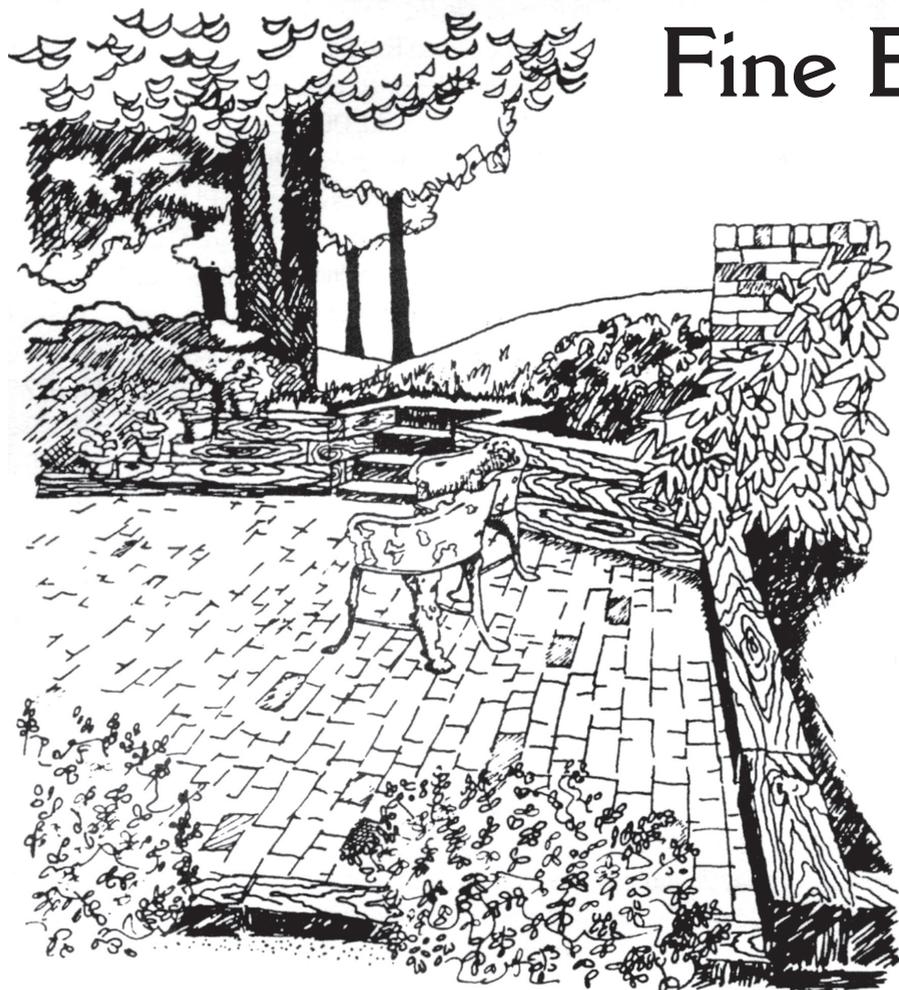
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## Equestrian News

### Horses:

#### A Curious Addiction

By Debby Lynn

Perhaps you know a horse addict, or perhaps you are one yourself. What makes riding horses so much more than a hobby? How do people manage to be avid skiers or cyclists without letting it take over their lives, compromising their finances and their personal relationships?

Horses have a special magic—an attraction like no other simple pastime. I can only speak for myself, but perhaps my experience will help explain why your 10 year old daughter has traded in her ballet slippers and pink ruffles for muddy boots and straps of leather begrimed with horse sweat.

I can't remember not loving the beasts. To my mother's great disappointment, my first word as a two year old was "horsey" rather than the usual "mama". I was already compromising my personal relationships! To my non-horsey parents, horses were dangerous and smelly animals, and nothing they wanted their relatively tiny and fragile daughter mixing with.

When I was five, the little girl down the street got a shaggy black and white Shetland pony and a pair of red cowboy boots for her sixth birthday. I understood this to mean all my wishes for a pony would be fulfilled on my sixth birthday. On the magic day, I awoke at dawn, and rushed outside to see which tree my pony was tied to. Imagine my parent's consternation upon finding me crumpled in a sobbing and disappointed heap on the front porch! At seven, I contented myself with cutting dozens of paper horses from the shiny white cardboard which the dry cleaner put in my Dad's shirts. And, if I wanted to risk a spanking, I would steal out my bedroom window and prowl the dirt alleys, which ran between the back-to-back half-acre tracts. Beautiful (to me) paint and palomino heads hung over the fences, awaiting my pats and filched carrots.

When we moved back east, I was allowed to take some English riding lessons at a local stable. This was a serious tactical error on the part of my parents. Now I was totally and permanently ensnared by the magic that is horses. I learned to ride on an ancient strawberry roan named Pinky. Pinky

had a wide white blaze and wrinkled old pink lips. He was stiff with arthritis and found standing in his stall throughout the chilly winter nights painful. Every night, he would contrive to break the cotton rope, which tied him to his manger, and back out of his stall in search of a more comfortable place to sleep. In the morning we would find him sacked out on top of the steaming manure pile, soaking his old bones in the warmth, his strawberry coat streaked with green manure stains. I loved him with all my heart. Upon hearing, many years later as an adult, that Pinky had reached the end of his useful career and been sold for slaughter, I cried my eyes out.

I got my first horse as an adult. He was one of Pinky's barn mates at the riding camp. I paid \$250 for Rex, which included a saddle with a broken tree, and a bridle, which I still have today. One snowy winter day, I trudged out to the pasture to bring Rex in. When I got to him, I realized I had come without a halter and lead rope. The snow was deep, and I was pregnant with my second child. I decided to utilize available transportation. After all, Rex was a placid 19-year-old summer camp horse. I used his fore-

lock to tug him over to the fence, clambered up, and slid onto his back. When the other horses saw Rex transformed into a centaur before their eyes, they snorted, flipped their tails up over their backs, and took off, galloping up the hill to the barn. For several delicious minutes, I was totally taken into their world. I felt their joy and sense of freedom as we flew through the snow. I felt the closeness of their herd bonds as they jostled against my legs. This was what horses have that we struggle to find. This was the irresistible magic of horses.

So, when you find yourself removing a pair of muddy spurs from the kitchen table, or wonder why all your child's school essays have horses as a theme, forgive us! Horse addicts simply cannot resist the attraction.

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## Focus On Business

### At Gene's Florist, "Mums the Word"

It takes a lot for a business to last 50 years and Gene's Florist of Hyattstown is proud to celebrate this impressive milestone this year.

Owners Tom Nolt and Al Taylor are relative newcomers to the company's long history; they bought the business from Paula and Joseph Hadzima just last November. Mr. Nolt has been in the floral business for over 30 years and came to the Monocacy area from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he had his own shop for 17 years. Al Taylor is new to the industry, likes to proclaim his "behind the scenes" role at Gene's Florist, and defers to Tom on matters of expertise. He is a local guy from Rockville who graduated from Richmond Montgomery in 1967. Ironically, Mr. Taylor bought a corsage for his prom at the original Gene's Florist. The line was long but the service was courteous, and never in his wildest dreams did he expect to own the place. Prior to joining Mr. Nolt in this endeavor he was a supervising administrator in the airline industry.

Gene's florist started out in Rockville at 209 Commerce Lane (the present day Montgomery Avenue) and for the first fourteen years, this

neighborhood enterprise serviced a clientele that came primarily from that immediate area, and they proudly served the entire community. There were no Internet orders, only a lot of telephoning and thumbing through the state-by-state directory of FTD or Teleflora locations. Personal preferences of customers were recorded manually



Gloria Poole and Tom Nolt of Gene's Florist.

Gene's Florist's fifteen minutes of fame came when the movie "Lileth" was shot on location on the streets of Rockville, and the store played its role as a flower shop to perfection.

Gene's first big move came in 1968 when the company left Commerce Lane to set up shop in a townhouse on Hungerford Road. Even to this day it is not unusual for a customer from the old days who stumbles upon their new location to be thrilled to discover that the store is the same Gene's Florist that they know so long ago. While the store delivers to a very wide area and continues to serve customers from the

old neighborhood, its location for the past eight years has been at the Hyatt Center on Route 355 in Hyattstown.

To get a true sense of the history of the firm, we sat down with Gloria Poole, the stepdaughter of Gene Belcher, one of the founders of the business. The other founding partner was Gene Powell. (We can only guess that over the many years of partnership the two Genes probably had a disagreement or two. Obviously, coming up with the name of the place wasn't one of them.) Gloria started working in the business as a teenager and fondly remembers the family business. One of her remembrances was when the company provided the corsages and flowers to the dignitaries responsible for setting up the first Rockville Memorial Day Parade.

She is especially proud that Gene's had the high honor of providing commemorative wreaths for the White House, which included arrangements for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In those days, the wreaths and arrangements were delivered to the east gate of the White House, where White House floral specialists would apply ribbons and remembrances prior to sending the

wreaths out to Arlington Cemetery or for the many other sites and occasions that would typically receive flowers from the President.

The shop went under the management of her son and daughter-in-law, Adamstown residents Steve and Wendy Poole, who carried on the family tradition until 1999.

In the "pre-Internet" days the heart of the business was building personal relationships with the individuals and firms in the Rockville area. Meeting the needs of the customer was always a top priority. While giving a bit of a smirk, Gloria recalls that some of the customers always seemed to buy their dozen roses in sets of two. One set would be paid by credit card, the other in cash. Hmm...confidentiality must be an important part of being a florist. In this case, mums the word has a double meaning.



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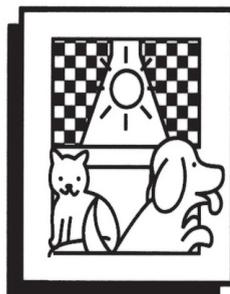
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STEERING YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

## Mystery History

The orange and green sign along-side Hughes Road near Poolesville announces that you have come upon "Sugarland Forest, a land of history and magic." This section of Hughes Road is about as rural and quiet a road as you will find today, and little exists, save the road sign, that gives a clue to the dramatic history of this area.

Yet 123 years ago, those living along these lonely roads must have been abounding with great excitement and anticipation. For the families of William Taylor, Patrick Hebron Jr., and John H. Diggs the dreams of a lifetime were about to come true. At that time, these gentlemen became the patriarchs and trustees of the area that would come to be called Sugarland Forest. These were the sweet dreams come true for a newly freed people.

It was on October 6, 1871 that a former slave owner, George W. Dawson, sold the area to the African-American trustees for \$25.00. (A good example of inflation when one considers the Dutch bought the whole of Manhattan for the same amount.) The deed specified that the land be used for religious worship, a school and burial site for the trustees, their relatives, and their descendants.

At the heart of the community on Sugarland Road is St. Paul's Community Church, which stands guard over the cemetery of marked and unmarked graves of former slaves and their

descendants. The original name for the church was Taylor's Chapel, which was probably named after one of the trustees, William Taylor.

Not far from the church (down Sugarland Road and about a half mile off of Hughes Road) is part of the famous Underground Railroad. In what was a log cabin, beneath a false floor in the fireplace was a secret entrance that led to a cave where runaway slaves could be hidden. This location, relatively close to the Potomac River, yet deep in the woods, provided a hopeful sense of security for those heading north. Today, the cave has collapsed and the entrance is sealed off.

Within the community, long ago torn down, was the Sugarland Store. This was not a "full-scale general store but was more specialized as a community grocery store. During the days of its operation, it was at the heart of the Sugarland community and was one of the meeting places where neighbors gathered to swap news as well as purchase goods for every day life."

Typical of the housing of the day was the Taylor House, "a log house constructed of massive oak logs, which were hewed on two sides and notched in a "v" cut at the corners." The house was constructed not by hired carpenters, but by the men in the community. The deed shows that William Taylor purchased the property in 1876 from

## The Sweet Taste of Liberty



A Mother's Day family gathering in 1954 of Sugarland's Mason family. Mr. Etheridge's grandmother is sitting on the left. The family matriarch is seated in the center. All the men in the back row are buried in St. Paul's cemetery.

Robert Allnutt, becoming one of the first former slaves to purchase land in the community. This transaction is monumental in that it "marks the time of the transition from slavery to freedom."

The Sugarland School, long ago vanished, was constructed on the south side of Sugarland Road in the 1870's. It was a one room building heated only by a wood stove in the middle of the room. The typical school term lasted from September to March because the older students had to go to work. At that time, there was no high school in the area for black students. Those who did go to high school went to Baltimore where they worked for white families for room and board.

James "Skip" Etheridge, one of Mr. Taylor's direct descendants, still lives in the community. His cousin, Nathaniel Mason, a direct descendant of the original inhabitants of Sugarland Forest, also lives in the community.

The origination of the name Sugarland has some lore attached to it.



St. Paul's Community Church.



Skip Etheridge and his son Zachary are direct descendants of one of Sugarland Forest's original trustees, William Taylor. The Etheridge family resides in the Sugarland community.

It is generally agreed that it comes from the sugar maples that were in the area at the time, although it was often stated by the men living in the community during the early 1900's that the name came from the fact that their women were so beautiful and sweet.

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## Youth Sports

### PHS Softball: These Girls Want to Make History

Fast pitch softball is a very fast and exciting game, and nowhere is it more exciting than right here in Poolesville. With the high school girls playing on a Little League-sized field, the action is fast, furious, and unpredictable. In softball a routine ground ball to the shortstop is anything but routine since even the slightest hesitation or bobble will result in the runner being safe at first. In baseball, with its longer baseline, the infielder has a lot more time to make the play.

The PHS girls simply dominate, in varsity as well as junior varsity (JV). In fast pitch softball, it is natural that a lot

of attention goes to the pitcher. At Poolesville High School there is no exception to this rule since they have outstanding hurlers on both teams.

The varsity pitcher is junior Crystal Dillon. She has been pitching for the team since she was a freshman, leading the team with only one loss this year, and she has been chucking with an ERA of 0.93, amassing 93 strikeouts with only nine walks. Recently against Einstein high school, she struck out 19 batters.

When asked about the success of the varsity team, eight year coach Laurie Wohnhas had some definite ideas as to how they became so good. She said, "This team is special because the seniors came into the program when they were freshman and that year they had only won one game the year before. In their freshman year, they were 4-12! These seniors stayed

with the program, and now Poolesville is respected as a top softball team." The girls are not quitters and have set real goals. Wohnhas stated, "they want to continue to make history, and get a banner for the gym. Something [for softball] that's never been done before."

The varsity team has five seniors with Captains Courtney Horan and Jennifer Gost providing leadership and examples of hard work and dedication. "They are true role models for the younger girls, and expect those girls to carry on the winning tradition," stated Coach Wohnhas. Team seniors such as Theresa Malatesta (second base/outfield), Christina Cain (second base), and Annmarie Sowinski (first base) have also been driving forces behind this teams success.

Senior Horan leads the team in offense, batting .500, with three home runs and eleven stolen bases. Catcher Gost has successfully stopped seven out of nine players from trying to steal second base.

The team has strong juniors coming up with outfielders Madison Howard, Laurel Caywood, Amy Short, Jamie Morningstar, and Jessica Reynolds, and infielder Alex Deckert, joining Crystal Dillon in building that all-important experience. Rounding out the team is sophomore Alice

Hardwick, who comes from a family with a history of athletic talent. She plays third base and leads the team with 10 RBIs.

Winning is always fun, but for Coach Wohnhas "coaching gives you the opportunity to see these girls outside of school, and to really get to know them personally. For the past four years, I have gotten to know them, and I feel like they are my daughters." Laurie Wohnhas is especially grateful that these relationships just don't fade upon graduation. "Many of the old players return, and that is what is really special to me, to see them so successful in the world."

Building a successful varsity program is often dependent on the junior varsity and PHS is especially lucky to have Gina Grubb coach this successful team. Gina is a highly talented athlete in her own right (this writer coached her in fourth/fifth grade softball and shamelessly takes all the credit for her success in sports). Gina is from Poolesville and she graduated PHS in 1994 and returned to teach PE and health at her alma mater. She found this to be an especially gratifying experience since she could turn to many of her previous teachers for

— Continued on page 12

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## Youth Sports

### — PHS Girls' Softball Continuation

mentoring in the early years

Gina is appreciative of the support the school gives sports and credits Mr. Riley and the booster club for making sure the teams have the equipment they need to build a successful program, including pitching machines and batting nets to get the players ready for game day. One of the unique batting drills used by the coaches included using a one inch thick plastic bat to swing against a small golf ball-sized plastic PG ball. (This seems to justify this writer's many hours spent swinging at a whiffel ball as a youth).

As for the JV team, Gina says, "the entire team is doing very well. They all work hard and work together as a cohesive unit. They have all improved in every aspect of the game and have gained confidence in themselves and each other."

As of this writing the JV was 7-1. Among the up-and-coming players is sophomore starting pitcher Stacy Gilbert. If anyone is concerned about the future of girls' softball at PHS, just consider that Stacy has already thrown three no-hitters.

### Poolesville Boys' Volleyball Coming from Nowhere

"I'm taking this team to the county championships," so predicted best-dressed boys' volleyball coach, Mark Agnew, even before he had a team.

Poolesville High School had not put forth a boys' volleyball team in two years when Mark Agnew, one of the school's new science teachers this year, approached athletic director, Mike Riley, about the possibility of starting a team.

After being given the go-ahead, Mr. Agnew began approaching students about whether they would be interested in coming out for a new team. Interest seemed high and Mr. Agnew accepted the position of coach.

Unfortunately, when it came time to start practicing last March at the beginning of the season, there was almost no team. While other high schools were practicing, Coach Agnew was still recruiting. At the end of the first week of practice, he barely had enough players to place on the court. Finally, during the second week of practice, there were eleven players committed to giving volleyball a shot — most of them soccer players.

Boys who were used to keeping their hands off the ball, now had to use only their hands. None of the players had ever played competitive volleyball before and were entering uncharted water. Early practices were filled with the sounds of Coach Agnew yelling, "Stop kicking the balls!"

Mark Agnew has since been named the new soccer coach for the boys in the fall and he's afraid he'll have the opposite problem come soccer season. "I'll be yelling to the boys to keep their hands off the ball and to start kicking," he jested.

The first games were learning experiences. The players also were required by Coach Agnew to stay and watch the accomplished Poolesville coed team to learn strategy and court positioning.

Tough practices and game analyses of previous games began to make a difference. The boys started playing as a team and showing that they knew what they were doing. They began frustrating other teams that came expecting an easy win only to find defeat at the hands of the rookie team.

During one particularly grueling match against Blair High School where the Poolesville boys lost the first game, they came back to win the second game and the referee remarked, "You boys came to play!"

Finally, the end of the season arrived. With a playoff spot on the line, it came down to the last match of the regular season. May third, Poolesville was scheduled to play Springbrook. If Poolesville won, they were definitely in the county playoffs, and if they lost, the odds were not good. Unfortunately, the Springbrook boys defeated Poolesville, 25-15, 25-20, and 25-22. They were tough games — all three of them. "I didn't want the season to end this way," Coach Agnew lamented. "I don't think we played to our capabilities."

The destiny of the team was no longer in its hands. Out of twenty-three county teams, only the top sixteen would make it to the playoffs. Would the hand of fate create circumstances conducive to allowing Poolesville to make the playoffs? Will Batman escape the nefarious torture of the Joker? Definitely.

The boys are in and the first playoff game against Richard Montgomery promised to be a tough one, but the message the coach had for his players was not. Mark Agnew had one thing to say, "Play hard and have no regrets."

### PHS Boys' Lacrosse Team Captures Division Championship

The Poolesville Falcons Boys Lacrosse team clinched the 3A/2A/1A division championship against the Seneca Valley Screamin' Eagles on May 4. This is the second division championship in a row for Coach Belcher's hard pressing team.

The Falcons were up by 6-2 at halftime but in the second half they took control and never looked back, finishing with a rousing 16-3 victory. The Falcons had a very aggressive offense, taking 41 shots at goal versus the Eagles getting off only 17. Mike Bertha and Josh Funk led the scoring with 6 and 5 goals respectively. Goalie Robert Douty handled the Eagles by successfully fending off nine shots versus the 3 goals they scored. The Falcons went on to beat Damascus 12-11 on May 6 in a game that, until the last quarter, was dominated by the Falcons. Damascus, down 12-6 at the end of the third quarter, valiantly fought back with five unanswered goals, only to fall short. In the end, the Falcons proved tough and victorious against a worthy opponent. *The Monocle* will focus on this team in our second June issue.



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